

**District 32 Western Washington Area 72 Alcoholics Anonymous
Meeting Minutes (Virtual meeting)
July 20th, 2020**

Members in Attendance:

Troy O. (GSR, Grapevine and Lit), **Angela R** (Third Legacy), **Tony** (PI), **Linda K.** (GSR, Alt. Treatment), **Nic C.** (Alt DCM), **Heather S.** (GSR/Secretary), **Dylan S.** (Archivist), **Aaron W.** (Webmaster), **Carrie B.** (Alt Webmaster), **Shelby B.** (Accessibility), **Matt H.** (Intergroup), **Greg K.** (Treasurer), **Jacquie J.** (GSR), **Savannah C.** (GSR), **Terry R.** (GSR), **Gavin A.** (Events), **Jim R.** (Guest/Past DCM), **Leigh** (CPC), **Barbie** (Alt GSR)

Aaron W. made motion to record meeting. Angela seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm with the serenity prayer.

Tradition 7 read, Concept 7 read.

Roll call: GSRs: 6, Chairs: 6, Guests: 1 Voting members: 12

To contribute to 7th tradition, use venmo on website.

Reports

Secretary Report: Heather S.

Minutes printed, read and reviewed by the district members.

Linda moved to accept minutes, Matt seconded, Minutes approved.

Treasurer Report: Greg K.

Starting balance: 2295.92; Income: 111.00; Expenses: 174.41; Ending Balance: 2232.51 minus prudent reserve of 1125.00. Remaining balance: 1107.51

Gavin made motion to approve treasurer's report, Matt seconded, motion passed.

School Panels: Jean-Paul

Not present. No report.

Webmaster: Aaron W.

It has been slow with meeting updates. Aaron wants to rotate out of position at next rotation. Carrie will step in at next election. Aaron can be Alt.

Treatment: Linda K.

Linda got treatment position materials from Tammie, hasn't had a chance to do much else. Haven't been able to connect with David yet about treatment zoom panels, but will reach out. Per Terri, Lakeside Milam wants to have a panel, Terri Y offering to help.

Corrections: Open position

Debbie L is alt, no one has seen her for a little while. Nic will reach out to her.

Grapevine/Lit: Troy O.

Discount on big books. 10% off. You can buy them from GSO, intergroup, ect. Maybe good time to buy some books for jails? Will discuss in new business.

CPC: Leigh

Attended an area meeting for 12 step call coordinators hosted by Intergroup. Shared and heard some ideas on how 12 step call programs are working in other Districts in Western Wa. Tony and Sam J also attended this meeting. Also invited Sam to the District meeting and he is interested in being the Alt-CPC for District 32.

Since the meeting I've been able to leverage Intergroup to fill a few 12 step calls. One was a patient at Auburn that lived in Seattle. Another was Russian speaking. We are currently limited on volunteers that speak other languages, but intergroup was able to find someone that could connect the patient with AAs that speak Russian.

Also, I've invited someone that has expressed interest in taking over Bridging the Gap as the current Chair has asked for a replacement.

PI: Tony

I was unable to get to the intergroup monthly meeting due to personal circumstances so I did not get to talk with them about the radio add possibility and teaming up. I did try to contact brook lake to see if they would be opening at all for the August 8th PI CPC quarterly, we were going to host and had reservations for, but was unable to get a response back from them so I notified Area 72 that we would be continuing with the Zoom format for our August quarterly which means our job as host committee just got very easy nothing more for us to do.

I did attend via Zoom the Hospital 12 step round table that Seattle intergroup put together to discuss how all the different districts were handling 12 step calls at hospitals around the state and that was a good experience most places are in the same boat as us without in person dispatches ,however some did have volunteers who were willing to meet in person should there be a request. I didn't really get to do much else. Hopefully my life slows down a bit and I can do a little more service work this month.

Bridging the Gap: Terri Y

Nothing going on right now due to covid19. Terri offering help to other committees.

Third Legacy: Angela R.

Had first service manual study before district meeting, it went well. GSRs announce at groups, please.

Intergroup: Matt H.

The Spring Assemble was postponed until June Board Meeting. GSIG reported Cash and CD's of \$84K with \$17K loan with unrestricted cash of \$67K operating with a prudent reserve amount of \$46K thus with profit loan forgiveness might not be forgiven. Discussion of loan added to agenda was not provided before assemble thus needed a majority vote by those attending to be added with 15 in favor of adding the topic 19 opposed. The motion to included group representatives as voting members required a 2/3 majority of the groups to pass. The vote did not pass with 2/3 majority. Motion to make Lara permanent office manager failed by vote of 13 yes and 18 no. However she was stepped up to be Interim Office Manager. Office Committee to interview applicants and vote on applicants at Board Meeting August 18. Lara may return to Asst. Office Mgr. position. Job posting and position requirements are at seattleaa.org. Anyone interested can contact Richard I Office Committee Chair at email officecommittee@seattleaa.org. The GSIG Annual Picnic buttons are being sold whether or not the picnic is held. They are \$5.00 each button for the raffle for lodging at Northcoast Roundup held in Seaside, OR next April. Contact Lara at GSIG 206 587 2838. Need to vote on returning money from loan or ask forgiveness. Reported by Matt H Zone Rep.

Discussion:

- To clarify, at spring assembly, everyone got a vote, however next meeting will go back to normal: zone rep gets one vote and represents district.
- At the spring assembly, repaying the loan was brought up, however it wasn't added to the agenda as a motion beforehand. In order to have a vote on it, there had to be 2/3 majority, therefore they did not have a vote.
- We can make a motion if we want and then Matt can send it before the meeting, to ensure it is discussed at next meeting.
- To clarify, intergroup already received loan and application for forgiveness was already submitted. Those decisions were made by the finance committee.
- The motion would have to be to reverse the forgiveness and instead return the money.
- District members asked for past delegate, Jim's opinion. He said that speaking as a member, he backs the trusted servants decisions.
- Gavin suggested to tread lightly, as this is moving into an outside issue.
- Some members said they don't think this is how AA should operate.

Savannah made motion for Matt to bring motion to intergroup regarding paying back loan. Greg seconded. 12 for, 3 opposed, 2 abstained. Motion passed. Matt will submit motion prior to intergroup meeting, so that it will be added to agenda.

Young People: Sean O.

Not present. From email: Nothing new from district 32, everything is still shut down as far as meetings go, including the alano club. King county has also seen a recent surge in covid cases.

Events: Gavin A.

Auburn parks cancelled our event due to covid19. Gavin called them about getting money back. If the money goes back on his debit card, he will give money back to Greg, since Gavin was already reimbursed. Or do we want to bank money for next year's event?

Discussion:

- Rolling over until next year makes sense.
- There is a date difference of this year's event compared to usual because they didn't have the date we usually do for the whole day and the whole area.
- We can reserve July 18th, 2021 for next year and roll over the money.
- When we can have an event, Gavin wants to pull together a potluck just to get people together.
- Jim suggested Gavin call Brian Petty, the recreation manager. He gave Gavin the contact info.

Archivist: Dylan

There is a vacancy on the archives steering committee. If anyone is interested, contact Dylan. Aaron and Dylan will connect about Dylan getting recordings. Dylan did get approved to get a larger storage unit, but it hasn't happened yet. Dylan did buy new shelves. Moving area and intergroup items to their archives would be good. Full cataloging of items has not been completed, however Dylan has been moving items to intergroup and area archives when appropriate.

Alt DCM: Nic C.

Nic attended the delegate's report, as well as July business quarterly. There was a lot of information to take in. Nic went over basics from events. All documents attached with more detail. Contributions to area are down, however so are expenses. Area is still bringing more than they are spending. Assembly may happen over zoom, final decision has not been made yet. GSRs look at area 72 website to find pre assembly info. Nic is available for questions about documents attached.

New Business

Big Books for jail: Discussion

- There is a 10% discount on big books right now, district could buy some and donate to jails.
- There's 6000-7000 dollars collected from the pink cans at intergroup supposed to be spent on big books for jails that hasn't been yet.
- Just because intergroup has money to spend on big books doesn't mean district shouldn't.
- But shouldn't we spend money on something that has a bigger need?
- Intergroup and two other districts are interested in doing radio ads, maybe we should spend our money on that. More will be revealed.
- Hospitals could use more big books.
- *Tony made motion that district buy 10 big books and give 5 each to AMC and St. Francis hospitals. Angela seconded. Motion passed.*

PI/CPC August 8th quarterly moved to zoom.

Jim has buttons for intergroup picnic. Picnic is cancelled but they are still giving out raffle prize for North Coast Roundup.

Meeting closed at 8:38 PM.

Hi everyone. My name is Lisa and I serve as the Alt DCM for District 17.

The issue we are concerned with is that there are over 50 new online only meetings in Area 72, created during the pandemic, and online only meetings are not currently able to participate in the General Service Structure.

Physical meetings can send a GSR to their local district meeting; *online only meetings are not attached to any district. They have no physical meeting placement that aligns them into a District. Therefore, it is not possible, currently, for online-only meetings to have a GSR, and thus these meetings cannot participate in the General Service Structure.*

We would like to think about how to include online-only meetings in the General Service Structure.

Online meetings include the elderly, the permanently ill, or otherwise remote members who are unable to maintain a physical homegroup. They carry the message, include sponsorship, and can function as a real homegroup. They are here to stay. But, again, there is not an avenue for them to have a GSR.

We all have a voice in Alcoholics Anonymous. Each member can vote or express their opinion on topics or motions that could change the future of AA. But *only* if those groups participate in the General Service Structure.

Since the pandemic hit, 23% of all area 72 meetings have gone online. In addition, 52 meetings that do not have physical locations were created.

Online only meetings will continue after the pandemic. Some in-person meetings currently meeting online are considering transitioning to online only meetings because they can financially stay afloat with only a \$15 monthly overhead for Zoom.

The A.A. Online Intergroup (which is not part of the General Service Structure) said that before the pandemic they listed less than 175 groups in their directory in all 5 formats: email, discussion forums, text-based chats, phone, and zoom/skype. Now they are at roughly 1700 virtual meetings.

Alcoholics Anonymous World Services knows this is an issue. Last week the previous AAWS Director forwarded the current AAWS Chair an email I sent to the Online Intergroup about the inability to bridge online meetings into the general service structure. In fact, mine was only one of 20-30 emails with a similar inquiry sent to the Online Intergroup.

On Thursday, the AAWS Chair reported to our Area Delegate that **the AAWS Technology Committee has already been talking about this issue.** Their so far informal discussions have touched on two ideas:

- (1) Have virtual groups geographically anchored and send GSRs to local district meetings, thus folding those groups into the current service structure
- (2) Create a virtual area for the US/Canada region that would conduct all business virtually and send one delegate in person to the annual General Service Conference.

The AAWS Chair also said that they would like to hear our thoughts on this.

This impacts not just Area 72, but our entire conference area.

District 17 has talked about how a virtual district could be a solution for anyone unable to access a physical meeting. This would allow others to become homegroup members of an online only meeting and still have a voice in the Area.

District 17 would like to ask the Area Committee to consider this issue, and to respond to the request from the AAWS Chair to hear our Area's perspective and ideas.

We would like to hear if this is something other districts view as a problem and if so, what are some possible solutions. We want to know if this is *not* a problem in other parts of our Area.

Bill W wrote in the November 1960 edition of the AA Grapevine:

“A vast communications net now covers the earth, even to its remotest reaches [...] Nothing matters more to AA’s future welfare than the manner in which we use the colossus of modern communication. Used unselfishly and well, it can produce results surpassing our present imagination.”

Thank you, Heather, for allowing us to bring this discussion topic to the Area today.

70th GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

WESTERN WASHINGTON AREA 72 CONFERENCE REPORT

Available at area72aa.org

2020 General Service Conference Report

Why Do We Need a Conference?

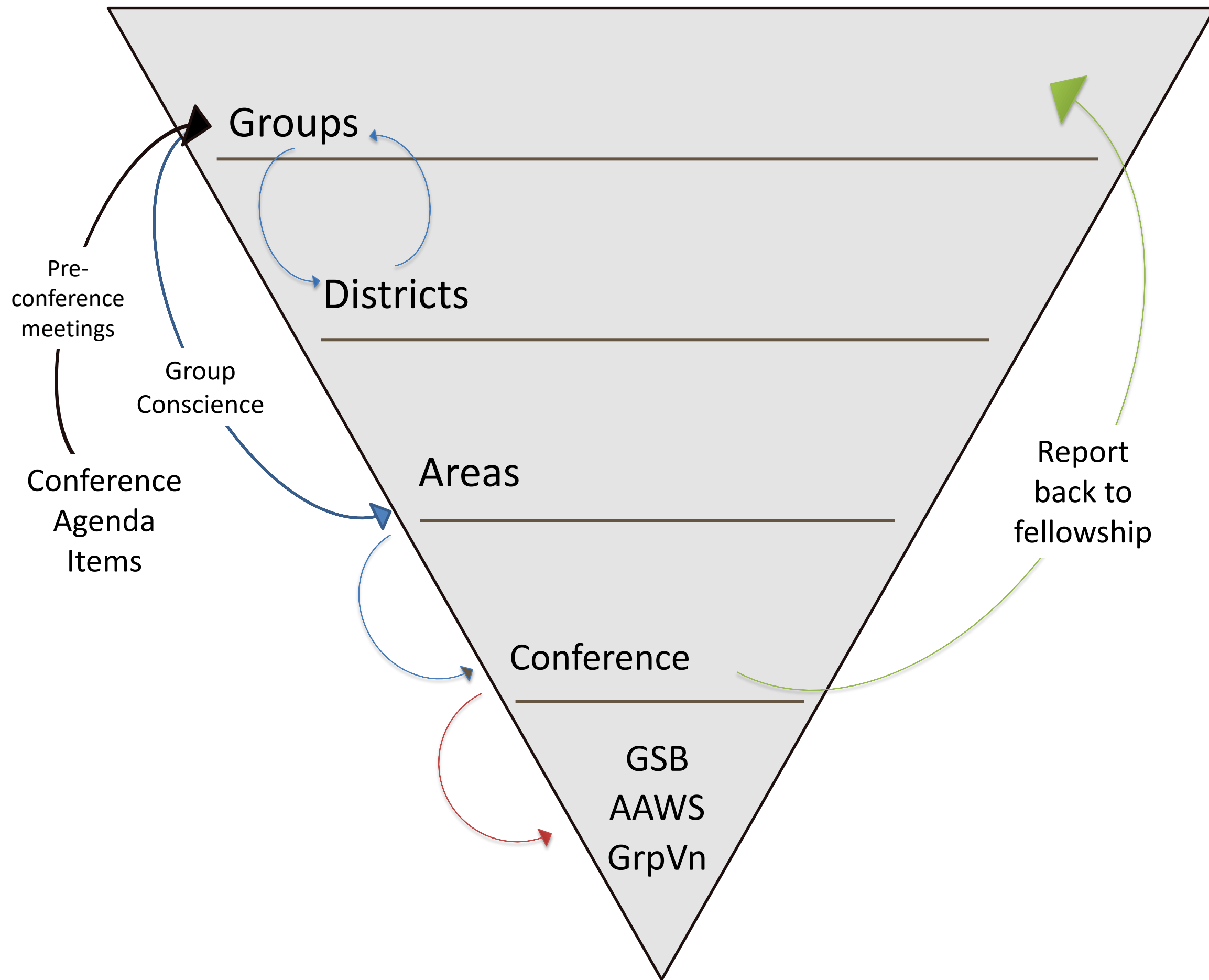
The late Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting: “We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life.

“We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing overintegration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.

“We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is.”

The annual General Service Conference, held in New York City, usually in April, is the culmination of the year’s activities, and the time when the collective group conscience of U.S./Canada A.A. comes together to take actions that will guide the groups in the years to come.

- S56, The A.A. Service Manual



Who makes up the Conference?

This year there are 135 voting members of the General Service Conference acting together as guardians of A.A.'s World Services and of the Steps and Traditions. They are composed as follows:

68.8%

> **93 Delegates**

FUNCTION: Represent A.A. groups in fulfilling the ultimate responsibility for A.A.'s World Services. Traditionally, Delegates constitute at least two-thirds of the voting membership.

20.0%

> **27 Trustees, A.A.W.S. Directors, GV Directors**

FUNCTION: Responsible for policy and implementation.

11.2%

> **15 General Service Office and Grapevine Staff**

FUNCTION: Carry out policies of and report to the General Service Board and Conference.

Every Conference member has not only a vote but a voice; not only a right but a responsibility to express his or her views.



PRAASA = Pacific Region

Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly

PACIFIC REGION (15 Areas)

02 ALASKA

03 ARIZONA

05 CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN

06 CALIFORNIA NORTHERN COASTAL

07 CALIFORNIA NORTHERN INTERIOR

08 CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL

09 CALIFORNIA MID-SOUTHERN

17 HAWAII

18 IDAHO

42 NEVADA

58 OREGON

69 UTAH

72 WASHINGTON WESTERN

92 WASHINGTON EAST

93 CALIFORNIA CENTRAL



Pacific Region Delegates



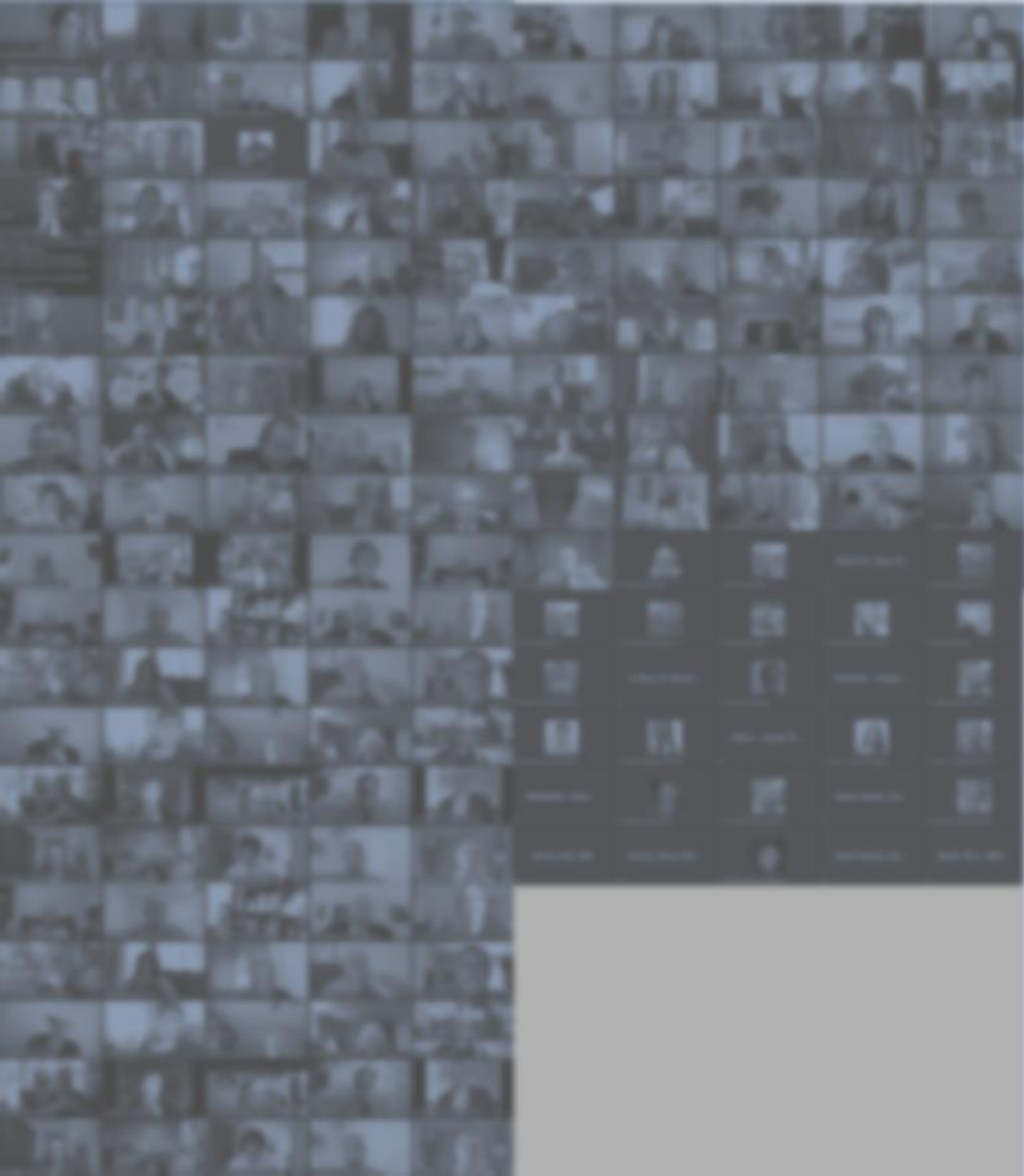


ZOOM

The 70th General Service Conference was called to order (Virtually) on Saturday May 16th at 9:00AM PST.

Delegates from all over the United States and Canada shared letters, pictures, and trinkets with each other through the mail.

The 222 page conference manual was posted on the delegate dashboard and we all sat down, in our homes, to handle the business of the conference.



Delegate Data

Average Age	59
Oldest	76
Youngest	33
Average Length of Sobriety	22
Longest Sobriety	43
Shortest Sobriety	5
Average Length of Service	17
Longest Service	40
Shortest Service	5



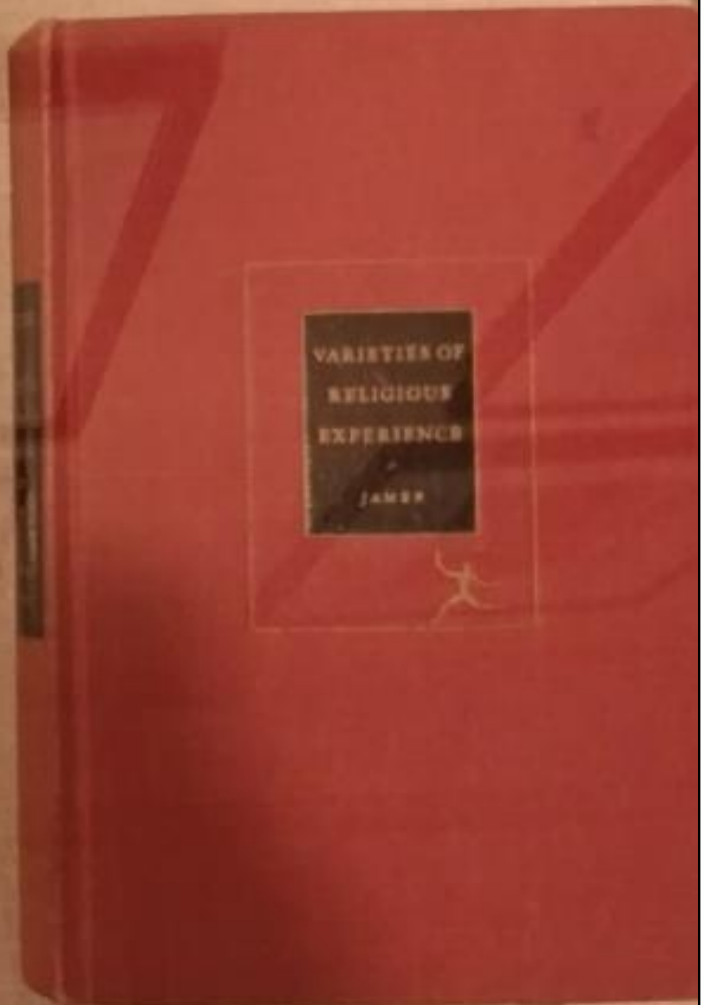
Our Office and Archives

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE
A.A. WORLD SERVICES, INC
AA GRAPEVINE INC





William James and his book *Varieties of Religious Experience*

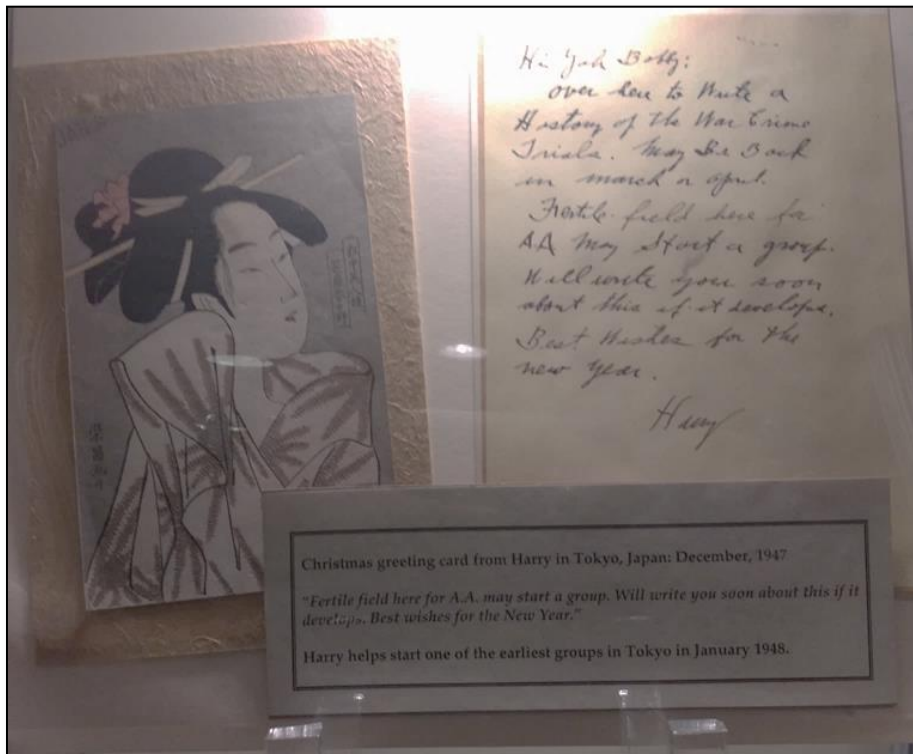


Influence of William James

William James is considered to be the founder of psychology in the United States. He authored the book *Varieties of Religious Experience* which Ebby gave to Bill during his final stay at Towns Hospital in December 1934. Bill had a spiritual experience while at Towns Hospital which Dr. Silkworth validated. As it says in *Pass It On*, "As Silkworth had given Bill the information he needed to understand his own alcoholism, James gave Bill the material he needed to understand what had just happened to him – and gave it to him in a way that was acceptable to Bill."

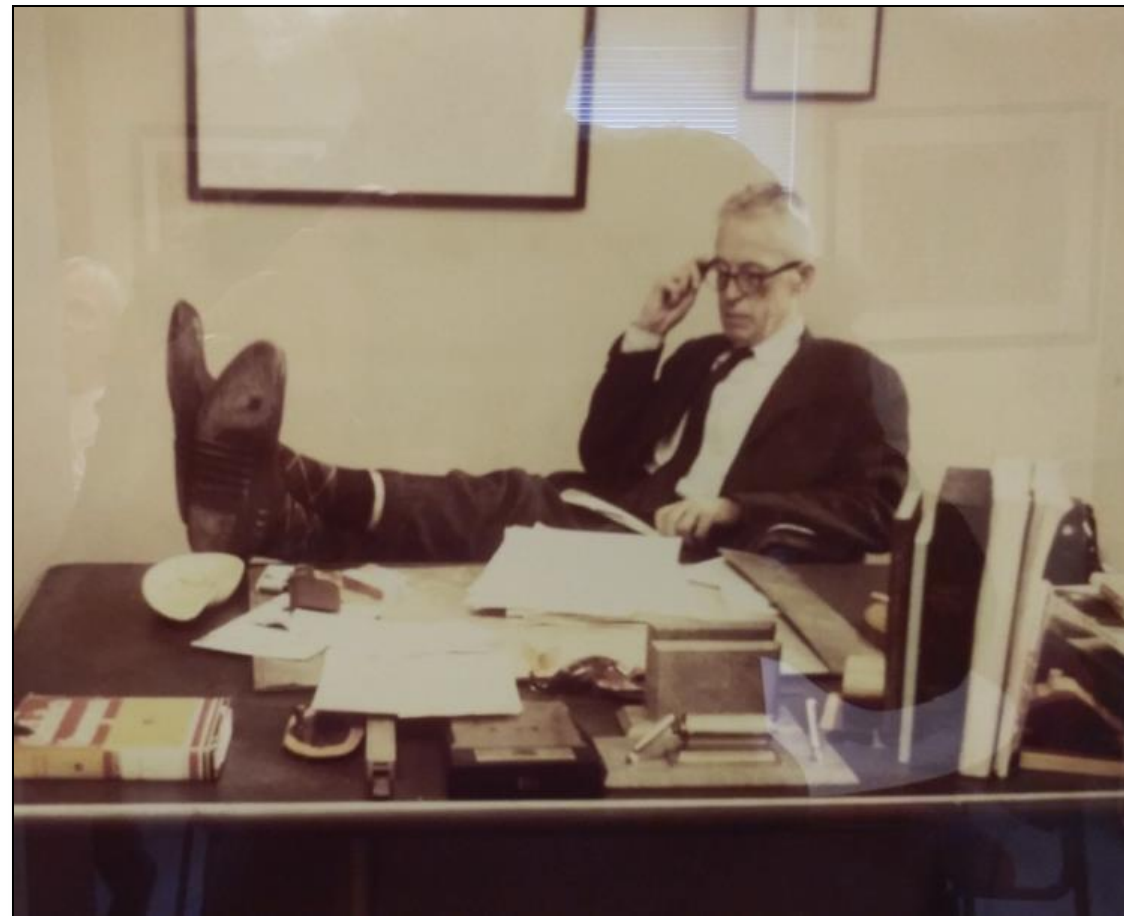


Bill W. with Ebby T.
St. Louis, MO
1955



Hi Jack Betty:
Over here to write a
History of the War Crime
Trials. They are back
in March or April.
I will field here for
AA they start a group.
Will write you soon
about this if it develops.
Best wishes for the
New Year.
Harry

Christmas greeting card from Harry in Tokyo, Japan, December, 1947.
"Fertile field here for A.A. may start a group. Will write you soon about this if it develops." Best wishes for the New Year.
Harry helps start one of the earliest groups in Tokyo in January 1948.



What was the best part?

THE SERENITY MEETING

An open A.A. meeting held during the 70th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous

Saturday, May 16th – Tuesday, May 19th

10:00 a.m. EST Hospitality
10:30 – 11:30 a.m. EST Serenity Meeting



Finance Report



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

2019

- ❖ 7th Tradition of Self-Support – \$8.86 million set another record, up 5.71% from 2018
- ❖ AAWS publishing profits – \$9,36 million down 1% from 2018, used to cover shortfall between 7th Tradition and Cost of Services, resulting in net GSO loss of \$379,665
- ❖ Grapevine subscription levels decreased 2% in 2019. 2019 results were a loss of \$44,461 thousand
- ❖ General Fund support of La Viña service activity – \$289,314 thousand
- ❖ Reserve Fund – \$16.2 million resulting in ratio of 9.2 months

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

2019

- ❖ 28,180 Groups made \$6.9 million of 7th Tradition contributions
 - Represents 40.6% of total groups
 - \$245.715 average group contribution
- ❖ Individuals, Memoriam & Special Meetings contributed
 - \$1.3 million of 7th Tradition contributions
- ❖ Total 7th Tradition contributions were \$8.86 million

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

2019

- ❖ The 2019 GSO Budget showed a net profit of \$501,221 but the actual for 2019 is a loss of \$379,655
- ❖ Income was \$62,512 less than budgeted and expenses were \$943,388 more than budgeted
- ❖ Expenses for Contracted Services and Professional Fees were higher than expected

Professional Fees were \$317,653 over budget, in large part due to contract reviews. AAWS is in the process of implementing a new way to review contracts which is both cost efficient and less time consuming

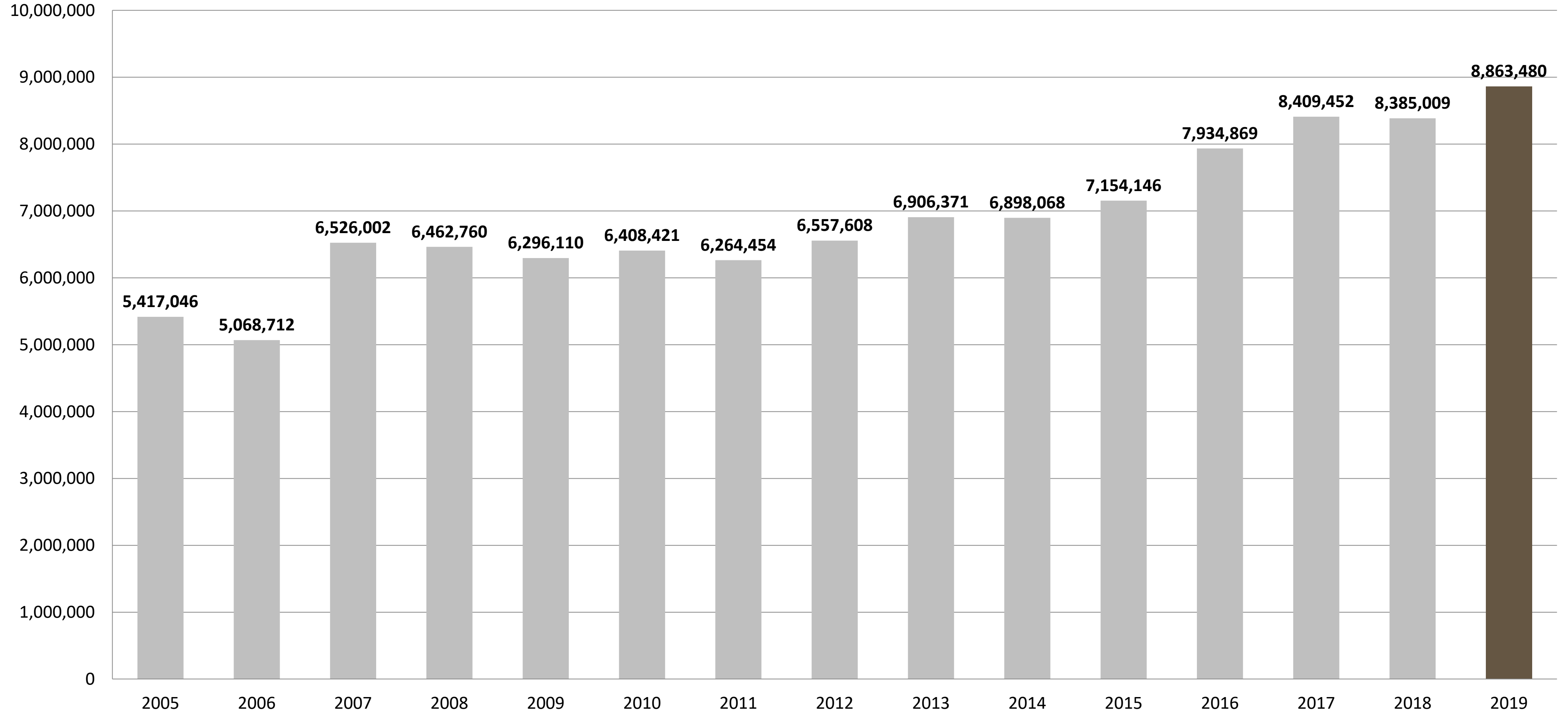
Contracted Services were \$831,948 over budget, in large part due to the implementation of NetSuite, the new ERP System

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

2019

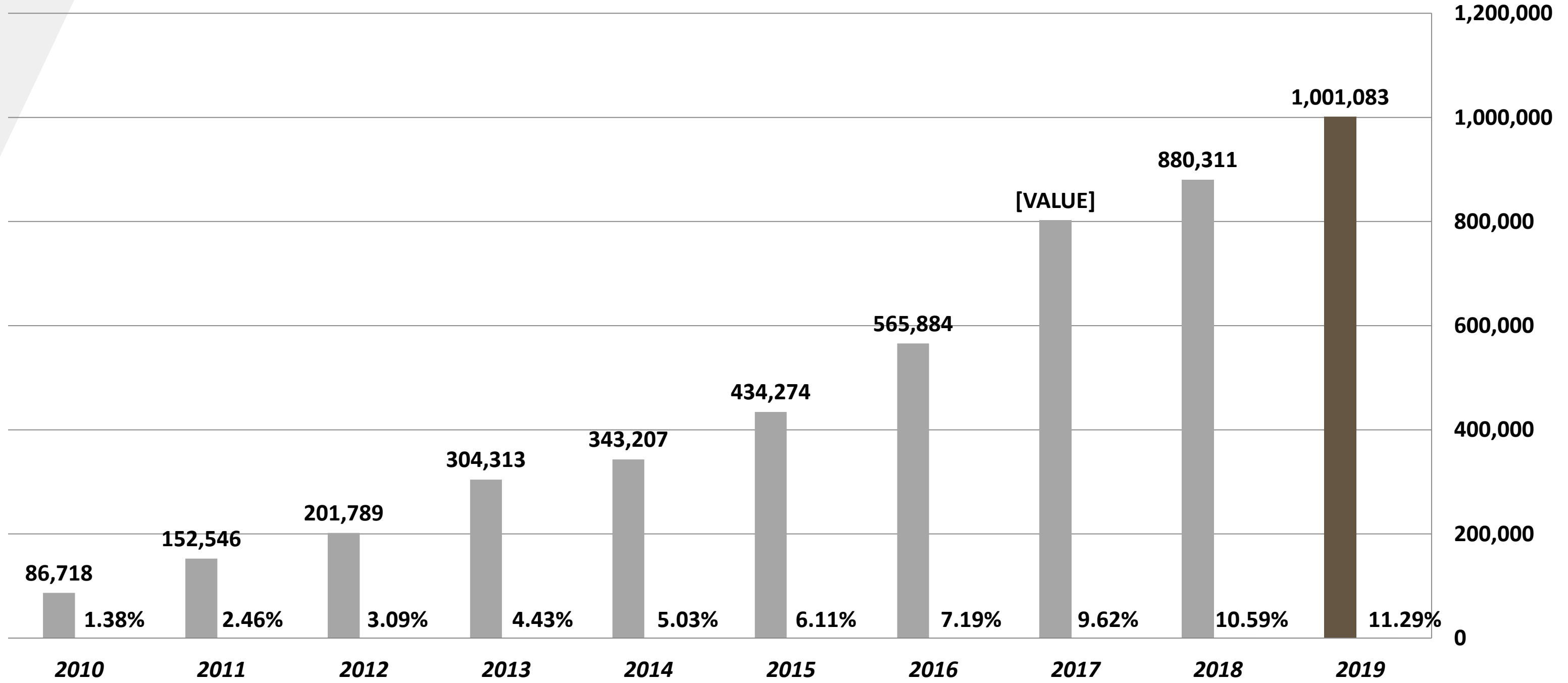
Amounts in \$	2019 ACTUAL	2019 BUDGET	COMPARED TO 2019 BUDGET	2018 ACTUAL	COMPARED TO 2018 ACTUAL
GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE					
7 th Tradition Contributions	8.86 M	8.38 M	\$478,760 (5.71%) increase	8.39 M	\$478,760 (5.71%) increase
Literature Profits	9.36 M	9.77 M	\$416,250 (4.26%) decrease	9.45 M	\$93,860 (1%) decrease
Net Income	(0.3) M	0.5 M	0.8 M (62%) decrease	.4 M	.1 M (20%) decrease
GRAPEVINE & LA VINA					
Average Circulation	71,182	76,086	4,904 (6.5%) decrease	72,300	1,126 (15%) decrease
Net Income (Loss)	(44 K)	(135 K)	91 K (67%) increase	(149) K	107 K (39%) better
General Fund support of La Viña service activity	289 K	166 K	123 K (74%) increase	148 K	141K (94%) increase
RESERVE FUND					
Coverage Ratio	9.2 months	9.4 month4	Decrease of 0.4 months (7%) months	9.7 Months	.2 months decrease

7TH TRADITION SELF-SUPPORT 2005 – 2019



ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS

2010 - 2019



2020 BUDGETS

Where are they?

- ❖ Budgets for 2020 are also being reviewed and updated
- ❖ COVID-19 has had such a dramatic effect on the economy and how we are doing business that the budgets that were prepared in January are no longer relevant
- ❖ NetSuite, the new ERP, will make future budgets easier to prepare, once we get the “bugs” out

2020 IC Cancelled

Detroit 2020 Budget

Attendees	47,500	
Advanced Registration Fee per Person (U.S. \$)	\$115	
Revenue	<u>5,583,218</u>	← Income from registration - <i>Refunded</i>
Stadium	1,446,571	
Convention Center	1,267,830	
Busing		
All other	<u>2,804,119</u>	
Total costs	<u>5,518,520</u>	← How much we spent
Net	64,698	

There is a 5.8 million insurance policy.

How much of that we will recoup is pending.

2020 Covid Impacts

Over 5,500 pieces of mail delivered to PO Box 459 and 475 Riverside were collected, disinfected, sorted and distributed to the homes of the service assignments, records and contributions.



This is Aubrey's home a.k.a. Alcoholics Anonymous mail sorting room

90 - the number of responses to the media/public outlets about how AA has adapted to virtual meeting space/5th Tradition online efforts.

150 - the number of A.A. related articles published around the world during COVID-19

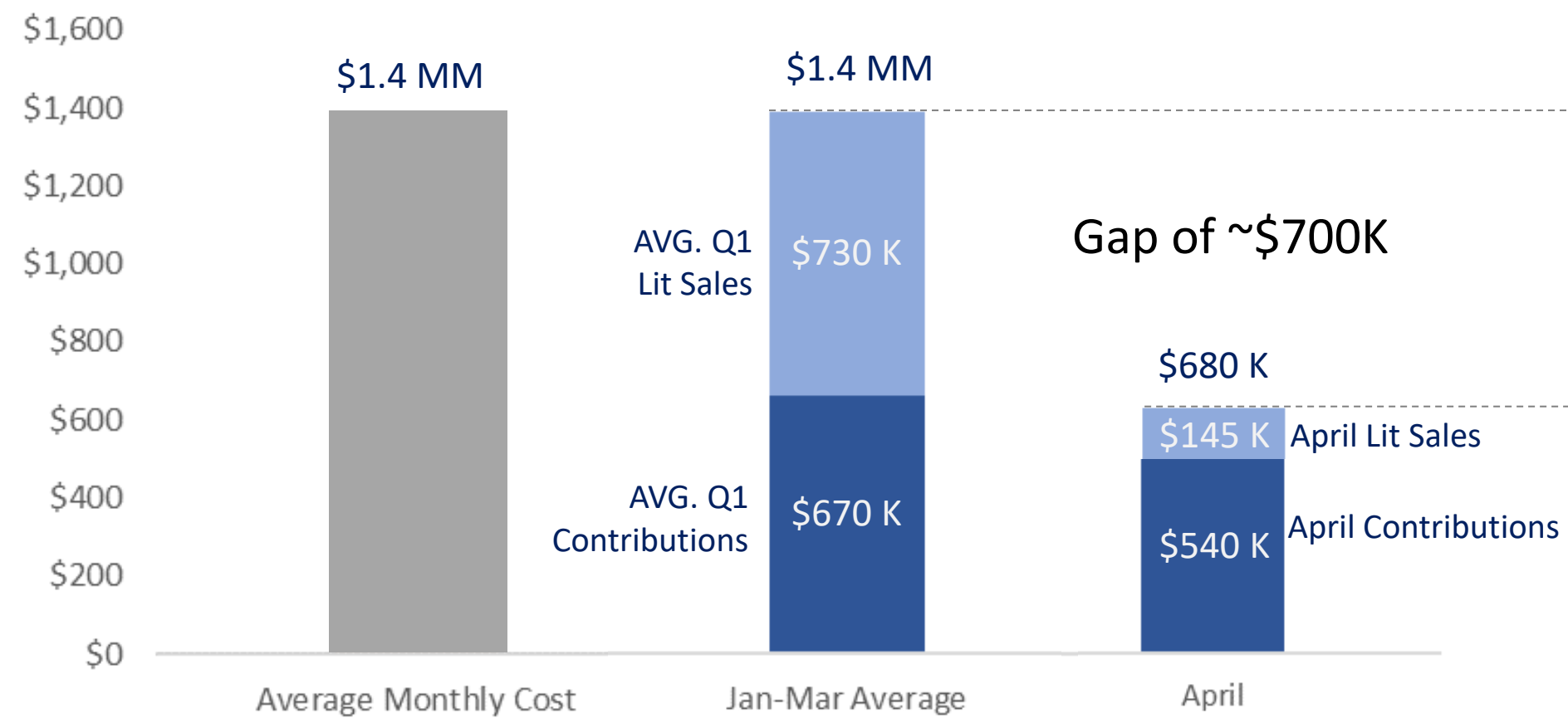
Virtual AA meetings successful in Newfoundland and Labrador



The subject of the article above got sober during COVID-19 and has never been to an in-person A.A. meeting

2020 Covid Impacts

CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION COSTS AND INCOME BASED ON AVERAGES



Gap of ~\$700K expected for the next 3 to 4 months without a significant call out to the fellowship for contributions

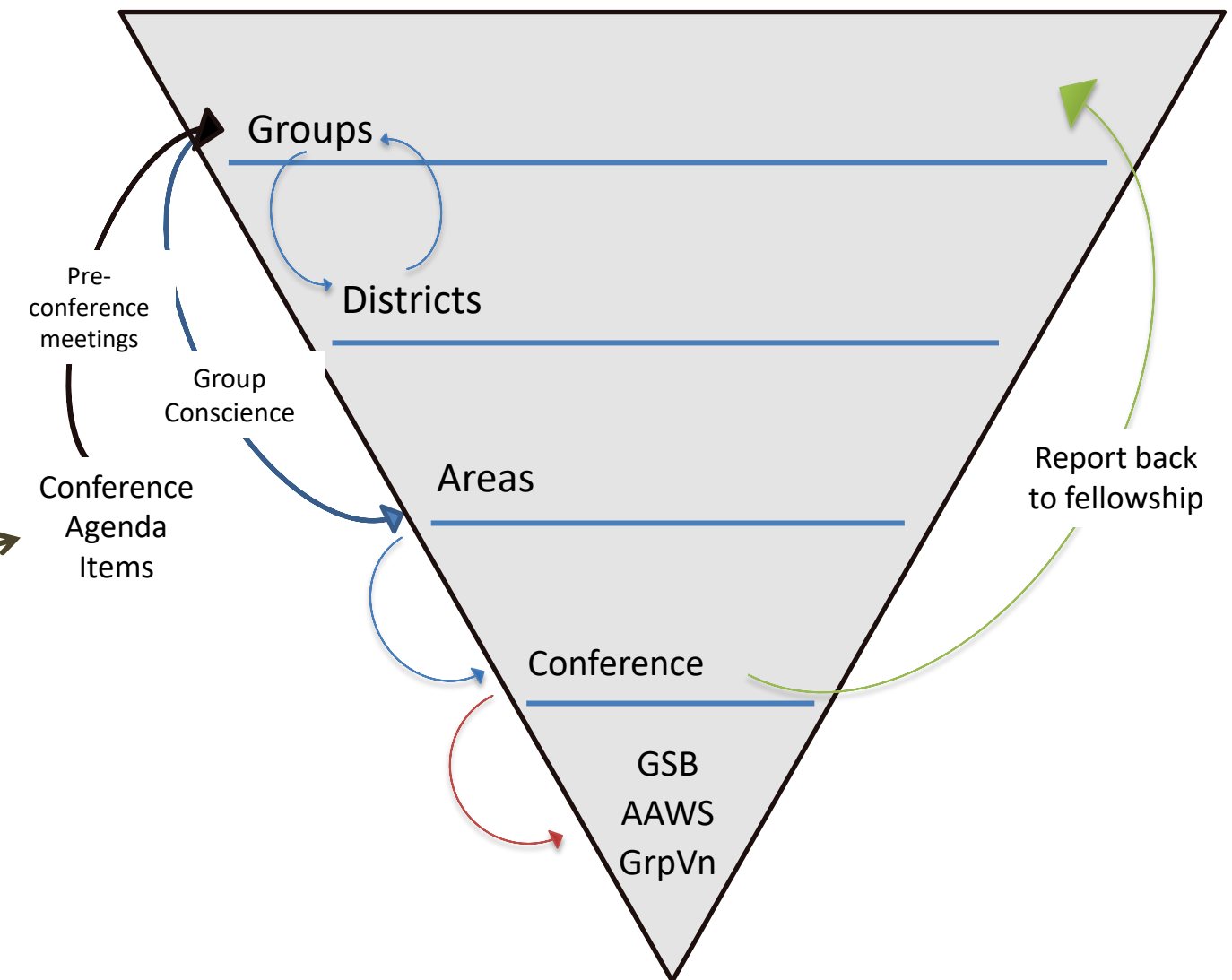
This gap is further increased by remaining Convention costs and Capitol expenses (ERP, eighth floor renovation)



Conference Process

CONFERENCE AGENDA PROCESS

1. An Area Submits a Motion to the Conference
2. Appropriate Trustee Committee - Reviews and places on Conference Agenda or not
3. Assigned to Corresponding Conference Committee
4. Goes to Areas for Group Feedback
5. Discussed / Action Taken at Conference
6. Report back to Groups



AGENDA ITEM STEPS

First

Committees meet on their own

- Each deliberates about all Agenda Items assigned to their committee

Second

The **Full Conference** reconvenes, and each Committee reports to the conference

CPC CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Name	Area	Location	Panel
Alan F. *	72	Western Washington	69
Cynthia B. **	33	Southwest Michigan	69
Barb D.	71	Virginia	69
Brad M.	04	Arkansas	69
Gail P.	63	BC / Yukon	69
Jamey N.*	63	South Dakota	70
Jim S. **	55	Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan	70
JJ S.	81	New Brunswick & PEI	70

70th General Service Conference Committee Report Sequence

Each year we alternate the sequence of committee reports.
This year, reports will be given in the following order, which is subject to change:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Approved by Chairperson</u>
1. Treatment and Accessibilities	Teddy Basham-Witherington
2. Grapevine	Jeff Bernknopf
3. Finance	Missy Rasmussen
4. Agenda	Steve Shuffield
5. Literature	Katy Patterson
6. Trustees	John Dussault
7. Policy/Admissions	Barb Chambers
8. Public Information	Michelle Garcia
9. Report and Charter	Dan Geels
10. Archives	Gail Patterson
11. Corrections	Brad Albright
12. C.P.C.	Alan Foster
13. International Conventions/ Regional Forums	Jane Ehrich



WHAT CAN HAPPEN WITH AN AGENDA ITEM

Recommendation (Advisory Action)

- Whole conference discusses and votes

Request (Additional Consideration)

- Conference Committee makes a request to the Trustee Committee

Took No Action

- Nothing Happens

Forwarded to 71st Conference

- Passed to 71st Conference

REDUCTION?

- The conference was reduced from six 12 hour days, to four 7 hour days
- Much of the agenda was removed
- Many of the agenda items were moved to 2021

AGENDA ITEMS



ITEMS FROM PRE-CONFERENCE

1. Create a pamphlet for mental health professionals
 - Discussed and **Forwarded** to the 71st GSC
2. Make an edit to the A.A. preamble to use pronouns which do not denote gender*
 - **Took No Action**
3. Establish a Grapevine Instagram account
 - **Took No Action**
 - **Requested** that Grapevine Board provide a report on implementation, security, anonymity and other matters of concern to the fellowship for the 71st GSC

* *Separately* - **Suggested** Grapevine Board consider developing gender neutral language options and bring a revised plan to the 2021 GSC.

4. Consider several Big Book items related to accessibility and relatability (plain language, workbook, etc)
 - **Took No Action** (this was a discussion topic)
 - **Requested** Trustee Literature Committee continue to explore issue
 - **Requested** that Trustee Literature Committee make the report, *“The Big Book: Researching Issues, Possible Tools and Access”* available to the fellowship.
5. Update the pamphlet, “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic”?
 - Conference Committee **Recommended** that this be done. Discussion period expired with no vote. Issue automatically placed on the 71st GSC agenda. (*note, development will start now with a report for the 2021 conference*)
6. Create an A.A.W.S. podcast comprised of existing materials
 - **Took No Action**
 - **Requested** that GSO develop a draft plan to be shared with the fellowship for the 71st GSC.

AGENDA

71st GSC Theme will be “A.A. in a Time of Change.”

Presentation Topics:

Recovery in a Changing World

Unity in a Changing World

Service in a Changing world

Workshop Topic:

Inform – Communicate

Involve – Act

Inspire – Attract

TREATMENT ACCESSIBILITIES

Committee Recommendations

- The committee recommended that the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” be updated for inclusion to reach a broader scope of treatment settings about temporary contact services, and that a progress report or draft be brought to the 2021 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities. **PASSED**

Committee Considerations

- **Suggested** that the trustees’ CPC/TA committee develop a BTG Workbook and bring progress report to the 2021 GSC. (Service piece)
- For “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic” - **Suggested** to reopen call for stories with a broad & diverse representation of AA experience.

GRAPEVINE

Committee Recommendations

- Change name to Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña. **PASSED**

Committee Considerations

- **Suggested** Grapevine Board consider developing gender neutral language options and bring a revised plan to the 2021 GSC.
- **Suggested** future book topics for 2020 or later: (English) Step Three -Turning it Over; Character Defects - Steps 6 & 7. (La Viña) AA & Families in Recovery, Old-timers Stories, Twelve Steps.

FINANCE

Committee Recommendations

- Add draft language related to the “virtual basket” be included in the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.” **PASSED**

Committee Considerations

- The committee discussed a request to revise the pie chart percentages on page 12 of the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” and the consensus was no changes were needed and **Took No Action.**

Forwarded to the 71st General Service Conference

- Review the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” and consider a request regarding contribution percentages to service entities.

LITERATURE

Committee Recommendations

- Update video “Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure.” **PASSED**
- “AAWS Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials.” **PASSED**

Committee Considerations

- For the following pamphlets: Twelve Traditions Illustrated, The Twelve Concepts Illustrated, AAs Three Legacies, Too Young, Young People in AA, Pamphlet for Spanish Speaking Women - report on progress at the 71st Conference.
- **Suggested** a review of draft language to be included in “Living Sober” and “Q&A on Sponsorship”. (Both relating to safety)
- Committee noted the final draft update of “Twelve Traditions Illustrated” appears as a distinct item from original, addresses a different audience, and serves a different purpose. **Suggested** considering a new piece instead of replacement.

LITERATURE

Forwarded to the 71st General Service Conference

- Consider requests related to revisions to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*:
 - Add pages 3 through 41 of the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” as an appendix in the next printing.
 - Revise the first 164 pages.
- Consider proposals related to possible Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*
- Consider development of a draft Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos*.
- Consider requests to revise the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*
 - Remove the phrase “opposite sex” from paragraph two on page 117 in the chapter “Step Twelve.”
 - To reconsider use of the phrase “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six.”
- Consider requests to revise text related to open meetings in the pamphlet “The A.A. Group.”
- Consider request to revise text related to self-support in the pamphlet “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.”
- Consider revising the pamphlet “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship”:
 - a. Change the suggestion that sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex.
 - b. Expand the section on “Service Sponsorship” and retitle the pamphlet to include service sponsorship.
- 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.”

TRUSTEES

Committee Recommendations

- Approval of the slate of trustees and officers for GSB, (C) A.A.W.S., Inc. Board*, (D) Grapevine Board, and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Board. **PASSED**

Committee Considerations

- Resumes approved as eligible for election candidates for W. Central and W. Canada Region.
- **Suggested** to amend by-laws regarding Directors to include language similar to that in the by-laws of the GSB specifically eligibility of past delegates to apply. *“Past Delegate – not eligible until one year after rotation,”* to mean not eligible to apply or serve until 1 year after end of rotation as delegate. And report to 2021 GSC.

Forwarded to the 71st General Service Conference

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

** This occurred via floor motion and confirmed at the 5/29 Board meeting.*

POLICY ADMISSIONS

Committee Recommendations

- Process for approving observers to the Conference. **PASSED**
- General Service Conference implement electronic voting for trustee elections starting in 2021. **PASSED**
- Continue reviewing dates for the GSC updated to consider dates with timing and years to review as requested by the General Manager. **PASSED**

Committee Considerations

- Considered proposed process for the equitable distribution of workload. **Suggested** clarification of specifics and bring back a more fully developed process for review by the 2021 GSC.

Forwarded to the 71st General Service Conference

- Consider a proposed process for how a Conference committee could review, discuss and act on proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee.
- Review the Floor Action process.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Committee Recommendations

Adjust all AAWS video titles for search engine optimization (SEO.) **PASSED**

Committee Considerations

- Reports reviewed and accepted: Annual Report regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org; GSO Communications Dept. report on the AAWS Meeting Guide App; report on status of Google AdWords/Grants; PI Comprehensive Media Plan; draft plan to create video shorts based on pamphlets; Relevance and Usefulness of Video PSAs; AA Membership survey. Report back in 2021.
- Accepted reports of distribution and tracking information on PSA “changes”; new financial reporting system for PSA media; and report on the development of two PSAs – a draft at 2021.
- Creating a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media. **Requested** information be gathered on Social Media before moving forward, regarding shared experience with Traditions, Anonymity, safety and etiquette on social media and virtual meeting platforms. Report or draft proposal back in 2021.
- AA Podcast: **Requested** to develop and bring back plan to 2021.
- Committee shared concerns on the relevancy of a print copy workbook and kit for PI. Suggestions included: explore developing a Service Committee App; Create PDF version; broader sharing; more Accessibilities in PI work; reflection of AA digital assets and how applied to PI work (such as YouTube, Meeting Guide App, etc.) Report back to 2021.

REPORT CHARTER

Committee Recommendations

- Amend Article 4 of current Conference Charter to read FROM: “3/4 vote of all conference members” TO: $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of all Conference members **participating in the vote...** **PASSED**

Committee Considerations

- Discussed restoring two paragraphs with footnote to Concept Eleven previously removed by 66th GSC. **Took No Action.**
- Reviewed draft of AA Service Manual, requested update draft incorporating suggestions from the Committee be brought back to 2021 GSC.

ARCHIVES

Committee Recommendations

NA

Committee Considerations

- Considered request for development of a book on AA history from 1955 through the present. **Suggested** Committee consider possible themes, content ideas and the time period such a book might cover. Report back to 2021.

CORRECTIONS

Committee Recommendations

NA

Committee Considerations

- Report heard from AAWS publishing director on efforts to provide digital distribution of AA literature into correctional facilities. Several viable options identified. Reported Publishing plan to make most used AA pamphlets staple-free.
- Reviewed Kit & Workbook, provided list of suggestions including adding the pamphlet "The God Word".

Committee Recommendations

NA

Committee Considerations

Discussed discontinuing the pamphlet “AA in Your Community” & **Took No Action**, noting an update of the language and style is needed.

Suggested updating content of the pamphlet “AA in Your Community” with focus on modern settings and various formats such as digital resources.

Forwarded to the 71st General Service Conference

Discuss progress report on LinkedIn page implementation.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

REGIONAL FORUMS

Committee Recommendations

NA

Committee Considerations

- Discussed use of the Lord's Prayer for closing the Big Meetings at the IC. Wide-ranging discussion followed. Continue in 2021.
- Encouraging interest in Regional and Local Forums, many suggestions offered for consideration. Including: remote attendance, digital access to materials and presentations develop service material for host committees, at local area: Early and communication, involve members at all levels, do sponsorship road trips; use Regional Forum video after its release.

FLOOR ITEMS

1. Proposal to revise the pie chart percentages emphasizing that any percentages included are only suggestions and examples, not recommendations.
2. Consider developing a PSA about AA geared toward minorities.
3. Pamphlet AA for the Black and African-American Alcoholic” be updated to include fresh stories & a new title.
4. 70th GSC approve slate of directors for AAWS as submitted by the Conference Committee.
5. 70th GSC approve slate of directors for AAWS as originally submitted.
6. Launch of Google AdWords-Grants halted until the 71st approves and the Ad Hoc Committee Progress Report from Finance be immediately released to all members of the 70th GSC

Questions??



2020 General Service Conference
Agenda Topic Summaries

CNCA Area 06

Pre-Conference Assembly
April 4-5, 2020
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
San Jose, CA

Disclosures:

The materials in this document are only summaries of the background. Information presented in the summaries is carefully distilled or extracted to be concise and provide enough information so that all districts and members in CNCA can fully participate. For more information on any particular item(s), please contact your DCM or DCMC to obtain full background information. Please do not consider the summaries opinions of the CNCA officers. Only the section on “What the Delegate needs to know” is personally from our Delegate.

This includes background for the 70th General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential AA document; Distribution is limited to AA members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Websites (including social media pages) available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members.

A Message from the Delegate: How to Use These Summaries

This document contains the **Agenda Topics Summaries** of the background information for all of the items to be considered by the thirteen conference committees of the 70th General Service Conference. The topics will be discussed by each committee, which *may* or *may not* send them to the whole Conference for consideration. Please note that *not all topics* will be presented to the Conference, or even resolved in committee.

The **purpose** of these summaries is so that they may be used as a tool by General Service Representatives (GSRs) to provide their group with pertinent information to facilitate an informed group conscience and then to convey that group conscience to the Delegate. In many cases, the summaries serve as an appetizer for the main course and those GSRs and groups with an appetite should request the accompanying background via their District Committee Member Chair (DCMC). Please remember to **treat the background as A.A. Confidential**, i.e. do not share it in any public forum or with non A.A. members.

These summaries may also be used by other members of our fellowship to communicate good information about the Agenda Topics and, where appropriate, to convey opinions to the Delegate.

Many of the Agenda Topics are for that particular committee (such as reviewing a progress report in the development of a piece of literature) and do not require a group conscience. Other topics appear every year, such as reviewing workbooks and kits used by Public Information, Corrections, etc. If your group is interested in these, ask your local committee to share their experience or request copies from your literature chair. Please pay special attention in these summaries to the section: **What the Delegate needs to know**, at the end of each topic.

On the next page of this document you will find the **Theme, and the Presentation/Discussion and Workshop Topics** for the 70th General Service Conference. While we don't hear "group consciences" on these, please consider using them for discussions in your groups and districts. We will also have some time for sharing on the Conference Theme at the Pre-Conference Assembly.

Your delegate this year serves on the **Treatment and Accessibilities Committee** and also the **International Conventions and Regional Forums Committee**. Please bear in mind that they will have the opportunity to discuss the agenda topics for those committees in depth during their committee meetings.

Remember, *trust the process*—and enjoy it too!

In love and service,
Teddy B.W., Panel 69 Delegate

Conference Theme, Presentation and Workshop Topics

The theme of the 70th General Service Conference is:

“2020: A Clear Vision for You”

The Presentation/Discussion topics will include:

- a. Recovery – Who Is Missing in Our Rooms?
- b. Unity – Practicing Our Principles
- c. Service – Keeping A.A. Relevant

The Workshop Topic will be:

Attraction Through Action

These are wonderful AA topics that can be talked about and discussed throughout the Fellowship, in assemblies, districts, intergroups/central office gatherings, and in groups.

Conference Committee: Agenda — Item A

Agenda Topic	Review suggestions for the theme of the 2021 General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The theme of the conference and the presentation topics revolve around the basic principles of AA; these suggestions can provoke a stimulating discussion at Area and District meetings as well. Regions, areas and districts often incorporate the theme of the Conference in discussions, giving members of AA an opportunity to participate and be more informed about AA. The background includes a list of 64 suggestions for the theme of next year's Conference. The background also has a list with the themes of every Conference between 1951 and 2020.
What does the Delegate need to know?	From this list of suggestions, which theme or themes for the 2021 General Service Conference would your group like to see as the theme next year? Why?

Conference Committee: Agenda— Item B

Agenda Topic	Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2021 General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The 77 presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2021 General Service Conference are listed in the background material. In the background, one can also find a list with the presentations and discussion topics of every Conference between 1985 and 2020.
What does the Delegate need to know?	From this list of suggestions, which presentations and discussion topics for the 2021 General Service Conference would your group like to see as presentations and discussion topics next year? Why?

Conference Committee: Agenda — Item C

Agenda Topic	Review workshop topic ideas for the 2021 General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The 101 workshop topic ideas for the 2021 General Service Conference are listed in the background material. In the background, one can also find a list with the workshop topics of every Conference between 1985 and 2020.
What does the Delegate need to know?	From this list of suggestions, which workshop topics for the 2020 General Service Conference would your group like to see as the workshop topics next year? Why?

Conference Committee: Agenda — Item D

Agenda Topic	Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, process and 2019 Evaluation Summary.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2019, this committee reviewed the 2018 General Service Conference evaluations and noted that improvements were implemented from previous years' suggestions. The background includes a copy of this year's evaluation form. A summary of results from the 2019 evaluation form is also in the background and is generally positive about the 2019 Conference – though there were concerns about the translations (particularly the Spanish translation) being late.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: Agenda — Item E

Agenda Topic	Review the 2019 January conference call participant survey results.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	A conference call in January 2019 – which included sharing from Conference committee members, the chair of a corresponding Trustee's committee, and a staff secretary – gave Conference members an opportunity to review items on the agenda and discuss items still being considered by trustees. This conference call was then evaluated by the call participants. The evaluation form, results of the survey, and comments from the survey,

	are all included in the background. There are also suggestions for the call in the future.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Discuss report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Since 2016, efforts have been made to enhance the General Service Conference agenda review and selection process, giving delegates a role in the vetting and selection of proposed agenda items. By 2019, a conference call (including members of a Conference committee, the corresponding trustee's committee chair, and a staff secretary) was implemented. That phone call occurred again in 2020 (with improvements from suggestions from the previous year), and another questionnaire was sent out; answers from that questionnaire are summarized in the background and are positive about the process – one comment is that the process, “for right now, it’s perfect as is,” though another comment suggests creating a workbook for Conference committee chairs to help them understand their roles as chairs.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Discuss the General Service Conference schedule.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The background includes scheduling ideas for the General Service Conference – focused on the question “What can we stop doing during Conference week?” Suggested options include discussing the status of agenda items from previous Conference actions prior to the January board meeting, finding a way for Delegates who are not on a specific committee to be able to offer input to the committee prior to the committee meeting, and starting earlier in the morning. Sharing on the question about what can be eliminated during the Conference week is summarized in the background. Possible items to eliminate include the keynote speaker and Area Highlights; the report also suggests reducing the time spent on Sharing Sessions and streamlining the elections process.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to discontinue the pamphlet “A.A. in Your Community.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The pamphlet is online: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-31_AAinyourcommunity.pdf</p> <p>The request to discontinue and retire the pamphlet came from the Sobriety Society group in Knoxville, TN because their group feels that the pamphlet is poorly constructed and there are two flyers that contain similar information in a more concise and cost-effective way: “Information on Alcoholics Anonymous” (F-2) and “A.A. at a Glance” (F-1). Details of the submitter’s comments and recommendations are in the background.</p> <p>In 1979, the Conference P.I. Committee recommended retiring the pamphlet because they had since developed other literature for their intended audience and felt it was too much like “A.A. at a Glance” and “A Brief Guide to A.A.” (P-42). But in 1981, the Conference C.P.C. Committee recommended reinstating the pamphlet. The reasoning behind the request to reinstate was that it was useful to C.P.C. work, and none of the other similar</p>

	pieces of literature make the statement by their title that A.A. is a community resource, or include content explaining how the Fellowship works within the community to help alcoholics.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee feel that the pamphlet “A.A. in Your Community” should be discontinued? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item B

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to create a pamphlet for mental health professionals.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This request came from the C.P.C. Committee in Area 11, Connecticut, who received a vote of confidence at an Area assembly to put it forward. They noted that in our existing literature, medical professionals are addressed but nothing speaks directly and specifically to the mental health professional. The group feels if a specific pamphlet existed it might increase the chances of mental health professionals reading it and being better able to help a person with a desire to stop drinking. Ideas suggested for possible content in such a pamphlet included: A.A. is not the same as psychotherapy; A.A. is spiritual, not religious; prescribed medications do not interfere with the principles of A.A.; there is no cost and no affiliation with other entities; information about the website and smartphone app; suggestions to attend an open meeting and be in contact with the local C.P.C. committee. More detail is in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee feel there is a need for a new pamphlet directed at mental health professionals? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item C

Agenda Topic	Discuss progress report on LinkedIn page implementation.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The LinkedIn page was launched on November 19, 2019 in English, French and Spanish. The overall goal of the LinkedIn page is to share information on A.A. with professionals and refer professionals to aa.org. You can find the page here: www.linkedin.com/company/aaorldservicesinc/ The progress report in the background has charts with data from Nov. 2019-Jan. 2020 on page visits, how many clicked through to aa.org, and impressions of the one post so far (featuring information about A.A. exhibits at national professional events). As of the date of the report, the page had 254 followers. While not currently being done, ideas for possible content on the page include posting a version of the announcements from Box 459 when there are vacancies for non-alcoholic (Class A) trustees on the board, or bios of current or past nonalcoholic trustees. Also being considered are posts with an image and a link to specific A.A. digital resources, such as the <i>About A.A.</i> newsletter for professionals, the information for professionals page, Grapevine and La Viña, and the YouTube channels.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee have any feedback on the progress report or ideas on how the LinkedIn page could be better utilized?

Conference Committee: Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item D

Agenda Topic	Review contents of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Kits and Workbooks are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference (GSC). Between Conferences, ideas for changes to a Workbook or to the contents of a Kit may be reviewed by the appropriate trustees' Committee and implemented. Alternatively, the trustees' Committee may choose to

	<p>forward an idea to the Conference Committee for review. Members of the Conference Committee then have an opportunity to review proposed changes to a Workbook or Kit during the next GSC. The C.P.C. Committee Workbook is contained in the Kit and can also be ordered separately. The content list of the Kit is available online and includes links to digital versions of many items, including the Workbook: www.aa.org/cpckit</p> <p>The background this year included some suggestions for the P.I. Workbook that may also have relevance to the C.P.C. Workbook, including a comprehensive review/revision as it “has failed to keep pace with how work is being done using the internet,” and to seek wider experience from the Fellowship and local committees.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly; if your group or committee has suggestions, please share them with the Delegate or Alternate Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Corrections — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review Corrections Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Every year, the Corrections committee at the Conference reviews the Corrections Kit and Workbook. Outdated information may be updated or removed by GSO staff members, who report those changes to the trustees. The Kit and Workbook are available online at www.aa.org/pages/en_US/corrections-committees .
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly; if your group has suggestions regarding materials that should be added or deleted, please share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Finance — Items A1 and A2**

Agenda Topic	Review the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix:” Consider a request to revise the pie chart percentages on page 12. Consider a request regarding contribution percentages to service entities.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Two pie charts are currently provided on pages 12 and 13 that list suggested percentage breakdown for group contributions between the various service entities. A chart is provided with no percentages, this is intended for the group to use to create their own breakdown. Two other charts provide suggest breakdowns as examples. Two Areas have requested changes to these charts. Area 66 (West Texas) would like the percentages to be adjusted to show a larger contribution to the Area then to General Service in New York. Area 61 (Rhode Island) has asked that the sample charts be eliminated leaving only the top pie chart with no suggested percentages. Both areas understand that the pie charts are meant to be examples only however they believe that they are taken literally by many groups.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel it is necessary to show sample percentages in this pamphlet? Why, or why not? What suggestions does your group have on the breakdowns?

Conference Committee: **Finance — Item A3**

Agenda Topic	Review the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix:” Consider draft language related to the “virtual basket.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	At the conference last year, the Finance Committee in reviewing the Self Support package asked that language be added to a number of pamphlets regarding passing the “virtual basket”. The publishing department has provided language for the committee considerations for “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” The proposed change is to add a question regarding the passing of a virtual basket, then to provide

	guidance based on the experience of various groups. This question and answer format is consistent with the layout of this pamphlet.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel adding language on the passing the “virtual basket” is needed? Why, or why not? Does your group have any suggestions on the wording?

Conference Committee: **Finance— Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review Self-Support Packet.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The self-support packet is reviewed annually by the Finance Committee. It consists of a number of pamphlets, the self-support card, A.A. guidelines on Finance and the Birthday Envelope.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly; if your group has suggestions regarding materials that should be added or deleted, please share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Consider the list of suggested AA Grapevine book topics for 2021 or later.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	At every Conference, the Grapevine Committee reviews a list of proposed book topics. Here are some of the ones mentioned in the background information (for both Grapevine and La Viña): 1. Step Three: Turning it Over (working title) - Previously published stories from the pages of Grapevine by A.A. members about their various experience with Step 3; 2. Character Defects: Steps 6 & 7 (working title) - Previously published stories by A.A. members about their experiences with Steps 6 and 7, from the pages of the Grapevine; 3. A.A. and Families in Recovery (working title) (La Viña Book) - Spanish-speaking A.A. members share experiences about how drinking affects the whole family and how A.A. helps repair them, from the pages of La Viña; 4. Old-Timers’ Stories (working title) (La Viña Book) - Long-time Spanish-speaking A.A. members share their experience, strength, and hope, from the pages of La Viña; and, 5. Twelve Steps (working title) (La Viña Book) - Spanish-Speaking A.A. members share stories of experience with A.A.’s Twelve Steps, from the pages of La Viña.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What do the members of your group think about these topics for Grapevine/La Viña books? Are they necessary? Why, or why not? Are there other topics they would like to see addressed?

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on AA Grapevine Workbook revisions.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Grapevine Workbook is available via aagrapevine.org and is used primarily by Grapevine Representatives and Committees. This is an annually standing agenda item for the Grapevine committee.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on actions taken from the findings of the AA Grapevine Fellowship Feedback Survey.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In the Fall of 2018, a survey was conducted by the Grapevine to measure attitudes toward the magazine, in order to identify opportunities to improve perceptions and relevance as personal recovery tools to the fellowship. This survey was distributed online and was completed by 4,568 members of the fellowship – both subscribers and non-subscribers.

	The opportunities identified included: 1. An opportunity to improve perceptions and relevance of Grapevine/La Viña as important personal recovery tools; 2. Confusion surrounding funding of Grapevine and La Viña; 3. Current content being geared toward younger members of the fellowship, as well as members with long-term sobriety; 4. A desire for a simpler subscription model; 5. A better digital experience; and, 6 Improve La Viña engagement.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Items D and E**

Agenda Topic D	Consider revising the A.A. Preamble to use gender neutral pronouns. For example, "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other..."
Agenda Topic E	Consider a request to change the language of the first sentence of the A.A. Preamble as follows: "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share..."
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2018 and 2019, the Grapevine received six requests to revise the A.A. Preamble, in order to make the language gender-neutral. The requests have come from a group in Silver Springs, MD, two separate groups in Brooklyn, NY, another group in Manhattan, Area 13 (Greater Washington DC), and Area 27 (Louisiana). Many of the sources of this topic cited their interest in aligning A.A. with the increasing diversity of gender expression within the fellowship. They state that, as it stands, the Preamble is not all-inclusive and could be modified to be more inclusive of the LGBTQ+ community.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that the A.A. Preamble should be gender-neutral? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to develop an AA Grapevine pamphlet on how the AA Grapevine can be utilized to carry the A.A. message.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This request came from the Area 39 (Western Missouri) Literature Chair with a proposed working title of "How to use the A.A. Grapevine to Carry the A.A. Message." It came as a response to the 2020 initiative of making the fellowship aware of the ways the Grapevine can be used to carry the message. Some suggestions for the pamphlet include a paragraph on how the Grapevine can be used in each specific area of A.A. life, as well as information on how to subscribe to the Grapevine.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that a pamphlet on how the Grapevine could be used to carry the A.A. message is needed? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to change the name of the General Service Conference Committee on Grapevine to the Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This request originated in Area 13 (Washington DC), and its intent is to align the name of the Committee with the scope of its work. The Area believes that this will strengthen the relationship between the Grapevine and La Viña.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that the Conference Grapevine Committee should be renamed to the Grapevine and La Viña Committee? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item H**

Agenda Topic	Consider a request for AA Grapevine, Inc. to establish an Instagram account in line with the Twelve Traditions.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Over the last few years, the Grapevine has been exploring the expansion into social media as a means of communicating with the Fellowship. The Grapevine is committed to creating a viable social media strategy in a comprehensive three to five-year plan. It has discussed the idea of using Instagram as an extension of Grapevine’s graphic, video, and audio content. This could look like sharing inspirational content, information, and resources to support recovery from alcoholism. The content would be geared toward alcoholics both “inside and outside the rooms,” and would take all 12 Traditions and Concepts into consideration in the posts. <i>For more on the strategic plan and preliminary screenshots, please refer to the background information.</i>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that Instagram can Instagram account for the A.A. Grapevine is necessary? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Items A-F**

Agenda Topic A	Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.”
Agenda Topic B	Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated.”
Agenda Topic C	Review progress report regarding the development of the pamphlet on A.A.’s Three Legacies.
Agenda Topic D	Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “Too Young?”
Agenda Topic E	Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”
Agenda Topic F	Review progress report regarding the development of the pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women in A.A.
Agenda Topic G	Review draft update of the video “Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	These items relate to new or updated content previously commissioned and the progress reports are to update the Conference Literature Committee on the status of these projects.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item H**

Agenda Topic	Review draft language regarding safety and A.A. to be included in <i>Living Sober</i> and “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	There is a proposal to add wording to the book, <i>Living Sober</i> , to the effect that “it is reasonable for each member to expect a reasonable level of safety.” A similar, but connected, proposal is that the pamphlet on sponsorship contain a reference to the service piece “Safety in A.A. – Our Common Welfare” and wording relating to a “safe meeting place,” and a “safe environment” within which a culture of sponsorship can flourish at group level.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think of the suggested additions? Is the wording helpful? If so, why? If not, why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item I1**

Agenda Topic	“The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” pamphlet: Discuss draft update of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2016 the Conference decided to update the pamphlet with a modernized presentation of both text and illustrations to reflect contemporary A.A. experience. Since then, work

	has been done and a draft of the new pamphlet will be reviewed by the Conference Literature Committee.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item I2**

Agenda Topic	“The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” pamphlet: Consider not retiring the existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In reviewing the pamphlet for update the Trustees’ Literature Committee has noted “the wealth and depth of material contained in the current pamphlet,” and requests the Conference Literature Committee consider retaining the current pamphlet as a resource for the Fellowship, rather than follow the normal process of retirement of the existing piece and replacing it with an updated one.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Is the existing pamphlet meeting our needs or does it require revision? Should the Conference rescind its 2016 decision to update the pamphlet?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item J1**

Agenda Topic	A.A.W.S. Policy: Review “A.A.W.S. Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials” approved in January 2020.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The new policy affords the publishing department of AAWS greater flexibility in making certain changes to A.A. Literature. The 2019 Conference asked that the policy be brought back in 2020 for consideration by the whole Conference, not just the Conference Literature Committee. The Trustees’ Literature Committee “noted support for the revised policy on publication of literature which assures Conference approval as well affords the G.S.O. Publishing department the opportunity to proactively work to keep A.A. Conference-approved literature updated.”
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think of the new policy? Should it be approved or rejected? Why?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item J2**

Agenda Topic	A.A.W.S. Policy: Review proposed “A.A.W.S. Policy on Conversion of Written Conference-approved Literature and Service Material into Video Format.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Recognizing the ever-increasing demand for content in video and audio formats, a policy has been developed that aims to “keep our content available and accessible while ensuring that we do so within the scope of our Traditions.” Drawing upon the approach developed by the A.A. Grapevine the new policy is designed to provide “an opportunity for discussion and a balance of sharing from those conducting the work and those receiving it.”
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think of the approach outlined in the new policy? Does it meet our needs or not? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item K**

Agenda Topic	Consider if proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, can be addressed with a common solution.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2016, the Conference Literature Committee decided to take no action on a request for a plain language translation. This time around, the topic bundles several requests, driven

	<p>by accessibility and relatability, together. The intent is to <i>start</i> a fellowship-wide conversation on how to address the issues specified in the topic and whether a common solution may be the answer. In particular the Literature Committee looks forward to input and feedback on its initial findings that will determine the specific literacy level of the Big Book and identify gaps that are being filled by non-conference approved literature.</p> <p><u>Not included as formal agenda items</u>, several requests from the fellowship are included in the background i.e. workbooks for the Steps, Traditions and Concepts, a dictionary for the Big Book, diverse spiritual language from other faiths, or removal of the chapters “To Wives,” “The Family Afterward,” and “To Employers.” These requests are attached as background because they touch on what the Trustees Literature Committee considers to be an expressed, broader need that is reflected in similar requests. There are 13 documents in the background supporting this agenda topic and it is recommended that those interested in this topic consult those in detail. This summary will paraphrase some of those:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K1 – this is a proposal from Area 08, San Diego, for a plain language translation of the Big Book written at 5th grade English level that would be helpful for Young People, Remote Communities Members, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community, Prison Communities, and our members with learning disabilities. Examples of plain language are given. • K2 - this is a proposal from the Panel 67 delegate for Area 14, North Florida, for a workbook to accompany the Big Book. The proposer states that a workbook that contained brief sharings from members on their experience with a passage and space for sponsor's suggestions on taking a step would make our message more accessible to the uneducated, those with reading difficulties, and the loner. • K3 - this is a memo from the Chair of the General Service Board to the chair of the Trustees’ Literature Committee requesting the gathering of objective information and engaging in a dialog with the Conference committee on the issues to capture the “full spectrum of relevant thinking on this topic.” • K6 – this is a report from the subcommittee of the Trustees’ Literature Committee on “Researching Issues, Possible Tools and Access to the Book”. The subcommittee found an increasing trend of individuals who struggle to read in English. While there are numerous factors driving these increases, it will be important to also consider content, both modern and simple language, as well as format when determining how to address accessibility and relatability issues. An appendix to the report indicates that about half of the adults in the US could read and comprehend the Big Book. • K11 – this appears to be an internal GSO document summarizing the thinking of the board in 1977 in relation to study guides. It concludes, “the program is spiritual rather than academic. There are no authorities in A.A. and even a self-appointed ‘teacher’ has feet of clay. Hence, it is preferable that the individual member or prospect interpret the literature according to his own point of view. For these reasons, the Board does not plan to publish study guides or interpretations of A.A. literature at this time.”
<p>What does the Delegate need to know?</p>	<p>Should the Trustees’ Literature Committee explore possible solutions that could help make our message more available? If so, what additional information would be helpful to support the Conference to determine if additional items are needed for accessibility and relatability to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, including a possible translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous, whether in audio options or other formats, as well as options for workbooks?</p>

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item L1**

Agenda Topic	Consider requests to revise the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> : Add pages 3 through 41 of the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” as an appendix in the next printing.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The proposal comes from Area 13 (Washington D.C.) because “it is believed that having the pamphlet inserted would encourage best practices and participation in general service. Ultimately, this could help improve our service culture to the benefit of the groups, the still suffering alcoholic, and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.”
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think of this proposal? Is the new appendix needed or not? Why?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item L2**

Agenda Topic	Consider requests to revise the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> : Revise the first 164 pages.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This proposal comes from a district southwest of Philadelphia, effectively bypassing the approval of the local Area, and seeks to audit the first 164 pages of the Big Book for the purpose of identifying changes that can be made to make the Big Book more reflective of the A.A. membership composition. Driving the proposal is the blunt assessment contained within the Communications Audit commissioned by the General Service Board that A.A. materials present “an overall perception of A.A. as an organization obsessed with its own history and perhaps out of touch with today’s population.” The proposal further states that the focus of the audit “should be on; Identifying Pronoun usage – where possible the gender-neutral form should be incorporated; Passages or sections that are no longer consistent with or relevant when taken in context of society in general or the A.A. membership composition; and, the chapters <i>To Wives</i> and <i>The Family Afterward</i> should specifically be evaluated for revisions to be more consistent with today’s membership.”</p> <p>Once the audit has taken place, the proposal states that items identified “should be prioritized both by the ease of editing and the possible impact to the context of the message. Changes to the overall message should be minimized or avoided entirely. Simplification of the vocabulary should not be considered and references to historical figures and events should remain unchanged. Where possible, suitable changes should be suggested for incorporation into the text subject to Conference approval.” The proposal gives examples of possible edits in keeping with the audit and those that are not.</p> <p>In 1995 the Conference decided that: “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>, the Preface, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Doctor Bob’s Nightmare” and the Appendices remain as is.”</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about the proposal? Is an audit needed or not? Why?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Items M1, M2, and M3**

Agenda Topic	<p>Consider proposals related to possible Fifth Edition of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>: Develop a Fifth Edition. Develop a Fifth Edition of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> with updated stories and revisions to Appendices III and V. Add a proposed addendum to a Fifth Edition foreword of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> at the time it is published.</p>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	We have consolidated these items as they all relate to a possible 5 th Edition. The first proposal, from Northern Illinois, suggests that the time is right for a new edition with

	stories that better reflect today’s fellowship. The second proposal is from our Area, California Northern Coastal, and reflects both pros and cons resulting from our extensive discussion to approve a new edition updating the stories and also appendices III (the Medical View of A.A.) and V (the Religious View of A.A.). The third proposal comes from Bedford, Southern Indiana and is from a District, bypassing the Area. It calls for an addendum to the Foreword of the next edition of the Big Book and supplies proposed wording to address the perceived male gender bias implicit in the book.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think it’s time for a 5 th edition? Why, or why not? If so, what content or sections should be updated? Why?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item N**

Agenda Topic	Consider development of a draft Fourth Edition of the book <i>Alcohólicos Anónimos</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Last year, the Conference asked the Trustees’ Literature committee to consider this item and it has been placed on the agenda this year for Conference Consideration. The 3 rd and current Spanish language edition was published by A.A.W.S. in 2008. Since then various requests have been received to address perceived errors and omissions in the translation and to update the stories. The process from decision to publication of the 3 rd edition took four years and is detailed in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that it is time for a new edition of the Spanish language Big Book? Why? What changes are needed?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item O**

Agenda Topic	Consider updating the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Last year, the Conference asked the Trustees’ Literature committee to consider this item and it has been placed on the agenda this year for Conference Consideration. The Pamphlet was published in 2001, was retitled in 2007, and had a cover redesign in 2018. Also included in the background is the 2018 report, “Reaching Out to African-American Alcoholics,” which references the fact that the pamphlet has not been revised since its publication in 2001. Feedback from staff and professionals is also included that suggests updating the pamphlet would be helpful to both professionals and members.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think of this pamphlet? Is an update needed or not? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item P1**

Agenda Topic	Consider requests to revise the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> : To remove the phrase “opposite sex” from paragraph two on page 117 in the chapter “Step Twelve.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This proposal comes from a group in St. Petersburg, Florida, having failed to achieve substantial unanimity at the district level. The current text on page 117 of the <i>Twelve and Twelve</i> states: “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 out lives. God fashioned us that way.” The proposer states that the removal of the words would be more inclusive, the words are religious in nature and in conflict with Tradition 10, and that some members were personally offended by the text as written as it implied a condition of membership. He

	also states that those against the change were concerned that if we start changing anything, where would we stop and that, as written, the <i>Twelve and Twelve</i> was good enough to get them sober, so it's good enough for everyone.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about this section of the 12x12? Is the removal of the phrase necessary or not? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item P2**

Agenda Topic	Consider requests to revise the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> : To reconsider use of the phrase “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This proposal comes with substantial unanimity from Area 07, California Northern Interior. Step Six, paragraph 13, the current version of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions reads as follows: "No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health."</p> <p>The reasons given for suggesting this change are: lust is not the cause of rape and this inaccuracy at best misinforms AA members and at worst triggers AA members—many of whom are sexual assault survivors; the causes of sexual assault were not studied, well-known, or understood when Bill W. wrote that sentence; and, use of the are unnecessary—words that have such potential to provoke trauma belong in literature that's more narrowly focused, like pamphlets. Aware of the declaration the General Service Conference made in 2002: That no changes be made to the text of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions because "the book has helped so many alcoholics find recovery," and because "Bill's writing [should] be retained as originally published," the proposers argue that it would be more likely to keep survivors and perpetrators in the fellowship from getting upset enough to consider a drink, or become agitated enough to leave a needed meeting. Since the current language in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions regarding sexual assault is “incorrect and outdated,” the proposers request “that you please reconsider your 2002 recommendation.”</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about this statement in the 12x12? Is it necessary it be removed or changed? If so, why? If not, why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item Q**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to add a subtitle to the booklet <i>Living Sober</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This proposal comes directly from a group in Laguna Beach, California. The proposer states that the book is, “perhaps, the best piece of literature for a newcomer who is trying to stay away from the first drink” and, therefore, they suggest that the title of <i>Living Sober</i> be amended to read: “ <i>Living Sober - How Not to Take the First Drink</i> .”
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think of the proposed subtitle? Will the subtitle better help us reach the alcoholic who still suffers or not? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item R**

Agenda Topic	Consider requests to revise text related to open meetings in the pamphlet “The A.A. Group.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This item was discussed by Area 14, North Florida, where it did not pass. However, the proposer requested the delegate still forward the item for consideration. It was also discussed by Area 60, Western Pennsylvania, where it did pass by substantial unanimity. It is proposed to remove the words “Non-alcoholics may attend open meetings as observers” from the pamphlet to bring it into alignment with the Blue Card and to avoid

	the potential of silencing the alcoholic who does not yet realize they are one.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Is this change to the pamphlet needed or not? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item S**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to revise text related to self-support in the pamphlet “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This item appears to be a request from the four delegates representing areas in Quebec. They request that the second paragraph in the section on page 17 of the pamphlet <i>Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.</i> be removed completely or at least modified to read as the second paragraph on page 7 of the pamphlet <i>Self-Support Where Money & Spirituality Mix</i> under the section titled “What does membership in AA cost?” It suggests omitting the words “and other meeting expenses, including coffee, sandwiches, cakes or whatever else may be served,” and to align with the wording in the pamphlet on self-support that states: “rent, refreshments, A.A. literature,” etc. to avoid the perception that A.A. is a catering service.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Is this change necessary? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item T1**

Agenda Topic	Consider revising the pamphlet “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship”: Change the suggestion that sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This proposal, made by an A.A. member requests that the following paragraph, found on page 12 under the heading “Can any member be a sponsor?”: 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 updated to read: “A.A. custom does suggest one limitation: sponsorship should be avoided wherever a romantic entanglement might arise between sponsor and newcomer. 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 suggested change is designed to be sensitive to and accommodate Transgender and non-binary members because a segregation of men and women leaves these members at risk of misunderstanding, ostracism, rejection, and even violence.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Is this change needed? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item T2**

Agenda Topic	Consider revising the pamphlet “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship”: Expand the section on “Service Sponsorship” and retitle the pamphlet to include service sponsorship.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This proposal comes from Area 44, New Jersey and is a second attempt to have this item on the agenda. The request is that the Service Sponsorship section in the pamphlet Questions & Answers on Sponsorship (P-15) be expanded, and that the pamphlet be retitled to include Service Sponsorship. Items that might be included in the revision might: reinforce the notion that service work often begins with a suggestion from a service sponsor; have more members engage in service work; point out the benefits of service to the individual, the group and the fellowship; define service work as a

	responsibility of the recovering AA member; discuss ways in which a person in service can attract others to service; explore ways in which a service sponsor can assist those new to service; and, present personal experiences of those serving as service sponsors.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Is the revision need or not? Why? If so, what helpful information could be included?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item U**

Agenda Topic	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.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This item comes from Area 21, Southern Illinois. The proposer believes that adding the GSR Preamble to the GSR pamphlet would be beneficial for the following reasons: the GSR Preamble is a clear-cut directive to GSR’s regarding their responsibility; adding the GSR Preamble to the pamphlet, would provide consistency and thus unity across A.A. as a whole; and, if added, it would affirm Conference approval when read at District and Area Functions. The exact wording is: “We are the General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of A.A. We realize the ultimate authority is a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that they can reach an informed group conscience. In passing along this group conscience, we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship. Let us, therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our group and A.A. as a whole.”
What does the Delegate need to know?	Is it necessary to add this to the pamphlet or not? Why? Are there any other publications in which the reproduction of the GSR preamble might be helpful?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item V**

Agenda Topic	Review recovery literature matrix.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The matrix is designed as a tool for the trustees’ and Conference literature committees, containing pertinent information to inform periodic review. It contains data that may be of interest to your group, such as quantities of literature published over the past 5 years and downloaded in 2017 and 2018.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Consider a proposed process for approving observers to the U.S./Canada General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The 2019 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions requested that a process be developed by the trustee’s Committee on the General Service Conference for approving qualified representatives from other A.A. service structures to observe the General Service Conference that allows for observers to be presented for consideration prior to General Service Conference week, to be reviewed by the 2020 Conference. The proposal acknowledges the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee has been responsible for reviewing all requests for access and making recommendations to the entire Conference. Observer requests would have to be received by October 1 for the upcoming Conference. Requests would follow a review and approval flow, which would

	eventually be forwarded to the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee for review. The Committee would schedule a meeting before the Conference for approval or disapproval by vote and then make a recommendation to the Conference body, which would then review, discuss, and potentially vote using the “Process for Polling Conference Between Meetings”. After the vote is completed, the guest observers along with the corresponding entity will be notified of the results.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Consider implementing electronic voting for trustee elections.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2012, Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee Terry Bedient requested that the General Service Conference utilize an electronic voting system on a trial basis. He suggested first trying it on general voting and if it was found to be successful, that it could be used on trustee election voting in subsequent years. Following two years of trial use at Conferences, evaluation, and Conference approval, electronic voting has been implemented since 2018. It is used for all Conference voting except elections of regional trustees and trustees-at-large, which are conducted by ballot. There would be no additional cost to implement electronic voting for elections.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review G.S.O. general manager’s report regarding General Service Conference site selection.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The progress report memo states that GSO would have a better negotiating advantage with requests for two-year contracts with hotels, having some flexibility with dates, and starting the process as soon as possible. The progress report outlines a timeframe for approval of dates that GSO management believes would be more effective and proposed an agenda item in light of this (Item D). Efforts have begun to request proposals and information from hotels to determine the most cost-effective and appropriate venues for future Conferences. GSO Management is also planning to explore venues outside New York City and State for the 2025 Conference. In working on site selection, previous Advisory Actions regarding the Conference, the Conference Charter, and Bylaws of the General Service Board, AAWS, and Grapevine, Inc. are being considered (relevant excerpts are in the background).
What does the Delegate need to know?	How does your group feel about the possibility of the Conference being held outside of New York? Do they have other thoughts on the report?

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Consider continuing the review of dates for the General Service Conference with timing and year(s) to review as requested by the general manager.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	GSO’s general manager reported that GSO would have a better negotiating advantage with requests for two-year contracts with hotels, some flexibility with dates, and starting the process as soon as possible. Current policy states that: “The Conference Policy Committee routinely review the dates for the Conference to be held two years hence.”

	GSO management feels it would be more effective to have the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee review future Conference dates on a biannual review, in two-year chunks. For example, in 2021, review dates for 2025 and 2026, which would allow venue research to begin by the end of 2021 and 2022 for those.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think the proposed review process should be made? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Consider a proposed process for how a Conference committee could review, discuss and act on proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The General Service Board recognizes the desire by the Conference for greater delegate participation in the agenda process. For over 20 years, the Board has welcomed chairpersons of Conference committees and the delegate chairperson at the quarterly Board Weekend prior to the General Service Conference. It was requested that a process be developed for how a Conference committee could review, discuss and act on proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee and to include suggestions for the January conference call between trustee committee chairs and corresponding Conference committees. The proposals are available in full with supporting documents, implementation details, and historical information in the background.</p> <p>Proposal: Items not forwarded will be sent to the corresponding Conference committee for review and a standing item would be added to each Conference committee to reviews those. Background will be included that was reviewed or discussed to make their decision and it will also be included in the full background annually. The committee will not be asked to act on it, but rather to determine if they agree with the decision to take no action or if an item needs more work for consideration. They will send their decision back to the trustees' committee to either agree, for more work or information, or for reconsideration, along with rationale, so that a final decision could be made.</p> <p>The January call would include a clear invitation that the trustees' committee is interested in the thoughts of the Conference committee members as to whether these Agenda Items not forwarded or still under consideration should be forwarded to the Conference committee, with the Board keeping its final responsibility for selection in keeping with Concept 3. The focus of the call is to obtain sharing on the proposed agenda.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	How does your group feel about this proposed process? Does your group feel that there is a better way to handle items not forwarded to a Conference committee?

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Consider a proposed process for equitable distribution of Conference committees' workload.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The recommended plan proposes to keep the current committee structure with the possibility of moving additional items onto a committee for equity, or to add additional primary committees as needed in a given year, such as a 2 nd PI or Literature committee. Documents suggested to facilitate the process include a standardized GSC Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form, a timeline including a change to the submission deadline to Sept. 15, a workflow of the disposition of proposed items, a workflow of the Proposed Process for Equitable Distribution Workload and a Scoring Tool, along with a new trustees' subcommittee on GSC Committee Workload. Details within this flow include estimated time a topic would take and how items are routed.

	Other options included in the report are to: 1. Stay the course and keep it as it is, but require more dialogue and guidance in the submission process 2. Maintain the existing structure with the flexibility of adding extra committees 3. Reorganize the Delegate Committee structure to 6 groups with equal loads discussing all manner of topics.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Review the Floor Action process.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This item was submitted by Area 29 Maryland. They propose that a review of the process would be to “prevent any Conference member from circumventing the normal Conference process”, listing careful discussion and study of background material as parts of a fully informed vote. The background material includes their letter, notes from their area discussions on the motion, and a general history of Conference Floor Actions, which details how procedures have evolved over the years.
What does the Delegate need to know?	How does your group feel about the Floor Action process?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review 2019 annual reports from the trustees’ Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This is a standing item on the agenda. For aa.org, some highlights of new content added include: Meeting Guide information; Big Book 4 th Edition ASL video; 12x12 ASL video; new pamphlet “The God Word”; a new PSA; 2020 International Convention info; and Twelve Concepts for World Service in audio format. Approximately 431 emails were received through the online Website Feedback form last year. Eight people requested Twelfth-step help, 39 either requested help finding a meeting or commented on the difficulty of finding a meeting through the site, 54 commented on website function and questions, 49 responded to technical errors, 18 Daily Reflections requests, 25 customer service requests, 64 contributions questions, and 1 eBook question. Additional requests were sent to Grapevine, Service Committees and junk mail. Emails are forwarded to the appropriate person in the office and responded to. Some of the requests from the Fellowship resulted in the new content that was added. The aa.org website received 16,499,534 visits in 2019, for an average of 45,204 each day. The aa.org website is currently being redesigned. For Grapevine, the new website has launched and the new La Viña site is in progress.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group have suggestions for content at aa.org? Does your group know that group, personal and birthday contributions can be made online at aa.org? Have they visited the newly redesigned Grapevine website?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Discuss a progress report on the A.A.W.S. Meeting Guide app.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Meeting Guide app launched in August 2019 and information on the App can be found at https://aa.org/pages/en_US/meeting-guide . Detailed analytics of visitors from Oct-Dec 2019 are in the background, including which keywords people use to search for meeting types. There have been a total of 1761 customer support emails so far, with the top three categories being App Feature Request/Feedback (370), Add/Update Local

	Entity (244) and Meeting Coverage (199). For monthly active users, usage is steadily increasing. Meetings and Meeting Details are most accessed, with Favorites and Quotes also popular. A support website is available for participating entities and those who may want to participate. Next steps include finalizing guidance videos for the App to post on YouTube and the aa.org FAQ page, finalizing policies and guidelines on such things as who is listed in the app and how, when to reassign meeting info (and when not to), when to provide tech assistance, and branding policy.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Do members of your group know about and use the Meeting Guide App, either personally or as 12 th Step or P.I. tool? Do they have any suggestions for improvement?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review the 2019 trustees’ Public Information Committee progress report on the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube account.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	As of January 30, 2020, there are currently 48 A.A.W.S. videos posted (16 each in English, Spanish and French). There are 165 completed videos not yet posted, including Corrections videos, ASL videos, Young and Sober in A.A.: From Drinking to Recovery, and flag ceremony clips from past A.A. International Conventions. Prior to posting, videos need to have intros and outros (like an end screen noting videos that appear before or after may not be associated with A.A.). All search-engine optimized video descriptions and translations have been prepared for current videos and they are working on descriptions for new videos. Optimized video names for PSAs (approved by Conference) have been implemented on YouTube and aa.org. The policy for posting videos on YouTube will be reviewed annually. As of December 2019, there are over 4,200 subscribers and average monthly video views of between 2,000 and 4,000. There has been an 88% increase in users who access aa.org from the YouTube channel since October 2018. More detail on videos, traffic and how YouTube suggests videos people might like to watch can be found in the full background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Do members of your group know about the YouTube channel? Do they have any thoughts or feedback on its usefulness and effectiveness?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review the 2019 trustees’ Public Information Committee progress report on the use of Google AdWords/Grants to carry the A.A. message.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Last year, the Conference approved applying for “LegitScript” certification to qualify for Google AdWords/Grants, applying for a Google AdWords Grant, and implementing Google AdWords for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public. The General Service Board policy (affirmed by the Conference) allows A.A. to accept discounts or subsidies that would be offered to any other organization of similar size (like convention hotel rates). The Google AdWords Grant is worth \$10,000 of donated media value per month which is available to all nonprofits. Similar to the in-kind donations for TV PSAs. There is a question of how these in-kind contributions need to be reported on the financial statements and that is being looked into by the trustees’ Finance committee.</p> <p>The background contains the implementation plan, which calls for focusing on two ad groups in English, to allow us to streamline our efforts and refine messages/keywords for two audiences, set up tracking, and evaluate the usefulness as a public information tool before expanding to other audiences, or not. Ad Group 1: Those that have, or know someone who may have, a drinking problem. Ad Group 2: Those looking for meeting information. Keywords people might search for online that would trigger the ads in Group 1 are variations on phrases such as “quit drinking,” “drinking too much,”</p>

	“drinking problem,” “get sober,” etc. Incentive to click will be something like “See if A.A. is right for you” that links to resources at aa.org. Group 2 would be searching for things like “A.A. meeting” or “contact A.A.” and they would then get a link to the Meeting Guide on aa.org.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Do members of your group have experience searching for help with alcoholism online? What do they think about the proposed use of Google AdWords as a tool for public information?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Discuss a request to adjust all A.A.W.S. video titles for search engine optimization (SEO).
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This request came from the newly formed Communication Services department at GSO. The aim of the request is to create new titles for all our videos that are more descriptive of the content in the video and identify the video as A.A. content, make video naming conventions consistent, and make our content easier to find by search engines. The intention is to preserve original titles when possible, but some will need numerous adjustments to include search keywords and be more descriptive. At the 2019 Conference, an Advisory Action called for updating all current PSA video titles for search engine optimization purposes and this has been completed. For example, “ <u>Changes</u> ” became “Sobriety in A.A.: We made <u>changes</u> to stop drinking.” All of our current videos can be accessed from the home page of aa.org. Moving forward, all new videos will have optimized titles before they are published and distributed.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Have members of your group watched any of the videos on aa.org? Does your group think we should adjust video titles so that they can be found more easily online? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Review a report regarding the 2020 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This is an annual item and this year’s report focused on responding to the General Service Board’s Communications Audit and Strategic Plan action items specific to P.I. work. Items discussed following the 2019 Conference included audio PSAs, the development of two new video PSAs, the plan to produce video shorts based on A.A. pamphlets (see item G below), updating aa.org web banners, possible online PSA distribution, a new draft Young People Video Project flyer, the development of a series of P.I. postcard service pieces, identifying efforts that overlap with other committees/departments, and the development of a new Comprehensive Media Plan architecture. Ongoing projects include a comprehensive review of P.I. literature for targeted audiences and to support local committee efforts; inventorying P.I. materials and services with an eye toward diversity and inclusion; creating new and revised informational and educational material for professionals and professional associations; developing policies to utilize new media technologies that are guided by A.A. Traditions and raise awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous; GSO and Grapevine/LaVina to optimize online and social media presence to make sure A.A. stays relevant in today’s society as a solution to alcoholism.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee have any feedback on the above projects, or suggestions for ways to better utilize new media technology in keeping with our A.A. Traditions?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Review a draft plan to create video shorts based on A.A. pamphlets.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Last year, the Conference directed the trustees to develop a plan to produce video shorts based on current A.A. pamphlets that provide information about A.A. to the public and report back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information. The background includes storyboards along with the details of the draft plan. Three pamphlets were chosen that have the spirit of alcoholics “talking” with fellow alcoholics who may be seeking help with a drinking problem: “A Brief Guide to A.A.” (P-42), “Is A.A. for You?” (P-3), and “A Message to Teenagers” (F-9). Since pamphlet text is dense, excerpted text will be used, with minor editorial revisions, for the creation of video and GIFs. A final screen will include ways people can contact A.A.</p> <p>For Plan A, the first two pamphlets are being converted into a video text narrative (from 1-3:50 minutes in length) with the help of a freelance copywriter. Software being used could allow for movement and colorization, and stock music and/or voice-over talent can be selected through the production company. <i>Ballpark</i> cost for each Plan A video would be \$3,000 for video production and \$3,265 to add audio (voice-over and stock music). For Plan B, the storyboards include illustrated drawings, visually representing the message of “A Message to Teenagers.” For this concept, a narrator and stock music would be necessary to take us through the questions the illustrations represent. <i>Ballpark</i> cost for Plan B would be \$8,000 for video production and \$3,265 for audio.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about the draft plan for video shorts based on these pamphlets? Do they think video shorts like this could be helpful in reaching the still suffering alcoholic? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item H1**

Agenda Topic	Public Service Announcements (PSAs): Review the 2019 Report on the “Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcements.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This is an annual item. Our current video PSAs remain useful according to the Comprehensive Media Plan subcommittee report. Also noted, audio PSAs are being updated to reflect the current ways people search for A.A. The following PSA titles were updated for search engine optimization (underlined text is the old title):</p> <p>Sobriety in A.A.: Since getting sober, <u>I have hope</u></p> <p>Sobriety in A.A.: Opening <u>doors</u> to a life without drinking</p> <p>Sobriety in A.A.: We made <u>changes</u> to stop drinking</p> <p>Video and Audio PSAs are all online: https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/public-information-committees</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee think our PSAs are relevant and useful? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item H2**

Agenda Topic	Public Service Announcements (PSAs): Review the distribution and tracking information for the video PSA “Changes.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This is the practice when a new PSA is produced. There is a link in the background to view the detailed report with station airing details, time of day details and audience impression demographics. The PSA airs in different markets in the U.S. and Canada in English, French and Spanish. Combined, all of the U.S. and Canadian PSAs aired a total of 71,278 times with 584,893,597 impressions. (Note that the title of this PSA has been changed to “Sobriety in A.A.: We made changes to stop drinking” for search engine</p>

	optimization.)
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item H3**

Agenda Topic	Public Service Announcements (PSAs): Review a report regarding the new financial reporting system for PSA media valuations.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The trustees' Public Information Committee has asked the trustees' Finance committee to look into the best ways to report in-kind donations such as TV PSAs. Our auditors have been asked to provide more information on how we must report the in-kind service to give further information to the Conference. The background includes a report from Connect 360 Media (our outside vendor) explaining how they come up with their valuation of gift-in-kind PSA media placement. For January 1-December 31, 2019 it was valued at \$20,843,307.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item H4**

Agenda Topic	Public Service Announcements (PSAs): Review a progress report on the development of two PSAs.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The entire background is one paragraph from the February 1, 2020 report of the trustees' Committee on Public Information: "The committee discussed the 2019 Advisory Action that two PSAs be developed at a cost not to exceed \$50,000 for each PSA, and that if full-face characters are shown, to include an 'actor portrayal' disclaimer on screen. The committee reviewed the Comprehensive Media Plan subcommittee report on the messaging and audience of each PSA. The committee looks forward to a progress report and/or professional storyboards to be reviewed at the August 2020 meeting."
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item I**

Agenda Topic	Discuss a request "to create a new form of communication" to address anonymity on social media.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This request came from Area 29 (Maryland) where it passed with substantial unanimity at their Assembly (with one dissenting vote). The submitters feel that even with the changes that were recently made to include language on digital anonymity in the "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" pamphlet (an idea that also came from this Area and was approved by the 2018 Conference) that it's not enough. In the cover letter from the Panel 68 Delegate, he mentions that they feel a new form of communication, beyond pamphlets and posters and service pieces is needed. And rather than dictate what form that communication should take, it is Area 29's intention to get the conversation started about what needs to be done. Attached to the submission letter is the original proposal on "Principles Before Posting" from the maker of the motion and results of a survey they took locally. Also highlighted in the background is a link to our current resources on anonymity: https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/anonymity-a-vital-spiritual-principle
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel there is a need for a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media? Why, or why not? And, if so, do they have any ideas?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item J**

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to develop a plan to create an A.A. podcast.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This proposal came from a member in Area 49 (South East New York) and a motion of support was passed at the Suffolk County Assembly to send it forward. The background includes the original motion from Area 49 and everything that follows here is excerpted/paraphrased from that motion:</p> <p><i>A podcast is a digital form of radio. There are many podcasts about A.A. but not by A.A.W.S. or the General Service Board. This is a media not currently being used to reach the alcoholic. Suggested sobriety and service topics could include: experience with Steps/Traditions/Concepts; the Service Manual; experience, strength and hope from past trustees and delegates; different pieces of literature; and Grapevine and La Vina.</i></p> <p><i>This could be a way to better utilize our Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees and that would eliminate any concerns about breaking anonymity. It could also address the issue that communication is inconsistent through the service structure.</i></p> <p><i>The General Service Board Communications Audit reported that in most cases we are not using communication platforms that are relevant for the external audiences they are trying to reach. On pages 14-15 of the 2019 General Service Conference Final Report, there is mention of the popularity of “snack-sized content” and podcasts were listed as a popular means of communication.</i></p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that a podcast needs to be created to better carry the message of A.A.? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item K**

Agenda Topic	Review “A.A. Triennial Membership Survey” report.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The first broad survey of A.A. was undertaken in 1968 and the most recent A.A. Membership Survey (from 2014) can be found online: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-48_membershipsurvey.pdf</p> <p>The background includes 15 pages of history and actions related to the A.A. Membership Survey, a 17 page Professional Methodology Review and suggestions for possible improvement of current processes and data. The way the survey data has historically been collected is by selecting a random sampling (between 1.0 and 1.5%) of groups in each of the 93 Areas, and then having a local member (perhaps a District Committee Member) attend a typical meeting of the group as a data collector, read a script, and ask members in attendance to complete a paper questionnaire. With an assumed sample size of 22 members per group, that results in a target sample of about 16,250 respondents.</p> <p>The General Service Board sought expert assistance with the objective of either confirming the current sampling methodology is the most appropriate means of selecting a sample for the survey, or identifying a more appropriate sampling protocol. The professional review notes that the current process makes appropriate use of stratification and clustering and employs a sample size more than adequate to generating estimates that are quite precise. Issues that merit attention are the question of whether the use of Areas as strata is optimal (what about urban vs. rural or meeting time instead); ways to simplify or augment the collection process (such as a survey people could take on their phone); the ways the members who carry out survey administration may affect the results collected;</p>

	<p>and inclusion of additional sources of data, maybe by asking the data collectors to supply contextual information about the meeting and/or by using community data (such as the Census) to provide additional context about how well or poorly meeting members reflect the population of their communities.</p> <p>Two sources of possible sampling error are discussed in detail. Coverage error: Without a list of members all we can use is a list of A.A. meetings, and there is widespread agreement that the list of meetings GSO possesses is not exhaustive (not all groups are listed). Non-response error: When members decline to participate or don't answer all the questions, the data doesn't have the full information it was supposed to obtain. But there is no way to precisely quantify how big of a problem these errors are. Other potential flaws offer room for improvement and are also detailed in the report.</p> <p>The questionnaire itself was outside the scope of the report, but it was noted that ensuring that it asks members about the number of different meetings they attend, whether they are filling it out at their home meeting, and how often they attend meetings could provide useful data. Also, making sure that terminology used for gender, race and ethnicity is up-to-date helps ensure that members observe their own attributes in the options available and aren't discouraged from completing it because it excludes them.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee have any ideas on how to improve the membership survey or concerns about any of the methodology?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item L**

Agenda Topic	Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Kits and Workbooks are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference (GSC). Between Conferences, ideas for changes to a Workbook or to the contents of a Kit may be reviewed by the appropriate trustees' Committee and implemented. Alternatively, the trustees' Committee may choose to forward an idea to the Conference Committee for review.</p> <p>The P.I. Committee Workbook is contained in the Kit and can also be ordered separately. The content list of the Kit is available online and includes links to digital versions of many items, including the Workbook: www.aa.org/pikit</p> <p>The background this year included a note that the trustees' P.I. Committee had reviewed suggestions from local committees regarding the current language and resources available in the Workbook and requested that a full revision of the P.I. Workbook be developed to serve the needs of local P.I. committees, with a progress report to be brought back to their August 2020 meeting.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly; if your group or committee has suggestions, please share them with the Delegate or Alternate Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Discuss General Service Conference <i>Final Report</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This committee will discuss the 2019 General Service Conference <i>Final Report</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	What do you think of the Conference Report? Do you find it user friendly? How could the Conference Report be improved?

Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.)
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This is an annual item for the committee to discuss. In 2019, the committee requested that GSO explore alternative methods of accessing and distributing the contact information contained in Directories, especially in light of the new database system being created and the Meeting Guide app and asked for a report to be brought back.</p> <p>The report found the following: The current directories available are the 2017-2018 editions, as it was decided in 2018 not to print a new edition during the implementation of the new database system. The purpose of directories is to provide A.A. members with contact information for groups, especially members who are travelling or who live in rural or remote areas. A 2015 survey of Intergroup/Central Offices showed that while some like to have them on hand, most use the internet now to find area meetings and contacts. There is an A.A. Near You section on aa.org that has contact information for local hotlines and websites, and the Meeting Guide app is now widely used.</p> <p>Looking at potentially printing again, it would have to wait until at least spring of 2021, as there have been challenges with the launch of the new database that will take some time to work through. Being mindful of the fact that not everyone uses technology, a suggested alternative is to use the leaflet <i>Central Offices, Intergroups and Answering Services for the U.S. and Canada</i> (F-25) more widely for those without computer or smart phone access. Historical costs of directories is in the background.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that we should continue printing directories? Why, or why not? Would the suggested leaflet be adequate, or does your group have any other ideas?

Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Consider restoring the two paragraphs and the accompanying footnote in the Concept Eleven essay of The Twelve Concepts for World Service that were removed by an advisory action of the 66th General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2016, the Conference decided to remove two paragraphs from the Concept XI essay on page 58 of <i>Twelve Concepts for World Service</i> which related to distinctions between men and women workers at headquarters, along with adding an endnote to page 59 that it was removed and available upon request from GSO Archives Department.</p> <p>Members from Area 60, Western Pennsylvania, requested the General Service Conference return to the practice of not changing Bill W.'s writings and the policy of printing the Twelve Concepts as originally written by Bill W., as is stated in the preface to the Twelve Concepts. They specifically refer to restoring the two paragraphs which were removed.</p> <p>The letter shares additional historical information, quotes, and Advisory Actions they feel would be helpful in making a decision, which are listed in the background for reference. They refer to several other requests to change language that were not done recognizing the fellowship's feeling that Bill's writing be retained as originally published, as well as multiple footnotes that have been incorporated over the years in our various texts to point out where information is not factual or outdated rather than removing language. They also feel that this change opens the door to more changes to our texts and Bill's writings.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that the two paragraphs and footnote should be restored? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Consider amending a sentence in Article 4 of the current Conference Charter.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The trustees' Nominating Committee forwarded an agenda item to amend a sentence in Article 4 of the current Conference Charter as follows (with the proposed added text in bold): "It will be further understood, regardless of the legal prerogatives of the General Service Board, as a matter of tradition, that a three-quarters vote of all Conference members participating in the vote may bring about a reorganization of the General Service Board and the directors and staff members of its corporate services, if or when such reorganization is deemed essential."</p> <p>This came about after there was a proposal to reorganize the AAWS and General Service Boards in 2018. While no action was taken, it was noted that developing procedures for a partial or complete reorganization of any the Boards should be explored by a subcommittee. The memo on the suggested procedures is included in the background material, which included revising the wording in Article 4 as proposed. The background also includes a section from Concept Four which focuses on Trustees and others voting on their past performance.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think this addition to Article 4 is needed? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item E1**

Agenda Topic	The A.A. Service Manual, 2020-2022 Edition: Review the draft and the agenda items that were forwarded to Publishing during the period of the redesign project.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2018, the Conference asked AAWS Publishing Department undertake a thorough evaluation, update, and redesign of the Service Manual. Multiple drafts have been created and refined, arriving at a format based on user-friendliness, readability, simplicity, and adaptability to the French and Spanish editions.</p> <p>Multiple proposed changes related to the Service Manual have been submitted since last year's Conference, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider removing the bulleted duties from the following pages in the A.A. Service Manual and Twelve Concepts for World Service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -On page S50, Chapter Six, The Delegate Duties: "Provide leadership in solving local problems involving the A.A. Traditions." -On page S31-S32, Chapter Three, The District and the D.C.M. Duties: "Brings Tradition problems to the Delegate." 2. Consider that the words "Agenda Item" along with a definition be included in the Glossary of General Service Terms in the first chapter of the A.A. Service Manual. 3. Consider that paragraphs 2 and 3 of the section "Sources of Agenda Items" in Chapter 7 of the A.A. Service Manual be updated to better state the path that a proposed agenda item takes to be included in the final agenda of a General Service Conference, and that the stated path be separated from the section "Sources of Agenda Items" with a new subtitle "The Path for an Idea to Become an Agenda Item" and a flowchart. <p>Item 1 was submitted by an Archives Committee Chair in Area 26 Kentucky. It was felt that regarding Traditions, many groups claim Tradition Four allows them "to do what we want", and this often leads to the Delegate explaining "there is nothing I can do". If it is intended to give groups complete autonomy, reference to Tradition Problems should be eliminated from the Service Manual and Twelve Concepts. On the other hand, the letter points, measures could be taken so that GSO, GSC, trustees, delegates, and DCMs know what they can and cannot do.</p>

	Items 2&3 were submitted by Area 34 Western Michigan. A proposed definition and alternate wording can be found in the background material.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that the bulleted duties regarding Traditions should be removed? Why, or why not? Does your group think that adding a definition of Agenda Item is needed? What do they think of updates regarding the source of agenda items and a potential flow chart?

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Discuss the report on the review of materials related to Bridging the Gap activities.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2019, the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities requested a review of all treatment and corrections committee literature related to Bridging the Gap and Temporary Contact activities. The focus of the review was intended to gauge how treatment and corrections material could be updated, combined, or broadened to encompass the full range of possibilities in which a temporary contact might be useful.</p> <p>The report is available in the background. Several items (Conference-approved literature, service material, and a Corrections Assignment Letter) were reviewed for currency and inclusion. To include as many people as possible who might request Temporary Contact services, the report suggests replacing words like “inmate” and “patients” with words like “alcoholics,” “newcomer,” “people,” “clients,” “participants,” and “incarcerated or confined alcoholics.” The report also encourages neutral pronouns (like they and their). The report suggests combining some service material and re-titling them to more clearly specify the temporary pre-release contact service that could work for a number of committees (including BTG, Treatment, Corrections, and H&I committees). A second goal would be to make the materials more accessible by simplifying the language to benefit alcoholics with different reading levels. Several samples of suggested changes to the text of combined service material and guidelines are included in the background.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about the proposed suggestions regarding language? What do your group members think about merging already-existing literature into new pamphlets focused on Bridging the Gap work?

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to develop a Bridging the Gap Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Bridging the Gap coordinator of District 10 in Utah ((just south of Salt Lake City, extending from Wendover to Park City) submitted a request that a Bridging the Gap Workbook (combining materials from already existing A.A. workbooks) be developed. Workbooks for several other committees (like Archives, Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community, and Accessibilities) already exist. Currently, only a pamphlet regarding the Bridging the Gap is available. The background also includes a 20-page workbook being used in District 10 in Utah.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about creating a new Bridging the Gap Workbook? Does your group have any suggestions for content?

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2019, the Conference approved a proposal to update the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never too Late,” with revisions to the introduction, current and inclusive stories, references to online AA, and an updated “How Do I Find A.A.” section. A subcommittee is currently reviewing story submissions (44 stories were submitted,

	reflecting gender and regional diversity).
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly; if your group has suggestions regarding materials that should be added or deleted, please share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review contents of Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Every year, the Treatment and Accessibilities committee at the Conference reviews the Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook. Outdated information may be updated or removed by GSO staff members, who report those changes to the trustees. The Kit is available online at https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-167w_TF_Kit.pdf ; the current Workbook is available online at https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/treatment-committees/m-40i-treatment-committee-workbook . Typically, service kits are updated annually (each fall).
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee have any suggestions about items that should be added to or updated in the Treatment Committee Workbook or Kit?

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Review contents of Accessibilities Committee Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Every year, the Treatment and Accessibilities committee at the Conference reviews the Accessibilities Kit and Workbook. Outdated information may be updated or removed by GSO staff members, who report those changes to the trustees. The Kit is available online at http://www.aa.org/accessibilitieskit.org ; the current Workbook is available online at https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/m-48i_SNWorkbook.pdf . Typically, service kits are updated annually (each fall), but updates were delayed this year because of the implementation of a new GSO ERP (an "enterprise resource planning" system). Work on implementing suggested changes from 2019 is ongoing.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee have any suggestions about items that should be added to or updated in the Accessibilities Workbook or Kit?

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item A1**

Agenda Topic	Review resumes of candidates for: West Central Regional Trustee
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Candidates have already been interviewed and will be elected by conference delegates according to the procedures laid out in Chapter 9 of the <i>AA Service Manual</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item A2**

Agenda Topic	Review resumes of candidates for: Western Canada Regional Trustee
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Candidates have already been interviewed and will be elected by conference delegates according to the procedures laid out in Chapter 9 of the <i>AA Service Manual</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
Historical Context; Why	The slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board has been reviewed and

is it on the Agenda?	recommended. The entire slate will be presented to the General Service Conference for disapproval, if any. The names of the slate of trustees and officers is included in the background material, and include seven non-alcoholic trustees, 11 alcoholic trustees, and three trustees to be elected at the Conference (refer to Agenda Topics A1 & A2).
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The slate of directors of AA World Services, Inc. has been reviewed and recommended. The entire slate will be presented to the General Service Conference for disapproval, if any. The names of the slate of directors of AAWS are included in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc. has been reviewed and recommended. The entire slate will be presented to the General Service Conference for disapproval, if any. The names of the slate of directors of AA Grapevine are included in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Consider the revised “Procedures for a Partial or Complete Reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or AA Grapevine Boards.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In July 2019, the Trustees Committee discussed an additional committee consideration and memorandum from the 2019 Conference Committee on Trustees requesting that the trustees Committee on Nominating revise the procedures for a partial or complete reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or A.A. Grapevine Boards. Four suggestions offered by the 2019 Conference Committee on Trustees were reviewed. The suggestions include information about the procedure of the Nominating Committee. A suggestion regarding reconciliation of the Conference Charter to Concept Four would be revised to read “three-fourths of all Conference members participating in the vote.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group feel about these Procedures? Are they sufficient to guide the Fellowship through such a reorganization?

Conference Committee: **Archives — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Consider requests to develop a book on A.A. history from 1955 through the present.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	A proposal to create a new “definitive book on A.A. history” tracking the years 1955 to 1985 was forwarded to the Trustees Literature committee. Possible titles of the book are <i>Alcoholics Anonymous Continues to Age</i> or <i>A.A.: The Next 30 Years</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that there is a need for this book on A.A. history? Why, or Why not?

Conference Committee: **Archives — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review Archives Workbook.
Historical Context; Why	Kits and Workbooks for CPC, Corrections, Public Information, Treatment Committee,

is it on the Agenda?	and Accessibilities and the Archives Workbook are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference. The Archives Workbook can be found online: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/archives-committees/m-44i-archives-workbook
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly; if your group has suggestions regarding materials that should be added or deleted, please share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Discuss methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	At the International Convention, there are three “big meetings,” one every day of the convention. On Friday night, the meeting has traditionally (for the last four conventions) ended with the Lord’s Prayer (which can be found in the Bible in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 6). On Saturday night, the meeting has ended with the Serenity Prayer. And on Sunday morning, the meeting has ended with the Responsibility Statement. The scripts for meetings during the day on Friday and Saturday have allowed meeting coordinators to close with any of these choices (or the option of a moment of silence). There have been several concerns expressed about closing any of the meetings with the Lord’s Prayer.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group have any suggestions on how to close the Big Meetings at the International Convention?

Conference Committee: **Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Discuss upcoming 2020 International Convention.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous occurs once every five years; the next International will be held in Detroit, Michigan, from July 2 to 5.
What does the Delegate need to know?	How do members of your groups feel about the International Convention? What level of enthusiasm is there for the convention? Are there specific ideas or thoughts that they would like to communicate about the convention, it’s organization, and the program?

Conference Committee: **Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Regional Forums are held several times a year and are a service provided by GSO staff and the General Service Board with the intent of allowing the general AA membership (not just people involved in General Service) meet and interact with GSO staff and General Service Board members. This helps members put a face to their trusted servants. In order to encourage interest and attract first-time attendees, this committee discusses several ideas each year. Recent discussion has focused on compiling notes from first-time sharing at a Forum, developing a Regional Forum app, developing a micro-site (in addition to postal mailing of Forum flyers), increasing outreach to different populations (like young people and Spanish-speaking communities), encouraging local welcome committees to create Save the Date flyers, inviting AAWS/AA Grapevine directors to “non-service” AA events to increase awareness of the Forum, and placing information about Regional Forums in the <i>AA Grapevine</i> and <i>La Viña</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	Do members of your group know about Regional Forums? If not, what are some of the things that could attract members of your group to attend a Regional Forum?

District 32

agenda

July 20 2020

7pm-830

serenity prayer	Nic C.
welcome & motion to record	Nic C.
july birthdays	Nic C.
Short form concept 7	_____
short form tradition 7	_____
role call	
GSR _____	
elected chairs _____	
Guests _____	
Total voting members _____	
secretary report	Heather S.
treasurers report	Greg K.
committee reports [please keep your report to 2 minutes]	
school panel	Jean-paul
webmaster	Aaron W.
treatment	Linda
corrections	_____
Grapevine/lit	Troy
cpc	Leigh A.
p.i	Tony H.

archivist

Dylan S.

bridging the gap

accessibility

Shelby

zone rep 132

Matt

Third legacy

Angela

YP

Sean

events chair

Gavin A.

DCM

alt DCM

Nic C.

old business

new business

Communications Audit Committee Report

7-2-2020

We have met twice on ZOOM since the April Quarterly, the rest of our work continues via email & telephone. We started out with a paper survey and in person focus groups to be conducted throughout the area. As a result of Covid-19 we, with the help of Eddie our area web servant, THANKS EDDIE! Converted the survey into an online active poll. With the update of the website translating content within 24-48 hours of it being added, we were able to provide the same survey in Spanish, in a timely fashion. Focus groups will be conducted via Zoom & the external portion of the survey will be conducted by phone & by email.

We would like as many individual members as possible to participate in the survey.

Here is the link: <https://area72aa.org/western-washington-area-72-communications-audit/>

Yours in Service,

Bill

DCM District 12

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■ Meeting Uncertainty with Resiliency: G.S.O. in the Pandemic

“As a result of Coronavirus (COVID-19), New York State has shut down 100% of operations of ‘nonessential’ businesses/ organizations,” the announcement posted to aa.org read. “The General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., located at 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY is closed, effective March 20, 2020, until further notice.”

Given the toll that COVID-19 was already exacting on the New York metropolitan area, this announcement was not unexpected. Nonetheless, it was a first: never in the history of Alcoholics Anonymous had the General Service Office — whose antecedents stretch all the way back to the late 1930s and Bill W.’s small office at Honor Dealers in Newark, N.J. — been forced to shutter its doors. G.S.O. is home to 95 employees of A.A.W.S., plus a dozen more working for AA Grapevine. These men and women, both alcoholic and nonalcoholic, serve a worldwide membership of over two million alcoholics in myriad ways: answering letters, preparing bulletins, keeping prison inmate correspondence flowing, processing group contributions, providing new literature (and keeping older literature up to date), helping prepare for the General Service Conference and World Service Meetings, preserving A.A. history in print and digital archives, and maintaining the aa.org website, in three languages, with its 14 million yearly viewers.

As the pandemic worsened, G.S.O. faced an unprecedented logistical, technical and, yes, spiritual challenge. With employees scattered to their homes, how would it continue to fulfill its original function, as described by Bill W., of being a “point of reference on the globe where our few but important universal services can focus and then radiate to all who wish to be informed or helped”?

Even before the New York shutdown order, says G.S.O. General Manager Greg T., “In the first week in March, we formed a task force comprised of myself and senior management and staff. The welfare of our employees and their families was paramount in all of the thinking and planning.” Working to help G.S.O. prepare for the coming crisis was Stephanie L., G.S.O.’s Senior Director of Administration and Strategy.

“As the news of the health crisis developed,” says Stephanie, “we started to forecast and think about how we could move forward. We actually thought we had more time, which we obviously didn’t. The Human Resources department was very important in everything we did. Prior to our closing the office on March 20, we had already said to employees, ‘If you are not comfortable coming in, talk to your supervisor and we’ll arrange to ship your equipment now.’ So, actually, from March 13 to March 20, folks exited at their discretion. By March 19, it was very much a skeleton crew here.”

Another major area of concentration, Stephanie relates, was technology. “Our workforce was not necessarily equipped for remote working,” she says. “We looked at the tools we had on hand, ordered printers and monitors, and then the shelter-in-place order came down from the governor [New York governor Andrew Cuomo] and we had to leave quickly. The order for printers and monitors never arrived. And this was where the true agility of the Information Technology department came in.”

G.S.O. Technology Services Director Lorna Graham (nonalcoholic) was only hired to her full-time position on February 3 — just in time for a historic pandemic. It sounds daunting — and it was — but G.S.O. did have one important advantage. “By the time I arrived, the team was in the clean-up phase of a multi-year project to migrate to a cloud-based platform for business operations. This meant we didn’t have to give access to servers, and we were able to seamlessly move people to their home offices.”

Although, of course, it wasn’t all that seamless. “I joke that laptops were the toilet paper of the business world: as we tried to set people



Meeting Guide

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G.S.O.'s A.A. Website: www.aa.org

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Note on anonymity: From time to time in this publication full names and/or pictures of G.S.O. employees, Class A trustees and other nonalcoholics are used. The anonymity of A.A. members is maintained, as they are identified throughout by first name and last initial only.

up at home, I discovered you couldn't get them." Then there was the issue of the printers and monitors not arriving, and the fact that employees had what Lorna calls "their own tech mini-environments" at home, with different Internet service providers, different equipment and, sometimes, passwords that had been set up by their children — and that no one could remember.

Working with her staff of three — Dmitriy Kerget, Mili Alma-Noyola and Pedro Gonzalez (all nonalcoholic) — Lorna was able to address these issues. Pedro found himself driving to employees' homes to set up computers and printers and to facilitate connectivity with the office. "This was actually a whole team effort by the entire office," Lorna says. "Many employees were taking equipment home, so we were coordinating with their department managers to box it up and get it ready. I am really grateful and thankful for my staff, who have worked just tirelessly."

As for the rest, Lorna says, "We are facing the problems that any other organization with a remote business environment is facing right now. Many people want a monitor or a wireless mouse or a webcam because some of their tech is outdated, and they have to be on Zoom or whatever all day. We're available to help at any time. We've also set up a daily Zoom meeting from 10 to 11 so anyone who has tech difficulties can pop in. Our goal is to continue to be able to respond as nimbly as possible."

The closing of G.S.O. came in a year that was to have featured A.A.'s 2020 International Convention in Detroit, Michigan. Regrettably, the Convention had to be canceled. Michele Grinberg, Class A (nonalcoholic) chair of the General Service Board, says, "This was one of the very early decisions on the table," in part because of vendor contracts. Greg T. adds that it was "unfortunate, but necessary." (As it turned out, Detroit became another COVID-19 "hot spot," and the TCF Center, where the International Convention was to take place, was turned

into a 900-bed hospital to care for those ill from the virus.) G.S.O. issued information concerning registration refunds on aa.org; according to Julio E., staff member on the International Conventions assignment, almost 1,000 would-be convention-goers told G.S.O. to keep the money and to contribute it to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous for the U.S. and Canada.

The 70th General Service Conference was scheduled to take place in Rye, New York, during the week of April 18-25, but it became obvious this could not go on as usual either. On March 12, the General Service Board announced a "Virtual General Service Conference," a decision made in conjunction and consultation with G.S.O. According to Michele, "During the course of about a zillion Zoom calls, the three boards [the General Service Board, A.A.W.S. and AA Grapevine] worked together with the Fellowship with a goal of making sure the Conference delegates' voices were heard and that there would be a meaningful Conference."

Planning a virtual Conference was a complex undertaking, says Patrick C., staff Conference coordinator. "There are 135 Conference members. You've got a delegate from Hawaii and one from Newfoundland, so the time zone difference required us to pare down the daily schedule from no earlier than noon to no later than 7 p.m. Eastern Standard Time." And how much time could you ask even the most devoted trusted servant to spend hunched over a laptop? "Ultimately, we cut down our traditional seven-day event to four days, six hours a day, with breaks to avoid screen fatigue," Patrick says.

The complexities continued. With most corporations going to remote operations, virtual conference vendors were booked months in advance, so the decision was made to use Zoom Meeting Room and Zoom Webinar as a platform for the virtual Conference, whose date is now set for May 16-19. (See page 9 for a report and summary of Advisory Actions from the 70th General Service Conference.)

Next steps included deciding what was absolutely the most essential business of the Conference — streamlining it, in other words — without losing what Patrick calls "the spirit of the Conference, the unity and connectivity." A timesaving example: during the course of a regular Conference, there would normally be written reports from the three corporate boards as well as live presentations by the chair of each board. It was decided to pre-record videos of the board presentations and post them prior to Conference, so that Conference members could stream them beforehand or at their convenience.

All of this has been done remotely, of course — Patrick's kitchen in northern Manhattan has become a Conference information clearinghouse. From handling voting in a virtual space to determining the optimal tech capabilities of delegates (it turns out only a small percentage have needed to be trained), planning the Conference has been a "unique and fantastic experience," says Patrick. "We've worked with the board,

delegates and G.S.O. staff members, and everybody has been ready at each decision point to do what needs to be done.”

There are other G.S.O. employees inventing solutions to problems they never thought they would have to solve. A.A.W.S. Mail/Shipping Manager Aubrey Pereira (non-alcoholic) is one. He currently hosts the G.S.O. mailroom right in his Bronx apartment. “A courier service picks up the mail from the Grand Central Station post office box [Box 459] and delivers it to me on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays,” says Aubrey. “On Wednesdays, I go to the post office at 125th Street in Manhattan to get the mail for 475 Riverside Drive, which is the street address of the office. When I go to the post office, I mask up and glove up. I take the mail back to my apartment, and I use a disinfectant spray on it and let it sit for an hour.”

The mail consists of a combination of literature orders, contributions, notices from people who are updating addresses (some still do it on paper) and inmate mail, which goes to Brenda B. on the Corrections desk. There’s also mail for members of the senior management team and staff, and Aubrey either sends this to them via courier service or delivers it over to Zenaida Medina (nonalcoholic), Assistant Director of Finance, who scans it and then emails it to its intended recipient.

Naturally, Aubrey’s days are busy, even though he estimates he is getting half the mail he received prior to the pandemic, probably due to the fact that A.A.s are not meeting in groups or perhaps even going to the post office. “At some point,” Aubrey says, “we’ll return to some semblance of normalcy. Until then this is how we are dealing with it, just to keep the avenues of communication open to the Fellowship and to not have the mail completely stopped.”

Brenda B., on the Corrections assignment, is one of the beneficiaries of Aubrey’s work. Letters from inmates — 400 a month — arrive at her apartment via the courier service. She replies to each letter. “It depends on the letter and the request. Sometimes they say they are depressed, so I try to be as encouraging as possible.” The materials she might normally include with her replies — literature and copies of Grapevine — are out of reach in the mailroom at the office, but she managed to have a thousand copies of the spring issue of “Sharing From Behind The Walls” — the quarterly newsletter published by the Corrections assignment — shipped to her, and she inserts these with her replies. “I also updated the letter with the information that Grapevine is free and available on its website.”

When she is not occupied with inmate correspondence, Brenda is busy answering emails and phone calls from the Fellowship. It’s busy, but she’s grateful for two things. One is the chance to help the inmates — “They are our brothers and sisters behind the walls, and any one of us could be in their place.” Another is for her colleagues at G.S.O. “I am super grateful to be part of this wonderful team, making all this work.”

Working remotely has not impeded the goals of the Publishing department in any appreciable way, says Publishing Director David R. “In many ways the department — with its editorial, French and Spanish translation, print and digital production, mailing, warehousing and shipping, order entry, customer service, international licensing and translation review and intellectual property administration divisions — has never been more energized, creatively engaged and ardently committed to doing our part to share A.A.’s message via our literature.”

This is not to say it wasn’t a mad scramble for the first three weeks after the office shut down, with nonstop Zoom meetings, including on Saturdays and Sundays. “We moved mountains (and lots of desktops and printers!) to get our telework connections clicking; and with help from our stellar tech services leader, Lorna Graham, this was rather surprisingly painless,” says David.

Among the many current publishing projects moving forward is the 2020 catalog of Conference-approved literature and other A.A. material (with new, simplified pricing) — 110,000 copies of which have been printed to be inserted into all orders from A.A.’s literature warehouses. (It is also available as a PDF on aa.org). Newly produced audio book recordings of the Big Book and



Teleworking from home — one employee’s set up, including secure access to the office-wide VPN (virtual private network).

“Twelve and Twelve” (in English, French and Spanish) have recently been posted for listening on aa.org along with DVDs of those books in ASL. In mid-April, work on a “first-ever” project began: the studio recording of A.A. General Service Conference-approved pamphlets as read by professional voice actors. “The first pamphlet recorded in English, was, fittingly enough, ‘Access to A.A.: Members share on overcoming barriers,’” David says.

And in an essential change for an age of remote operations, David says, “We have gotten independent legal advice on how to move our international licensing of A.A.W.S.-copyrighted items of literature into streamlined electronic sharing and signing processes,” which will expedite the time-consuming procedure of sending signed documents to and from remote places. In all, David says, “We’ve never been more committed to getting the job done.”

At Grapevine, A.A.’s international journal, Publisher Albin Z. and Senior Editor Jon W. decided that the best thing they could do for the Fellowship was to “unlock” issues of Grapevine — normally available only to subscribers — on the new aagrapevine.org website. All A.A. members now have free access to Grapevine issues from January through May 2020. (La Viña issues are free January/February through May/June.)

“Grapevine is a place where people in A.A. share their experience, strength and hope,” says Albin. “Making this digitally available to everyone during this crisis can help them to stay connected.” Grapevine also posts all G.S.O. updates on the COVID-19 crisis on its website and carries pertinent tutorial videos on its YouTube channel, including one on how to prevent the digital platform

“bombings” that have plagued some meetings in recent weeks. Other Grapevine projects continue, including the “Daily Quote” book, reprinted in three languages. Originally prepared for the International Convention, the book will now be ready for sale to all members. Also moving forward is Grapevine’s timely project to make its content (magazines, books, audio books) available to prison inmates via tablets.

As the pandemic worsened and A.A. meetings began to close down around the country and the world, Racy J., on the Public Information (P.I.) assignment, received a “first wave” of media queries focused on how A.A.s might stay sober in an age of social distancing. The information she provided came from the shared experience of the Fellowship.

“Not being able to meet in person certainly has its challenges,” Racy says. “But what we communicate to the press is that from A.A.’s earliest beginnings, it has always been not so much a place, but a spiritual principle we live by. The experience of A.A.s grew from early members who had relatively few meetings to attend. Ways to stay sober could include a phone call, a letter in the mail, a Big Book. Anyone who is familiar with the Online Intergroup of A.A., the *Loners-Internationalists Meeting (LIM)* or people living in remote parts of the world knows that many alcoholics have long been meeting remotely.”

A second wave of media queries, mainly from local press outlets, focused on the experience of A.A.s on various digital meeting platforms, like Zoom, Google Hangouts or WhatsApp. “Media wanted to know how these were helping alcoholics stay sober — how they

■ Résumés for Trustees Election due January 1, 2021

Three new Class B (alcoholic) trustees — from the East Central and Southeast regions and the trustee-at-large/U.S. — will be elected at the General Service Conference in April 2021. Résumés must be received at G.S.O. no later than January 1, 2021, and must be submitted by delegates only.

The new East Central regional trustee will succeed Mark E., of Chesapeake, Ohio; the next Southeast regional trustee will follow Cathy B. of Morgantown, West Virginia. The new trustee-at-large/U.S. will fill the position currently held by Newton P., of Cary, North Carolina.

A sound A.A. background is a basic qualification for Class B trustees. Ten years of continuous sobriety is desirable but not mandatory. Candidates should be active in both local and area A.A. affairs and, because trustees serve the entire Fellowship, they require the background and the willingness to make decisions on matters of broad policy that affect A.A. as a whole.

Since much is asked of the trustees with respect to their time, it is important that trustee candidates understand the commitment of time required. Trustees are expected to attend three quarterly board weekends, with meetings running from Saturday morning through Monday noon; a quarterly meeting combined with the General Service Conference (seven days) in April; and any special meetings of the board. Regional trustees also serve in rotation for attendance at Regional Forums other than in their own regions. In addition, regional trustees are usually asked to serve two years on either the A.A.W.S. or AA Grapevine corporate boards, which meet more frequently than the General Service Board. Trustees serve on committees of the General Service Board and may also serve on trustees’ subcommittees or corporate board subcommittees, whose work often involves conference calls. They are often invited to participate in regional or area activities, such as service conferences, area assemblies, etc.

Trusteeship is for four one-year terms. Applicants are encouraged to discuss this time commitment with their family and employer. Trustees are reimbursed for travel, hotel and meal expenses.

compared to in-person meetings.” While handling national press inquiries, whenever possible, Racy directed inquiries to local P.I. committees. “There has been some wonderful coordination between local committees and the media,” she adds.

The third wave of media attention came with the advent of trolling attacks on the platforms where A.A.s were meeting. “Responding to these queries means walking a delicate line — sharing the experience of the Fellowship but not acknowledging or endorsing any particular platform,” which could represent a Sixth Tradition break.

In general, Racy feels, we are entering new territory with these widespread digital meetings. “I’m seeing in real time groups having the discussion as to how we can utilize these platforms to carry the message while retaining anonymity. There may in fact be a lack in our current service material that needs to be explored.”

G.S.O. Archivist Michelle Mirza (nonalcoholic) is making sure that none of the history of the pandemic as it relates to A.A. is lost to the Fellowship. She says that, particularly at the beginning of the pandemic, news articles were coming in “at warp speed.” She continues, “There is nothing previously that has compared to this — not even 9/11, which was more localized. The very fact that this is affecting meetings globally is daily news. We’re receiving maybe ten news items a day.”

Archives no longer subscribes to a clipping service that sends in articles with A.A.-related topics. “Now we use Google Alerts, indexing certain terms like ‘A.A.’, ‘Big Book,’ etc.,” Michelle says. “We may not capture 100 percent of the articles, but what we miss, the Public Information assignment usually gets, and we work closely and exchange information. We are archiving samples of articles that mention A.A. and meetings or groups, along with ones that reference G.S.O. or intergroup. We are also transcribing some radio programs.”

Michelle and her group collect internal correspondence — sharing from members, as well as staff responses — and external communications sent out by G.S.O. She has also been hearing from a few archivists in California who have started a newsletter and invited local archivists and members to share pandemic-related material.

“Five years ago, if we were in this position,” Michelle says, “we would not have been able to function as we are functioning now. The last couple of years, we have been digitizing archives, scanning thousands of documents. Now we are able to do research at home, and we have desktop scanners to help us preserve all of this for the future. We are all really, really busy.”

Jeff W., staff member on the Group Services assignment, says that a good deal of his job is “to stay in touch with groups and help them be part of the service structure. But there are now literally hundreds or even thousands of new groups on these digital platforms.” And this is not even to mention the established groups that have transitioned to digital platforms.

“The people doing the truly heroic work here,” Jeff says, “are the intergroups, including Online Intergroup of A.A. They are all working tirelessly, coming up with new tech solutions. New York Inter-Group, for instance, has set up a Zoom Enterprise account and allows groups to use it to set up their own accounts for free. It can host groups with as many as a thousand participants per meeting.” (New York Inter-Group says in a note on its website, “Groups continue to run their own meetings, at their regular dates and times, with their usual group format. We simply provide the technology.”)

Jeff feels this is the “really amazing story” of the pandemic — A.A.s going to great lengths to make sure other A.A.s have access to meetings. But he is quick to point out the more difficult side of the steep economic downturn for intergroups. “We are hearing from intergroups that they may not have large enough prudent reserves to survive this — and they are not getting sales from literature as they normally might. Group contributions are down. Some are considering applying for the federal PayCheck Protection Program (PPP) loans for small businesses. They are calling us and asking, ‘How does this fit with the Seventh Tradition?’

“We don’t want to interpret Traditions for them. I provide sharing from delegates and regional trustees and from Archives on matters of finance. I remind them that it’s not just about the Seventh Tradition. The Fifth — keeping the doors open to carry the message — comes into play. As does the Fourth Tradition, concerning autonomy. It’s a tough call.”

Groups, too, are concerned about finances, focusing on the best way to collect Seventh Tradition contributions remotely. Jeff provides them with information about digital options available — in particular a *Box 4-5-9* article entitled “Passing the (Digital) Basket” (Winter 2017) — and feels that most groups are solving this problem relatively quickly.

Despite all these weighty issues, A.A. will always be A.A. — complaints come in from members about other members smoking during Zoom meetings, which upsets ex-smokers. Or even working out on Zoom calls. Sharing your experience, strength and hope, while on an exercise bike? Who would have thought?

Clement C. is Senior Manager of the new Communications Department, which acts as an internal agency supporting G.S.O., A.A.W.S., AA Grapevine and the General Service Board with various communication, digital projects and other initiatives. Like Jeff W., Clement has seen the Fellowship step up during the crisis to find innovative ways to reach out to other A.A.s. “TIAA [Technology in A.A.] Forum is sharing information in all kinds of ways to help people communicate online,” he says.

Clement is on the Meeting Guide app committee (for more on the Meeting Guide, see “The Meeting Guide App,” *Box 4-5-9*, Fall 2019). “There are separate volunteers who support the app, who are not a part of



Temporary mailroom set up by the A.A.W.S. mail/shipping supervisor in his apartment in the Bronx. The daily mail includes literature orders, contributions, update correspondence and inmate mail.

the service structure,” says Clement. “They were able to add fields to their plug-in with conference call phone numbers and Zoom meeting information. When Josh R., who designed the app, became aware of this, we moved it forward in the committee to get approval to update the information.”

It has been a hectic time for Communications, especially in the first few weeks after the G.S.O. closure. There was new information on aa.org that needed to be updated on a regular basis — information about the closure of the office, the cancellation of the Convention, and the General Service Conference going virtual. Clement and his group worked with the P.I. assignment to create the first press release dealing with virtual meetings and social media. Many people thought G.S.O. was no longer taking literature orders, so a notice was created on how they could use the online store to order.

“It seemed like everything we were saying had a shelf life of two to three days and then needed to be changed,” Clement says.

Any organization as tight-knit as the General Service Office lives not just by work alone, but also by human contact. “One of the things I am really most proud about is the communication that we have maintained throughout this time,” says Stephanie L. “We have weekly senior management meetings where we share information with senior leaders. We also have department meetings. I’m very happy with the way we connect and communicate.”

Whether on Zoom, Google Teams or Slack, the internal meetings have become incredibly important to G.S.O. employees isolated in their homes. Greg T. has set up a general manager’s Zoom meeting on a weekly basis; there is usually 100 percent attendance. Dubbed the “huddle,” this meeting is echoed in numerous smaller huddles within departments throughout the week.

Jeff W. says the staff desk rotations have a huddle every day at 1:15. “Whoever is available can call and share information. It’s serious, because there’s so much new that is happening, but there are also some laughs. This has been one of the lifesavers.”

“One thing obviously missing from all of this,” David R. says, “is the ability to pop into the office next door and have a quick conversation. The success of telework depends on having all of those connections that would be spontaneous during the course of the day in a physical office, those impromptu one-on-ones. So much is happening, but we have the ability to connect with each other so quickly — via Zoom, phone calls, whatever — that I don’t think we have actually

lost much of that spontaneity.”

Despite the successful move to remote working, the question lingers: What next?

There are no definitive answers, says Greg T. “I’m only guessing at this point, but by the last week in May or the first week in June, we could be on the path to a partial return. In that case, I would anticipate that our daily schedules would be adjusted to ensure the building is social-distanced.” Coincidentally, G.S.O., currently on the 11th floor at 475 Riverside Drive, had planned to take space on the eighth floor later in the summer, which, should the staff be able to return, will provide the opportunity for more social distancing.

Greg is also aware of concerns about the financial sustainability of the General Service Office. “Obviously, we’ve never been in this position before, but the General Service Board Reserve Fund was created decades ago by our wise and prudent predecessors for just such a moment, to make sure the entire business survives and maintains continuity. In an emergency, the Reserve Fund is funded up to about nine months of operating expenses, and we are going to be drawing down from it over the next three to four months, before we start to get back on our feet again.”

In terms of group contributions, G.S.O. accepts Seventh Tradition contributions via PayPal and will be testing Venmo and other platforms, many of which the groups are already using. As always with Alcoholics Anonymous, “money and spirituality mix in the basket,” even if that basket is a virtual one.

Beau B., of Neptune, N.J., has devoted much of his tenure as a Class B (alcoholic) trustee to working to promote A.A. connection and growth — to finding fresh approaches to helping suffering alcoholics — particularly through technology.

“COVID-19 will not stop us from doing A.A.,” he says. “All the way up and down the A.A. triangle, you’re seeing people adapting, finding a way. One thing you’re seeing in groups are these new service roles popping up, practically overnight — for example, the online coordinator who makes sure the meeting is set up properly, so that the leader can lead a meeting. Often these are people who maybe haven’t been involved in service, but they know their way around IT and they show up.”

The current crisis, Beau thinks, is helping us use the Traditions “to think about how we *can* do things, rather than as reasons why we cannot.” Staying at home and attending online meetings may help us redefine singleness of purpose and give us more understanding of those with accessibility issues. Looking at a Zoom meeting in gallery view, Beau says, “We see a quilt of people — everyone in their own homes, the diversity of the members. There is a wall between us, yet not. When meetings end with a closing prayer, it sounds awful and ragged and yet I love it. I feel it as touching and spiritual.”

Stressors abound. A.A.s and their families face the same devastating toll of illness and economic hardship as the rest of the world. Newcomers face difficult hurdles when it comes to connecting with our potentially lifesaving program. But, Beau says, “I am not worried about A.A. being forever changed by this in terms of who we are as a people and what we value the most — carrying the message and helping each other. A.A. thrives in uncertainty. When times are soft and comfortable, we fight about comma placement. In times of trouble, people stand up and show up, and say, ‘Give me a bucket and a shovel.’”

■ Opening for Three Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustees

Following the 2021 General Service Conference there will be openings for three Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees, replacing Michele Grinberg, of Charleston, West Virginia; Leslie Backus, of Savannah, Georgia; and Peter Luongo, of Germantown, Maryland. The trustees’ Nominating Committee asks that trustees, delegates and directors submit any names they deem appropriate as candidates for Class A trustees. Class A trustees are chosen from a variety of professional backgrounds, including doctors, lawyers, clergy, social workers, educators, finance/accounting and corrections professionals. In seeking applications for all vacancies at A.A.W.S., Inc., AA Grapevine, Inc., and the General Service Board, the Fellowship is committed to creating a large applicant file of qualified persons reflecting the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A. itself. Please submit your candidate’s business or professional résumé to the Secretary, trustees’ Nominating Committee (nominating@aa.org), by July 24, 2020.

C.P.C.:

Reaching Out Virtually

According to A.A.’s 2014 Membership Survey, 57 percent of members said they were referred to Alcoholics Anonymous by a “counselor, medical or mental health professional,” which is one of the reasons Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.) committees are so crucial to Twelfth Step work. Even before the current pandemic, C.P.C. chairs were working hard to find a way for C.P.C. committees across North America to exchange meaningful information and best practices via digital means.

Two such C.P.C. chairs are David L., Area 67 (Southeast Texas), and Bill C., Area 83 (Eastern Ontario). Sober since 2013, David became interested in connecting C.P.C. groups in October 2019, when he heard about a committee in western Washington that was doing Twelfth Step calls to hospitals when doctors notified them that alcoholics came in seizing or otherwise displaying withdrawal symptoms. “It was work that interested me,” David says, “because it is so much like Bill and Bob back in the old days — finding A.A. #3, working in hospital settings. We heard there were other C.P.C. committees doing that type of work in California and Canada, and so we started the process of setting that up in Houston. And then we had the thought, what else can we learn from other groups?”

That’s when David instituted Zoom conference calls between C.P.C. committees, partly in order to connect and to share experience. As of January of this year, the Zoom meeting is open not only to southeastern Texas, but to committees across North America: “We have had 30 to 40 people on these calls, from Washington State, Florida, New York, the Carolinas, as well as Canada,” says David.

One of the Canadians on the calls was Bill C. of Ottawa, sober since 2010. As part of his work outside A.A., he became familiar with Zoom and other means of connecting people online. “I’m a fan,” he says. When he became Area 83 C.P.C. chair in January 2019, Bill instituted a quarterly C.P.C. Zoom meeting, connecting district C.P.C. chairs in order to augment and update the information they exchanged at spring and fall assemblies. “It was also for people who can’t get to the assemblies,” he says. “Area 83 is a large piece of geography; not everyone has the ability to meet in person.”

With social distancing currently in place, no one can meet in person, which is why Bill and David’s work has been so timely. Diana L., the C.P.C./Treatment coordinator at G.S.O., says that she’d been aware before the current crisis that some groups in Canada and the U.S. were meeting via digital means. But now it’s the only way they can meet.

“With things the way they are now, it’s really spreading — whether we meet on Zoom or Google Hangouts or

other platforms. It isn't the same as it was, because what has happened is obviously very disruptive, but C.P.C. committees are still helping professionals find local A.A. meetings, still being that local resource and contact. The means have changed. The intent is the same."

At Area 67's monthly C.P.C. Zoom meeting in early April, C.P.C. committee chairs shared ideas such as sending emails to social workers and counselors, and reaching out to case managers at treatment centers and offering Zoom Big Book or topic meetings specifically tailored to their particular facility. Suzanne B., South Florida (Area 15) secretary/treasurer, describes presenting to University of Tampa nursing students via a Zoom meeting. "In lieu of our in-person handouts, I spent time explaining the aa.org website. They were given the exact pamphlet name and number along with how to find the 'A.A. for Healthcare Professionals' video. The entire presentation, including Q&A, lasted 40 minutes."

Bill C. in Ottawa notes that the C.P.C. committee of District 28, Area 83, had similar success presenting via Zoom to a local college. "This is a great way to say that A.A. is in our community, available and there for your clients," Bill says. "There are limitations, of course. Now is not a great time to reach out to physicians and local healthcare providers, who have their hands full. Security concerns need to be addressed. And there is a key concern about how to reach the newcomer coming down the health or treatment pipeline who is showing up to his or her first virtual meeting. What does that feel like to a newcomer? We don't quite know yet, but we can still reach out, not just digitally, but by making that phone call."

The voice of A.A., in other words, is still there, even if the physical presence is, for the time being, on mute.

■ Mobile Intergroup — An Outreach Tool

On a cool Tennessee afternoon in February 2020 (when A.A.s gathered in person — before Coronavirus closures), Rebekah R., office manager of the East Tennessee Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous (ETIAA), along with a few A.A. volunteers, showed up a few hours before a scheduled event, unloaded and unpacked boxes of items, and began setting up displays. In the weeks prior to the event, flyers were passed out advertising a "Mobile Intergroup Workshop." Now, thanks to the flyers and word of mouth, curious and interested A.A.s were gathered in front of the table. While a volunteer filmed the entire workshop (without showing faces, of course), Rebekah took her place behind the displays of books, pamphlets, information boards and other assorted items. She greeted the crowd and began to speak about how to bring intergroup — and, more importantly, *why* to bring intergroup — to your event.

She shared a condensed overview of an intergroup: "The purpose of an intergroup is to facilitate Twelfth Step work. That is our main purpose. It is why we have a hotline — to get people together to do Twelfth Step calls." Briefly, she described the difference between an intergroup and the General Service Office: "We [intergroup] do the things individual groups can't do, like set up a hotline number, carry lots of literature, and keep our meeting information up to date in the Meeting Guide app. We make it easier for A.A.s in our area to carry out Twelfth Step work." While G.S.O. also makes Twelfth Step work possible, she pointed out, "They do things an intergroup can't, like publishing books and running the General Service Conference."

The purpose of the Mobile Intergroup Workshop was not only to communicate the functions of an intergroup, but also to show area A.A.s that they, too, could join their intergroup and extend its reach by bringing it to their area events — literally. Gesturing to the tables laden with information, books and other items, Rebekah said, "Although it may look like our mobile intergroup is just selling things, our main focus is to be of service, especially to areas that cannot get to us easily." The ETIAA provides coverage for seven districts within Area 64 (Tennessee), which includes 25 counties with approximately 120-150 groups and 400-500 meetings per week.

While a still-suffering alcoholic may first hear A.A.'s message from any one of a number of sources, for many A.A. members, it was someone at a local intergroup or central office who answered their first shaky call asking for help and who communicated A.A.'s message of hope and recovery. Intergroup was the "hand of A.A." that was ready and waiting to be extended when that drunk gathered up the courage to call. The mobile intergroup, according to Rebekah, improves communication because it is an "outreach tool for intergroup. Using it, we can tell people about intergroup so that they can use us. If they don't know we're here, they can't use us."

As Bill W. said in an address to the 1960 General Service Conference, "When you think about it, A.A. is a unique means of communication: our lives have depended on communication; our unity depends on communication; our function depends on communication. Everything has hung on this business of communication." (*Our Great Responsibility*, pp. 101-102).

Using ability and imagination, A.A.s have communicated the message of hope and recovery in a multitude of ways — and through a multitude of outlets. In this spirit, ETIAA has posted the workshop on YouTube so anyone interested in using mobile intergroups to help carry the A.A. message can learn more. The workshop has been posted in two parts: "Mobile Intergroup Workshop Part One" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GAwTtL6QU8>) and "Mobile Intergroup Workshop Training Part Two" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QPnzowN1Kg>).

■ The 70th General Service Conference Convenes

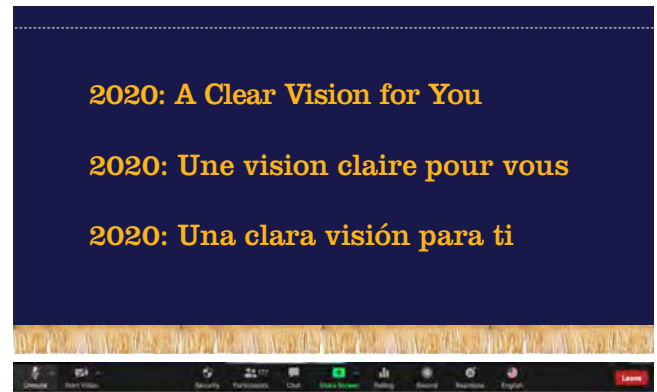
With a little help from our friends — a handful of tech consultants, Zoom operators and meeting “ushers” — the 70th General Service Conference convened virtually on Saturday, May 16, 2020. Originally scheduled for the third week in April, the annual Conference for the U.S./Canada service structure was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, opening the door to a historic first: digitally drawing together 135 Conference members from Hawaii to Newfoundland, across multiple time zones, in three languages, to do the business of A.A. in the U.S. and Canada.

Getting to this historic moment did not happen overnight, and the process began with the difficult decision of the General Service Board not to hold the Conference in person in New York, as had been done for the previous 69 Conferences. It was a decision made after long and thoughtful consideration, even with no obvious alternative visible on the uncertain horizon of the worldwide pandemic.

Closely following that decision, the wheels began turning in search of a viable alternative — one that would hold in balance the multiple schedules, language needs, technical capabilities and differing digital skills of Conference members and non-voting logistical and support staff. With input from all quarters, solutions to the many challenges began to coalesce, with dates reset, schedules drawn up, digital practice sessions undertaken, and tech training offered to those who might need it.

Following the determination from the General Service Board that only “essential business” would be undertaken by this virtual Conference — with “essential business” defined to include Conference committee meetings and reports, board reports, trustee elections, a few presentations, and debate and voting on Conference committee recommendations — one of the initial concerns focused on how to condense and transition a sprawling agenda originally scheduled for a six-day, in-person Conference into a four-day, virtual Conference, with limited time available for meetings and discussion. To accommodate this new, tighter format, each Conference committee met via Zoom prior to the rescheduled Conference to make a detailed evaluation of their original agendas and to pare them down to a manageable size given the narrower time frame. No items were tossed, and any item that didn’t fit on the abbreviated agenda was automatically forwarded to the 71st General Service Conference in 2021.

There is more to the General Service Conference than business, however, and another principal challenge was determining how to enable the interpersonal connectivity so vital to the spiritual nature of the Conference itself. With no hotel hallways to wander or to congregate in, no meals shared around communal tables, no post-meeting ice cream adventures on the streets of New York City or the wooded pathways in Rye, how could



participants build the kind of fellowship on which we alcoholics thrive — and which is critical to the work of the Conference?

With this in mind, a number of events were built into the schedule to allow for some measure of social connectivity and personal sharing, starting with a half-hour digital hospitality session each day and followed by the virtual Serenity Group meeting each morning. Additionally, a Gratitude Booth was set up for Conference members to record two-minute messages for other Conference members; and many attendees spent their time during scheduled breaks and before meetings in front of their computers spotlighted in their Zoom squares dancing to music selected by the tech director and sending messages back and forth through the Zoom chat feature. And, not to be outdone, G.S.O. staff member Irene D. hosted a virtual DJ dance party and ice cream social one evening, featuring a musical journey through the years, from Bill Haley and the Comets, the Ronettes, the Funkadelics and the Bee Gees to Pharrell Williams singing “Happy.”

On a deeper level, as noted by Tom A., rotating West Central regional trustee, in his keynote address, spirituality could be found in the challenges of the Conference itself and the issues facing the Fellowship as a whole. “I’d suggest to you that our unique situation with this virtual Conference provides us with many opportunities for spiritual growth,” he said in a prerecorded video message for all Conference members. “Yes, there are fresh problems and let’s hope few if any acute perils, but regardless, our unity is paramount in envisioning the future and architecting the structure to accomplish our tasks.”

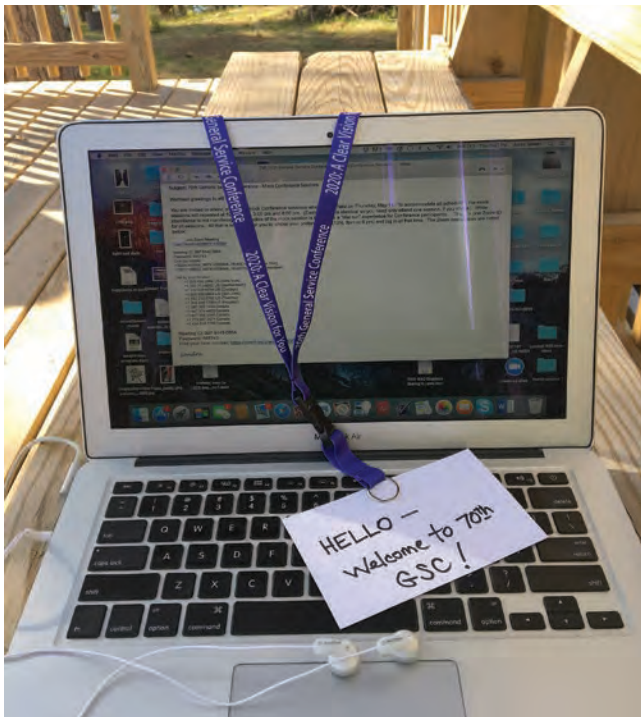
Addressing a broad range of issues, the 70th Conference (made up of 93 delegates, 27 trustees and corporate directors from A.A.W.S. and Grapevine, along with 15 General Service Office, Grapevine and La Viña staff members) worked its way through its essential business, formulating a path forward for the Fellowship. Not without controversy and important questions of process, procedures and the relationship between the boards and the Conference itself, the Conference sought

to acknowledge changing times and to articulate solutions for engaging diverse populations not being reached effectively with the A.A. message.

Not all Conference discussions resulted in Advisory Actions, with many of the important matters put forward in “committee considerations” — more informal suggestions and guidance from each committee on how best to carry the message. (These committee considerations, along with all Advisory Actions, are printed in their entirety in the Conference *Final Report*, available later in the summer.)

The reality of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact it is having on the Fellowship — not the least of which is financial — was never far from the thoughts of Conference members. As noted in her prerecorded corporate report, Cathy B., the current board chair of A.A.W.S., stated that 2020 could be dubbed “the year of disappointments” — the cancellation of the 2020 International Convention and two Regional Forums, the postponing of the Conference itself, and other rippling effects of the pandemic, both inside and outside the Fellowship. Yet, in a closer look, she noted, we can see that along with the disappointments have come some opportunities. The Fellowship quickly stepped up and began organizing digital meetings; service-minded A.A.s set up virtual workshops; and central/intergroup offices scrambled to keep their meeting lists up to date with the most current digital information. “Ours is a society based on service and dependent on action,” said Cathy, closing with a quote from Bill W.: “To serve A.A. is to live.”

Focusing on A.A. unity and what binds us together, Michele Grinberg, nonalcoholic chair of the General Service Board and one of the Conference chairs, shared in her General Service Board report how much she was



looking forward to the Conference, saying that “Bill W. would be pleased” with how the Fellowship is embracing new technology and “the ‘colossus of communication.’” Additionally, in her welcoming remarks to the 70th General Service Conference, she stated what was becoming clearer and clearer to each Conference member, in sync with the theme of the 70th General Service Conference, “2020: A Clear Vision for You”: “Our society is changing,” she noted, and then suggested with a characteristic smile, “Let’s grow in service, together.”

For any of the 135 Conference members and all of those participating in support, it will be a long time before anyone forgets the instruction issued by the Conference chairs on a regular basis: “If you would like to be recognized, please raise your digital hand and you will be unmuted.”

2020 Conference Advisory Actions

Conference Advisory Actions represent recommendations put forward by the standing committees of the General Service Conference that have been discussed, voted on and approved by the Conference body as a whole during general sessions. A sampling of Advisory Actions from the 2020 General Service Conference appear below in abbreviated form. A complete list of Advisory Actions will be published in the Conference *Final Report* (available from G.S.O. in late summer).

Agenda — That the theme of the 2021 Conference be “A.A. in a Time of Change.”

Finance — That language related to the “virtual basket” be included in the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.”

Grapevine — That the name of the Conference Committee on Grapevine be changed to the Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.

Literature — That the video “Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure” be approved; that the “A.A.W.S. Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and other A.A. Materials” be acknowledged and accepted by the General Service Conference.

Public Information — That all A.A.W.S. video titles be adjusted for search engine optimization (SEO).

Report and Charter — That a sentence in Article 4 of the current Conference Charter be updated to reflect the voting procedures for Conference members to bring about a reorganization of the General Service Board, if or when such reorganization is deemed essential.

Treatment and Accessibilities — That the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” be updated.

Trustees — That the slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board be approved; and that the slate of directors of AA Grapevine be approved. (Due to questions of eligibility, the slate of directors of A.A.W.S. was referred by floor actions to the trustees’ General Service Conference Committee for consideration.)

NOTE: In light of the impact of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic on public gatherings, please contact the event coordinators as listed to confirm whether or not events are taking place.

Calendar of Events

Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the General Service Office. For any additional information, please use the addresses provided. **Please note that we cannot attest to the accuracy, relevancy, timeliness, or completeness of information provided by any linked site.**

June

- 5-7—*Storm Lake, Iowa.* Area 24 Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 62, Pochahontas, IA 50574; www.aa-iowa.org
- 5-7—*Frederick, Maryland.* 50th Maryland State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1710, Frederick, MD 21072; www.marylandaa.org
- 5-7—*Roswell, New Mexico.* 63rd Area 46 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2768, Roswell, NM 88202; www.nm-aa.org
- 5-7—*Wurzburg, Bavaria, Germany.* 16th Miracles in Progress Roundup. Info: recover@youmu.de
- 10—*Online.* Monthly Area 19 Service Sharing Sessions via Zoom. Second Wednesday monthly, June through December, 6pm CT. Meeting ID: 949 0569 8995; password: 222835. Info: casa@chicagoaa.org.
- 12-14—*Tallahassee, Florida.* Founder's Day Florida Style. Write: Ch., Box 38034, Tallahassee, FL 32315; www.foundersdayflorida.org
- 12-14—*Akron, Ohio.* 85th Founder's Day. Write: Ch., Box 12, Akron, OH 44309; www.foundersday.org
- 12-14—*Sheridan, Wyoming.* Area 76 Spring Conv. Write: Ch., 495 Kingfisher Ave, Sheridan, WY 82801; www.area76aawyoming.org
- 12-14—*Kenton, Oklahoma.* Camp Billy Joe Roundup. Write: Ch., 57552 Twentynine Palms Hwy, Ste 299, Yucca Valley, CA 92284; foreverpurple18@yahoo.com
- 19-20—*Joliette, Québec, Canada.* 44e Congrès de Joliette et Lanaudière Nord. Écrire: congres0326@aa90.org
- 19-21—*Columbus, Nebraska.* Area 41 Reunion. Write: Ch., 514 Bellevue Blvd N., Bellevue, NE 68005; www.area41.org
- 26-5—*Sventoji, Palanga, Lithuania.* Nine Days and Nine Nights. Info: info@aalietuvoje.org

July

- 3-5—*Anaheim, California.* XLV Conv. Estatal Hispana de CA. Write: Ch., 330 N. State College Blvd, Ste 207, Anaheim, CA 92806; www.convencionestatalca.org
- 3-5—*Rouyn-Noranda, Québec, Canada.* Congrès de Rouyn-Noranda. Écrire: 215, Ave Dallaire, Rouyn-Noranda, QC J9X 4T5
- 16-19—*Lubbock, Texas.* 44th Lubbock Caprock Conv. Write: Ch., Box 6511, Lubbock, TX 79493; caprockconvention@att.net
- 17-19—*Rimouski, Québec, Canada.* 41e Congrès du Bas-St-Laurent. Écrire: Prés., 136 rue Saint-Germain Ouest, CP 651 Rimouski, QC G5L 4B0; <https://aa-quebec.org/region88/WP/>
- 17-19—*Livingston, Montana.* Beartooth Mtn Conf. Write: Box 23406, Billings, MT 59104; www.beartoothmountainconference.com
- 24-26—*Lincoln, Nebraska.* XIV Conv. Hispana de NE. Para Info: Com. Org., 2748 S Street, 3rd floor, Lincoln, NE 68503
- 24-26—*Baie-Comeau, Québec, Canada.* 50e Congrès de Baie-Comeau. Écrire: Prés., Dist. 8909, C.P. 6052 Mingan, Baie-Comeau, QC G5C 0B7; web.district8909@gmail.com
- 30-2—*Raleigh, North Carolina.* 73rd NC State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 41451, Raleigh, NC 27629; www.aanconvention.com

31-2—*Hot Springs, Arkansas.* 80th Old Granddad Conv. Write: Ch., Box 7660, Little Rock, AR 72217; www.oldgranddadconvention.com

31-2—*Marble Falls, Texas.* SWTA 68 Summer Workshop. Info: www.aa-swta.org

August

- 6-9—*Jacksonville, Florida.* 64th FL State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 57442, Jacksonville, FL 32241; www.64.floridastateconvention.com
- 7-9—*Eugene, Oregon.* Summerfest. Write: Ch., Box 11824, Eugene, OR 97401; www.aa-summerfest.org
- 14-16—*Soldotna, Alaska.* Wilderness Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 1625, Kenai, AK 99611; www.aakenaipeninsula.org
- 14-16—*Schaumburg, Illinois.* IL State Conv. Write: Ch., 180 N. Wabash Ave., Ste 305, Chicago, IL 60601
- 14-16—*Joplin, Missouri.* 33rd Summer Hummer Conf. Write: Ch., Box 2364, Joplin, MO 64804; summerhummer12@gmail.com
- 21-22—*Austin, Texas.* SWTA 68 PI/CPC Conf. Write: Ch. P.O. Box 141434, Austin, TX 78714; www.aa-swta.org
- 21-23—*Richmond, Virginia.* 25th SE Woman to Woman Conf. Write: Ch., Box 66443, Virginia Beach, VA 23462; www.sewomantowoman.org

■ Announcement of Openings for Nontrustee Director Positions

There will be upcoming openings for nontrustee director positions in 2021 for both A.A. World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc. Nontrustee directors are A.A. members selected for business or professional experience that relates to the activities of the corporations. Per the A.A.W.S. and AA Grapevine bylaws, a non-trustee director can serve up to four successive one-year terms. Full details will be made available on aa.org and aagrapevine.org, the Meeting Guide app news alert feature and in a letter to Conference members and the Fellowship later in the year.

September

4-6—*Concord, California*. Unity and Service Conf. Info:

www.unityandserviceconference.org

4-6—*Chicago, Illinois*. 48 Conv. Hispana de Estados Unidos y Canada. Escribir: Box 945, Woodstock, IL 60098; www.conventionhispanadeaauasaycanada.com

4-6—*Vayamundo, Houffalize, Belgium*. A New Pair of Glasses. Info: www.aaconv.be

11-12—*Lévis, Québec, Canada*. Congrès de Lévis. Info: www.aa89.org

11-13—*Stamford, Connecticut*. 62nd Area 11 Conv. Write: Box 370005, West Hartford, CT 06137 www.ct-aa.org

17-20—*Ventura, California*. VII SWACYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 91855, Santa Barbara, CA 93101; www.swacypaa7.org

18-20—*Grand Junction, Colorado*. 35th Color Daze Wknd. Info: www.colordaze.com

18-20—*Wichita, Kansas*. 63rd Area 25 State Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1543, Garden City, KS 67846; www.ks-aa.org

18-20—*Williston, North Dakota*. ND State Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2578, Watford City, ND 58854; www.aanorthdakota.org

25-27—*Crescent City, California*. Sobriety by the Sea. Write: Ch., Box 871, Crescent City, CA 95531; www.sobrietybythesea.com

25-27—*Wakefield, Virginia*. 27th Wakefield Campfire Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1732, Hampton, VA 23669; www.wakefieldcampfireconference.com

25-27—*Richland, Washington*. Third Three Rivers Big Book Weekend. Write: Ch., 3019 Duportail St. #108, Richland, WA 99352; www.threeriversbigbookweekend.org

October

2-4—*Oacoma, South Dakota*. Area 63 Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 471, Parker, SD 57053; www.area63aa.org

2-5—*Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia*. 55th Australian Nat'l Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1218, Toowoomba, QLD 4350 AU; www.aanatcon2020.com.au

9-10—*Louisville, Kentucky*. Falls City Conv. Write: Ch., Box 37137, Louisville, KY 40233; www.louisvillehostcommittee.com

9-11—*Coralville, Iowa*. Area 24 Fall Conf. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 173, Fruitland, IA 51106; iadistrict13dcm@gmail.com

9-11—*Biarritz, France*. Biarritz Internat'l EN Speaking Conv. Info: www.aaconventionbiarritz.com

November

13-15—*Alexandria, Louisiana*. CENLA Sobermania. Write: Ch., Box 118, Tioga, LA 71477; www.sobermania.org

13-15—*Lancaster, Pennsylvania*. 63rd E. PA Gen. Svc Conv. Info: www.area59aa.org

UPDATE ON 2020 A.A. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Cancellation of the 2020 International Convention has been a great disappointment for many A.A. members, but it has also provided an opportunity to provide a new experience and to bring together many of the special components that make International Conventions memorable — by utilizing a virtual platform. For this purpose G.S.O. is planning a 2020 International Convention digital site. Throughout the month of July, the 2020 International Convention will come alive online with A.A. speakers; a digital “Carrying the Message Pavilion”; sharing from nonalcoholic friends of A.A. and special guests linked to our history; a presentation of the 40 millionth Big Book; a new Archives video on the history of A.A.; an AA Grapevine video created for the Convention, and more.

The virtual experience will also help us reaffirm the International Convention’s goals: to rededicate ourselves to the primary purpose of A.A.; to share the success and growth of the A.A. program around the globe; and to let the world know that A.A. is alive, flourishing and available as a community resource internationally. The plan is to go live the week of June 29, 2020, to coincide as closely as possible with the original Convention dates, and to make the site available throughout the month of July. Please stay tuned for updates on aa.org.

The virtual experience will also help us reaffirm the International Convention’s goals: to rededicate ourselves to the primary purpose of A.A.; to share the success and growth of the A.A. program around the globe; and to let the world know that A.A. is alive, flourishing and available as a community resource internationally. The plan is to go live the week of June 29, 2020, to coincide as closely as possible with the original Convention dates, and to make the site available throughout the month of July. Please stay tuned for updates on aa.org.



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Did you know?

- ▶ You can listen to the Big Book for **FREE** on aa.org at https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/alcoholics-anonymous-audio-version.
- ▶ ASL video is available on DVD for purchase and also **FREE** for viewing at https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/alcoholics-anonymous-asl.
- ▶ *Alcoholics Anonymous* has been translated into 70 languages worldwide and counting!

PRINT

- B-0 Facsimile first edition, first printing.
- B-1 Hardcover. Unabridged.
- B-16 Large print. Softcover. Unabridged.
- B-24 Large print. Softcover. Abridged.
- B-30 Portable. Softcover. Unabridged.
- B-35 Pocket version. Softcover. Abridged.

OTHER FORMATS

- DV-11 In ASL. DVD. Abridged. With audio and subtitles in English.
- MB-1 Audiocassettes. Abridged.
- M-34 Braille. Unabridged.
- M-81 Audio CD. Unabridged.
- M-81A Audio CD. Abridged.
- NAVAM-81A In Navajo. Audio CD. Abridged.

A.A.W.S. ENCOURAGES ORDERING OF LITERATURE AND OTHER ITEMS VIA YOUR LOCAL GROUPS, INTERGROUPS AND CENTRAL OFFICES.

WESTERN WASHINGTON AREA 72

January - June 2020 Financial Summary

This financial statement summarizes the Area's financial activities for Q1 2020.

<u>SELF-SUPPORT</u>	
Beginning Operating Reserve	\$ 25,000
Sources of Cash	\$ 65,771
Uses of Cash	<u>(\$ 49,304)</u>
Ending Operating Cash	\$ 41,467
Change in Operating Cash	\$ 16,467

Contributions | % vs 2019

\$60K ↓ -18%

Expenses | % vs 2019

\$42K ↓ -14%

Q2 2020 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Contributions were significantly impacted once Stay-At-Home restrictions were in full force. Normal average monthly contributions are \$12K, since March the average monthly contributions are \$7K.
- Expenses have been drastically reduced since the Stay-At-Home restrictions were implemented. Normal average monthly expenses are \$9K, since March the average monthly expenses are \$4K
- Area will cover residual expenses resulting from cancellations.
- Significant increase in electronic contributions. 300% increase in monthly electronic contributions.

WESTERN WASHINGTON AREA 72 2020						
	March-June 2020			YTD 2020		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Contributions						
Group/District/Meeting Contributions	20,755.29	32,200.00	(11,444.71)	58,813.46	70,400.00	(11,586.54)
Area Event Excess Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,202.10	0.00	1,202.10
Service Materials	0.00	0.00	0.00	157.00	0.00	157.00
Total Contributions	\$20,755.29	\$ 32,200.00	(11,444.71)	\$60,172.56	\$70,400.00	(10,227.44)
Expenses						
General Operating Expenses	8,984.08	14,246.69	(5,262.61)	23,138.42	30,077.38	(6,938.96)
Assembly Travel	0.00	2,900.00	(2,900.00)	232.30	2,900.00	(2,667.70)
Quarterly Travel	-750.00	4,075.00	(4,825.00)	2,407.73	7,200.00	(4,792.27)
Delegate Travel	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	5,594.15	6,550.00	(955.85)
Other Travel	37.57	3,975.00	(3,937.43)	940.41	6,150.00	(5,209.59)
Standing Committees	0.00	2,804.00	(2,804.00)	847.95	5,608.04	(4,760.09)
Steering Committees	3,182.41	5,665.98	(2,483.57)	8,966.30	11,334.04	(2,367.74)
On-line Transaction Fees	145.29	90.00	55.29	184.44	180.00	4.44
Total Expenses	\$11,599.35	\$ 35,756.67	(24,157.32)	\$42,311.70	\$69,999.46	(27,687.76)

Table 1 Income Statement Summary for 2020 compared to Budget

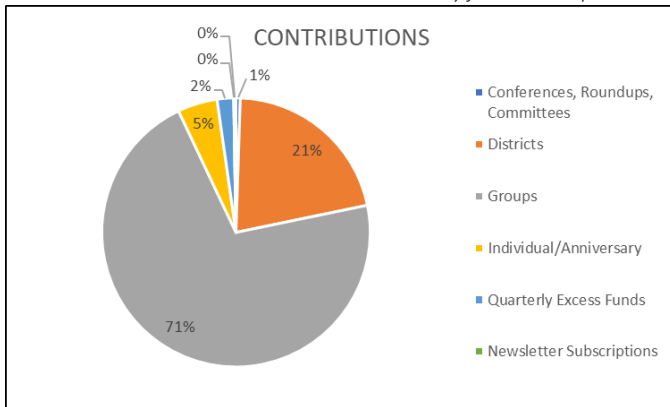


Chart 1 Contribution categories by % of total contributions

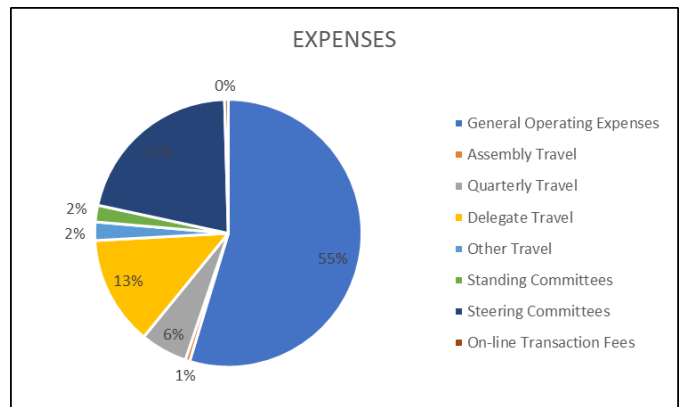


Chart 2 Expense categories by % of total expenses

CONTRIBUTIONS

To make an online contribution, go to: www.area72aa.org "contribute" or make checks to: **Western Washington Area of A.A.** and include the **group name**, **group number**, and **district** on the check.

Western Washington Area 72
1225 Sunset Drive Suite 145-745
Bellingham, WA 98226

REPORTS

Financial reports, including quarterly contribution reports with district and group contribution details, can be found on the area website at <https://area72aa.org/area-financial-reports/>.

THANK YOU!

To all the individual members, groups, and districts that support Area 72 with their 7th tradition contributions.

Questions - Please feel free to contact the Area Treasurer at treasurer@area72aa.org

**WESTERN WASHINGTON AREA 72
FINANCIAL REPORT
January - June 2020**

Contributions	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	2019
4010 Conferences, Roundups, Committees	315.21	0.00	315.21	500.00
4020 Districts	12,778.45	8,400.00	4,378.45	11,889.43
4030 Groups	42,838.27	62,000.00	(19,161.73)	55,637.20
4040 Individual/Anniversary	2,881.53	0.00	2,881.53	778.00
Total 4000 Contributions	58,813.46	70,400.00	(11,586.54)	68,804.63
4100 Area Events	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4130 Quarterly Excess Funds	1,202.10	0.00	1,202.10	4,889.78
Total 4100 Area Event Contributions	1,202.10	0.00	1,202.10	4,889.78
4200 Service Materials	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4220 Newsletter Subscriptions	12.00	0.00	12.00	96.91
4230 OSD - Area History Book	145.00	0.00	145.00	0.00
Total 4200 Service Materials	157.00	0.00	157.00	96.91
Total Contributions	60,172.56	70,400.00	(10,227.44)	73,791.32

WESTERN WASHINGTON AREA 72
FINANCIAL REPORT
January - June 2020

Expenses	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	2019
6000 General Operating Expenses	350.00	0.00	350.00	0.00
6010 Archives Rent, Utilities and Operating Expenses	9,919.31	8,450.00	1,469.31	7,345.12
6015 Ad-hoc/Check In Meeting Expenses	64.80	150.00	(85.20)	155.00
6020 Bank Fees and Charges	(12.00)	0.00	(12.00)	(59.56)
6030 Computers and A/V Equipment	19.69	90.00	(70.31)	0.00
6040 Elected Officer Unallocated (18.4)	794.49	1,050.00	(255.51)	430.60
6050 Insurance	97.00	0.00	97.00	38.00
6051 Variable Budget/Miscellaneous Expenses	857.90	3,211.38	(2,353.48)	554.42
6053 Newsletter Printing & Bulk Mailing	6,099.54	6,000.00	99.54	2,967.33
6054 Office Supplies	23.00	300.00	(277.00)	213.63
6060 Printing and Copying	2,307.26	7,100.00	(4,792.74)	5,631.65
6085 Tax, Accounting and Professional Fees	20.63	2,155.00	(2,134.37)	21.99
6095 Software, Web, and Tech	2,596.80	1,571.00	1,025.80	2,378.25
Total 6000 General Operating Expenses	23,138.42	30,077.38	(6,938.96)	19,676.43
6100 Assembly Travel				
6120 Assembly Meals	0.00	1,800.00	(1,800.00)	1,481.00
6130 Assembly Mileage	232.30	0.00	232.30	0.00
6140 Assembly Registration	0.00	1,100.00	(1,100.00)	945.00
Total 6100 Assembly Travel	232.30	2,900.00	(2,667.70)	2,426.00
6200 Quarterly Travel				
6210 Quarterly Lodging	1,606.56	4,300.00	(2,693.44)	2,383.66
6220 Quarterly Meals	458.65	1,100.00	(641.35)	988.14
6230 Quarterly Mileage	777.52	1,150.00	(372.48)	775.37
6240 Quarterly Registration	(435.00)	650.00	(1,085.00)	505.00
Total 6200 Quarterly Travel	2,407.73	7,200.00	(4,792.27)	4,652.17
6300 Delegate Travel				
6310 Delegate Report	0.00	500.00	(500.00)	0.00
6320 General Service Conference	4,125.40	5,100.00	(974.60)	5,057.00
6350 PRAASA (71.5)	1,468.75	950.00	518.75	814.35
Total 6300 Delegate Travel	5,594.15	6,550.00	(955.85)	6,157.53

**WESTERN WASHINGTON AREA 72
FINANCIAL REPORT
January - June 2020**

Expenses	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	2019
6400 Other Travel				
6410 Misc. Travel (17.2)	820.29	2,850.00	(2,029.71)	2,592.00
6415 National AA Corrections Workshop (19.3)	0.00	400.00	(400.00)	0.00
6430 PreAssembly (17.2)	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	1,006.72
6440 PreConference (17.2)	0.00	400.00	(400.00)	0.00
6450 Standing Committee Quarterlies (17.2)	119.72	1,500.00	(1,380.28)	613.02
Total 6400 Other Travel	940.01	6,150.00	(5,209.99)	5,729.23
6500 Standing Committees				
6510 Accessibility Committee	0.00	108.00	(108.00)	0.00
6530 Cooperation w/ Professional Community	93.75	108.00	(14.25)	46.51
6540 Corrections	147.26	4,000.00	(3,852.74)	2,421.92
6550 Grapevine & Literature	27.19	250.02	(222.83)	0.00
6560 Archives	0.00	108.00	(108.00)	0.00
6565 Young Peoples (19.1)	0.00	108.00	(108.00)	0.00
6570 Public Information	93.75	108.00	(14.25)	0.00
6575 Webmaster	0.00	108.00	(108.00)	0.00
6580 Treatment	486.00	500.02	(14.02)	60.00
6590 Web	0.00	150.00	(150.00)	0.00
6599 Quarterlies Rent (18.4)	0.00	60.00	(60.00)	120.00
Total 6500 Standing Committees	847.95	5,608.04	(4,760.09)	2,648.43
6600 Steering Committees				
6605 Archives Steering	926.96	1,200.00	(273.04)	979.51
6610 Language Steering	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
*Assembly/Qtly Interpretation (17.4)	3,426.50	5,334.00	(1,907.50)	4,939.73
*Committee Budget (17.3)	2,472.79	2,500.04	(27.25)	2,857.38
*Newsletter Translation (18.5)	2,077.55	2,250.00	(172.45)	584.62
Total 6610 Language Steering	7,976.84	10,084.04	(2,107.20)	8,381.73
6699 Steering Committee Meeting Rent	62.50	50.00	12.50	85.00
Total 6600 Steering Committees	8,966.30	11,334.04	(2,367.74)	9,446.24
On-line Transaction Fees	188.44	180.00	8.44	42.74
Total Expenses	42,315.30	69,999.46	(27,684.16)	49,444.74

**Western Washington Area 72
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
June 30, 2020**

Total	
ASSETS	
1000 Area Checking Account	41,467.27
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 41,467.27
Other Current Assets	
1300 Assembly Seed Money (18.4)	
2019 Assembly Seed Money	0.00
2020 Assembly Seed Money	1,500.00
2021 Assembly Seed Money	5,000.00
2022 Assembly Seed Money	2,000.00
2023 Assembly Seed Money	3,000.00
2024 Assembly Seed Money	7,000.00
Total 1300 Assembly Seed Money (18.4)	\$ 18,500.00
1400 Quarterly Seed Money (18.4)	1,925.00
1450 OSD Seed Money	7,440.00
1500 Deposits	1,334.03
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 70,666.30
LIABILITIES	
2000 Foro Local Excess Funds	773.25
2100 OSD3 Pre-Sale Fund	7,470.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 8,243.25

2020 Western Washington Area 72

Newsletter Ad Hoc Committee

Final Report

The newsletter ad hoc committee was formed after the January, 2020 quarterly, and was composed of several members. Bridget S. Dist. 11 GSR & CPC/PI Chair, Don N. Area Archives Chair, John B. DCM Dist. 16, Michele Alt DCM District 46, Greene D. Area Alt. Delegate, Will L. Area YP Chair, Astri T. Past Delegate Panel 63, Brendan D. Area Newsletter Editor and myself Tom F. Area Public Information Chair.

The committee met several times over the course of the last few months. Once in person and the remainder were through Video Conferencing. We accomplished quite a bit and have come up with some ideas for the Area Body to consider in moving forward.

The purpose of our committee was to find recommendations for consideration for the Content, Format, Frequency of the Newsletter, and any other issues that would be brought forth during our meeting discussions and findings.

- **Content, Format, Frequency Issues:**

- Not attractive, exciting, no eye-appeal
- Reports not being turned in/uninteresting
- Reports being turned in on many different formats
- Nothing creative, all news and information, not attractive
- Paper copy Needs to correlate with website
- Newsletter Editor can change this policy & format as he sees fit
- Prior Surveys indicate the desire and need to continue print version and web both
 - Remote Communities/No Internet Accessibility
 - Elderly/Non Tech/No accessibility
 - NL Belongs to AA Group Members
- Opting Out creates problems due to GSR rotation
 - Incoming might not know prior opted out for example
- Current Newsprint
 - Current NL Pages must be in Multiples of 4
 - General “feeling” seems to be people not enjoying Newsprint format
- Bulk Mailing
 - Distribution Is currently Minimum 1000
- Previous distribution problems due to communication error- No longer an issue
- Editor job description is outdated and unclear **he is currently updating
- Production Problems

- Compiling
 - Late Submissions
 - Editor delegate helpers
 - Editing is Incredibly Difficult/Time Consuming
 - Software is problematic
 - Scribus compatible web & print

- **Suggestions/Recommendations** (items in red denote suggested changes in policy)
 - Business/General Service Information
 - **Recommended Change to Newsletter Policy** “This business includes elections, committee appointments, special committee activities and status, motions, elected officers’ activities, Standing Committees’ activities and significant events which carry the message of AA to the still suffering alcoholic” **Service oriented events**
 - Make the front cover more eye appealing, as well as inside
 - Recommend Submitted Reports to include
 - Elected Officers Report
 - Standing Committee Chair Activities Report
 - DCM’s/Districts (Including district event announcements) Report
 - No flyers unless service oriented
 - Intergroup Report
 - General Service Event Chair Report
 - **“Reports on Service events that were successes or had problems would be helpful to other districts.” General Service oriented**
 - Area Happenings (LIST in Newsletter)
 - **“Other events, i.e. campouts, luncheons, picnics will be noted in the “Area Happenings”**
 - Miscellaneous Event Announcements
 - Remove All Flyers in printed newsletter EXCEPT the following (flyers are illegible in printed format-put hyperlinks for all submitted flyers in web version)
 - Group information change form
 - WWA 72 Group contribution form
 - WWA 72 Newsletter Subscription form
 - Quarterly/Assembly flyers
 - Implement Special Section
 - “Coffee Corner”, History, Past Delegate Wisdom, OSD Story
 - Hispanic Reports/Stories
 - Recommend NL Editor strongly consider Including “Spanish speaking “Iiason” for more useful content
 - Submit in Spanish To be translated to English

- Area Activities Calendar (on the Web site)
 - "...keeping a calendar of events that come to the Editor's attention."
 - "...fliers of "Service" events will be printed in the NL and noted in the Area Activities Calendar"
- Continue Printed version & Web (Both formats found to be necessary by committee)
 - Committee explored and researched various formats for editing software. Found some are very expensive and not easily usable. After downloading and exploring Scribus, found it free, (open source), very user friendly, and easy to learn. Found many other areas are currently using it as well.
 - Suggested Move to Open Source Editor Software
 - Recommend Scribus
 - Improve attractiveness
 - Possibility of 8.5x11 folded (possibly more costly due to weight)
- Current policy states- (Committee recommends no change in frequency)
 - *"The Western WA Area Newsletter will be distributed monthly free of charge to the elected and appointed officers of the Western Washington Area, the DCM's and Alternate DCM's, all the GSR's of the registered groups in the Washington Area, past Delegates, GSO, Pacific Region Trustee, Pacific Region Newsletter Editors that reciprocate and the 15 Pacific Region Delegates."*
- Web
 - Links to flyers on Web in Area Events
 - Fully interactive with hyperlinks
- Current editor is updating job description at this time
- Update Area Handbook 9.3 Regarding current practices
 - Consider process for smooth transition from one rotation editor to next
 - Encourage editor to enlist help from all over area for submissions, including Spanish with translation to English
- Newsletter Training at DCM training
 - January Quarterly/Friday Night
 - Live person
 - PowerPoint

- **Costing/Pricing Proposals**

- Current Newsletter costs Average (Jan – May 2020)
 - Printing
 - \$500.00 avg printing Non Assembly Months
 - \$1182.50 Avg. printing Assembly Months
 - Postage
 - \$297.46 (all months fairly equal)
 - Translation
 - \$643.02 February
 - 433.05 (March & April)
- Printing proposal numbers (ROUGH ESTIMATES) (Not including translation)
 - Fed Ex
 - Qty 1000, 8.5x11, Black & White, 24 pages saddle stitched. 80# Gloss
 - Unit Cost (pretax): \$1.503
 - Estimates Flat Postage Rate Included- \$488.00
 - Total Cost (pretax): \$1,989.20
 - Minuteman Press
 - Qty 1000 on 20#
 - \$731.90
 - Qty 1000 on 80# Gloss
 - \$993.02
 - Taxes and postage costs not included
 - Print Solutions
 - 24 page 8.5x11, 80# Gloss **full color**
 - 1000 Qty \$1675.00
 - Mailing prep & handling \$99.00
 - Same as above Black & White
 - Qty 1000 \$975
 - Mailing prep & Handling \$99.00
- After researching printing costs, committee found it appear Print Solutions offer more options and the lowest cost. Recommend NL editor consider this as possibly a better option. Per NL Policy and handbook, NL Editor has authority to make these changes.

Background Information

- **NEWSLETTER POLICY** -*The policy of the Washington Area Newsletter is to provide a communication tool and to communicate the business of the Western Washington Area. This business includes elections, committee appointments, special committee activities and status, motions, elected officers' activities, Standing Committees' activities and significant events which carry the message of AA to the still suffering alcoholic. It also includes keeping a calendar of events that come to the Editor's attention. The Western Washington Area is comprised of 42 districts as of January 2014. Districts' reports are encouraged. Reports on Service events that were successes or had problems would be helpful to other districts. The fliers of "Service" events will be printed in the Newsletter and noted in the "Area Activities Calendar". Other events, i.e. campouts, luncheons, picnics will be noted in the "Area Happenings". The Newsletter will request input each month from the Western WA Officers and each of the Standing Committee Chairs. Each Standing Committee can feature a method of carrying the message in their sphere of duty. The Western WA Area Newsletter Editor reserves the right of refusal to print any flyers or articles in the Newsletter if in the editor's opinion, they are not consistent with the three aspects of recovery, unity, and service, or if they contain foul language or personal attacks. All submissions must be signed anonymous articles are not permitted. The Western WA Area Newsletter will be distributed monthly free of charge to the elected and appointed officers of the Western Washington Area, the DCM's and Alternate DCM's, all the GSR's of the registered groups in the Washington Area, past Delegates, GSO, Pacific Region Trustee, Pacific Region Newsletter Editors that reciprocate and the 15 Pacific Region Delegates. However, the Western Washington Area Newsletter is intended to be shared with all the members of the fellowship. Homegroups or individuals may subscribe for \$12 per year if they would like their own copy. They are to send their name, address and check (payable to Western Washington Area Newsletter) to the Newsletter Editor at the address above.*

- **Newsletter Editor (per current Area Handbook)**
 - Publishes, on a monthly basis, a newsletter which serves as our principal communication tool within the Area. May appoint a working committee to assist in the format, content and distribution of the Newsletter. Receives, formats and edits news received from the Area and prepares for bulk mailing. Selects a local printer for the newsletter. Maintains a current address list of all subscribers, GSRs and other trusted servants for newsletter distribution.
 - Specific Duties: For a copy of the complete listing of the Area Newsletter Editor duties, please contact the current editor.
 - Publishes, on a monthly basis, a newsletter, which serves as our principal communication tool within the Area. May appoint a working committee to assist in the format, content and distribution of the Newsletter. Receives, formats and edits news received from the Area. Selects/works with a local printer for the newsletter.
 - Works in conjunction with the Registrar to maintain a current monthly mailing list of all recipients. The Editor and Registrar incorporate the subscribers list in with the trusted servants' on the mailing list. The list is then forwarded to the printer who prepares and delivers the newsletters to USPS for bulk mail delivery. Free Subscriptions are provided for: current GSR's, DCMs, Area Elected and Appointed Trusted Servants, past Area Trusted Servants for the first year after rotation, GSO, Regional Trustee, other Delegates in the region. Paid subscriptions are available. Suggested subscription rate is \$12/year to cover costs.
 - Publishes a Spanish edition of each of the Quarterly issues (containing Area Quarterly and Assembly minutes.) Works with Spanish language translator(s) and then formats document for printing; delivers the Spanish editions to the Spanish Speaking Districts. (1 & 57)
 - *As the result of a 1990 Assembly action (90.6), effective 1991, a computer, printer, and software were approved for purchase for the editor as needed for work and completion of the newsletter editor's duties. That computer was given to Area 92 (95.2) at its creation. (Motion 07.4 replaced Archives' system but not the Newsletter.)
 - Specific Duties: For a copy of the complete listing of the Area Newsletter Editor duties, please contact the current edition.

- **Area Newsletter Assembly Motions:**

- 63.6 A motion was made and passed to sell Newsletter equipment to Dorothy L. for \$100.00.
- 71.1 A motion was made and passed to purchase one used mimeograph machine for the Newsletter printing.
- 72.2 A motion was made and approved that the Newsletter serve as notices for meetings and that the Secretary notify the Committee Members individually for the Committee Meetings.
- 73.2 A motion was made and passed to continue to employ the professional printer for Newsletter and to dispose of present equipment in following our traditions of not owning property.
- 76.3 It was resolved and passed that the Washington Area Newsletter be used for more Area business, such as the Treasurer's report, the minutes of Committee Meetings, activities of P.I., H. & I. Committees, etc.
- 76.6 A motion was made and passed that the reports of expenses of elected and appointed trusted servants be made in the accompanying format each year beginning in 1976, by the Area Treasurer and Finance Co-Chairpersons as appropriate. This report to be available to DCMs by the second Committee Meeting of the following year and published in the next edition of the Washington Area Newsletter.
- 76.10 A motion was made and passed that we appoint one Washington Area Newsletter Editor.
- 77.11 A motion was made and passed that the printed resolutions appear in the September issue of the Washington Area Newsletter.
- 78.8 A motion was made and passed that the year end financial report be put in the earliest issue of the Washington Area Newsletter (before the Assembly convenes) for the purpose of informing the GSR's before the Washington Area Assembly in October for the consideration for voting on money issues.
- 83.7 Moved and passed that the complete schedule for the Washington Area Assembly be published in the Newsletter.
- 90.6 That the Washington Area Committee appoint and authorize a committee of 5 to purchase two computer systems one for the WA Area Treasurer and one for the WA Area Newsletter Editor. Initial Cost not to exceed \$2000.00 per system; ongoing costs not to exceed \$500.00 per year total. (System: computer, printer, software. Ongoing: insurance, training.) [Maintenance budget portion superseded by 95.10.]
- 07.2 We move that the Western Washington Area Newsletter include a Spanish translated version four (4) times a year where minutes of the Area Quarterlies/Assembly appear, then published and distributed it in a timely manner to the Spanish Language Districts. Amended in 18.5
- 11.1 The information from the Area Newsletter be made available on the Area Website.
- 18.5 "We request to replace motion 07.2 with: Translate the Western Washington Area Newsletter into Spanish, at minimum those editions which contain the minutes of the Area business meetings, then publish and distribute to the Spanish Language Districts, ideally within 30 days or less than the English

Hi Everyone!

I forgot to get this out to everyone before the quarterly, so here's my report:

First off, I want to thank everyone for your support. Your responses to our poll and the additional pre-sales during the pandemic are testament to the resilient nature of Area 72.

We have 870 pre-sales, for a total of just over \$12,000. Due to the poll responses, we will be looking at getting quotes for a smaller amount of books than the original 3,000 that we had projected. We are also looking at other options, including making a request to the Finance Committee in the event there is a shortfall between collected pre-sale dollars and the cost of publication.

Our editors are busily working on the stories, to make them sound as if they are coming from one voice. The next step will be formatting and layout...we are making great progress!

Please visit the Area website, area72aa.org and click on the Our Stories Disclose tab to order your box set for just \$15.00, since we can't come out to you right now.

I have attached a copy of a newspaper article from 1963 about our Area Assembly in Bellingham -- it's a sample of the kind of history you will find in Our Stories Disclose Third Edition. If it makes you chuckle, that's great! You'll be able to find lots of stories like it in our new edition.

As always, please feel free to call me with any questions!

Carol H.
Our Stories Disclose Chair
(360) 609-1815

8:17 AM (4 hours ago)

to committee

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