

*70th
General Service Conference (GSC)
2020*

Agenda Topic Summaries

*Pre Conference Assembly
April 3-5, 2020*



Abbreviations used to save space:

- "GSB" → General Service Board
- "GSC" → General Service Conference
- "PI" → Conference Committee on PI
- "AAWS" → AA World Services
- "GV" → Grapevine

Conference Committee: Agenda — Item A, B & C

Agenda Topic	Review suggestions for the theme, presentation/discussion topics, and workshop topic ideas of the 2020 GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<i>Theme, presentation/discussion and workshop topics revolve around basic principles of A.A. and can spark thought-provoking discussion at Area and district meetings as well. Regions, areas and districts often incorporate discussion of these topics into workshops, meetings, pre-Conference assemblies, etc. This gives all A.A. members the opportunity to participate and become more informed about A.A.</i> These items are discussed at every conference. It is a housekeeping item for the committee to pick the theme from the list of submitted ideas.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing, Committee will decide & recommend but...Submit suggestion for future themes.

Conference Committee: Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item A

Agenda Topic	Consider retiring the pamphlet "A.A. in Your Community"
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Submitter: "...it became evident that this pamphlet is poorly constructed for the intended audience and mis-informative of our program."
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with retiring this pamphlet? Why or Why not? Source: CPC committee, Area 11 Connecticut

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 idea came from the realization that many professionals who work in the mental health field have little knowledge of our program. Our experience in our service as well as personal lives has made clear that while many of these professionals are well versed in what we do, there remains a large amount of misconception and misinformation.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with creating this pamphlet? Why or Why not? Source: CPC committee, Area 11 Connecticut

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 majority opinion of the subcommittee is that Alcoholics Anonymous should have a Company Page on LinkedIn to enhance our cooperation with the professional community. It would offer another digital resource in addition to our website where professionals could find accurate information about A.A. and where we could address misconceptions; it would broaden the reach of <i>About A.A.</i> ; it could offer a venue for our professional friends to recommend us which is significant given the impact of peer to peer communication; it could expand the network of professional friends which could deepen the pool of Class A candidates; it could raise awareness of national and local professional conferences where A.A. would be exhibiting; and our presence on LinkedIn could reinforce the continuing relevance and efficacy of our Program.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with the continuing LinkedIn Page for C.P.C. committees? Why or Why not? Source: Report of subcommittee

Conference Committee: Corrections — Item A

Agenda Topic	Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Trustees committee reviews these service pieces - Kit & Workbook contents annually. Ideas & suggestions are sent in throughout the year. Ideas or changes can be implemented or become Additional Considerations at the next conference.
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this topic. Committees are encouraged to relay ideas directly to the delegate. Always on the Agenda

Conference Committee: Finance — Item A-1

Agenda Topic	Review the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”. 1. Consider a request to revise the pie chart percentages on page 12.										
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In the pamphlet ”Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” on page 12, I would like to see the percentages on the pie chart changed back to the following: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">(top chart)</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">(bottom chart)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">30% to district</td> <td style="text-align: center;">60% to district</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">20% to area committee</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30% to area</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10% to G.S.O.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10% to G.S.O</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">40% to intergroup or central office</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Here is my reasoning. I do not think that group contributions to G.S.O. should have the same percentage (and certainly not a higher percentage) than district and Area because a district in our area has only a total of between 5 to 40 groups in which to receive group contributions coming in. (We all know that not 100% of groups are able to send any contributions at all.) Our area only has 200 some odd groups to receive contributions from. On the other hand G.S.O. has all the groups in Canada and the USA to receive contributions from. It seems logical that the less amount of groups you have to receive contributions from, the higher the percentage you need to get in order to carry the message <i>locally</i>.</p>	(top chart)	(bottom chart)	30% to district	60% to district	20% to area committee	30% to area	10% to G.S.O.	10% to G.S.O	40% to intergroup or central office	
(top chart)	(bottom chart)										
30% to district	60% to district										
20% to area committee	30% to area										
10% to G.S.O.	10% to G.S.O										
40% to intergroup or central office											
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with the request to revise the pie chart percentages? Why or Why Not? Source: Past Delegate, Area 66, Panel 48										

Conference Committee: Finance — Item A-2

Agenda Topic	Review the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”. 2. Consider request regarding contribution percentages to service entities.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Specifically, the center and bottom pie charts illustrated on page 13 of the pamphlet depict the seemingly sanctioned division of contribution funds between service entities. As the delivery of services varies, sometimes greatly, from Area to Area, and between districts, and among central offices/intergroups, we believe that GSO should not make any suggestions about contributions to these entities. Instead, we propose that the one pie chart without filled-in percentages (top illustration) be retained and the <i>following text</i> be added to p. 7 and p. 13: “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.” BACKGROUND: Our Area feels that the middle pie chart illustrated on page 13 of said pamphlet construes a seemingly sanctioned division of funds between 4 entities (10% to district; 10% to area committee; 30% to GSO and 50% to intergroup or central office).
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with revising the pie chart showing percentages NOT filled in and text added to p. 7 and 13? Why or Why not? Source: Past Delegate, Area 61, Panel 68

Conference Committee: Finance — Item A-3

Agenda Topic	Review the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”. 3. Consider draft language related to the “virtual basket.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	A number of groups have utilized digital payment platforms as an adjunct to passing the basket in the conventional sense in order to provide opportunities for cashless contributions. There are different payment platforms to facilitate this service and it is up to the group to determine which one to use. Some groups have found that a smartphone app-based payment platform is the most efficient, seamless and minimally disruptive solution for providing a digital contribution. Experience suggests that the treasurer is a likely choice to handle digital contributions, though some groups add more than one trusted servant to share the responsibilities or create a new service position to inform the group about digital payment options and assist other group members who are interested in contributing this way.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with the request add draft language regarding virtual basket?? Why or Why Not? Source: AAWS Ad Hoc Committee on Self-Support.

Conference Committee: Literature — Item S (ASSIGNED TO FINANCE)

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?	<p>In the brochures P-2 and FP-2, “Frequently Asked Questions About AA / Foire aux questions sur les AA”; in English on page 17 and in French on pages 17 and 18, the question “What does membership in AA cost?” we have a problem with the answer which state that most local groups “pass the hat” at meeting to defray the cost of renting a meeting place <i>and other meeting expenses, including coffee, sandwiches, cakes or whatever else may be served.</i></p> <p>The pamphlet P2 should be directed towards people wanting information on AA. Is it necessary to tell them that AA is a catering service where we pay for cakes and sandwiches and whatever else may be served? That paragraph is not part of the information that AA should be passing at large. And if really we have to inform the public of what the AA groups do with the seventh Tradition, let’s do it with the language of F3. Once they decided that they want what we have to offer, then and only when they become part of a group conscience, should we inform them of what is being done with the 7th Tradition.</p> <p>In the pamphlet F3, there is only mention of the basic group expenses for example rent, refreshment, AA literature... there are no mention of items like cake, sandwiches or whatever else may be served.</p> <p>There is no mention anywhere in our traditions of feeding or catering to our members. Let’s please correct our literature.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you think the text should be revised as suggested? Why or Why not? Source: Delegate Panel 69 Area 88 Southeast Quebec

Conference Committee: Grapevine — Item A

Agenda Topic	Consider list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2018 or later.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p><u>Suggestions for production in the year 2020 or later</u></p> <p>1.Step Three — Turning it Over (working title) Previously published stories from the pages of Grapevine by AA members about their various experiences with Step 3.</p> <p>2.Character Defects - Steps 6 & 7 (working title) Previously published stories by AA members about their experience with Steps 6 and 7, from the pages of Grapevine.</p> <p>3.AA and Families in Recovery (working title) (La Viña Book) Spanish-speaking AA members share experiences about how drinking affects the whole family and how AA helps repair them, from the pages of La Viña.</p> <p>4. Old-timers Stories (working title) (La Viña Book) Long-time Spanish-speaking AA members share their experience, strength and hope, from the pages of La Viña.</p> <p>5.Twelve Steps (working title) (La Viña Book) Spanish-speaking AA members share stories of experience with AA's Twelve Steps, from the pages of La Viña</p> <p>All books: Softcover: Approx. 100-200 pps Projected unit cost (includes printing and design) \$2.50 per book (10,000 piece print run) Price: \$11.50 eBook Estimated project cost: \$2,000. Price: \$9.99</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	What does your Group think about the proposed publications? Do they have any additional ideas for a Grapevine book? Source: Staff report

Conference Committee: Grapevine — Item D & E

Agenda Topic	Consider revising the A.A. Preamble.
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	<p>D. ...to use gender neutral pronouns. For example, “Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other...”</p> <p>E. ...to change the language of the first sentence of the A.A. Preamble as follows: “Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share...”</p>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2018 and 2019, AA Grapevine received six requests to revise the A.A. Preamble.</p> <p>D. Revise the 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..." "...our group frequently receives attendees that identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. Some of these are newcomers who haven't experienced Alcoholics Anonymous before. There are also members of our group that identify as such. We value the Preamble...However, we feel that this wording is not all-inclusive.”</p> <p>E. “...request that our trusted servants at Grapevine Inc. change the language of the AA Preamble to as follows: "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people..." Tradition 3 tells us that A.A. is always inclusive, and never exclusive. Our AA Preamble is in conflict with inclusivity. An estimated 2 million Transgender People live in the United States and Canada -- they are two and a half times as likely to abuse alcohol than their Cisgender peers. One in five Transgender People do not identify as male or female. Gendered language in AA is a barrier to accessing our life-saving program of recovery from alcoholism.”</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	<p>Do you agree to revise the preamble to reflect gender neutral text? Why or Why not? Source D: Staff Report Source E: GSR, Area 29, Maryland</p>

Conference Committee: Grapevine — Item F

Agenda Topic	Consider request to develop an A.A. Grapevine pamphlet on how the AA Grapevine can be utilized to carry the A.A. message.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The new pamphlet might be titled something like: "How to use the A.A. Grapevine to Carry the A.A. Message." And should include the A.A. Grapevine Statement of purpose. And could also include separate sections discussing how to use the A.A. Grapevine in specific areas of A.A. life, such as:</p> <p>1. Meeting topics, 2. Correctional Facilities, 3. Probation and Parole, 4. Treatment facilities, etc.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	<p>Do you think an AA Grapevine pamphlet is needed? Why or Why Not? Source: Area 39 Literature Chair</p>

Conference Committee: Grapevine — Item G

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to change the name of the GSC Committee on Grapevine to the Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>There has been much positive growth in uniformity by the GSC with regard to the relationship between The Grapevine magazine for the English speaking community and La Viña for the Spanish speaking community. By expanding upon the name of this committee it will enhance the relationship between our "international journals" and provide a positive display of unity.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	<p>Do you agree with this name change? Why or Why Not? Source: Area 13, Washington DC</p>

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.
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Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<i>"The committee reviewed the 2018 Grapevine social media report regarding Instagram, Facebook, and Google for Nonprofits and suggests that A.A. Grapevine, Inc. continue to explore social media strategy in their forthcoming strategic plan, taking into account issues regarding anonymity, security, affiliation, outside contributions, privacy and promotion."</i> Why use Instagram? More than the images that it is so well known for, Instagram makes imagery engaging, evoking primal emotions —such as humor, concern, awe, or intrigue. Instagram is another platform with which to work with non-profits. With most users being of a younger demographic, Instagram will very likely reach many subscribers and members that AA Grapevine, Inc., currently does not reach. More than 500 million people have an Instagram account and 59 percent of online adults ages 18-29 use the network. More than 300 million of them use it daily.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree to establishing an Instagram account? Why or Why Not? Source: AA Grapevine Social Strategies Report

Conference Committee: Literature — Item G

Agenda Topic	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?	Energetic, illustrative of services and professional activity, Creative approaches to anonymity protection, Shorter, by 8:30, "Your GSO/GV/GSS" produced in numerous, near stand-alone segments: GSO overall as well as Archives, Publishing, Staff Assignments, and Visiting GSO GV Office overall as well as GV publications and La Viña publications, General Service Structure overall,", Extensive interviews and coverage to make source material available for future projects
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this topic. Conference committee members only. Final draft is sent to members of the Conference Literature Committee only. They deliberate during the Conference committee and make recommendations to the full Conference. However I viewed at Delegates’ Get Together and was quite impressed. Source: Staff Report

Conference Committee: Literature — Item I-1

Agenda Topic	1. Discuss draft update of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The trustees’ Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward an updated draft version of “Twelve Traditions Illustrated” to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature.
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this topic. Conference committee members only. Final draft is sent to members of the Conference Literature Committee only. They deliberate during the Conference committee and make recommendations to the full Conference

Conference Committee: Literature — Item I-2

Agenda Topic	2. Consider not retiring the existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The trustees’ Literature Committee requested that the Conference Literature committee consider not retiring the current version of the pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated” noting the wealth and depth of material contained in the current pamphlet and its current distribution numbers.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with not retiring the current pamphlet Why or Why not? Source: Trustees Report

Conference Committee: Literature— Item J -1

Agenda Topic	A.A.W.S. Policy (Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials)
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This policy sets forth the standards for determining whether or not a new piece of literature, or changes to an existing piece of literature, needs consideration by the GSC prior to publication by A.A.W.S. This is a modified version of when Publishing may

	update conference-approved literature w/o the changes going to conference. Last year’s version required only approval of the GSO Management to move forward in updating and publishing an existing piece of literature. The new versions requires forwarding the draft to the Trustee Committee., then if approved, to the full conference for vote prior to publication.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with the policy as stated? Why or Why Not? Source: TLC Reports

Conference Committee: Literature— Item J -2

Agenda Topic	A.A.W.S. Policy – (Conversion of Written Conference-approved Literature and Service Material into Video Format)
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Each year the A.A.W.S. Board will present to the GSC 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Prioritization of which items to convert to video <input type="checkbox"/> Key concerns to keep in mind during the development of any individual item <input type="checkbox"/> The membership’s desire NOT to convert a specific item to video <input type="checkbox"/> The membership’s desire to include items not on the list <input type="checkbox"/> Estimated cost/time for each item
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with the policy as stated? Why or Why Not? Source: TLC Reports

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 <u>can be addressed with a common solution.</u>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The subcommittee has been tasked with identifying and gathering information about the issues driving both previous and current requests regarding the language and tools to access the book Alcoholics Anonymous. The objective is to collect relevant information concerning all aspects related to these issues to facilitate a broader, more fully informed discussion at both the board and conference levels. Two main themes have been identified from our discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Accessibility – due to the literacy level or lack of ability to adequately comprehend the message of recovery by the individual as written in the book Alcoholics Anonymous. <input type="checkbox"/> Relatability – changes in current language and culture (including views on modern language, gender and religion) which hinder the individual’s ability to relate and embrace the program as set forth in the book Alcoholics Anonymous.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree continuing to finding a “common solution” to the requested “translations/workbooks?” Why or Why not? Source: TLC Reports

Conference Committee: Literature — Item L - 1

Submitter: Area 13, Washington DC

Agenda Topic	Consider requests to revise the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>: (Note: 4th edition) 1. 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?	As many groups read from the text, “Alcoholics Anonymous,” it would be helpful to include “ <i>The A.A. Group</i> ” pamphlet its appendix. 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 the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree to include the AA Group pamphlet as an appendix to the Big Book? Why or Why Not? Source: Member, Area 13, Washington DC

Conference Committee: Literature — Item L - 2**Submitter: District 55, Area 59 (no area vote)**

Agenda Topic	Consider requests to revise the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>: 2. Revise the first 164 pages
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	We recommend that the Conference form a study committee to audit the first 164 pages of the Big Book with the purpose of identifying changes that can be made to make the Big Book more reflective of the A.A. membership composition. The focus should be on identifying the following for possible change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • The chapters <i>To Wives and The Family Afterward</i> should specifically be evaluated for revisions to be more consistent with today's membership.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree to revising the first 164 pages of the Big Book? Why or Why Not? Source: Member, District 55, Area 59

Conference Committee: Literature — Item M - 1

Agenda Topic	Consider proposals related to possible Fifth Edition of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> 1. Develop a Fifth Edition
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The committee reviewed requests for proposed Conference agenda items related to the possible development of a Fifth Edition of the book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> . The committee recognized the priority of addressing whether or not a Fifth Edition of the book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> , might be developed before addressing items related to content and format changes.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you believe we should begin development of a 5th Edition of the Big Book? Why or why not? Source: Area 20, North Illinois

Conference Committee: Literature — Item M - 2

Agenda Topic	Consider proposals related to possible Fifth Edition of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> 2. Develop a Fifth Edition of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> with updated stories and revisions to Appendices III and V.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Sampling of suggested changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stories should emphasize current <i>sobriety</i>. • The request to update the appendices isn't intended to remove any of the current language, but rather to expand on existing ideas in Appendices III and V. • Update Appendix III (The Medical View on A.A.) to include more information on mental illness. The language could be similar to (or directly lifted from) "The A.A. Member Medications and Other Drugs." Specifically, page 6 of the pamphlet, where it talks about some alcoholics needing medication. • Appendix III references a pamphlet that is now out of print. It says, "This address is now available in pamphlet form...under the title <i>Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.</i>" • Update Appendix V and include perspectives from different faiths. Currently, the only perspectives offered are from Father Ed Dowling, who was Catholic, and an Episcopalian magazine. There are many other faiths that can be included - Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, etc. • The fellowship is overdue for a new edition of the book. Historically, there is an approximately 20-year average between the different editions of the Big Book (1st edition, 1939; 2nd edition, 1955; 3rd edition, 1976; 4th edition, 2001).
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with revising the appendices as requested? Why or Why Not?

Conference Committee: Literature — Item M - 3

Agenda Topic	Consider proposals related to possible Fifth Edition of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> 3. Add a proposed addendum to a fifth Edition foreword of the book Alcoholics Anonymous at the time it is published.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Consider a proposed addendum to a Fifth Edition forward, of the book Alcoholics Anonymous, at the time it is published. The addendum of gender terms is written with the intent that all who are seeking answers (help) for a drinking problem are encouraged to give Alcoholics Anonymous a try. ... We find there are many who find the gender terms of the Big Book somewhat insensitive in this era. AA addresses many "issues" people find problematic in the program but the bias of the gender terms in the Big Book are not undertaken anywhere that we can find... Our proposal mentions adding as an addendum and since this is what we voted on, I am not changing the wording but it is meant as an addition to the forward.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with adding an addendum to the 5th edition? Why or Why Not? Source: Area 06, California Northern Coastal

Conference Committee: Literature — Item N

Agenda Topic	Consider development of a draft Fourth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonimos. (Current translation is in the Third Edition).
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda? Educational purposes only!	The (trustees) committee tabled discussion on the 2019 Conference floor action which resulted in an Advisory Action: "That the proposed floor action that 'A draft Fourth Edition of the Spanish Big Book, <i>Alcohólicos Anónimos</i> , be developed and a progress report be brought to the 2020 GSC... <i>NOTE: A motion to commit or recommit a recommendation (or floor action) is a procedural action. It does not approve or disapprove the recommendation under debate, nor does it mean that the recommendation will be implemented. The motion to recommit moves the discussion of the recommendation from the floor of the Conference to a trustee's committee or corporate board.</i>
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this topic. However, do you agree to the development of a 4th Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonimos? Why or Why Not? Source: 2019 Conference Advisory Action

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? Educational purposes only!	The (trustees) committee reviewed additional background and discussed the 2019 Conference floor action which resulted in an Advisory Action: That the proposed floor action that "The pamphlet 'A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic' be updated and a progress report and/or a draft be presented to the 2020 GSC" be committed to the trustees' Literature Committee. The (trustees) committee agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature a request that the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic" be updated. The committee recognized the need for the pamphlet to be updated and looks forward to discussion at the 2020 GSC.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree that the pamphlet "AA for the Black and African-American Alcoholic" needs to be updated? Why or why not? Source: GSR, District 10, Indiana

Conference Committee: Literature — Item P-1

Agenda Topic	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."
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Area 15 Discussion (<i>Motion did not carry a 2/3 vote for the area to put forth</i>) Against <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If we start changing anything, where would we stop? • That as written, the 12x12 was good enough to get them sober, so it's good enough for Everyone

	<p>In Favor of the changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The removal of the few words would be more inclusive • It was religious in nature • Some members were personally offended by the text as written
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree to revise the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> by removing this phrase? Why or Why Not? Source: DCM, District 1, Area 15

Conference Committee: Literature — Item P-2

Agenda Topic	<p>Consider requests to revise the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>:</p> <p>2. To reconsider use of the phrase “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six.”</p>
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>We make this request for the following reasons:</p> <p>a) Lust is not the cause of rape. The cause of rape is complex and multifaceted. In a 2015 literary review on the causes of rape, Beverly A. McPhail concludes that "rape occurs due to multiple motives rather than [a] single motivation ... The multiple motivations include, but are not limited to, sexual gratification, revenge, recreation, power/control, and attempts to achieve or perform masculinity and a desire for power, among other causes" (8). In stating so plainly that lust leads to rape, these words are hugely misleading. This inaccuracy at best misinforms AA members and at worst triggers AA members--many of whom are sexual assault survivors.</p> <p>b) The causes of sexual assault were not studied, well-known, or understood when Bill W. wrote that sentence. We owe it to all the people in Alcoholics Anonymous who have experienced sexual assault in any way to be accurate and supportive in our mention or discussion of this issue.</p> <p>c) Use of the words "rape" or "sexual assault" in one of our main pieces of literature, the <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>, are unnecessary. Words that have such potential to provoke trauma belong in literature that's more narrowly focused, like pamphlets.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree to revising the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> by changing the terminology? Why or Why Not? Source: Group and Area letters

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?	...suggest that the title of <i>Living Sober</i> be amended to read: <i>Living Sober How not to take the first drink</i> This would, of course, necessitate updating the introduction to the booklet.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Does your group feel that this is a needed change? Why or why not? Source: Group letter

Conference Committee: Literature — Item R

Agenda Topic	Consider request to revise text related to open meetings in the pamphlet “The A.A. Group.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Moved, that the language in the pamphlet “The A.A. Group”, Page 13, concerning open meetings be revised to omit the text “Non-alcoholics may attend open meetings as observers”.</p> <p>Background: This suggestion is an effort again to achieve consistency in our literature, since it was decided at the 69th Conference not to add this phrase to the Blue Card. The lack of consistency in our literature was cited in the Communications Audit. So, it would seem consistency in our definition of an open meeting, one of our core functions, is critical. Additionally, members have expressed concerns regarding autonomy within the groups and the potential of silencing the alcoholic who does not yet realize they are one.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree revising text related to open meetings in the pamphlet? Why or Why Not? Source: Member, Area 14, North Florida

Conference Committee: Literature — Item T-1

Agenda Topic	Consider revising the pamphlet “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship”: 1. Change the suggestion that sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Systemic barriers within A.A. make it an unwelcoming place for transgender people to find recovery. Throughout our pamphlets, our literature, and our meeting formats, Alcoholics Anonymous maintains a strict segregation of men and women. This segregation leaves transgender alcoholics at risk of misunderstanding, ostracism, rejection, and even violence.
Group	Do you agree to changing the text relating to “same sex”? Why or Why Not? Source: Group Member, New York

Conference Committee: Literature — Item T-2

Agenda Topic	Consider revising the pamphlet “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship”: 2. Expand the section on “Service Sponsorship” and retitle the pamphlet to include service sponsorship.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Our Area considers service sponsorship to be of great importance and recommends to those trusted servants doing work beyond their Home Group and the GSRs within our groups that they ask someone to be their service sponsor. (The) recommendation will provide the AA members doing this vital service work assistance to better serve the Fellowship.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree revising the pamphlet to expand on service sponsorship and retitled? Why or Why Not? Source: Area 44 Group, Area 21 Southern Illinois

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?	“We are the General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the GSC 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.” ...reasons: 1. The G.S.R. Preamble is a clear-cut directive to G.S.R.’s regarding their responsibility. 2. Adding the G.S.R. Preamble to the pamphlet would provide consistency, and thus, unity across A.A. as a whole.3. If added, it would affirm Conference approval when read at District and Area Functions.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with adding the GSR preamble in the pamphlet? Why or Why Not? Source: Group, Area 21 Southern Illinois

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item G

Agenda Topic	Review the Floor Actions Process.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	... proposes that a review of the GSC Floor Action process is necessary to prevent any Conference member from circumventing the normal Conference process, which involves adequate study of background materials, careful discussion, and a fully-informed vote, resulting in a substantial unanimity which reflects the true voice of the A.A. fellowship in the United States and Canada.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree the Floor Action process needs review? Why and Why Not? Source: Area 29, Maryland

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?	Launched in August 2019: Active users: 235 thousand. Support website available for participating entities and those who may want to participate: https://meetingguide.aa.org/ Next steps:

	1. Finalize guidance videos for app, • Post on YouTube and include links on aa.org FAQ page.2. Finalize Policies and Guidelines:
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing, the committee will decide & may forward any recommendation to the Conference. Source: G.S.O. Communications Services Department progress report

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?	The purpose of this project is to give A.A. an additional outlet to provide accurate information to the still suffering alcoholic and the public about Alcoholics Anonymous and how to contact us.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing, the committee will decide & may forward any recommendation to the Conference. Source: G.S.O. Communication Services Dept. Google Ads/LegitScript Progress Report

Conference Committee: Public Information — Items G

Agenda Topic	Review a draft plan to create video shorts based on A.A. pamphlets
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	We will be converting selected A.A. pamphlets and creating video shorts from the text. As part of the process a freelance copywriter will be part of the process. They will edit and finesse the text also known as “copy”. The copywriter...will also set the timing for the video short. The length of the video can be anywhere between 1 -3:50 mins in length. The length of the video can vary, it all depends on the content of the pamphlet.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Nothing, the committee will review and may forward any recommendation to the Conference. Source: Report of the trustees' committee on Public Information

Conference Committee: Public Information — Items 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?	...to create a new form of communication specifically addressing the use of social media and anonymity. Highlighting anonymity can be a life or death issue. Specific education for current and future members about anonymity using social media is our responsibility.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree that a new form of communications needs development? Why or Why Not? Source: Report of the trustees' committee on Public Information

Conference Committee: Public Information — Items J

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to develop a plan to create an A.A. podcast.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	...consider utilizing class A trustees as our communications audit has found that our class A trustees are under-utilized. This would eliminate any concern about breaking of anonymity as class A trustees are not alcoholic. The podcast could address the issue that communication is inconsistent throughout the conference structure” (communications audit) and can help to bridge the information gap created by the varieties of people within the service structure with varying communication skills, which leads to inconsistencies in the information being provided to individual A.A. members.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with development of an AA podcast? Why or Why Not? Source: Report of the trustees' committee on Public Information

Conference Committee: Public Information — Item K

Agenda Topic	Review “A.A. Triennial Membership Survey” report.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Like many organizations, A.A. has a reasonable desire to understand and describe its membership. In pursuit of this goal, since 1968, the GSO has conducted a survey of its membership every three to four years. It uses the results to assess its operations and success at outreach and service, to keep members informed about current trends in membership characteristics, and to provide information about A.A. to the professional community and the general public.

	<p>Consistent with the request of the GSO for an assessment of the sampling protocol and opportunities for its improvement, this report has examined the sampling methodology of The Survey conducted by the A.A. GSO. Overall, it finds that the existing methodology is sound, but it identifies ways it might be improved, both in terms of the sampling strategy itself and in terms of related issues. It also notes that there is value in maintaining consistency over time, and that the value associated with the possible changes it recommends should be carefully assessed in order to determine which it will be useful to implement, and which may not be feasible or appropriate because of logistical, budgetary, or other concerns. Recognizing the value that understanding and being able to describe its membership accurately provides to A.A. and those interested in the organization’s work.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	<p>Do you agree a Membership Survey is useful? Why or Why Not? Source: Report of the trustees’ committee on Public Information</p>

Conference Committee: Report & Charter — Item B

Agenda Topic	Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.A. and Western U.S.)
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The (2019) committee considered the A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S., and Western U.S.) especially in light of the new ERP System and the Meeting Guide App, and requested that the General Service Office explore alternative methods of accessing and distributing the contact information contained in the A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S., and Western U.S.) Copies of the current directories are made available, if needed, to members of the committee only.</p>
What the Delegate needs to know?	<p>Do you agree alternative methods of distributing contact information should be explored? Why or Why Not? From the 2019 Additional Committee Consideration</p>

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 GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In order to maintain the Historical Integrity of our Fellowship, we are requesting that the GSC return to the practice of not changing Bill W.’s writings and to also return to the policy of printing the Twelve Concepts for World Service as originally written by Bill W. in 1962, as stated in the Preface to the Twelve Concepts.</p> <p>The 66th GSC Advisory Action of the Report and Charter Committee removed two paragraphs from the 11th Concept Essay, which is the writing of our co-founder, Bill Wilson. The Agenda item read: Agenda Item A: the AA Service Manual, 2016-2017 Edition 6. Consider request to revise text in the Concept Eleven Essay regarding “male/female” distinctions in the Twelve Concepts for World Service.</p> <p>Paragraphs involved: <i>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. Then, too, some of us – of both sexes – have been emotionally damaged in the area of man-woman relations. Our drinking has made us wrongly dependent on our marriage partners. We have turned them into our moms” and “pops” and then we have deeply resented that situation. Perhaps maladjustment has taken still other turns which leave us with a hangover of hostility that we are apt to project into any manwoman relatedness that we undertake.</i></p> <p><i>It is possible for these forces to defeat the good working partnerships we would like to have. But if we are fully aware of these tendencies they can be the more easily overcome, and forgiven. We can be aware also that any sound working relation between adult men and women must be in the character of a partnership, a non-competitive one in which each partner complements the other. It is not a question of superiority or inferiority at all. Men, for example, because they are men, are apt to be better at business. But suppose we replaced our six women staff members with six men? In these positions could the men possibly relate themselves so uniquely and so effectively to our Fellowship as the women?</i></p>

	<i>Of course not. The women can handle this assignment far better, just because they are women.”</i>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with these two paragraphs being reinserted in the service manual? Why or Why Not? Source: Group, Area 60 WPA

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?	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 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. Be amended to read: 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.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with the noted amendment? Why or Why Not? Source: the trustees’ Nominating Committee

Conference Committee: Report & Charter — Item E

Agenda Topic	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.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Regarding the draft, Publishing is following a similar process to what was done back in 1997-99, the last time the Conference had asked for a “thorough review” of the Service Manual. They began with the goals which were agreed upon by the 2019 Report and Charter committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User-friendly, in terms of physical format, layout and organization of information; • Attractive and inviting in look and tone of content; • Simple rather than complicated, again, both in look and tone of content; • Targeted to the user/reader and focused on relevant information. Publishing worked closely with a freelance writer, then refined it during the Fall of 2019. Publishing then consulted with a book designer, and after reviewing a number of graphic design approaches, they arrived at a format based on user-friendliness, readability, simplicity and, ultimately, adaptability to the French and Spanish editions.
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this topic. Conference committee members only. Final draft is sent to members of the Conference Report & Charter Committee only. They deliberate during the Conference committee and make recommendations to the full Conference. Note: As described above, Draft 4 will only be distributed to members of the Report & Charter committee. The subsequent draft will be distributed to all GSC members just prior to the Conference. Source: A.A.W.S. Publishing Department

Conference Committee: Treatment/Accessibilities — Item B

Agenda Topic	Consider request to develop a Bridging the Gap Workbook
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	There are currently pamphlets available from GS0 regarding Bridging the Gap, but there is not a BTG Workbook. The Bridging the Gap Workbook would combine the Most important aspects drawn from both the GS0 Corrections and Treatment Workbooks to achieve a complete understanding of the overall Bridging the Gap process.

What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree a Bridging the Gap workbook is needed? Why or Why Not? Source: BTG Coordinator, District 10, Area 69
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Conference Committee:

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?	<i>The (trustees) committee considered a request to “Develop a definitive book on A.A. history from 1955 – 1985, working title, Alcoholics Anonymous Continues to Age or A.A., The Next 30 Years.” The committee also considered a second request to “Develop a book titled, A.A. Comes of Age II.” The committee noted the similarities between the two requests and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Archives the requests to consider the development of a book on A.A. history from 1955 through the present.</i>
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with the request to publish a new book on AA history? Why or Why not? Source: Area 29 and Area 55

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?	"For the last 4 Internationals...the closings for the Big Meetings have been Friday night: Lord's Prayer, Saturday night: Serenity Prayer and Sunday morning: Responsibility Statement. ...GSO has historically received communications in favor or against one or any of the closings. For the most part the communications have been evenly distributed. The current closing distribution hopes to include all views. "
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you have an opinion on how the big meetings should be closed? Why or Why Not? Source: Area 49, SE New York,

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 2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 2–5, 2020 in Detroit, Michigan with the theme “ Love and Tolerance is our Code. ” A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.’s 85th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Ford Field Stadium. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, will take place throughout the weekend in the COBO Center in downtown Detroit. Further information on aa.org.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Hope you are able to attend. FYI, future International Conventions may be on dates other than July 4th weekend for more favorable event planning.