

2020 General Service Conference Agenda Items with Background

I. Agenda

A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2021 General Service Conference (GSC).

It's a standing agenda item to choose the theme for the next years conference. Themes revolve around basic principals of AA and can spark discussions at the District and Area levels as well. They have a list of 64 suggestions that were sent in by the fellowship. This year's theme is "2020 - A Clear Vision For You"

B. Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2021 General Service Conference.

It's a standing agenda item to choose the presentation topics for the next years conference. They have a list of 77 suggestions that were sent in by the fellowship. This year's presentations are "Recovery - Who Is Missing In Our Rooms?", "Unity - Practicing Our Principals" and "Service - Keeping AA Relevant"

C. Review workshop topic ideas for the 2021 General Service Conference.

It's a standing agenda item to choose the workshop topics for the next years conference. They have a list of 101 suggestions that were sent in by the fellowship. This year's workshops is "Attraction Through Action"

D. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, process and 2019 Evaluation Summary.

All conference attendees are asked to fill out an evaluation form. The background shows how people responded last year, what this year's form will look like, and confirms the 2020 form will be available online for those who prefer that.

E. Review the 2019 January conference call participant survey results.

Before the January board weekend, all delegates of a conference committee should have a conference call with the corresponding trustees' committee chair and staff secretary to review the possible agenda items. Discuss if that happened and how it went. This call is to give delegates more say in selecting agenda items.

F. Discuss report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference.

This reviews the results of a survey given to the delegate committee chairs on how communication with their committee trustee has been since the Conference.

G. Discuss the General Service Conference schedule.

The material covers 2 topics: 1.) how the conference might be changed in the future to allow all delegates to give input on agenda items prior to the delegate committee starting its deliberations so they have feedback from a broader base when making their decisions, and, 2.) "what can we stop doing during Conference week?"

II. Cooperation with the Professional Community

A. Consider a request to discontinue the pamphlet "A.A. in Your Community."

Last years' GSC asked for an update, specifically around language about hospitalization and what professionals can expect from AA. Since then, a group made a request to stop publishing it, feeling other pamphlets cover the same information in a more successful manner. This pamphlet was discontinued by the GSC in 1979 for that reason, but was reinstated by the GSC in 1981, as it showed commitment to community/CPC work.

B. Consider a request to create a pamphlet for mental health professionals.

An Area's CPC committee feels this could clarify many misconceptions/ misinformation professionals have about AA and that would help them better serve the still suffering.

C. Discuss progress report on LinkedIn page implementation.

The page was launched 11/19/19. In November there were 304 unique* visits and 692 total visits, 138 unique/370 total in December, and 165 unique/438 total in January. (* a 1st time visit in a 30 day period). Number of times the link to aa.org was clicked from the LinkedIn page: 80 in Nov, 29 in Dec, 56 in Jan. The page also has a list of CPC exhibits at various events. A variety of possible items to add to the site are mentioned.

D. Review contents of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.

The committee has a kit (a selection of pamphlets, guidelines and other service materials pertinent to CPC work) and a workbook (a unique publication of specific information to help CPC committees) It is a standing agenda item to review these items for possible updating

III. Corrections

A. Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

The committee has a kit (a selection of pamphlets, guidelines and other service materials pertinent to Corrections work) and a workbook (a unique publication of specific information to help Corrections committees). It is a standing agenda item to review these items for possible updating

IV. Finance

A. Review the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix."

1. Consider a request to revise the pie chart percentages on page 12.

From a delegate. There are 2 pie charts shown, 1 with an intergroup, 1 without. In lieu of the current 10% district, 10% area, 30% GSO and 50% intergroup or central office they suggest 30%, 20%, 10% and 40% and in lieu of 40% district, 30% area and 30% GSO, they suggest 60% district, 30% area, 10% GSO. Even though the pie charts are suggestions, they feel people take it as direction. The background implies this request takes the percentages back to how they used to be shown prior to a change in 1996.

2. Consider a request regarding contribution percentages to service entities.

From a different delegate. They also feel the percentages shown on the pie charts are taken literally and therefore ask no percentages be listed, but rather state "Duties of the entities notated above are described on page 7 of this pamphlet. Performance of these service duties vary from area to area. Please be sure to inquire which services these entities provide in YOUR area and contribute accordingly"

3. Consider draft language related to the "virtual basket."

From the AAWS Ad Hoc committee on self-support. They would like to add information on how groups can set up digital payment options for taking 7th tradition contributions.

B. Review Self-Support Packet.

It's a standing agenda item to review the list of literature/documents that GSO publishes that are useful to finance committees/treasurers.

V. Grapevine

A. Consider the list of suggested AA Grapevine book topics for 2021 or later.

The suggested books are: *Step Three - Turning It Over*, *Character Defects - Steps 6 & 7*, *AA and Families in Recovery* (Spanish speaking AA members share experiences about how drinking affects the whole family and how AA helps repair them), *Old-Timer Stories* (long time Spanish speaking members of AA share their experience, strength and hope), and *Twelve Steps* (Spanish speaking AA members share experience with AA's 12 steps). There is a list of 20 previously approved book titles still awaiting development.

B. Review progress report on AA Grapevine Workbook revisions.

A freelancer was hired to rewrite/redesign the workbook, but only committee members can see the draft.

C. Review progress report on actions taken from the findings of the AA Grapevine Fellowship Feedback Survey.

The background discusses what has been done towards each of the following:

- There is an opportunity to improve perceptions and relevance of Grapevine and La Viña as important personal recovery tools
- There is confusion about how Grapevine and LaViña are funded, clarifying this may increase revenue
- Current content formula could be improved to reach younger members and be more relevant to members with long-term sobriety
- There is a desire for a simpler subscription model and less interest in a stand-alone digital subscription
- Existing digital experience problems are barriers to adoption, these should be prioritized for improvement
- There is an opportunity to learn from La Viña engagement strategies

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..."

Past GSC advisory actions were cited - that AA literature should be degenderized, with the exception of Bill W's writings, and that the Big Book preface states the text is from 1939 and hasn't changed out of date/gender-oriented language, and that was enough explanation. In 2018 & 2019, 6 different requests were received to change the preamble. This item had a request from a group in Area 29 to use gender neutral pronouns so more people could identify.

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..."

Remarkable similar to item D, but the Grapevine board decided to make Items D & E separate. This background had letters from 3 different groups in Area 49, 1 from Area 13 and 1 from Area 27. All request the same change. FYI - the Preamble was introduced in the June 1947 issue of the Grapevine, and was written by the then editor.

- F. Consider a request to develop an AA Grapevine pamphlet on how the AA Grapevine can be utilized to carry the message.**

Submitted by an Area Literature chair, with some specific ideas for the pamphlet. Background also includes other service pieces/initiatives promoting the GVs ability to carry the message.

- G. Consider a request to change the name of the General Service Conference Committee on Grapevine to the Conference Committee on Grapevine and LaVina.**

Submitted by an Area to enhance the spiritual equity between the 2 publications.

- H. Consider a request for AA Grapevine, Inc. to establish an Instagram account in line with the Twelve Traditions.**

This is a platform that could show GV's graphics, videos and audio content with the objective of exposing more people to AA by sharing inspirational content, information, and resources to support recovery from alcoholism. More than 500 million people have Instagram accounts. To start, they would just use content already available from the magazine, GV website and YouTube channel, but with time may make unique content for Instagram. The content would be aimed at alcoholics (in and out of the rooms) but also communicate with professionals.

VI. Literature

- A. Review progress report regarding the pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated."**

- B. Review progress report regarding the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated."**

A&B are on hold until "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" draft pamphlet is approved and then that will be a template for how to approach these.

- C. Review progress report on the development of the pamphlet on A.A.'s Three Legacies.**

The pamphlet will describe A.A.'s Three Legacies and how they work together, and give their history using quotes from Bill W. Members submitted 46 stories which the committee narrowed down to 20. That, and their input on how to organize the content, has been forwarded to the publishing department so they can start a draft.

- D. Review progress report on the update to the pamphlet "Too Young?"**

- E. Review progress report regarding the pamphlet "Young People and A.A."**

For items D & E, they solicited opinions at YPAA events on what would be useful and got detailed suggestions on content and formats, like developing podcast or video versions. Also, they brought hard copies to get feedback on and everyone went on their phone to look at them online, so user friendly digital versions are a must. No draft versions are ready yet.

- F. Review progress report regarding the development of the pamphlet for Spanish speaking women in A.A.**

59 stories were submitted for consideration for use in the pamphlet and they are being read and evaluated. They also solicited and received feedback on content and title at a Hispanic Women's AA Workshop. No draft yet.

G. Review draft update of the video “Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure.”

The video is done (I got to see it at board weekend!) If it's approved at conference they will make versions with subtitles or text in French and Spanish. The video is currently only available to literature committee members. It cost +/- \$135,000.

H. Review draft language regarding safety and A.A. to be included in *Living Sober* and "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship."

Add to *Living Sober* :

Of course, A.A. is a microcosm of the larger society around us and problems found in the outside world can also make their way into the rooms of A.A. As we strive to share in a spirit of trust, both at meetings and individually with sponsors and friends, it is reasonable for each member to expect a meaningful level of safety. Those attending A.A. meetings derive a benefit by providing a safe environment in which alcoholics can focus on gaining and maintaining sobriety. The group can then fulfill its primary purpose – to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Add to Q&A on Sponsorship, under "What does a sponsor do and not do?":

Stresses the importance of A.A. being a safe place for all members and guides the newcomer to service material available from the General Service Office such as “Safety in A.A. — Our Common Welfare.”

Add to Q&A on Sponsorship, under "How does sponsorship help a group?":

Our groups endeavor to provide a safe meeting place for all attendees and encourage a secure and welcoming environment in which our meetings can take place. The formation and operation of an A.A. group resides with the group conscience. Our common suffering as alcoholics and our common solution in A.A. transcend most difficulties and help us to create as safe an environment as possible to carry A.A.'s message of hope and recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic.

I. “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” pamphlet:

1. Discuss draft update of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”

They've developed a simplified script for all Twelve Traditions and added language about anonymity on social media to Tradition 11. The draft is ready but only literature committee member have access to it.

2. Consider not retiring the existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”

Since the new version is a simplified script, and this version still sells quite well (from 2014-2018: 242,561 English, 18,275 Spanish, 7,617 French) and has "a wealth and depth of material", the trustees would like to keep this version also.

J. A.A.W.S Policy:

1. Review "A.A.W.S. Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials" approved in January 2020.

Assure conference approval, but allow Publishing to be proactive in keeping our materials current. "Editorial Changes" = correction of typos and errors of grammar; correction of erroneous statements of fact; updating historical and statistical info, and;

correction of cross references to other material. "Format" examples are hard or soft cover, large print, standard size, pocket size, audio, Braille, video for ASL, digital and electronic. If Conference approves new or amended literature, A.A.W.S. will have authorization to select formats, make Editorial Changes (not the Big Book's Preface, Forewords, The Doctor's Opinion, the 1st 164 pages, Dr. Bob's Nightmare, or the Appendices), change graphics, and translate into different languages. Other changes or new material would go through Conference. In addition to requests from the fellowship, the proposal is the Publishing Dept would regularly forward recommendations for changes to the trustees/Conference (last year this proposal had it going to AAWS) by reviewing pamphlets and literature against these questions:

- Does the material use outdated language, jargon, or references?
- Does the material utilize the most current science about alcoholism?
- Does the material focus on inclusivity and represent A.A.'s broad diversity?
- Does the material draw on A.A. history in a way that is relevant and necessary?
- Does the material effectively address the audience to whom it is directed? (Target audience input will be sought in the review process)

2. Review proposed "A.A.W.S. Policy on Conversion of Written Conference-approved Literature and Service Material into video format."

The proposed policy: "Each year the A.A.W.S. Board will present to the General Service Conference for input, feedback and approval a full prioritized list of items slated for conversion to video in the following year(s). This list may include both Conference-approved and service materials as an opportunity for the membership to provide input regarding: Prioritization of which items to convert to video; Key concerns to keep in mind during the development of any individual item; The membership's desire NOT to convert a specific item to video; the membership's desire to include items not on the list; Estimated cost/time for each item" They anticipate making 1 - 4 video conversion recommendations a year (similar to how GV books are done), and would like to try this for 3 years and then evaluate if the process needs adjusting.

- K. Consider if proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, can be addressed with a common solution.**

There have been multiple requests for these things, which seems to indicate unmet needs in accessibility & relatability. Possible next steps: determine the grade reading level of the Big Book and explore how non-Conference approved literature/workbooks are being utilized by A.A. members. This topic will also be a sharing session at the GSC, as the trustees are looking for input on what solutions we may want them to pursue. Background includes some lower grade level language translations.

- L. Consider requests to revise the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* :**

1. Add pages 3 through 41 of the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" as an appendix in the next printing.

From a member, via a delegate, who suggests having the language added would encourage best practices and participation in general service, which could help improve our service culture.

2. Revise the first 164 pages.

From a district, who would like a committee formed to identify changes that could make the Big Book more reflective of the A.A. membership. Focus on: where possible, use gender-neutral pronouns; To Wives and The Family Afterward should specifically be evaluated; and passages or sections that are no longer consistent with or relevant to society modified. They give some specific sample changes and describe things that should not be changed, like Bill's story or historical references.

M. Consider proposals related to possible Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* :

1. Develop a Fifth Edition.

The 1st edition came out in 1939, the 2nd in 1955, the 3rd in 1976, and the 4th in 2001. Multiple people are thinking it's time to start on a 5th edition.

2. Develop a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* with updated stories and revisions to Appendices III and V.

3. Add a proposed addendum to a Fifth Edition foreword of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* at the time it is published.

2&3 are some specific requests with an eye to being more inclusive and representative of our current fellowship.

N. Consider development of a draft Fourth Edition of the book *Alcoholicos Anonimos* .

Background shows the 3rd edition came out in 2008 but there are perceived "errors" and "omissions" in the translation.

O. Consider updating the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic"

There was an advisory action last year to update this. It doesn't seem like anything happened since then, but the trustees agree it should move forward.

P. Consider requests to revise the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* :

1. To remove the phrase "opposite sex" from paragraph two on page 117 in the Chapter "Step Twelve"

2. To reconsider use of the phrase "lustful enough to rape" in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter "Step Six."

1&2 - includes the request letters and background on changing Bill W's writings.

Q. Consider request to add a subtitle to the booklet *Living Sober*

A group suggests changing the title to *Living Sober: How Not To Take The First Drink*

R. Consider requests to revise text related to open meetings in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group."

Several members requested omitting the text "Non-alcoholics may attend open meetings as observers"

S. Consider request to revise text related to self-support in the pamphlet "Frequently Asked Questions About A.A."

From a delegate. Under "What does membership in AA cost?" the answer states that most local groups "pass the hat" at meetings to defray the cost of renting a meeting place and other meeting expenses, including coffee, sandwiches, cakes or whatever else may be served. They want to improve the answer (to be less about food)

T. Consider revising the pamphlet "Questions & Answers on Sponsorship":

1. Change the suggestion that sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex.

A group proposes new language of "A.A. custom does suggest one limitation: sponsorship should be avoided wherever a romantic entanglement might arise between sponsor and newcomer"

2. Expand the section on "Service Sponsorship" and retitle the pamphlet to include service sponsorship.

A past and present delegate suggest this, feeling it would help carry the message of the importance of A.A. service, and to reinforce the idea that service is for every A.A. member.

U. 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."

An Area proposes: ""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."

V. Review matrix of A.A. recovery literature.

The matrix shows data for each piece of literature - when it was copywrited, last reviewed, print distribution rates per language for the last several years, and online views and downloads. This allows the Literature committee to see what should be updated/discontinued, etc.

VII. Policy/Admissions

A. Consider a proposed process for approving observers to the U.S./Canada General Service Conference.

Requests received by Oct 1 will be considered for the upcoming GSC, after Oct 1 for the following year. If the General Service Board approves them, the P/A committee would add to the agenda of their January conference call to approve or deny the request. If approved, use the "Process for Polling Conference Between Meetings" so the entire conference body can vote. This would allow the observers to be formally approved before travelling great distances from other countries.

B. Consider implementing electronic voting for trustee elections.

When electronic voting was implemented, it was on a trial basis for non-election votes, with elections to be added later if it was successful. Voting electronically has been successful and made policy in 2018. Adding the elections will not cost anything extra.

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

A consultant has been hired to begin determining the most cost-effective and appropriate venues to hold the 2023 & 2024 GSCs. They are considering venues outside of NY city/state for 2025, but we need to evaluate our various bylaws which call for our board meetings in NYC/NYS immediately after GSC, which would make hosting the GSC in another part of the country impossible.

D. Consider continuing the review of dates for the General Service Conference with timing and year(s) to review as requested by the general manager.

In the past, dates were selected for the GSC 2 years in the future and that's how the policy reads. Now, we negotiate with hotels for 2 years in a row to get better pricing, so the committee would need to select 2 years of dates, every other year (last year we selected for '23 & '24, nothing needed this year, next year select '25 & '26.) We need to change the policy to do this, and this new language leaves room for future modifications to the process.

E. Consider a proposed process for how a Conference committee could review, discuss and act on proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee.

The proposal: Any proposed agenda items that a trustee committee doesn't forward will be sent to the appropriate GSC committee for review. A standing agenda item would be added to each Conference committee "to review those grid items that were not forwarded." The background info will be included in the full Conference background that is translated and posted annually for all Conference members. If the committee agrees with the trustees, whoever submitted the item will be notified no action was taken. If the committee disagrees, the item will return to the trustees for further consideration. When a committee gives its report back at Conference, the body can ask questions about these items. Each GSC committee will have to update its Composition Scope and Procedure to do this.

F. Consider a proposed process for equitable distribution of Conference committees' workload.

The proposal: Keep the existing committee structure, but on an annual, as-needed basis move items between committees for equity, and/or add additional primary committees (i.e. - have a 2nd PI or Literature committee). Create a form for submitting proposed agenda items and a process and trustee subcommittee for evaluating the item and estimating how long it would take to discuss. The Deadline for submitting items would move from Dec 15th to Sept 15th.

G. Review the Floor Action process.

An Area requested a review of the GSC Floor Action process, to assure it's not allowing the circumvention of the normal Conference process, which involves adequate collection and study of background materials, careful, inclusive discussion, and a fully-informed vote. Background shows this has been looked at many times before.

VIII. Public Information

- A. Review 2019 annual reports from the trustees’ Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.

Reports the things they added/removed/changed on aa.org. Average # of daily visits to aa.org: 45,204. 16,499,534 total visits in 2019, up from last year. The Grapevine website was redone 1/31/20. It got +/- 50,000 visits a month the last quarter of 2019.

- B. Discuss a progress report on the A.A.W.S. Meeting Guide app.

Officially launched August 2019. Getting directions was by far the most used feature.

	Oct 2019	Nov 2019	Dec 2019
# of Unique visitors	74,772	210,205	234,290
# of Sessions (Visits)	581,466	1,255,323	1,445,197
Total Screen Views	3,696,323	3,960,907	4,145,773
Avg Actions per Session	10.3	5.1	4.7
Avg Session Duration	6:14	3:01	2:46

- C. Review the 2019 trustees’ Public Information Committee progress report on the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube account.

There are 48 AAWS videos posted (16, each in English, Spanish & French) There are 165 completed videos that need to be readied for YouTube. As of December 2019, there are over 4,200 subscribers and average monthly video views of 2,000 - 4,000. Overall there is a slow but steady increase in usage.

- D. Review the 2019 trustees' Public Information Committee progress report on the use of Google AdWords/Grants to carry the A.A. message.

AAWS was certified by LegitScript on 11/8/19. GSO is actively implementing Google AdWords/Grants in-kind donated services of ad space (worth \$10,000 of donated media value which is available to all non-profits) with 2 ad campaigns with 3 ads each. The IRS is changing how items like this must be shown on our financial reports.

- E. Discuss a request to adjust all A.A.W.S video titles for search engine optimization (SEO).

This will make our titles more descriptive of the content in the video/identify it as A.A. content; make consistent video naming conventions; make our content easier to find by search engines. When possible, keep the original titles (i.e. - “A New Freedom” could add a prefix to become “Sobriety in A.A.: A New Freedom”)

- F. Review a report regarding the 2020 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.

The trustee committee asked that a “Comprehensive Media Plan” subcommittee be formed to execute the action plan. Explore PSA distribution on digital and social media platforms.

- G. Review a draft plan to create video shorts based on A.A. pamphlets.

Starting with "A Brief Guide to A.A.", "Is A.A. for You?", "A Message to Teenagers", create video shorts from the text. Lengths will vary, but between 1:00 -3:50 mins. Text may be edited to appear more natural as spoken word.

H. Public Service Announcements (PSAs):

1. Review the 2019 Report on the "Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcements."

The current audio and video PSAs remain useful. The "Contact A.A." sections are in process to be updated to reflect the current ways that people search for A.A

2. Review the distribution and tracking information for the video PSA "Changes."

The PSA "Changes" was retitled "Sobriety in A.A.: We Made Changes to Stop Drinking" for search engine optimization. The committee will see the report. The background states "Combined, the A.A. U.S. and Canadian TV PSAs aired a total of 71,278 times with 584,893,597 impressions and \$21,011,517 in donated media value" but it's not clear how many PSAs that includes or over what period of time.

3. Review a report regarding the new financial reporting system for PSA media valuations.

This says the valuation of our 2019 PSA airings is \$20,843,307. Background explains how that is calculated. A subcommittee and our auditor will work on understanding the new regs about how we report such services.

4. Review a progress report on the development of two PSAs.

A progress report or storyboard will not be available until August 2020.

I. Discuss a request "to create a new form of communication" to address anonymity on

From an area stating there's an urgent need for a new communication specifically addressing anonymity using social media. The communication could be in a format such as a postcard sized card, poster and/or tabletop card. "Principles Before Posting"

J. Consider a request to develop a plan to create an A.A. podcast.

Background from the Area that suggested it: it could cover topics such as Experience with Steps/Traditions/Concepts; The Service Manual; Experience/strength/hope from current and past trustees and delegates; Our different pieces of literature; The Grapevine and La Vina. Our non-alcoholic trustees could be utilized.

K. Review "A.A. Triennial Membership Survey" report.

Figuring out methodologies to be used in conducting future membership surveys to improve the data gathered.

L. Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook.

The committee has a kit (a selection of pamphlets, guidelines and other service materials pertinent to PI work) and a workbook (a unique publication of specific information to help PI committees) It is a standing agenda item to review these items for possible updating

IX. Report and Charter

A. Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*.

The background was sent to committee members only. The electronic anonymity-protected version was available to all last fall

B. Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S., and Western U.S.)

Last year, the committee requested that GSO explore alternative methods of accessing and distributing the contact information contained in the A.A. Directories. Background covers what info is in the directories, who uses them and why, how the info in them is compiled, costs to produce them, and a list of possible alternative tools and processes were explained for further discussion.

C. 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.

A sampling of the language removed "Women workers present still another problem. Our Headquarters is pretty much a man's world. Some men are apt to feel, unconsciously, that they are women's superiors, thus producing a reflex reaction in the gals." A group of people, including their delegate, is requesting to maintain the historical Integrity of our fellowship by returning to the practice of not changing Bill W.'s writings and print the 12 Concepts for World Service as originally written in 1962, as stated in the Preface to the Twelve Concepts. They feel the 66th GSC did not have available to them all the past advisory actions about not changing Bill's writing.

D. Consider amending a sentence in Article 4 of the current Conference Charter.

Add the words 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."

E. The A.A. Service Manual, 2020-2022 Edition

1. Review the draft and the agenda items that were forwarded to Publishing during the period of the redesign project.

They are making changes to make it user-friendly, in physical format, layout and organization of information; attractive and simple in both look and tone of content; and targeted to the user/reader and focused on relevant information The draft will only be distributed to members of the committee. A subsequent draft will be distributed to all GSC members just prior to the Conference.

X. Treatment and Accessibilities

A. Discuss the report on the review of materials related to Bridging the Gap activities.

Update on efforts to revise the pamphlet "Bridging the Gap Between Treatment and A.A. Through Contact Programs" to include related corrections activities. Other related materials may also be impacted - explore what can be combined/discontinued.

B. Consider request to develop a Bridging the Gap Workbook.

An Area requested this, to assist A.A. members who have Interest in BTG responsibilities in their Districts and Areas

C. Review progress regarding the pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic."

A request for stories was sent on August 12, 2019. A ranking matrix to review the new stories was developed and will be used on the 44 stories submitted. The stories had equal participation of female and male and a broad regional representation.

D. Review contents of Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook.

The committee has a kit (a selection of pamphlets, guidelines and other service materials pertinent to treatment work) and a workbook (a unique publication of specific information to help treatment committees) It is a standing agenda item to review these items for possible updating

E. Review contents of Accessibilities Committee Kit and Workbook.

The committee has a kit (a selection of pamphlets, guidelines and other service materials pertinent to accessibilities work) and a workbook (a unique publication of specific information to help accessibility committees) It is a standing agenda item to review these items for possible updating

XI. Trustees

A. Review resumes of candidates for:

1. West Central Regional Trustee
2. Western Canada Regional Trustee

1 & 2 - Only Conference Committee members and ultimately delegates from these regions will have access to the resumes

B. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.

C. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.

D. Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.

B-D - Lists the recommended slates of people to be voted on

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

A reorganization is not considered necessary at this time, but the trustees' Committee on Nominating was asked to develop procedures. To my non-legal eye, I would describe this less as "restructuring" and more how to remove and replace every single Class A and B trustee & nontrustee director. The background includes suggested language changes to the Conference Charter (see IX., D.), and ideas such as having pools of potential trustees that could serve on an interim board.

XII. Archives

A. Consider requests to develop a book on A.A. history from 1955 through the present.

The request came from 2 different Areas. Similar requests have been made in the past, and in fact many attempts have been made to write this previously, but no versions were approved by conference. Since this is an archival vs. a recovery type book it falls with this committee instead of Literature.

B. Review Archives Workbook.

The committee has a workbook (a unique publication of specific information to help archives committees) It is a standing agenda item to review these items for possible updating.

XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums

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

Right now, it is up to the chair to close with the Lord's Prayer, the Serenity Prayer, the Responsibility Declaration, or a moment of silence. The committee would like to discuss it, as some in the fellowship are uncomfortable with the Lord's Prayer.

B. Discuss upcoming 2020 International Convention.

No additional background given.

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

This is a standing agenda item. Background includes summaries of questionnaires given at 5 regional forums.