



AREA 50 – 72nd General Service Conference Background Summary

Suggestions for developing your home group’s informed conscience for our Area:

1. Consider sharing this summary with your Group, as soon as you can.
Due to the “Equitable Distribution of Workload” (EDW), 15 items were redistributed among the committees. Most of the items were redistributed from the Conference Committee on Literature as follows: 1 item to CPC; 2 items to each of the Finance, Report and Charter, Treatment and Accessibilities, and Trustees Committees; and 3 items to each of Policy/Admissions and Corrections Committees. If you are looking for a particular Literature Agenda Item, it may be in one of the committees listed above and is denoted as “(EDW from Literature)”.
2. Let your DCM know if your Group wants to be responsible for an item(s) below! You will have the opportunity to present on the agenda item(s) at area workshop(s) and at the Pre-Conference Assembly. You don’t need to come up with an opinion or a solution – just present the information (facts w/pros and cons). The workshops will be at least virtual, and possibly hybrid as well.
3. Encourage all members to register for NERAASA, to be held 2/25-2/27/22 in Pittsburgh by registering at www.NERAASA.org. See your DCM if your group needs support with the \$25 registration fee. We do not want the registration fee to prohibit our GSRs from attending – the Area can help (It’s God’s Money after all)!
4. Then, attend the workshops to be held during the weekend of March 26-27th. Please check the event schedule at www.area50wny.org in March for dates, times, virtual locations, and additional possible in-person options as well.
5. Connect with your Delegate and Alternate Delegate during Virtual “Delegate’s Office Hour” on Wednesdays 6-7pm from February 23rd through March 16th, 2022. This is an open format for sharing of information, or questions pertaining to the Agenda items below.
Zoom Meeting ID: 847 154 8048. Password: Area50 .
6. If you would like the full background information behind any or all of the items below, please contact your Delegate at p72delegate@area50wny.org. **To preserve anonymity, the background cannot be posted on any non-password protected websites.**
7. As a group, complete the Delegate’s Questionnaire (on Google Poll) which will be distributed prior to the workshops via invitation link on email to DCMs and GSRs. Look for the  next to the items below, denoting that **the item is likely to be on the Delegate’s Questionnaire**. This does not mean this item is more important than others, but rather denotes a larger chance that our Area’s Informed Group Conscience will be called upon at the General Service Conference.
8. **Attend the Pre-Conference Assembly on April 9, 2022 and carry your Group’s Conscience.**

Thank you for your love of, and service to A.A. !

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve shoulder to shoulder with you,
Denise M.

Area 50, Panel 72 Delegate, Report and Charter, Archives Committees (at the Conference)
p72delegate@area50wny.org



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Denotes an item likely to be on the Delegate’s questionnaire, and for which the Delegate will want your group’s feedback.

Conference Committee: Agenda A

Agenda Item:	Review Suggestions for the theme of the 2023 General Service Conference
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	This is a standing agenda item to select the theme for the GSC for the following year. This theme can be used all year by the Areas, Districts and Groups as well, incorporating into workshops and assemblies.
What your group might consider:	Discuss proposed list to determine your Group’s preferred theme. Do you have another Theme to suggest?

Conference Committee: Agenda B

Agenda Item:	Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2023 General Service Conference
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	This is a standing agenda item to select the presentation/discussion topics for the next year. The presentations are included in the final conference report for all to read.
What your group might consider:	Discuss the proposed list to determine your Group’s preferred presentation/discussion topics. Do you have other presentation/discussion topics to suggest?

Conference Committee: Agenda C

Agenda Item:	Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2023 General Service Conference.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	This is a standing agenda item to select the workshop topic idea for the next year.
What your group might consider:	Discuss the proposed list to determine your Group’s preferred workshop. Do you other workshop topics to suggest?

Conference Committee: Agenda D

Agenda Item:	Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, distribution process and 2021 Evaluation Summary.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	This is a standing agenda item to review the 2021 evaluations by Conference Delegates. This year, the evaluation also includes feedback on the Equitable Distribution of Workload pilot (year one of three).
What your group might consider:	Review Background. Does your Group have any new suggestions or ideas?

Conference Committee: Agenda E

Agenda Item:	Discuss progress report on Conference improvement.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	During the Conference, the committee will review the progress report of the 2021-2022 Subcommittee on Conference Improvements (SCI). One of the items was a review of a request to alternate between an in-person General Service

	Conference (GSC) and a virtual GSC, every other year, as a cost-saving approach, based on learning from the previous two virtual GSCs. In addition, a Special Board Presentation: Online Participation in the Service Structure was added to the GSC agenda for 2022.
What your group might consider:	Review suggested GSC schedule ideas and ideas about what to stop doing. Discuss the suggestions. Does your Group have any additional suggestions?

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

Agenda Item:	Review progress report on A.A.W.S. LinkedIn page
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>2017 Additional Committee Consideration requested continuing to explore establishing a presence on LinkedIn. 2018 Advisory Action for A.A.W.S. to develop a LinkedIn page where professionals can find accurate info about AA, to broaden reach of A.A. Newsletter for professionals, offer a platform where our friends can recommend us, raise awareness of A.A. exhibits at national and local professional conferences, expand network of professional friends, and reinforce the relevance and efficacy of A.A. to professionals. 2019 conference committee discussed report on LinkedIn progress and did not feel the 2018 goals for development had yet been reached, and suggested changes to LinkedIn Page, including handling of content and non-affiliation. The LinkedIn page was edited and launched on 11/19/19. The 2021 advisory action recommended establishing a more dynamic LinkedIn page with relevant content, providing a report on usefulness and effectiveness of implementation. Stats on page: 1600 followers, 1506 page views, 578 unique visitors.</p> <p>The following high-priority content is being developed for posting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● "About A.A." releases ● Link to Box 4-5-9/Sharing from Behind the Walls ● The holiday issue of Box 459 with the 12 steps to stay sober during the holidays ● Press releases -7 per year with Public Information ● Yearly anonymity letter with links to additional anonymity resource ● New videos appropriate to the professional audience ● Vacancy announcements (Boards/Nominating) ● Employment opportunities (Office/Human Resources) ● A.A. Events hosted by G.S.O or where Board/Office members will be present. Specifically, any event professionals can attend as guests. This can include professional conferences where A.A. may have a C.P.C. display. ● Seek Grapevine and La Vina resources that are relevant for the professionals. ● Assess the use of hashtags for the LinkedIn postings
What your group might consider:	Review and discuss progress report and LinkedIn page. Does the AAWS LinkedIn page and the content being developed meet the goals of the 2021 Advisory Action and the recommendations for a dynamic page? Does your Group Think AAWS should do something differently?
Access to LinkedIn page:	https://www.linkedin.com/company/aaworldservicesinc/

Conference Committee: **Cooperation with the Professional Community B**

Agenda Item:	Review suggested revisions for the draft pamphlet "A.A. in Your Community"
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<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p> 	<p>The Conference Committee made a recommendation in 2020 to update the pamphlet with a focus on modern professional settings and consider those who consume content in various formats, suggesting the following be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Meeting Guide App • AAWS and AAGV YouTube Channels • AAWS LinkedIn page • Space to leave contact information
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Does your Group agree with the updates to the pamphlet?</p>
<p>Access to <u>current</u> version of item:</p>	<p>https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-31_AAinyourcommunity.pdf</p>

Conference Committee: **Cooperation with the Professional Community C**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Review progress report on the development of outward facing pamphlets for the mental health professionals.</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>This is from a 2021 Advisory Action from CPC along with Treatment and Accessibilities to develop a pamphlet directed to mental health professionals, because while A.A. has 19 content pieces under CPC purview, we don't have a pamphlet speaking directly and specifically to the mental health professional. The progress report includes answers to focus group topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barriers to referring patients to or providing information about AA • What clear message about AA we should give to professionals • What they tell their peers about AA
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Does your Group support the focus group and approach? Why or why not?</p>

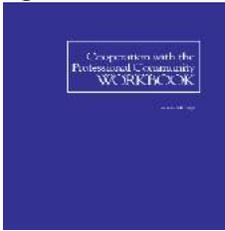


Conference Committee: **Cooperation with the Professional Community D (EDW from Literature)**

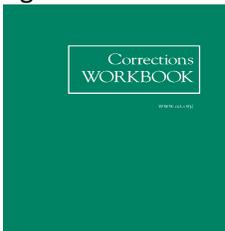
<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Consider creating a new pamphlet designed to help C.P.C. committees reach as many doctors as possible.</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>This item was submitted with the support of a home group and local CPC committee to engage with local doctors. The pamphlet would include general statements about the alcoholic to the doctor and possible actions to take. It would only be used fully or partially at the comfort level of the individual alcoholic.</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Review the proposed pamphlet statements, questions and actions. Does your Group support the general idea of the proposed pamphlet? Why or why not?</p>

Conference Committee: **Cooperation with the Professional Community E**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Review contents and format of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.</p>
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<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p> 	<p>This is a standing agenda item. Between conferences, ideas for changes to the Workbook or to the contents of the Kit may be received. Three suggestions have been made for consideration by the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision to existing sample guide letter to Military Chaplains • New succinct sample guide letter to Military Chaplains • Removal of sample guide letter to professionals who work with military veterans <p>Background also includes shared experience on creative ways to carry the AA message to professionals. Note: workbooks and kits are service material, and suggested changes to the content do not require recommendations, rather, they are put forth as Additional Committee Considerations.</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Does your Group agree with the suggestions? Do you have recommendations for changes to Workbook and other service pieces in the Kit?</p>
<p>Access to items:</p>	<p>https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/m-41i_CPCWorkbook.pdf https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/f-66w_CPC_Kit.pdf</p>

Conference Committee: **Corrections A**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Review contents and format of Corrections Kit and Workbook.</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p> 	<p>This is a standing agenda item. Between conferences, ideas for changes to the Workbook or to the contents of the Kit maybe received.</p> <p>Note: workbooks are service material, and suggested changes to the content do not require recommendations, rather, they are put forth as Additional Committee Considerations.</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Does your Group have recommendations for changes to Workbook and other service pieces in the Kit?</p>
<p>Access to items:</p>	<p>https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/m45i_WorkbookCorr.pdf https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/f-68w_corrections_kit.pdf</p>



Conference Committee: **Corrections B (EDW from Literature)**

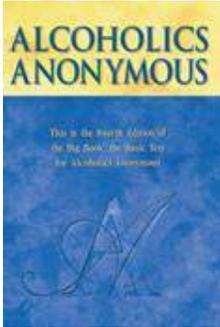
<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Reconsider use of the term “person in custody” in A.A. literature.</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>This is a new agenda item, which is in response to a 2021 Conference Advisory Action to revise AAWS literature directed to members behind the walls and to replace the terms “inmate” and “offender” with “person in custody.” This agenda item originated from a district (in one of our Canadian Areas in the General Service Structure), in consultation with professionals at minimum, medium and maximum security institutions, noting that “Person in Custody” is not recognized or used in Canada’s judicial system. Recommendation is to use “INSIDE A.A. Members” when referring to incarcerated A.A. members, as is already used in F-162 A.A. Corrections Pre-release contact information for AAs</p>

	on the Outside, and in F-163 A.A. Corrections Pre-release contact information for AAs on the Inside.
What your group might consider:	Does your Group support the recommended change? Why or why not?



Conference Committee: **Corrections C (EDW from Literature)**

Agenda Item:	Consider requests to limit changes to the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> .
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	This new item proposes that we follow the 1995 Advisory Action, “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> , the Preface, the Forwards, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion’, ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare’, and the Appendices remain as is.” Further, that updates to Appendices III and V can be via additional information immediately following the existing text of the respective appendix. This is in response to the 2021 Advisory Action that a Fifth Edition of the Big Book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> be developed, keeping in mind the above Advisory Action from 1995. However, a second Advisory Action in 2021, was that “Pending its development, the draft Fifth Edition of the Big Book would include a new foreward, an updated preface and updates to expand on existing ideas in Appendices III and V. This request is to have “the past protections (to Bill W.’s writings) to be made good again,” by the motion: “Keep the first 164 pages of the Big Book as well as all the Appendices, the Medical Opinion, Doctor’s Opinion, and the Religious Opinion the same. Do not change any of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous except for updating stories.”
What your group might consider:	Does your Group support this motion? Why or why not?
Access to audio version of item:	https://www.aa.org/the-big-book



Conference Committee: **Corrections D (EDW from Literature)**

Agenda Item:	Discuss request to make A.A. literature changes slowly and with A.A.’s primary purpose in mind.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	This new item is in response to literature change requests that are “conforming to the struggles of society to align our message with the world” and that “Considering making any changes to the Big Book and any literature is a mistake while the world is challenged by distance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.” The motion is “Make changes to our literature slowly. Our Primary Purpose should remain clear.”
What your group might consider:	Does your Group support this motion? Why or why not? What would qualify as slowly for your group, in the context of this request?

Conference Committee: **Finance A**

Agenda Item:	Review Self-Support Packet.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	This is a standing agenda item to review the literature and documents that GSO publishes that are useful to finance committees and treasurers. As part of the review, the Self-Support Subcommittee noted the inconsistent language regarding making contributions to G.S.O. (General Service Office) when it should

	<p>be made to G.S.B. (General Service Board). The trustees' Finance Committee requested that the A.A.W.S. self-support subcommittee draft a communication to the 2022 Conference Committee on Finance suggesting a review for inconsistencies in our literature regarding to whom contributions are sent in the Self-Support Packet.</p> <p>The A.A.W.S. Self-Support Subcommittee, respectfully requests your consideration and discussion the following topics during the review of the Self-Support Packet at 72nd General Service Conference:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To whom contributions are sent, specifically, inconsistent language reflecting that contributions should be made to G.S.O. (General Service Office), as opposed to the G.S.B. (General Service Board). 2. Consider updating images used in Self-Support materials that reflect current contributions from the US and Canadian.
What your group might consider:	Review the self-support packet. Does your Group have suggestions regarding the self-support packet?
Access the items in the self-support packet:	https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/f-42_en.pdf https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/f-3_selfsupport.pdf https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/f-96_theaagrouptreasurer.pdf https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/mg-15_finance.pdf https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/f-203_en_seventhtraditionsfactsheet.pdf https://www.aagrapevine.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/Self-Support-2020_ENG.pdf https://onlineliterature.aa.org/Birthday-Contribution-Envelope

 Conference Committee: **Finance B (EDW from Literature)**

Agenda Item:	Consider a request to add a historical disclaimer to the front of the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> .
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Motion that a Disclaimer be added to the front of the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>, as follows:</p> <p>"While the language in this text may seem dated, please remember that Bill W. wrote in the language and custom of his times. Bill was very tolerant of different individuals and members. All alcoholics, were and are now welcomed cordially into AA. Were Bill to write this book today, it may be worded differently in some places. Society may change, but the basic spiritual principles of Alcoholics Anonymous are classic and eternal. We hope that this book continues to broaden and deepen the understanding of the Twelve Steps as written in the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>."</p> <p>One support letter (there were several) accompanying the submission for this item:</p> <p><i>The Lucky Ones Group of Alcoholic Anonymous in Corpus Christi Texas has unanimously voted to support the proposals put forth ...which create disclaimers for the books Alcoholics Anonymous and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.</i></p>



Also unanimously supported, is the proposal that we refrain from the use of the words Alcoholics Anonymous and Big Book in the title or cover page of any planned plain language book, workbook or study guide that is created. We believe, as many other members do, that to change the original writings of the book of Alcoholics Anonymous and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions threatens the message that was initially presented. As a group of Alcoholics Anonymous we take seriously the responsibility to protect its future. We believe it is imperative that the aforementioned books of Alcoholics Anonymous be guarded and maintained in the context, essence and meaning in which they were originally written. We also believe that continued attempts to improve inclusivity by changing of original wording has the potential to divert us from our primary purpose.

The background noted the two three 2021 GSC Advisory Actions pertaining to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*:

Three changes were approved by 2021 GSC Advisory Actions:

Revise the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*:

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

The text on page 117 which currently reads: *"Nearly every sound human being, experiences at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way...."*

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

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

The text on page 66 which currently reads: *"No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health."*

Be revised to read: *"No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony."*

- The Long Form of each Tradition be included at the end of each essay for that Tradition in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and that the complete set of Traditions at the back of the book be retained as is.

Forty (40) total requests were received to reverse or rescind one or more of these three advisory actions and/or to preserve, unaltered, the text of the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, as originally published.

The proposed agenda items, excerpts sampled below, fell broadly into four categories referencing:

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the 1995 advisory action that no changes happen to the Big Book 2. the “slippery slope” concern, that these changes could lead to endless future changes 3. that the COVID pandemic, or other issues, didn’t allow for a fully informed group conscience 4. that the changes are the result of outside issues and therefore not in keeping with Tradition 10.
What your group might consider:	Does your Group support adding this historical disclaimer to the front of the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> ? Why or why not?
Access to audio version of item:	Media Library Alcoholics Anonymous (aa.org)



Conference Committee: **Finance C (EDW from Literature)**

Agenda Item:	Consider request that all proposed changes to the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> be handled in footnotes.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The motion is to maintain the integrity and historical accuracy of the publication <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>, we move that all proposed changes be handled in footnotes rather than in a revision of the actual text.</p> <p>The submission states that he proposed item addresses the issue of keeping our text historically accurate and faithful to the original writer’s intention. Many of us were disturbed at the prospect of revisions to our literature, as it has been effective for years at saving the lives of countless alcoholics. The revisions to <i>The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> approved at the General Service Conference set a dangerous precedent for changes to what we consider sacred texts in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. If the proposed changes are handled in footnotes which include the rationale for the change and any supporting evidence, the historically significant text will remain intact. This text is a part of our history, our collective memory. Suppressing its outdated expressions that have only come to be known as such negates the growth that has taken place in us as a fellowship.</p>
What your group might consider:	Does your Group support proposed changes to the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> being handled in footnotes? Why or why not?
Access to audio version of item:	Media Library Alcoholics Anonymous (aa.org)

Conference Committee: **AA Grapevine/La Vina A**

Agenda Item:	Review progress report on AA Grapevine Workbook revisions.
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<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>From 2021 Additional Committee Considerations:</p> <p><i>The committee reviewed the progress report on AA Grapevine Workbook revisions and suggested adding additional information on ways to use AA Grapevine resources as Twelfth Step tools, availability of books, pricing, ways Canadian members can more easily participate, and new multimedia platforms.</i></p> <p>From 2019 Additional Committee Considerations:</p> <p><i>The committee reviewed the progress report on the AA Grapevine Workbook revisions and looks forward to reviewing a progress report or draft at the next Conference. The committee also forwarded suggestions to the Grapevine office including expanding shared experience and how to use GV/LV as a recovery tool.</i></p> <p>From 2018 Additional Committee Considerations:</p> <p><i>The committee reviewed the Grapevine workbook with appreciation and suggests that it undergo a comprehensive review and revision, and AA Grapevine Inc. bring back a progress report to the 2019 Conference Committee Grapevine.</i></p> <p>From the progress report: AA Grapevine Inc. management contracted a freelancer, who is also familiar with the Grapevine service structure, to help the staff rewrite and redesign the AA Grapevine workbook. The current workbook's content was revised to add helpful, attractive graphics and expand on shared experience about ways to use Grapevine and La Viña as a recovery tool. In addition, the workbook was streamlined to make it easier to use. Most of the historical copy and forms have been removed and will be available separately on the aagrapevine.org website. Also, the new workbook includes many links which will connect members to the latest information on the GV website to prevent the need for constant updating and revising.</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Does your Group having any suggestions for the AA Grapevine Workbook? Consider electing a Grapevine/La Vina Representative if your Group does not have one already.</p>

Conference Committee: **AA Grapevine/La Vina B**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Review progress report on Grapevine and La Vina Instagram accounts.</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>From 2021 Advisory Actions:</p> <p><i>The committee <u>recommended</u> that the AA Grapevine Board implement an Instagram account and requested that a report on the Instagram account be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.</i></p>

From 2020 Advisory Actions:

The committee discussed a request for AA Grapevine, Inc. to establish an Instagram account in line with the Twelve Traditions and encouraged them to continue with their planning. The committee suggested that the Grapevine Board provide additional information on implementation, anonymity, security, affiliation, outside contributions, privacy and promotion and bring a progress report back to the 71st General Service Conference.

From 2018 Additional Committee Considerations:

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 and privacy and promotion.

The accounts were launched on 7/7/21 with a Daily Quote each morning and additional posts each week including new magazine issue releases, book announcements and inspirational messages from members. As of 2022, there are 5,965 followers, and the reach is 130,956 people-posts in the past 90 days, with a 8.21% follower growth rate in the preceding 90 days.

Followers by Country
(top 10)

United States of America	4193
Canada	362
Mexico	50
United Kingdom	44
India	28
Brazil	24
South Africa	24
Iran, Islamic Republic of	22
Colombia	19
Australia	19

Grapevine follower age ranges

- 25-34 = 15%
- 35-44 = 23%
- 45-54 = 24%
- 55-64 = 21%

What your group might consider:

What suggestions does your Group have regarding the Grapevine and La Vina Instagram accounts after reviewing the progress report?

Conference Committee: **AA Grapevine/La Vina C**

Agenda Item:	Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2023 or later.
Historical Context:	This is a standing agenda item, for the Committee to annually review a list of proposed items at least one year in advance of possible production so that the

Why is it on the Agenda?	GSC can provide guidance. The following are suggested for production in the year 2023 or later: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best of Dear Grapevine • Book for Newcomers • Best of La Vina II (La Vina Book) • Prayer & Meditation (La Vina Book)
What your group might consider:	Does your Group have any input to offer on GV/LV book ideas, that will possibly be produced? Does it have any book ideas for carrying the A.A. message, that it would like to recommend?

 Conference Committee: **AA Grapevine/La Vina D**

Agenda Item:	Discuss the wide-ranging impact the Preamble change has had on our A.A. Fellowship.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda? 	From 2021 Floor Actions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The A.A. Preamble be changed from:</i> <p><i>Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.</i></p> <p>To:</p> <p><i>In Alcoholics Anonymous we share our experience, strength and hope with each other that we may solve our common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.</i></p> 2. <i>The first sentence of the A.A. Preamble be revised with gender-neutral language by replacing the words "men and women" with the word "people" to read: "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism."</i> 3. <i>The Preamble revision replacing the words "men and women" with the word "people" be presented to the General Service Board for approval as the new revised A.A. Preamble.</i> From 2021 Additional Committee Considerations: <p><i>The committee considered gender-neutral language options for possible changes to the A.A. Preamble and took no action. The committee felt they needed more information to make a decision.</i></p>

From 2020 Additional Committee Considerations:

The committee also discussed making suggested changes to the A.A. Preamble for gender neutral pronouns. The committee requested that the Grapevine Board consider developing examples of generalized language options and that a progress report or draft versions be brought back to the 71st General Service Conference.

The best way to summarize the background for this item, would be to not summarize it, but to provide the following letter in full, from the AA Grapevine Board Chair, Josh E, Class B Trustee:

AAGRAPEVINE, Inc.

Item D
Doc. 1

Memo

To: General Service Conference

From: Josh E, AA Grapevine Board Chair

Re: Agenda Item for the 72nd General Service Conference

Date: January 27, 2022

Dear Conference Members:

We wish you warm greetings from the AA Grapevine Board and hope that you are well, as we all prepare for the 2022 General Service Conference. Almost immediately following the 71st General Service Conference, the AA Grapevine Board, the AA World Services Board and the General Service Board began receiving considerable feedback (some favorable, some unfavorable, and some simply asking for additional information) regarding the revision to *The AA Preamble (Preamble)*. We would like to share with you, in a general way, a summary of those communications to help inform healthy discussion in the Fellowship about the change, and its impact, for those who support as well as for those who oppose the change.

To be sure, the decision whether to change the *Preamble* has been the subject of an ongoing discussion that spans several years. Specifically, this topic was discussed in Groups, Districts, and Areas and was also the subject at no less than two General Service Conferences (i.e., 70th and 71st). As directed by an advisory action arising from the 71st General Service Conference, we began replacing the words "men and women" with "people" as early as Grapevine's July 2021 issue and its translation in La Viña's July/August 2021 issue. Consistent with past practice, as new Grapevine, La Viña, and AAWS literature (and reprints) go to press, and as web pages receive updates, the language will continue to change wherever the *Preamble* appears.

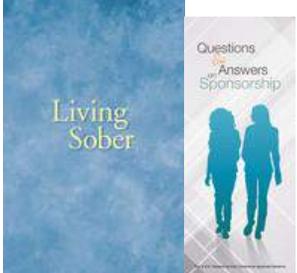
Some welcome the wording "people" in lieu of "men and women." Others oppose the change. Interestingly, those who favor the original version as well as those who oppose the new Preamble cite our Traditions as the basis for their reasoning. For example, those in favor of "people" cite Tradition 1: such that AA Unity is enhanced by welcoming all who suffer from alcoholism. Likewise, those who prefer "men and women" assert that AA Unity has been disrupted by the change.

	<p>After its passage, the Grapevine Board received a number of inquiries about whether the revision negatively impacted Grapevine's editorial independence. However, it was the Grapevine Board, Publisher, and Editors who discussed this proposed change over several meetings that ultimately led to forwarding the discussion - as an agenda item - to the General Service Conference (see also the Timeline).</p> <p>Those who favored the revision all along noted that, under Tradition 4, each Group is autonomous and that <i>their</i> Group enacted the change to "people" in advance of the advisory action. Not surprisingly, those who opposed the change also noted that, under Tradition 4, that <i>their</i> Group is autonomous and that they plan to continue saying "men and women." Regarding Tradition 10, some say the Preamble change is an outside issue (i.e., political, sociological, etc.) while others hold fast that it is an inside issue supported by Tradition 3 (i.e., welcoming, inclusive, etc.). But all who are in the least reasonable will agree upon one point, as a group there is more discussion required so that we can move forward, as a Fellowship, in love and unity.</p> <p>Therefore, consistent with the spirit of Warranty Four, Concept XII, that <i>"all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity,"</i> we request that the Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Vina at the 2022 General Service Conference, consider the following:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Discuss the wide-ranging impact the AA Preamble change has had on our Fellowship."</i></p>  <p>Josh E., General Service Trustee and AA Grapevine Board Chair</p> <p>Copy furnished: AA World Services, Inc. General Service Board, Inc. Conference Coordinator</p>
What your group might consider:	How did the Preamble change impact your Group? What impact did the Preamble change have on the Unity within your Group, and between your Group and other groups or members in A.A? What ideas would your Group support to have Alcoholic Anonymous move forward in Unity?
Access to item:	SMF-92 en A.A. Preamble (aa.org)

Conference Committee: **Literature A**

Agenda Item:	Review recovery literature matrix.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	This is a standing agenda item. The committee is slated to review a progress report as well on the trustees' Literature Committee and AAWS Board efforts to outline and define the process by which literature updates are reviewed and approved per policy. Background additionally includes excerpt from a 2021 report on editorial projects in progress.
What your group might consider:	What are your Group's thoughts or suggestions on the literature matrix?

 Conference Committee: **Literature B**

Agenda Item:	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? 	<p>This began as a 2018 Additional Committee Consideration from the Conference Literature Committee. Draft language was brought to the 2019 GSC, and from this a request was made to develop text reflecting the focus on safety at the group level. Draft language was reviewed by the 2020 and 2021 GSC Literature Committee, which took accessibility in mind as it relates to reading level. The proposed language is:</p> <p><i>Living Sober, Chapter 29, page 76, add new paragraph #5:</i> <i>Of course, A.A. is a reflection of the larger society around us and problems found in the outside world can also make their way into the rooms of A.A. But by keeping the focus on our common welfare and primary purpose, groups can provide a safe and secure environment for all their members.</i></p> <p>Questions and Answers on Sponsorship: Page 14 in the section "For the person wanting to be a sponsor" under the heading "What does a sponsor do and not do?" insert: <i>Stresses the importance of A.A. being a safe place for all members and encourages members to become familiar with service material available from the General Service Office such as "Safety in A.A. – Our Common Welfare."</i></p> <p>Page 23 in the section "For groups planning sponsorship activity" under the heading "How does sponsorship help a group?" Add as final paragraph (#4) in the section, insert: <i>Sponsorship can also help a group to create a welcoming and secure environment. Safety is an issue affecting all members and it is important for groups to remain accessible to all who are seeking recovery. Sponsorship can help keep the group focused on the common welfare.</i></p>
What your group might consider:	Does your Group think this language (1) reflects the focus of safety at the group level (2) takes reading level accessibility in mind? Do you support the draft language suggested?
Access to <u>current</u> version of pamphlet:	P-15 Questions & Answers on Sponsorship (aa.org)

Conference Committee: **Literature C**

Agenda Item:	Review draft of a pamphlet based on A.A.’s Three Legacies.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	This began as an Advisory Action of the 2018 GSC, to develop a pamphlet based on A.A.’s Three Legacies, with emphasis on the history of the Three Legacies, how they work together and including personal stories of members’ experiences with the Three Legacies and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet. Progress reports have been reviewed during the 2019, 2020 and 2021 GSCs, and the a request was made to address the length of the pamphlet, the need for more relatable and accessible language, and reducing the inclusion of Bill W.’s writings and A.A. history in the content.

What your group might consider:	As the draft pamphlet, which is trimmed and reorganized, and updated with relatable and accessible language, is only available to the committee, review background including the process of story selection and structure for the pamphlet and share your Group’s thoughts.
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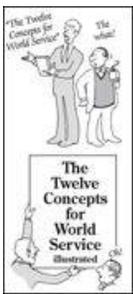
Conference Committee: **Literature D (see also Literature E and N, below)**

Agenda Item:	Review draft pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.”
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	In July 2018, the trustees’ committee on CPC/Treatment and Accessibilities appointed a subcommittee to pursue efforts to support carrying the message to Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing A.A. members. The committee felt a new version with simplified language and reflecting the meaning of the Steps more effectively than the current version, and to include quality illustrations. The 2019 GSC passed an Advisory Action to revise this pamphlet. The Conference Literature Committee of the 2020 and 2021 GSC subsequently reviewed the progress reports and requested a draft pamphlet. An artist was sought out whose strength is in articulating emotion through expression, pursuing a broad and diverse set of illustrations, reflective of our A.A. membership. While the draft update to the pamphlet, “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” will utilize a more modernistic style, the layout format, color and type style is drafted to have a similar look and feel.
What your group might consider:	As the draft pamphlet will be only available to the committee, review the background and share your Group’s thoughts on the choice of artist.
Access to <u>current</u> version:	https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-55_twelvestepsillustrated.pdf



 Conference Committee: **Literature E (see also Literature D and N)**

Agenda Item:	Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated.”
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The 2019 GSC passed an Advisory Action to revise this pamphlet, which has not been updated since 1986. Further work on the pamphlet was suspended in 2020, pending further discussion and progress on updates to “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” pamphlet. The 2021 Literature Committee subsequently reviewed a progress report and requested a report or draft for 2022. The background indicates an action to move forward with a request that the video animation of the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated” (currently published by the GSB of A.A., Great Britain) be adopted by A.A.W.S. (US and Canada) with minor editorial changes (pending approval from GSB Great Britain), with the hopes that a print version could be developed from the animated version. The video can be found: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qN6t4jAXJd0
What your group might consider:	What are your thoughts on the animated video of the pamphlet, published by the GSB of Great Britain? Does your group think A.A.W.S. should adopt this video? Should A.A.W.S pursue a print version for illustrating the Concepts for World Service?



Access to <u>current</u> AAWS pamphlet:	https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-8_thetwelveconcepts.pdf
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Conference Committee: **Literature F**

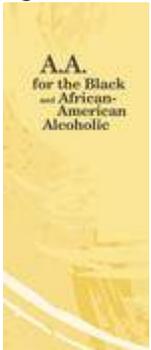
Agenda Item:	Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “Too Young?”
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	This began as a Floor Action of the 2017 GSC, to revise the pamphlet to reflect more current collective experiences of young alcoholics and their welcome to A.A. Subsequent Conference Literature Committees have reviewed progress reports, which included suggestions for development of podcast versions of the pamphlet, or other formats, based on focus group feedback from as early as 2018 and 2019. This pamphlet is now a candidate for adaption from print to video format. Vendors and development of storyboards are being explored.
	
What your group might consider:	Review suggestions for the updating the pamphlet based on YPAA sharing sessions. What does your group think about the suggestion to adapt the pamphlet to a video or other version of this pamphlet?
Access to <u>current</u> item:	https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-37_tooyoung.pdf

Conference Committee: **Literature G**

Agenda Item:	Review draft of the revised pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	This began as an Advisory Action of the 2016 GSC, to revise the pamphlet to better reflect the experiences of young people in A.A. today. The committee revised a revised draft of the pamphlet in 2021 and requested a draft for 2022 that fostered a greater diversity of stories and images of A.A. members. The committee will review a new draft and also request to include a resource listing, such as link the A.A.W.S. YouTube channel and AA Grapevine books.
	
What your group might consider:	As the draft pamphlet is only available to the committee, review background including the comments from the YPAA sharing sessions and share your Group’s thoughts. How does your group feel about including a resource listing? What resources should be included?
Access to <u>current</u> item:	https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/en_p-4_youngpeopleandaa.pdf

Conference Committee: **Literature H**

Agenda Item:	Review progress report regarding update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic.”
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<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p> 	<p>A floor action from the 70th GSC (2020) ensured that this item would be forwarded for the 71st GSC, as there was not enough time in 2020 for the GSC to consider this item. The request was to include fresh, updated stories and a new title that is respectful and inclusive. The 2021 committee reviewed tentative plans for revision of the pamphlet, noting the importance of involving members of the community from the intended primary audience of the pamphlet including providing input for a title that is respectful and inclusive of members throughout the U.S. and Canada. A Workgroup committee of 7 members representing a variety of ethnic, geographic, linguistic and age perspectives has been formed.</p> <p>Questions under consideration by the Workgroup, regarding the pamphlet, A.A. for the Black & African American Alcoholic, are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What general or specific types of experience or expression are missing from the pamphlet? • Are there any specific issues or topics that are not adequately addressed in this pamphlet that would be helpful to include in a revised version? • Does the pamphlet provide the kind of identification necessary to relate individually to Black alcoholics and to resonate within the Black community in general? • Does it adequately reflect the experience of Black alcoholics/members of AA? • Is the pamphlet relevant to today's AA audience? • Does it adequately reflect the experience of Black alcoholics/members of A.A.? • Are there any specific issues or topics that are not adequately addressed in this pamphlet that would be helpful to include in a revised version? • New title? Any suggestion for a new title?
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>How does your group feel about the questions under consideration for the pamphlet update?</p>
<p>Access to <u>current</u> item:</p>	<p>https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-51_CanAAHelpMeToo.pdf</p>

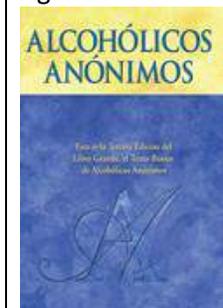
Conference Committee: **Literature I**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Review progress report regarding update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.”</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p> 	<p>This pamphlet, first printed in 2009 was last updated in 2018, at which time a Spanish translation was also made available. This update request is to reflect more current language, current stories and populations. For example, terms such as Native American and First Nations are not preferred or fully inclusive. Stories are dated. The pamphlet is currently one of the least distributed, despite ~ 7.33 million Indigenous people in the US and Canada. Further, the Publishing department has no written reviews of the pamphlet, nor a mechanism for developing such reviews from members of the primary target audience. This is perhaps a task for a working group, that could connect with A.A. Members from indigenous communities and nations throughout the U.S./Canada Service Structure.</p>

What your group might consider:	How does your group feel about this working group approach?
Access the <u>current</u> item:	https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-21_aaforthenNA.pdf

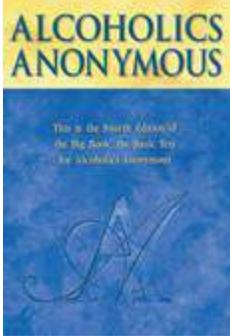
Conference Committee: **Literature J**

Agenda Item:	Review progress report regarding development of a Fourth Edition of the book <i>Alcohólicos Anónimos</i> .
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Advisory Action from 2021 GSC that a Fourth Edition of the book, <i>Alcohólicos Anónimos</i> , be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 GSC.</p> <p>A working group will be appointed for the development of a draft Fourth Edition of the Book, <i>Alcohólicos Anónimos</i>, with a scope as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Include a diverse group of A.A. members from the target audiences who can bring perspectives from a variety of ethnic, geographic, dialect and age perspectives. 2) Solicit input on the needed improvements for stories to be relevant to the target audiences. 3) Discuss and solicit input if needed to define themes for sections of stories. 4) Develop a method of outreach to foster significant amounts of submitted material. 5) Develop a process for selection of personal stories. 6) Ascertain which editorial elements of the revision are maintained by the GSO Publishing department. 7) Work with publishing to ensure a review of the basic text translation that encompasses the diversity of the Spanish speaking population 8) Utilize other related work as needed to optimize the development of a draft version of the book. <p>The first 164 pages of the Big Book, <i>Alcohólicos Anónimos</i>, the Preface, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,” and the Appendices will undergo a complete review to assure accuracy of translation and consistency of style and tone throughout the text. As in translations of all languages, the Publications Department strives to reflect the best possible translation of Bill W.’s writings and does not require Conference approval. Some third edition stories will be retained, and ideally, the call for members’ stories in Spanish will occur at the same time as call for English stories for 5th Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous.</p>
What your group might consider:	Does your Group support the approach to the updated edition? Does your group have any Spanish-speaking members who would be willing to write and submit their personal story for inclusion in the 4 th Edition of <i>Alcohólicos Anónimos</i> ?



 Conference Committee: **Literature K**

Agenda Item:	Review progress report regarding the translation of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	From the 2021 Conference Advisory Action: It was recommended that a draft version of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition), be translated into plain and simple language and be developed in a way that is accessible and

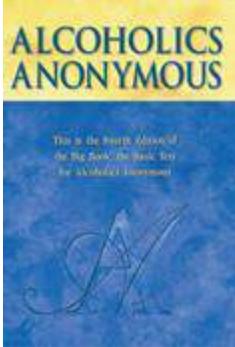
	<p>relatable to as wide of an audience as possible and that a progress report or draft be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature. The background includes a report from the Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) subcommittee to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature regarding translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language. This subcommittee will strive to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research various study guide workbook tools and report back to the Trustees Literature Committee 2. Review feedback from the Fellowship on RIPTAB video Access the RIPTAB Video: https://vimeo.com/463496932 3. Coordinate with the GSO Publishing Department (GSO PD) to oversee and develop feedback related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics of direction and scope as requested by GSOPD • Content of RFP/RFI (desired samples) • Any limits to the content to be translated. • Review of samples and GSO PD recommended vendors • Other work as needed to support the GSO PD and implementation of the advisory action <p>The TABB subcommittee has identified six publishing-industry-plain-language translators and has received writing samples of Chapter 5 “How it Works” and other big book excerpts from each.</p> <p>The background also noted that 11 proposed agenda items (PAI) were received pertaining to the translation of the big book into plain and simple language. No action was taken, but it was noted that 8 of these PAIs were to discontinue, rescind or stop the development of a draft plan and simple language Big Book. These dealt with concerns regarding political intentions, eradication of God and removal of all gendered language; with a concern for the future of AA, and the disunity they believe the plain and simple language big book would cause. The TABB subcommittee affirmed that the objective of the committee/advisory action is to achieve a translation into plain language that meets the accessibility needs of those with a 5th grade reading level.</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Does your Group support the work of the committee/subcommittee per the background info? Although the background did not include the submissions for the 11 proposed agenda items (PAI) for which the Trustees’ Literature Committee took no action, how does your group feel about the fact that 8 PAIs were to discontinue, rescind or stop the development of the plain language translation of the Big Book?</p>
<p>Access to the audio version of the fourth edition big book and RIPTAB Presentation:</p>	<p>https://www.aa.org/the-big-book</p> <p>https://vimeo.com/463496932</p>

 Conference Committee: **Literature L**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Review progress report regarding requests to develop study guide workbooks for A.A.</p>
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<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>This agenda item emerged from the following item from 2019: 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.</p> <p>The committee also discussed the work done by the TABB (Tools to Access the Big Book) subcommittee regarding requests to develop study guide workbooks for A.A. The committee agreed on requesting feedback from the Fellowship on the following options:</p> <p>Option 1 – Take no action, as suggested by the 1985 advisory action which reaffirmed previous Conference actions that there was no need for a Step study guide.</p> <p>Option 2 – Turn to the Grapevine and leverage its ample archive of articles on practicing the Steps to show variation in approach and style. Future Grapevine podcasts could serve a supplemental role and help enrich this effort.</p> <p>Option 3 – Create a General Service Conference approved study guide workbook to aid in studying the Twelve Steps. Possibly with inclusion of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts.</p> <p>Note: Options 2 and 3 to primarily be a print-based product, with the potential of supporting and/or companion material via digital, video, and/or podcast. The committee reviewed and agreed to forward a progress report from the TABB subcommittee to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature regarding requests to develop study guide workbooks for A.A.</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Which of the three options does your Group support with regard to requests to develop study guide workbooks for A.A? Why?</p>
<p>Access the RIPTAB presentation:</p>	<p>https://vimeo.com/463496932</p>

Conference Committee: **Literature M**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Review progress report regarding development of a Fifth Edition of the Big Book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>.</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p> 	<p>From two 2021 GSC Advisory Actions:</p> <p>It was recommended that a Fifth Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action that: “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion,’ ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,’ and the Appendices remain as is,” and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.</p> <p>It was recommended that pending its development, the draft Fifth Edition of the Big Book would include a new foreword, an updated preface and updates to expand on existing ideas in Appendices III and V.</p> <p>A subcommittee on development of a draft Fifth Edition Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous has been appointed with the following scope:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assure adherence to previous advisory actions limiting changes to specific content 2. Foster widespread discussion and solicit input as needed to define themes for sections of stories to create balanced and relatable set of stories. 3. Review editorial elements of the draft version of the Fifth Edition are under the purview of the Publishing department, including a new foreword and an updated preface.

	<p>4. Develop a plan to understand and execute updates to expand on existing ideas in Appendices III and V as requested by the 71st CCL.</p> <p>5. Develop a plan to oversee a broad process of solicitation of stories.</p> <p>6. Other work as needed related to optimizing the development of the draft version of the Fifth Edition Big Book.</p>
What your group might consider:	Encourage members of your group to submit their written stories for inclusion in the 5 th Edition of the big book. Provide the members of your group with the Progress Report from the 2021-22 Trustees' Literature Committee Subcommittee on development of a draft 5 th Edition of the book, Alcoholic Anonymous. This can be found as Literature Item M, Document 1 in the background. It starts on page 181 of the Literature Background document. Then be on the lookout for the "call for stories" for the 5 th Edition.
Access to the audio version of the fourth edition big book:	https://www.aa.org/the-big-book

Conference Committee: **Literature N (see also Literature D and E, above)**

Agenda Item:	Discuss the existing version of the pamphlet "Twelve Traditions Illustrated."
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda? 	This began as a 2016 GSC Advisory Action to undertake a comprehensive revision of the pamphlet with a modernized presentation of both text and illustration to reflect contemporary A.A. experience. Because the final draft presented for the 2020 GSC, was so distinct from the existing pamphlet, the updated version was titled "Experience Has Taught Us: Our Twelve Traditions Illustrated" and was approved by the 2021 GSC and subsequently is in distribution. A second 2021 GSC Advisory Action was that the existing version of the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" not be retired. The publishing department at A.A.W.S is now seeking professional input on approaches to revise language and offensive visuals, and that samples be brought back to the trustees' Literature Committee.
What your group might consider:	What does your group think about the pamphlet "Twelve Traditions Illustrated", particularly the language and the visuals?
Access the current pamphlet and the "Experience has Taught Us" pamphlet:	https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-43_thetwelvetradiillustrated.pdf https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/p-91_An_Introduction_To_Our_Twelve_Traditions.pdf

Conference Committee: **Literature O**

Agenda Item: 	Review G.S.O. Publishing updates per the A.A.W.S. print policy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the draft update of the pamphlet, "Is A.A. for You?" • Review the draft update of the pamphlet, "Is there an Alcoholic in Your Life?" • Review the draft update of the pamphlet, "Frequently Asked Questions about A.A." • Review the draft update of the pamphlet, "This is A.A."
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<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p> 	<p>As per “A.A. World Services, Inc., Policy on Publication: Keeping A.A. Literature Current”, the AAWS publishing department has suggested updates to these four pamphlets, the majority of which center around (1) degenderizing language (2) removal of outdated references and jargon (3) relevant focus on A.A. history and (4) effectiveness of addressing the audience to whom it is directed. These are part of the ongoing Language Review undertaken by the Publishing Department. As these changes are beyond editorial changes, they require consideration by the GSC prior to publication.</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Review the draft updates to the four pamphlets. Do you agree with the proposed changes? Why or why not?</p>
<p>Also, access current versions of the pamphlets (the draft updates are in the background):</p>	<p>https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-3_isaaforyou.pdf https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-30_isthereanalcoinyourlife.pdf https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-57_faqAboutAA_largeprint.pdf https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-1_thisisaa1.pdf</p>

Conference Committee: **Literature P**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Review progress report regarding strategy to make current literature accessible in all possible formats.</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>Reviewing the recovery literature matrix is a standing agenda item for the committee for each GSC. Along with acceptance of the matrix of recovery literature in 2021, the committee requested that the publishing department provide ongoing updates on the efforts of the publishing department for various approaches and strategies for broadening format availability of literature items with accessibility in mind. Some of the current projects include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Readable braille covers for the Big Book and 12x12 2. Implementing accepted standards in Large Print Materials (one of A.A.’s most requested formats) 3. Updates to American Sign Language (ASL) videos to reflect current ASL vernacular in ASL video translations of Big Book and 12x12, as well as updates to Quebec Sign Language (QSL) and Spanish Sign Language (SSL) materials 4. Nine staple-less items of literature slated for Corrections and CPC/Treatment/Accessibility to be reassessed mid-2022, based on current printing supply disruptions. 5. Downloadable audiobooks (Big Book, 12x12, Living Sober) and New Big Book audio on CD (response to technology access divide). 6. Ebook of <i>Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.’s General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970</i>. 7. Video: “Your GSO, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure.”, Video Public Service Announcements (PSAs), “A.A. in the Military”, RIPTAB Powerpoint. 8. A.A.W.S.-originated podcasts including utilizing Class A Trustees as our valuable public-facing talent.

What your group might consider:	Review new media at: https://www.aa.org/resources/media Does your group have ideas about new formats for carrying our message of recovery?
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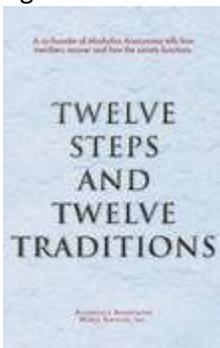
Conference Committee: **Literature Q**

Agenda Item:	Review progress report regarding Literature Committee workbook.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2019, the Conference Committee on Literature suggested that a Literature Committee Workbook be developed and that a progress report be provided in 2020. The publishing department has since developed a comprehensive outline and draft for the proposed workbook. In 1986, the GSC passed an Advisory Action stating: "In an effort to strengthen our network of literature representatives to ensure that A.A. literature is available at meetings, as well as catalog order forms for books and cassettes that individuals are likely to want, it is suggested that groups appoint literature coordinators." Some areas do not have Literature Committees or literature chairs and some areas and districts need more help in developing Literature Committees. The background states that 10 of the 93 areas in the US/Canada do not have an Area Literature Committee (Area 50 is one of these). NOTE: Literature Committee Packets are mailed to all newly listed Intergroup/Central Office, District and Area Literature Committee Chairs as well as group Literature Chairs. Literature Display Packet request cards are made available to committee chairs as well as members serving events being listed in Box 4-5-9.
What your group might consider:	Review the draft of the Literature Committee Workbook in the background. How does your group feel about the draft workbook? What other suggestion and ideas does your group have for the workbook?



Conference Committee: **Literature R**

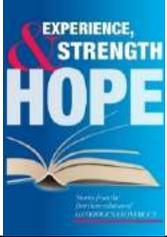
Agenda Item:	Discuss changes to the text of the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> directed by the 71 st General Service Conference.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	Three changes were approved by 2021 GSC Advisory Actions: Revise the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A revision be made to page 117 in the book, <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>, replacing the phrase "opposite sex" with the word "partner" as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context to the change as it relates to inclusivity: The text on page 117 which currently reads: "<i>Nearly every sound human being, experiences at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way....</i>" Be revised to read: "<i>Nearly every sound human being, experiences at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a partner with whom the fullest possible union can be made –spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way....</i> " The sentence which includes the phrase "lustful enough to rape" in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter "Step Six" of the book, <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve</i>



	<p>Traditions, be revised to refer to the Seven Deadly Sins without specific mention of examples that are severe in nature as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context as to the basis for the change: The text on page 66 which currently reads: "No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health." Be revised to read: "No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Long Form of each Tradition be included at the end of each essay for that Tradition in the book, <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>, and that the complete set of Traditions at the back of the book be retained as is. <p>Forty (40) requests were received to reverse or rescind one or more of these advisory actions and/or to preserve, unaltered, the text of the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>, as originally published. The proposed agenda items, excerpts sampled below, fell broadly into four categories referencing: 1. the 1995 advisory action that no changes happen to the Big Book 2. the "slippery slope" concern, that these changes could lead to endless future changes 3. that the COVID pandemic, or other issues, didn't allow for a fully informed group conscience 4. that the changes are the result of outside issues and therefore not in keeping with Tradition 10.</p> <p>The background included GSC Advisory Actions from 2002, 2003 and 2005 which stated that recognized that the fellowship felt that Bill W's writings, such as <i>The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>, should be retained as originally published. Background additionally includes a history of failed motions to change <i>The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>, potential agenda items on which no action was taken, and the footnotes added to <i>The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> to denote changes since the original writing.</p> </p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Would your group want any of the three 2021 Advisory Actions reversed or rescinded? If so, please be specific about which of the three should be reversed or rescinded and why. Does your group believe that the text of the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> should be preserved, unaltered, as originally published?</p>
<p>Access to audio version of item:</p>	<p>Media Library Alcoholics Anonymous (aa.org)</p>

Conference Committee: **Literature S**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Consider an update of the book <i>Experience, Strength and Hope</i>.</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>The trustees' Subcommittee on development of a draft Fifth Edition of the book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>, has recommended to the Conference Committee on Literature that all stories dropped from the Fourth Edition be added to <i>Experience, Strength and Hope</i> (a compilation of member stories that have been dropped from Editions One, Two or Three of the Big Book) at the next printing.</p>

	
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Does your Group think that any stories dropped from (after) the Fourth Edition be added to <i>Experience, Strength and Hope</i>? Why or Why Not?</p>

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions A**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Review G.S.O. General Manager’s report regarding General Service Conference site selection.</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>At the 2021 GSC, the committee reviewed the GSO General Manager’s report regarding GSC site selection. The committee agreed with the overall goal of a reduction or containment of total Conference costs, the suitability of sleeping rooms and meeting rooms, and an improvement to the convenience and cost of transportation to and from airports. The committee requested that future reports include more details on specific sites considered.</p> <p>The GSC will be held at the Brooklyn Marriott in 2022 and 2023 (use of a biannual schedule has permitted savings from a two year contract). Site selection for 2024 and 2025 has not been finalized as of yet, due to lingering financial risks associated with COVID-19, and the placing of deposits on hotels.</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Does your Group support the site selection approach?</p>

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions B**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Review dates for the 2026 General Service Conference.</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>2021 Additional Committee Consideration of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions: The committee reviewed the dates for the 2025 General Service Conference. In order to provide additional flexibility to the General Service Office management in contracting the most cost effective and appropriate venues for the General Service Conference, the committee selected the following dates for the 75th General Service Conference in order of preference: May 4 – May 10, 2025; April 27 – May 3, 2025; May 11 – May 17, 2025. The committee noted that these proposed Conference dates are the best choices for not conflicting with any significant holidays.</p> <p>This year the committee will select three potential dates for the 76th GSC, in 2026.</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>How does your group feel about this selection process?</p>

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions C (had been sent to and reallocated from EDW)**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Discuss the procedure: “Process for Approving Observers to the Conference.”</p>
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<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>The current “Process for Approving Observers to the Conference” was approved by a 2020 GSC Advisory Action. At the 2021 GSC, the Policy/Admissions Committee requested a revision to the process so that routine requests for admission from General Service structures outside the U.S. and Canada could be approved without requiring a Conference Advisory Action. This would allow the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions to approve the visitor requests.</p> <p>An example from the current process: Example of a request received by October 1: If the Trustees’ Committee on the GSC approves the request at their October meeting and if then the G.S.B. also approves the application at the October meeting, the request is forwarded to the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee for their action. Within the first two weeks of the following January, the Conference Policy and Admissions Committee, with the assistance of the committee secretary, will hold a conference call to address the request. If the committee approves the request, then the committee secretary will immediately forward a memorandum to the Conference Coordinator asking that the polling of the entire Conference be initiated for their approval or rejection.</p> <p>Note: It is important to remember that the timeline required to complete the “Process for Polling the GSC between Annual Meetings” could take anywhere from 3-4 weeks, not taking into account if a vote to reconsider happens to pass and a new poll needs to be initiated. The timing impact must be considered for each observer request.</p> <p>This item is suggested to support Right of Decision by trusted servants on Policy/Admissions Committee, and will save GSC staff resources and eliminate surveying of Delegates who have little or no knowledge of the visitors.</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Does your group agree with the proposed request? Why or why not?</p>

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions D

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Review progress report on the development of a process using virtual meeting technologies for polling the General Service Conference between meetings.</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>From a 2021 GSC Advisory Action, it was recommended that: The trustees’ General Service Conference Committee develop a process for polling the General Service Conference between annual meetings that makes use of virtual meeting technologies, in order to enable real-time discussion and debate, broad participation, and greater efficiency than the current process.</p> <p>The current process for polling the GSC between annual meetings is by email notification, with voting permitted via email or phone. The polling process can be used in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aid of the GSB or its Related Services • Great Emergency • Action Involving a Matter of Principle or Basic Policy • GSB By-Laws Amendment <p>This process was last amended in 2019, to add more time within the polling process for discussion of recommendations. Since the current pandemic, there has been widespread use of virtual technologies by A.A. groups, districts, areas and by the 70th GSC.</p>

	<p>The importance of making the polling support the complexities of the group conscience decision-making process, was noted along with adherence to the GSB By-laws, and the General Service Conference Charter and Resolution. These can be found in appendices K, L, and O of The A.A. Service Manual. https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/en_bm-31_3.pdf</p>
What your group might consider:	<p>Could revising the process to make use of virtual technologies improve the speed and efficiency of voting and the quality of deliberations, and forming of the Group Conscience? What ideas or suggestions do you have?</p>

Conference Committee: **Policy /Admissions E**

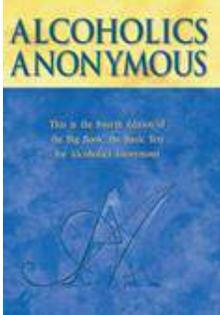
Agenda Item:	<p>Discuss report on Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) process.</p>
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>From the 2021 Advisory Action of the GSC, it was recommended that: The Equitable Distribution of Workload Process, as detailed in the Report from the 2020 Trustees’ General Service Conference Committee, be implemented for the 72nd General Service Conference (GSC) on a three-year trial basis, with a progress report to be brought to the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions after each year of the trial.</p> <p>This year, 178 Proposed Agenda Items (PAI) were received. With EDW, the deadline for PAIs was moved up three months from 12/15 to 9/15, and a standardized PAI submission form debuted. Excerpts from the report on the first year of EDW are as follows:</p> <p>+++</p> <p>Overall, the plan delivered the intended results, with twelve* new items being distributed across six Conference Committees that would not have received new agenda items therefore allowing for fifty more Delegates to participate more equitably in the Conference Committee process than would have otherwise. Primarily these were new agenda items that were slated for the Literature Committee and redistributed as outlined in the 2021-22 Subcommittee on Equitable Distribution of Workload EDW Progress Report. This distribution allows for an increased amount of Committee time spent on each item. Another positive outcome of the process was the Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) implementation of the agenda item form itself as it related to the processing of agenda items in the office and within the Trustee committees.</p> <p>The Conference process is not a single process but rather a year around series of cascading processes starting and ending at the group level. Implementing the EDW process immediately without first fully reviewing and planning for the impact of the advanced timeline on the many facets of work required to support the Conference process at the G.S.O. and GV offices posed significant challenges. Being complex itself, the EDW process demanded a great amount of attention and has strained every aspect of the Conference assignment which supports the annual meeting.</p> <p>The timeline for the submission of agenda items was advanced under the EDW process in order to provide the Delegate Chairs a full understanding of the agenda items coming to their committee prior to attending the January General Service Board (GSB) meeting. Additionally, if the Delegate Chairs are aware of any additional agenda items coming to their committee prior to the January GSB, that may allow them the opportunity to sit in on the January Trustee Committee meetings during Board Weekend that are the source of any additional agenda items coming to their committee. This is important because, at</p>

	<p>the trustee committee level, all Conference agenda items and their background remain within the 'native' committee.</p> <p>*The number of EDW items increased from 12 to 15 after the writing of this report. See background item E. Document 2.</p> <p>+++</p> <p>Advancing the timeline of PAI submission from 12/15 to 9/15 created the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deadline for submission was before most areas met for fall assemblies • Is this too long of a timeline before a proposal is heard by the GSC • Not enough time between Delegate Report-Backs/Final Report of previous GSC and the deadline for PAI for next GSC • Conference Committee input on PAIs in fall was from previous year's committee members, not the full committee membership that will deal with the item at the GSC <p>And one opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional time for gathering and translating background for the GSC <p>+++</p> <p>(This one is a summary, not a direct excerpt):</p> <p>While the EDW plan approved in 2021 offered direction for handling of PAI from arrival at GSO through the Conference week, it did not address handling of the items beyond the conference, such as which Conference and Trustee Committees would oversee the development or change to the item, as well as communication regarding the item.</p> <p>+++</p> <p>To best assess the impact of the EDW and resulting processes, we encourage making plenty of room for discussion on this topic at the Conference following Year Three. Perhaps a Conference sharing session or Workshop to discuss this pilot, the resulting process and the overall impact of these. Further, we recommend a survey related to these processes to be completed by (1) the Fellowship submitting the agenda items, (2) All Conference Members (Delegates, Trustees, Staff, Directors) Year Two to collect more focused sharing for the 74th General Service Conference to include in their debate about whether to continue this approach for a more equitable distribution of workload for Conference committees.</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>How does your group feel about the EDW process and scoring tool, guidelines, and report of year 1? Does your group have any feedback from submitting agenda items in year 1?</p>



Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions F: (EDW from Literature)

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Consider request to restore a paragraph in the story "Freedom from Bondage" in the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>.</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>What was deleted from the Third Edition, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>, pages 546-547 (Hard cover):</p> <p>"I looked around me at people who seemed happy and tried to analyze their happiness, and it seemed to me that without exception these people had something or somebody they loved very much. I didn't have the courage to love; I was not even sure I had the capacity. Fear of rejection and its ensuing pain were not to be risked, and I turned away from myself once more for the answer, this time to the drinks I had always refused before, and in alcohol I found a false courage."</p> <p>Why was this paragraph deleted:</p>

	<p>A report from the G.S.O. editor on the editing deletion of the ninth paragraph of the story “Freedom from Bondage” which was included in the Third Edition of the Big Book and which was deleted from the Fourth Edition to create a page count in the Fourth Edition similar to the page count of the Third Edition.</p> <p>In 2003, the Conference Committee on Literature looked at the proposal to restore this paragraph, as well as edits from other stories as follows, and took no action:</p> <p>2003 Conference Committee on Literature, committee consideration: After lengthy discussion, the committee considered the request to edit the following Fourth Edition Big Book stories to restore their Third Edition Big Book content: “The Housewife Who Drank At Home,” “Me An Alcoholic?,” “Another Chance,” and “Freedom From Bondage”, agreed to accept the Fourth Edition Big Book editorial changes and agreed to take no action.</p> <p>Submitter of this item believes this is a very impactful paragraph and that its removal causes the story to lose context and meaning.</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Does your Group support restoring this paragraph to the story Freedom from Bondage in the 5th Edition of the Big Book, and any future printings of the 4th Edition of the Big Book?</p>
<p>Access the audio version of the big book:</p>	<p>https://www.aa.org/the-big-book</p>

 Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions G: (EDW from Literature)**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Consider request to revise the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” to reflect shared experience on service sponsorship.</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p> 	<p>To help carry the message of the importance of A.A. service, and to reinforce the idea that service is for every A.A. member; it is recommended 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. This was submitted to help carry the message of the importance of A.A. service, and to reinforce the idea that service is for every A.A. member, and that this idea will benefit from the value of a broader group conscience.</p> <p>This item was originally submitted for consideration to the 69th General Service Conference. The trustees’ Literature Committee serving at that time chose not to forward the item stating that there was no express need from the Fellowship. The item was submitted again and was forwarded to the 72nd Conference by this year’s trustees’ Literature Committee. It is noted that since the item was originally submitted, a section on service sponsorship was added to the A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2021-2023 (p. 9-10).</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Does your Group support the revision to the pamphlet? Why or why not?</p>

Access to current version of item and the 2021-2021 Service Manual:	P-15 Questions & Answers on Sponsorship (aa.org) https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/en_bm-31_3.pdf
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Conference Committee: **Public Information A**

Agenda Item:	Review the 2022 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan (CMP).
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>At the 2021 GSC, the Public Information Committee reviewed and accepted the report on the status of the 2021 draft Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan (CMP). The committee expressed support for the vision and architecture. The committee noted the new architecture is in keeping with today’s communications standards and requested that the full plan be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information and that the full plan be available to all Conference members to distribute to their areas. The committee also suggested that the content of the CMP be expanded to include a deeper understanding of targeted audiences within A.A. relating to all genders and reaching potential members.</p> <p>The CMP is divided into ten sections of workstreams, the team members of which will work with the GSB and the GSO and AA Grapevine staff: Website, Public Relations, Social Media, AAWS LinkedIn, GV Instagram, Meeting Guide App, Content Creation, TV PSAs & Radio PSAs, Podcasts and Literature. In addition, the CMP notes (1)the need to continuously optimize the use of Google Ads campaigns, by empowering appropriate staff members to make updates without approval from the GSC (reference Public Information Agenda Item E), and (2) the need to continue adding most, or all, video content to the YouTube channel and to continue to standardize and to use Search Engine Optimization.</p>
What your group might consider:	Have your Group review the CMP included in the PI Background. How does your Group feel about the plan? How will it support A.A. Members in carrying the message to all who suffer from alcoholism? Does your group have any suggestions?

Conference Committee: **Public Information B.1**

Agenda Item:	<p>Public Service Announcements (PSAs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the distribution and tracking information for two video PSAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. “Sobriety in A.A.: My Drinking Built a Wall” ii. “Sobriety in A.A. When Drinking is no longer a Party.” • Review the 2021 Report on the “Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcements.”
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	Conference advisory action of the 71st General Service Conference: In addition to the work of local committees, one to two PSAs be centrally distributed to broadcast media, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$60,000, and that the information gathered from the process be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information.

	The committee reviewed current reports for “Sobriety in A.A.: My Drinking Built a Wall” and “Sobriety in A.A.: When Drinking is no longer a Party.” There have been approximately 8,000 English TV airings and 3,400 Spanish TV airings.
What your group might consider:	View the PSA’s through the link provided in the background and below. Do you agree that these are useful and relevant? What ideas does your Group have about PSAs for A.A?
Access the two current video PSAs:	To view these two current video PSAs, go to the Media Library Alcoholics Anonymous (aa.org) page on G.S.O.’s A.A. website. Filter by “Public Service Announcements (PSAs)” where you can select the PSAs to view.

Conference Committee: Public Information B.2

Agenda Item:	Review the 2021 Report on the “Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcements.”
<i>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</i>	<p>From 2008 Advisory Actions: The Conference Committee on Public Information annually review current television public service announcements for relevance and usefulness, retiring a PSA only when it is no longer relevant and/or useful to the Fellowship.</p> <p>The Conference Committee on Public Information annually assess the need for a new television public service announcement.</p> <p>The committee reviewed the current https://www.aa.org/resources/media and found them to be relevant and useful and agreed to forward their findings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Sobriety in A.A.: We made changes to stop drinking” 2. “Sobriety in A.A.: Opening doors to a life without drinking” 3. “Sobriety in A.A.: Since getting sober, I have hope”
What your group might consider:	View the PSAs. Does your Group agree that the PSAs are relevant and useful? Is there a need for a new PSA? What ideas do you have for a new PSA?
Access the current video PSAs:	Media Library Alcoholics Anonymous (aa.org)

Conference Committee: Public Information C

Agenda Item:	Review a progress report and the G.S.O. podcast plan.
<i>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</i>	<p>The 2020 GSC Conference Committee on PI discussed a request to develop a plan to create an A.A. Podcast. The Committee Consideration suggested that GSO explore the development of a draft plan to create a GSO podcast to be brought back to the 2021 GSC. The committee suggested that information such as function, target audiences, participation, possible episode topics and an implementation plan be included.</p> <p>In the third quarter 2021, the staff at the General Service Office (G.S.O.) produced a podcast named, “This is A.A. ...virtually” with the pilot episode titled, “Online Groups - Past, Present, Future.” At the October 2021 meeting the trustees’ Public Information Committee affirmed G.S.O. can effectively produce a professional sounding podcast and that the pilot episode outlined the beginnings of a framework for future theme-based episodes.</p>

	<p>Based on feedback of an initial podcast pilot, the trustees' Public Information Committee has updated the pilot, the link for which is below.</p> <p>The Pilot Podcast Episode Disclaimer: Do not share this G.S.O. Podcast pilot as it is only a test concept. A pilot episode of any production is a test. G.S.O. has produced this pilot podcast episode to provide a concept of the G.S.O. Podcast for internal listening and discussion only. An audio link is being included as a part of the 72nd G.S.C. Background for Fellowshipwide discussion. <u>This G.S.O. Podcast pilot episode is NOT to be distributed to the general public as it is only a test concept.</u></p> <p>**Here is the link to listen to the G.S.O. Podcast pilot episode test concept: Link: https://vimeo.com/677469165 Password: GSC2022</p>
What your group might consider:	How does your Group feel about the pilot podcast test concept?

Conference Committee: **Public Information D**

Agenda Item:	Review report on "YouTube Performance."																																																
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>From the 4Q2021 Report:</p> <p>PROGRESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After adding 3 videos, there are now 109 A.A.W.S. videos posted publicly to YouTube (some in English only, others in English, Spanish and French). • There have been no new requests to post A.A.W.S. videos on the YouTube channel • Before the relaunch of aa.org, all linkbacks were updated. Moving forward, we will discuss more targeted linkbacks in video descriptions to relevant pages on aa.org. <p>ANALYTICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of December 31, 2021, we had over 6,500 subscribers. • Channel stats this quarter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total views: 31,515 ○ Total watch time: 1,100.4 hours ○ Change in subscribers: +301 • Top 10 videos on the channel: <table border="1" data-bbox="462 1371 1219 1843"> <thead> <tr> <th>Video Name</th> <th>Time (hours) Watched</th> <th>Average View Duration</th> <th>Views</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Alcoholics Anonymous</td> <td>98</td> <td>0:39</td> <td>8,928</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alcohólicos Anónimos</td> <td>212.1</td> <td>1:48</td> <td>7,043</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Esperanza: Alcohólicos Anónimos</td> <td>342.1</td> <td>3:24</td> <td>6,014</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous</td> <td>128.1</td> <td>3:47</td> <td>2,031</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sobriety in A.A.: Opening doors to a life without drinking (Public Service Announcement)</td> <td>6.4</td> <td>0:40</td> <td>564</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure</td> <td>32.3</td> <td>3:29</td> <td>555</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A.A. Big Book in ASL: The Doctor's Opinion</td> <td>36.2</td> <td>4:55</td> <td>442</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sobriety in A.A.: We made changes to stop drinking (Public Service Announcement)</td> <td>4.5</td> <td>0:53</td> <td>302</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joven y sobrio en A.A. : de la bebida a la recuperaci3n</td> <td>7.4</td> <td>1 :31</td> <td>292</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Les Alcooliques anonymes: un espoir</td> <td>19.1</td> <td>4 :04</td> <td>282</td> </tr> <tr> <td>La sobriedad en A.A.: Desde que logré mi sobriedad, tengo esperanza</td> <td>3.6</td> <td>0 :51</td> <td>255</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Video Name	Time (hours) Watched	Average View Duration	Views	Alcoholics Anonymous	98	0:39	8,928	Alcohólicos Anónimos	212.1	1:48	7,043	Esperanza: Alcohólicos Anónimos	342.1	3:24	6,014	Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous	128.1	3:47	2,031	Sobriety in A.A.: Opening doors to a life without drinking (Public Service Announcement)	6.4	0:40	564	Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure	32.3	3:29	555	A.A. Big Book in ASL: The Doctor's Opinion	36.2	4:55	442	Sobriety in A.A.: We made changes to stop drinking (Public Service Announcement)	4.5	0:53	302	Joven y sobrio en A.A. : de la bebida a la recuperaci3n	7.4	1 :31	292	Les Alcooliques anonymes: un espoir	19.1	4 :04	282	La sobriedad en A.A.: Desde que logré mi sobriedad, tengo esperanza	3.6	0 :51	255
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What your group might consider:	After reviewing the report in full, does your Group have feedback or ideas about A.A.W.S. YouTube performance?
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Conference Committee: **Public Information E**

Agenda Item:	Review report on "Google Ads Performance."
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>From the January 29, 2022, trustees' Public Information Committee report: The committee agreed to forward to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information a report, "Google Ads Performance: October to December 2021." The committee reviewed and approved a new Google Ads campaign developed with multiple ad sets for the professional community. Eight ads were created for the following professional categories: corrections, education, faith, HR, legal, medical, military and treatment. The committee requested the staff secretary partner with the Communication Services department and CPC coordinator to develop a schedule for implementing and tracking these ads.</p> <p>In the 92 days of the fourth quarter, the total Grant spend for this period was \$4,647.73 which is more than double our last report at \$2,180.84. In the account are 2 ad groups. Find a Meeting continues to see far greater attention and engagement than Get Help. This has been the trend for our entire time on Google Ads.</p> <p>As a point of information, Appointed Committee Members (ACMs) have recommended the following text be added to the Google Ads section of the Comprehensive Media Plan (see Public Information Agenda Item A): "The office needs the ability to continuously optimize the Google Ads campaigns based on standard best practices. If we don't have the freedom to manage our campaigns, the campaigns will not improve, and we're wasting the fellowship's grant money and wasting opportunities to reach suffering alcoholics. Appropriate staff members need to be able to make the following updates to the campaigns without waiting a year for conference approval to ensure improved campaign performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate and experiment with ad targeting • A/B test ad copy and design • Add/remove keywords and negative keywords • Change keyword match type • Test multiple landing page options • Approve/deny basic campaign suggestions provided by Google Ads" <p>Discussion of this recommendation will continue in the Comprehensive Media Plan.</p> <p>Lastly, a new Google Ads Campaign has been approved with 8 ad sets including links to our pamphlets targeting: Medical, Faith, Treatment/Recovery, HR, Military, Corrections, Legal and Education friends of AA.</p>
What your group might consider:	How does your Group feel about the Google Ads performance and the new targeted campaign? What ideas does your Group have about utilizing Google Ads?

Conference Committee: **Public Information F**

Agenda Item:	Review report on “Meeting Guide Performance.”
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda? 	The Meeting Guide App upgrade in November 2021, now allows for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • filtering for online only, in-person only or all meeting options • changing the distance radius of the location search • inclusion of meeting details like online platform meeting IDs and passwords
What your group might consider:	How does your Group feel about the meeting guide app? Does your Group have suggestions for future improvements?

Conference Committee: **Public Information G**

Agenda Item:	Review the “2021 Fourth Quarter Report on A.A.W.S. Board Oversight of G.S.O.’s A.A. website.”
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The new www.aa.org website was launched in December with the following traffic counts: <p>Week of Dec 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 441,005 total visitors (377,855 unique) • Total page views 754,041 (Avg 1.33 per session) • 350,070 went directly to Daily Reflections (the dedicated page 337,360 E 10,883 S 1,827 F) <p>Week of Dec 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 425,122 total visitors (376,768 unique) • Total page views 726,036 (Avg 1.29 per session) • 311,244 went directly to Daily Reflections (the dedicated page 289,250 E 19,569 S 2,425 F) <p>Week of Jan 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 456,316 total visitors (399,196 unique) • Total page views 775,421 (Avg 1.29 per session) • 331,189 went directly to Daily Reflections (the dedicated page 304,594 E 23,561 S 3,034 F)
What your group might consider:	What feedback does your Group have on the new website and website traffic?

Conference Committee: **Public Information H**

Agenda Item:	Review report on “AAGV/La Vina Website, Marketing and Podcast.”
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	Excerpts from the report: AAGV Site : Web Traffic Performance •:84k Users (+2.4%), 102k Sessions (+1%), 173k Pageviews (+2.9%) Month over Month Comparisons All traffic remained fairly consistent month over month, and the site is outperforming metrics year over year - Users +18%, Sessions +19%. Aside from the landing page, the highest traffic page continues to be the Sobriety Calculator, with over 2x as many sessions as the next most popular page, which is for the Podcast. AAGV Store : Month over Month Comparisons Web Traffic Performance • 13.6k Users (-11%), 20k Sessions (-11%), 238k Pageviews (-6%) This is the first month since August that we didn’t beat year over year metrics as there were 20,903 sessions Dec 2020 compared to 19,760 sessions Dec 2021 (-1,143 sessions total). AALV Site : Month over Month Comparisons Web Traffic Performance • 3.1k Users (-4.4%), 3.8k Sessions (-2.8%), 5.8k Pageviews (+4.8%) Web traffic overall

	<p>remained relatively steady in December, as it has the previous few months since a big spike in traffic in the summer. 53% of sessions came from direct traffic, and 38% from Google.</p> <p>AALV Store: Month over Month Comparisons Web Traffic Performance • 912 Users (-18%), 1.3k Sessions (-17%), 13k Pageviews (-13%) This drop in website traffic, though steeper than that in 2020, does seem to match a trend of lower traffic toward the end of the year. Traffic metrics are up 20-37% year over year. Google was the top source of sessions for the store, beating even referral traffic from the main La Viña site.</p> <p>Podcast Report As of January 18, 2022 Episodes = 16 Episode downloads = 38,015 Averaging 2,376 downloads per episode. According to the website <i>podcast.co</i>, if an episode gets more than 1,000 downloads, it's in the top 20%. If it gets more than 2,900 downloads, it's in the top 10%. Grapevine is doing better than the top 20%.</p> <p>Podcast downloads have grown 12% in the last 28 days, compared to previous 28 days.</p> <p>Where they listen: Apple 46% Grapevine site 27% Spotify 9% Amazon, Overcast, Stitcher, Podbean, others make up remaining.</p>
What your group might consider:	Review the report with your Group. Do you have any AAGV/LV Website, Marketing or Podcast Suggestions?



Conference Committee: **Public Information I**

Agenda Item:	Discuss feasibility research on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>From a 2021 GSC Advisory Action: That a feasibility study on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms including, but not limited to, Netflix, Hulu, and YouTube be conducted and that a report on the research be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information.</p> <p>The report directs toward passive placement of ads. Passive ads attract your services in seemingly small, subtle, more native ways that doesn't inconvenience or overwhelm people. It involves efforts that reach people whether they know it or not, such as placing ads in locations where they are looking anyway. Example: A display ad in the margin of a website, or in between website content, is a passive form of advertising. Since visitors have the option of looking at the ad or other content nearby, passive advertising doesn't feel forced or annoying, but rather optional and expected from customers. It makes content and opportunity available to online users through smart positioning—but then waits for consumers to view the content on their own. This would not be for active, more aggressive ads, such as pop-ups.</p> <p>The research did not find anything in the Public Information Committee's History & Action documents or our department files stating we cannot do paid</p>

	advertising. In fact, we already partake in unsolicited paid email marketing/advertising for communication distribution via Campaign Monitor. There is a recommendation to move forward with broadcast (which we are performing) and paid online distribution (which we have no plans to do at this time) for the "Wall" and "Party" PSAs.
What your group might consider:	Does this feel like a direction that your group thinks the fellowship should try? What sort of target audience demographics might be reached with this type of PSA message? What should the message be?
Access to the video PSAs:	To view these two current video PSAs, go to the Media Library Alcoholics Anonymous (aa.org) page on G.S.O.'s A.A. website. Filter by "Public Service Announcements (PSAs)" where you can select the PSAs to view.

Conference Committee: **Public Information J.1**

<p>Agenda Item:</p> 	<p>Discuss a Public Information pamphlet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider suggestion to revise the flyer "A.A. At a Glance."
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>Based on a submission for the 2020 GSC, the Conference PI Committee reviewed a request to review all PI pamphlets. The earliest reference to this no charge flyer is 1954. While this flyer has been updated, the current suggestion is to revised with editorial edits and a revamped look.</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Does your group think the flyer is too long? Does your group have suggestions for updating this flyer? Has this pamphlet been helpful, locally?</p>
<p>Access current pamphlet:</p>	<p>https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/f-1_AAataGlance.pdf</p>

 Conference Committee: **Public Information J.2**

<p>Agenda Item:</p> 	<p>Discuss a Public Information pamphlet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review suggested revisions to the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings."
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>From a 2021 GSC Advisory Action: That the trustees' Public Information Committee revise the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings" to better reflect carrying the A.A. message to diverse public audiences in non-A.A. settings and include a section on media training/press interviews, and that a draft or progress report on the revision be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information.</p>

In addition, a 2021 GSC consideration suggested that a PowerPoint be developed for the purpose of providing shared experience on “how to” present about A.A. at non-A.A. events.

GSO Staff has since indicated that the update to a PowerPoint template for the purpose of providing shared experience on “how to” present about A.A. at non-A.A. events should need to be developed once a decision is made on revising the pamphlet.

Suggestions for change:

- Revise the current version of the pamphlet by starting with the fully revised Draft pamphlet, “Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings” submitted by the local area (see background Item 10.A.1). Upon review, we agreed they met their stated goal to retain as much information from the current pamphlet as possible, add vital information and useful material, re-organize, and condense.
- Two suggested new titles are, “Speaking to Outside Groups about A.A.” or “Speaking at Non-A.A. Events.”
- Underneath opening section of the pamphlet, add section on Singleness of Purpose.
- Underneath the “Amateur Standing” add a section or statement on what is the difference between Attraction/Promotion for the presenters or speakers.
- To address the request to that focus is given to A.A. messaging to diverse public audiences in non-A.A. settings, we feel that the following additions can be made to three sections of the pamphlet. Several of these questions address the ask to include sections on media training/press interviews.
- Page 3 section: Types of Non-A.A. Meetings add the highlighted language. Organizations of any type may ask for our presence. Organizations and institutions that may request us are schools, medical, lawyers, mental health, military, factory, union, social work, and many others. Depending on our local area or region you may also receive requests from organizations such as, but not limited to cultural associations and police departments to a local American Sign language school or indigenous population school. In keeping with our traditions, we attempt to cooperate with these organizations in order to serve the still sick and suffering alcoholic.
- Page 4 section: Know your audience and reason for your invitation add the highlighted language. Before committing to speaking at a non-A.A. meeting, reflect on and ask the requestor some questions:
 - Who is the inviting group and what is their occupation?
 - What is the inviting groups primary interest in A.A.?
 - Why was A.A. invited to talk?
 - What are the cultural norms that need to be observed?
 - What language or accessibility solutions need to be considered to present?
 - How can an A.A. talk be beneficial to them?
 - How can you carry the A.A. message appropriately for this talk?
 - Ask if press/media are going to be in attendance and/or contact the presenter?
 - If attending, meet with the press representative prior to and at the event to discuss our Tradition of Anonymity.
- Add a new section on Page 5 titled, “Considerations in working with press and media when giving such talks”:

On the day of event, meet with the press representatives again, as you may have spoken with a producer and a reporter and camera person are attending the meeting. Review the following with the onsite media representatives:

 - Those who are reluctant to seek our help often overcome their fear if they are confident that their anonymity will be respected.
 - If an A.A. member is identified in the media, we ask that you please use first names only (e.g., Sofia M. or Ben T.) and that you not use images in which members’ faces may be recognized. This helps to provide members with the security that anonymity can bring.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anonymity acts as a healthy guardrail for A.A. members, reminding us that we are a program of principles, not personalities • Our Fellowship does not comment on matters of public controversy, but we are happy to provide information about A.A. to anyone who seeks it • Under the section “How to Share about A.A.” the section “Be familiar with our history, literature and program of action”, Current language: “Our program of action is contained in the first 164 pages of Alcoholics Anonymous, commonly referenced as “The Big Book.” Suggestion to change to: Known as the "Big Book," the basic text of Alcoholics Anonymous has helped millions of people recover from alcoholism since the first edition appeared in 1939. Chapters describing the A.A. recovery program — the original Twelve Steps — and the personal histories of A.A.'s co-founders remain unchanged since the original, while new stories have been added to the personal histories with each edition. • Add to new section on Page 5: Practical “how to film anonymously.” Use language about filming in shadow from Tradition 11 in illustrated pamphlet. If a virtual platform interview and recording, turn off cameras of the A.A. members. • Change the FAQ, “What is the success rate of A.A.? Current language: Although A.A. does not keep any official records, it is estimated that A.A. has more than 2 million members. The program has been unchanged since 1935, with our literature now available in multiple languages. Suggestion to change to something such as: Success Rate might best be detailed in statements about the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership: Alcoholics Anonymous is an informal society of more than 2,000,000 recovered alcoholics in the United States, Canada, and other countries. These members have recovered from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body. (Forward to the first edition) • Countries: We are aware of A.A. activity in approximately 180 countries, including 64 autonomous general service offices in other lands. Because A.A. has never attempted to keep formal membership lists, it is extremely difficult for A.A.'s General Service Office (G.S.O.) to obtain completely accurate figures on total membership at any given time. • Translations Add approximate number of how many languages are book, Alcoholics Anonymous is translated. • Change the FAQ, “What makes you an Alcoholic? Current language: Absolutely any type of person may have this illness, as the unlimited variety of A.A. members indicates. If drinking has an unfavorable effect on any part of a person’s life, and that person still cannot stop drinking, then he or she -- in the opinion of most A.A.'s may be an alcoholic. Suggestion to change to something such as: “If when you honestly want to, you find you cannot quit entirely, or if when drinking, you have little control over the amount you take, you are probably alcoholic.” (Page 44 in We Agnostics) Only you can decide whether you want to give A.A. a try — whether you think it can help you. (From Is A.A. for You?)
What your group might consider:	Review the suggested changes to update “Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings”. Do you agree with the suggestions? Do you have other suggestions?
Access to current version of the pamphlet:	https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-40_speaknonAAmeet.pdf

Conference Committee: **Public Information J.3**

Agenda Item:	Discuss a Public Information pamphlet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review suggested revisions to the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity.”
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 <p>Understanding Anonymity</p>	
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>From 2021 Additional Committee Consideration of the Conference Committee on Public Information: The committee requested that G.S.O. Publishing conduct editorial updates to the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity” to reflect current technology terminologies and service resources. The following changes are suggested:</p> <p>Change Suggestion 1 - Pg. 10</p> <p>CURRENTLY READS</p> <p><i>Anonymity in the digital age</i> Q. I maintain an Internet website and a personal page on a social media site. I also belong to an online meeting. At what level should I protect my anonymity on the Internet?</p> <p>A. Publicly accessible aspects of the Internet such as websites featuring text, graphics, audio, and video can be considered the same as publishing or broadcasting. Unless password-protected, a website requires the same safeguards that we use at the level of press, radio, and film. Simply put, this means that A.A.s do not identify themselves as A.A. members using their full names and/or full-face photos.</p> <p>CHANGE TO:</p> <p><i>Anonymity in the digital age</i> Q. I maintain a website and social media pages. At what level should I protect my anonymity on the Internet?</p> <p>A: Publicly accessible aspects of the Internet such as websites featuring text, graphics, audio, and video can be considered the same as publishing or broadcasting. Unless password-protected, a website requires the same safeguards that we use at the level of press, radio, and film/video. Simply put, this means that A.A.s do not identify themselves as A.A. members using their full names and/or full-face photos.</p> <p>It is suggested that when A.A.s gather as A.A.s or as an A.A. group on social media pages, such as Facebook, and other similar platforms- that these pages are set to “private” rather than “public.”</p> <p>Suggestion 2 To add the following text:</p> <p>Q. Are virtual A.A. Meetings considered “Public?”</p> <p>A. “These online gatherings are not streamed to the general public however information about the meeting is provided to A.A members, potential members, and the general public similarly to in-person meetings.</p> <p>Many members feel comfortable using their full names and making their faces visible to fellow members and those new to A.A., including at “Open” meetings. However, some members/attendees have felt more comfortable having their camera off and just listening or using just first name and last initial.</p>

	For safety purposes, some groups have provided helpful reminders in their group format that picture taking, or screen shots are not in keeping with anonymity principles.
What your group might consider:	Review the suggested outline to update “Understanding Anonymity.” Do you agree with the suggestions? Do you have other suggestions?
Access to current version of the pamphlet:	https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-47_understandinganonymity.pdf

Conference Committee: **Public Information J.4**

<p>Agenda Item:</p> 	<p>Discuss a Public Information pamphlet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider request to retire and replace the “A.A. Fact File.”
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>From a 2021 GSC recommendation that the committee discussed the content and format of the P.I. Kit and Workbook. The committee noted the memo regarding recent A.A.W.S. Board discussions on the possible development of an A.A. service app and new digital PDF version of the workbook. The committee encourages G.S.O. to move away from a “print-first” approach to publishing so that service material and resources on aa.org might be updated more quickly and efficiently with the most up to date resources for local committees.</p> <p>To that end, in partnership with the Communication Services Department, Digital Media Content Creator, the Public Information Coordinator developed a digital A.A. Press Media Kit for your review and consideration. The Public Information Coordinator is proposing an updated electronic A.A. Press Media Kit. We currently use the A.A. Fact File as our “Press Kit”:</p> <p>Link: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/m-24_aafactfile.pdf .</p> <p>After review, recommendation is to consider retiring the A.A. Fact File, and replace it with a service material version of a new digital PI Press Media Kit.</p> <p>Access the new A.A. Press Media Kit: VIII. 2022_ConferenceCommitteeOnPublicInformation_AgendaBackground_FINAL_Dashboard.pdf (scroll down to pages 148-152)</p>
What your group	Does your Group support retiring the A.A. Fact File and replacing it with the service material version of the new digital Press Media Kit?

might consider:	
Access “print” version of pamphlet:	https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/m-24_aafactfile.pdf



Conference Committee: Public Information K

Agenda Item:	Review request to create a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>From a 2020 GSC Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed a request “to create a new form of communication” to address anonymity on social media. The committee suggested that the trustees’ Public Information Committee continue to discuss this request and that preliminary information be gathered before moving forward. Information to gather:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Shared experience from the Fellowship on how A.A. members adhere to anonymity Traditions on various social media platforms. o Suggested safety and etiquette while using social media. o Anonymity on video meeting platforms. <p>While the committee recognizes that A.A. literature on anonymity is available (“Understanding Anonymity,” A.A. Guidelines on Internet, etc.) the committee noted that the content is dated and does not accurately reflect current technology or the Fellowship’s experience. Specific, updated material is needed and the consideration that a video service piece to communicate this sharing might be explored. The committee requested that the trustees’ Public Information Committee continue these discussions and that a progress report or draft proposal be brought back to the 2021 Conference Committee on PI.</p> <p>A request for updated to a not-yet-distributed survey titled “Anonymity on Social Media Survey – A Request for Feedback from A.A. Members” is on hold pending time resources of staff and trustees, as well as budget.</p>
What your group might consider:	Does your Group support moving forward with development of this item? What feedback does your Group have on the draft survey in the background?
Access existing Anonymity materials:	https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-47_understandinganonymity.pdf https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/mg-18_internet.pdf

Conference Committee: Public Information L

Agenda Item:	Review report on development and distribution ideas for the “A.A. Triennial Membership Survey.”
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Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?



Committee Considerations of the 2021 Conference Public Information Committee

The committee discussed the trustees' Public Information Committee "Survey Methodology Working Group on the Triennial A.A. Membership Survey" report. The committee reviewed and accepted the report and felt satisfied that the current methodology sampling of the survey is sound.

The committee also discussed the suggestion that 2021 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted and took no action. The committee expressed concerns on the timing of the survey being distributed to the Fellowship considering the status of many groups, attendance, and possible interrupted local communications relating to the distribution of the questionnaire.

The committee also expressed concerns about the A.A. Membership Survey in pamphlet form being used as an "outward" facing Public Information pamphlet to inform the public, professionals, and potential members about A.A. and believes that the function of the data collected might be better used to inform Twelfth Step efforts for groups and service committees rather than a Public Information tool.

The committee suggested that the trustees' Public Information Committee:

- Conduct a more in-depth review of the content, language, and function in the questionnaire.
- Discuss the function and target audience of the pamphlet.
- Produce a training video for delegates and G.S.R.s on data collection, purpose, and methods to enhance consistency and engagement.

(The most recent AA Membership Survey was conducted in 2014. A draft of the updated survey presented for 2017 was not accepted by the 2017 GSC Conference Committee on PI.)

A consultant has reviewed the previous 2014 Membership Survey, and has made the following recommendations for the next survey:

As it stands now, the pamphlet appears dated – its cover refers explicitly to 2014, and the information about how to connect with A.A. provided on p. 5 refers to a phonebook. Per the professionals I spoke with it is not broadly useful to them, though it does have some value. I recommend considering the following as ways to improve the pamphlet's utility:

- Update the pamphlet. Consider removing the year the data reported were collected from the front page, and perhaps selecting a title more descriptive of the pamphlet contents. One interviewee suggested something as simple as "Important Information about Members of A.A."
- Include short definitions or explanations of common A.A.-specific terms, such as "home group," "sponsor," and "fellowship," as this makes the pamphlet more accessible to non-members.
- Add short descriptions about the information the pamphlet provides. For example, for the data in the current pamphlet "Length of sobriety" might be preceded by a short sentence that says, "About one in four A.A. members have only recently achieved sobriety. Others have been sober for years or even decades." "Introduction to A.A." might read, "Many different things influence members' decision to come to A.A. Though about one in three is self-motivated, others come to their first meeting because an A.A. member, treatment facility, or someone in their family suggests it."
- Add more detailed, and more contemporary information about how to connect with A.A. All the professionals I spoke with emphasized the importance of helping people connect with a meeting that is right for them, and most described useful resources for doing so, including Intergroup and the meeting-finder app. Provide information about these tools and remove or minimize reference to more dated communication methods, such as the phone book and U.S. mail.
- Consider refraining from including in the pamphlet detailed data that suggest that A.A. is not inclusive or diverse. Rather than reporting statistics about such variables as race, ethnicity, gender, and age, if the data show that key groups are underrepresented in A.A. overall, consider reporting that A.A. includes (e.g.), "Black, White, Asian, First Nations, Hispanic, and ... members, who range in age from under 21 to over 70. There are people like you in A.A. To find a meeting that serves your needs, consult the meeting-finder app, or reach out to the A.A. Intergroup near you."
- While the quantified data provided in the pamphlet are informative, we know that people like and respond to textual information and stories. Consider adding a few quotes from members – ideally members from diverse backgrounds – that illustrate what A.A. offers and how it helps its members.

What your group might consider:	Does your Group support the feedback on the survey report? What additional ideas does your Group have?
Access to the 2014 output of the item:	https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-48_membershipsurvey.pdf

Conference Committee: **Public Information M**

Agenda Item:	Review contents and format of P.I. Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This is a standing agenda item. Between conferences, ideas for changes to the Workbook or the contents of the kit may be received. Note: workbooks and kits are service material, and suggested changes to the content do not require recommendations, rather, they are put forth as Additional Committee Considerations.</p> <p>From a 2021 Committee Consideration of the Conference Committee on Public Information: The committee discussed the content and format of the P.I. Kit and Workbook. The committee noted the memo regarding recent A.A.W.S. Board discussions on the possible development of an A.A. service app and new digital PDF version of the workbook. The committee encourages G.S.O. to move away from a “print-first” approach to publishing so that service material and resources on aa.org might be updated more quickly and efficiently with the most up to date resources for local committees.</p> <p>The following suggestions are recommended for the kit:</p> <p>Add item(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.A. Guidelines: MG-13 Sharing the A.A. Message with the Alcoholic who is Deaf • Pamphlet: P-83 - Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers <p>Remove item(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M-271I Radio and Audio Public Service Announcement Scripts (Rev.12/21) We combined the English, French and Spanish scripts into one document (M-721D) <p>Replace item with updated/revised version:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of Kit Contents (Rev. 12/21) (F-65) • Estimates of Groups and Members (Rev. 12/20) (SMF-53) • Anonymity Online and Digital Media (Rev. 02/19) (SMF-197) • A.A. Fact Sheet (Rev. 09/21) (SMF-94) • Anonymity Letter to the Media (Rev. 1/22) (F-21) • Suggestions for Working with your Local Radio and TV Stations (Rev. 09/17) (M-271A) • Radio and Audio Public Service Announcement Scripts (Rev.12/21) (M-271D) <p>Other notes: For this item, make the title black font color and the link live and blue.</p> <p>Anonymity in the Digital Age Poster https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_anonymityplacard.pdf</p>
What your group might consider:	Review Kit and Workbook. Does your Groups support the suggested changes? Does your Group have other suggestions for changes to the Kit or Workbook?

Access to the current workbook and kit:	https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/M-27i_PubInfWorkbk.pdf https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/f-65w_PI_Kit.pdf
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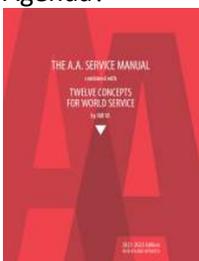
Conference Committee: **Report and Charter A**

Agenda Item:	Discuss General Service Conference Final Report.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	This is a standing agenda item. The Committee will review the 2021 General Service Conference Final Report.
What your group might consider:	Please contact our Area Delegate if you would like a hard copy or pdf of the 2021 General Service Conference Final Report. What suggestions does your Group have regarding the report format?



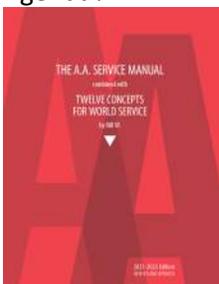
Conference Committee: **Report and Charter B**

Agenda Item:	Review <i>The A.A. Service Manual</i> , 2021-2023 Edition.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The service manual is updated from time to time, and this current edition of the Service Manual became available in pdf in the fall of 2021, with print version shipped beginning in December 2021.
What your group might consider:	Please provide feedback on the 2021-2023 A.A. Service Manual. Please be specific about what works or what changes/improvements you would like to see in the next edition.
Access:	https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/en_bm-31_3.pdf



Conference Committee: **Report and Charter C**

Agenda Item:	Review progress report from A.A.W.S. Publishing on a new section to be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled “Amendments.”
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	From a 2021 GSC Advisory Action: A new section be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled “Amendments,” and that it contain an updated version of the Concept XI essay that incorporates the information in the current footnotes and endnotes, along with comprehensive descriptions of the current General Service Board committees, and that a draft or progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
What your group might consider:	



As the Publishing department has reviewed this Advisory Action, some concerns have been raised regarding the proposed new section titled "Amendments" and the impact of such a change on the basic editorial structure of how the Twelve Concepts as a whole are presented in the volume *The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, by Bill W.*

The basic structure of the presentation of the Concepts was initially developed to provide updated material, where appropriate and as needed, through the use of footnotes and the occasional asterisk. This structure allows the publication to maintain the integrity and phraseology of the original writing of the Concepts by Bill W., while providing factual and/or statistical updates reflective of current process and procedures, leaving intact the "flavor" and original tone of the original -- capturing Bill's "voice" and perspective on the fundamental characteristics and history of the Concepts.

As noted in the Foreword to the Twelve Concepts:

Following the recommendations of an ad hoc committee of the A.A. General Service Board, the 1985 General Service Conference recommended that future publication of the Concepts in "The A.A. Service Manual" and the booklet "Twelve Concepts for World Service" be in the original 1962 version, with required factual changes provided as numbered footnotes at the end of each chapter. The only exceptions are certain footnotes written by Bill W. in the years following the first appearance of the Concepts: these are marked by asterisks that appear on the same pages as the text they refer to.

While the footnotes may require some back and forth by individual readers to be apprised of any updates, it keeps intact the original flow of thoughts and explanation provided by the author.

Of course, one Conference is not confined to the actions of another and, as noted in the 2021 Advisory Action above, one of the concerns articulated by the Conference committee in Concept XI is that the number and function of the trustees' committees described have changed since the writing of the original document, and, while the growth in number of the committees is noted traditionally in a footnote, the committee descriptions are not updated. In consideration of these matters, the editors have put forward three sample versions for how the intent of the Advisory Action could be expressed, while still maintaining the current integrity of the existing editorial approach, along with a fourth sample of the proposed "Amendments" section as noted in the Advisory Action. *These samples are presented as information for the committee only and are not intended to be distributed beyond the members of the committee.*

VERSION 1: This approach keeps all the existing footnotes in place, but refers readers to the section in the A.A. Service Manual where the current General Service Board committees are described, with the following text added to footnote #1: "For updated descriptions of all current General Service Board committees, see pages 57-60 of The A.A. Service Manual. These updated descriptions were requested by Advisory Action of the 71st General Service Conference." This is the simplest and most direct approach.

VERSION 2: This approach incorporates the updated descriptions of the current GSB Committees into the existing footnote #1, adding: "As requested by Advisory Action of the 71st A.A. General Service Conference, descriptions of the current standing committees are: [text added from the A.A. Service Manual]..." This approach, while lengthier, keeps all the new information in one place, under one footnote. (It could also be shortened by not including the information on the five oversight committees of the GSB and just presenting the info on the committees with corresponding Conference committees.)

	<p>VERSION 3: In this version, the first two footnotes have been revised and the actual text of the Concept has been altered to incorporate the updated committee descriptions from the A.A. Service Manual. Essentially, this entirely removes the original text covering the committee descriptions, adding the note: "Due to an Advisory Action of the 71st A.A. General Service Conference, this listing and the committee descriptions that follow have been updated, replacing the original descriptions. The original descriptions of General Service Board committees are available, upon request, from G.S.O.'s Archives."</p> <p>VERSION 4: This approach represents the new "Amendments" section requested by the Advisory Action and incorporates new text from the A.A. Service Manual to update the GSB committee descriptions and folds the information originally contained in the ten footnotes and one asterisked comment into the original Concept XI text, creating a new "updated" version. For contextual continuity, however, this version also deletes some of the original text that is deemed out of step with the incorporation of the existing footnotes into the actual text. (Paradoxically, the removal or incorporation of the footnotes leading to the deletion of some sections of the original text may require footnoting itself to maintain the integrity of the original.)</p> <p>With these potential versions in mind, the Publishing department is seeking guidance from the Report and Charter Committee regarding which approach to formalize when the changes are introduced following the 2023 General Service Conference. Once determined, this format will be implemented for the 2024-2026 edition of the Service Manual.</p>
What your group might consider:	Does your group support the ask as stated in the 2021 Advisory Action (Version 4) or does your group support one of the alternative approaches (Version 1, 2 or 3) that are believed to capture the intent of the 2021 Advisory Action? If your group supports the alternative approach, which is preferred (Version 1, 2 or 3)?
Access:	https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/en_bm-31_3.pdf



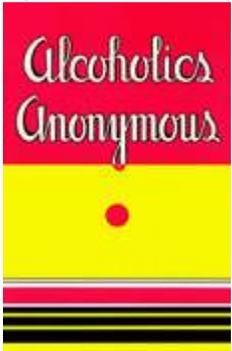
Conference Committee: Report and Charter D (EDW from Literature)

Agenda Item:	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?	<p>While A.A. does not have an official GSR preamble, the following, which was written around 1974-75, and was printed in the Aug-Sept 1989 issue of Box 459, is suggested in the request as the GSR preamble:</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>We realize the ultimate authority in A.A. 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.</i></p> <p><i>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 groups as a whole.</i></p>
What your group might consider:	Does your Group support adding this as the GSR preamble? Why or why not? Do you have other suggestions for a GSR preamble?
Access the current pamphlet:	https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-19_gsr.pdf



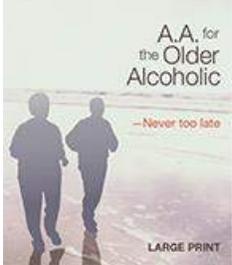


Conference Committee: **Report and Charter E (EDW from Literature)**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Consider requests that the chapter titled “The Doctor’s Opinion” in the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition.</p>																																												
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p> 	<p>This is a new request, that upon the creation of a Fifth Edition of the book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>, the chapter titled: “The Doctor's Opinion” be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition, published in 1939. The committee considered the request to restore the original page numbering of the book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>, by making "The Doctor’s Opinion" page one, not "Bill’s Story".</p> <p>From the submission: “The Doctor’s Opinion” was moved from page one to the Roman Numerals when the Second edition was published. Data suggests that the average reader does not read the Preface and Forwards. Instead, they start on page one. If the suffering alcoholic, without a sponsor or guidance, starts on page one they will miss the only medical explanation of the disease presented in the Text, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>.</p> <p>Back in 1939, when this chapter first appeared, the Foundation was mailing the Big Book out and newcomers were reading it without any guidance. The AA Fellowship saw exponential growth. This content packaging worked.</p> <p>The suffering alcoholic, without a sponsor or guidance, will begin reading The Doctor’s Opinion on page one and absorb the only medical evidence presented in the book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>. Furthermore, readers will be validated with a sense of surety, freedom and well-being in learning that alcoholism is a disease and not a moral failing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Doctor’s Opinion in the First Edition: Contents and Page One.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div data-bbox="457 1163 889 1780"> <p style="text-align: center;">CONTENTS</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">CHAPTER</th> <th style="text-align: right;">PAGE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FOREWORD</td> <td style="text-align: right;">vii</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THE DOCTOR'S OPINION</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I. BILL'S STORY</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>II. THERE IS A SOLUTION</td> <td style="text-align: right;">27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>III. MORE ABOUT ALCOHOLISM</td> <td style="text-align: right;">41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IV. 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A VISION FOR YOU</td> <td style="text-align: right;">165</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">PERSONAL STORIES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THE DOCTOR'S NIGHTMARE</td> <td style="text-align: right;">183</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THE UNBELIEVER</td> <td style="text-align: right;">194</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THE EUROPEAN DRINKER</td> <td style="text-align: right;">206</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A FEMINE VICTORY</td> <td style="text-align: right;">217</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OUR SOUTHERN FRIENDS</td> <td style="text-align: right;">226</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A BUSINESS MAN'S RECOVERY</td> <td style="text-align: right;">242</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A DIFFERENT SLANT</td> <td style="text-align: right;">252</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <div data-bbox="980 1163 1412 1780"> <p style="text-align: center;">THE DOCTOR'S OPINION</p> <p>WE of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the reader will be interested in the medical estimate of the plan of recovery described in this book. Convincing testimony must surely come from medical men who have had experience with the sufferings of our members and have witnessed our return to health. A well known doctor, chief physician at a nationally prominent hospital specializing in alcoholic and drug addiction, gave Alcoholics Anonymous this letter:</p> <p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>I have specialized in the treatment of alcoholism for many years.</p> <p>About four years ago I attended a patient who, though he had been a competent business man of good earning capacity, was an alcoholic of a type I had come to regard as hopeless.</p> <p>In the course of his third treatment he acquired certain ideas concerning a possible means of recovery. As part of his rehabilitation he commenced to present his conceptions to other alcoholics, impressing upon them that they must do likewise with still others. This has become the basis of a rapidly growing fellowship of these men and their families. This man and over one hundred others appear to have recovered.</p> <p>I personally know thirty of these cases who were of the type with whom other methods had failed completely.</p> </div> </div>	CHAPTER	PAGE	FOREWORD	vii	THE DOCTOR'S OPINION	1	I. BILL'S STORY	10	II. THERE IS A SOLUTION	27	III. MORE ABOUT ALCOHOLISM	41	IV. WE AGNOSTICS	56	V. HOW IT WORKS	70	VI. INTO ACTION	84	VII. WORKING WITH OTHERS	101	VIII. TO WIVES	117	IX. THE FAMILY AFTERWARD	135	X. TO EMPLOYERS	150	XI. A VISION FOR YOU	165	PERSONAL STORIES		THE DOCTOR'S NIGHTMARE	183	THE UNBELIEVER	194	THE EUROPEAN DRINKER	206	A FEMINE VICTORY	217	OUR SOUTHERN FRIENDS	226	A BUSINESS MAN'S RECOVERY	242	A DIFFERENT SLANT	252
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<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Does your Group support this change? Why or why not?</p>																																												

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities A**

Agenda Item:	Review progress report on the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic.”
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	This comes from an Advisory Action from the 2019 GSC that the pamphlet be updated with a revised introduction; current and inclusive stories; reference to online A.A.; and an updated “How do I Find A.A.” section. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2020 GSC. The 2020 Conference Committee reviewed the report and noted that the submitted stories did not indicate a broad and diverse representation of A.A. experience and suggested a reopened call for stories based on diversity of experience. The 2021 Conference Committee reviewed and updated report and requested a draft pamphlet or progress report for the 2022 GSC. The trustees’ CPC/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee has now reviewed 84 stories, and is selecting the final 12 stories to present to the Conference Committee.
What your group might consider:	The draft will be available only to the Conference Committee. Look forward to seeing the updated pamphlet when available.
Access <u>current</u> version of the pamphlet:	https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-22_AAfortheOlderAA.pdf



Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities B**

Agenda Item:	Review progress report on military audio interviews.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This comes from an Advisory Action from the 2019 GSC that the trustees’ committee develop anonymity-protected audio interviews with military professionals about their experience with A.A. as a resource for posting online. <i>From 2021 Committee Consideration of the Conference Committee on Treatment/Accessibilities:</i></p> <p>The committee reviewed the progress report on audio interviews with A.A. members who are in the Armed Forces and made the following suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Move forward with the production of audio files ensuring appropriate sound quality for distribution on digital platforms. ➤ Gather more audio military interviews from as broad a cross-section of A.A. members in active military duty as possible, including members of the Canadian Armed Forces and native Spanish- and French-speaking members. ➤ Develop a questionnaire to be used for future audio military interviews that include topics such as Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), injuries, and barriers that sober alcoholics on active military duty face in getting sober. ➤ Seek the help of the Fellowship in reaching out to possible candidates for the audio military interviews. ➤ Utilize higher quality equipment professional services to record and oversee the production of the audio military interviews to improve sound and visual design quality. ➤ Utilize graphics such as the “Blue People” banner, alternate backgrounds and soundtracks to enhance the audio and visual design of the audio files presentations.

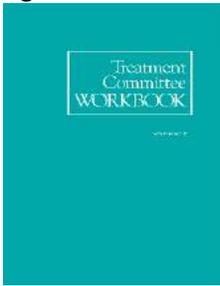
	<p>The scope of the subcommittee regarding this item includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a questionnaire for audio-military interviews. • Request to a broad cross-section of A.A. members. • Create a standard roadmap between U.S. and Canada having a unified plan. • Seek interviews and to seek contacts from various military branches. • Develop a project plan that will include reporting to the entire trustee committee.
What your group might consider:	As the audio files are not available as background, read written background material provided. Does your Group support this approach to carrying the message?

Conference Committee: Treatment and Accessibilities C

Agenda Item:	Review draft version of A.A. Guidelines for remote communities.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The 2021 GSC Committee reviewed an update, and a draft version was requested for review at the 2022 GSC. This is service material, so suggested changes to the content do not require recommendations, rather, they are put forth as Additional Committee Considerations</p> <p>The draft appears in the Background on pages 11-17: X. 2022 ConferenceCommitteeOnTreatment and Access AgendaBackground FINAL Dashboard.pdf</p>
What your group might consider:	Does your Group support the draft A.A. Guidelines for Remote Communities?

Conference Committee: Treatment and Accessibilities D

Agenda Item:	Review contents and format of Treatment Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This is a standing agenda item. Between conferences, ideas for changes to the Workbook or the contents of the kit may be received. Note: workbooks and kits are service material, and suggested changes to the content do not require recommendations, rather, they are put forth as Additional Committee Considerations. Because of the current supply chain challenges, including paper shortages, it is anticipated that the revised kit contents and workbook will be available in digital format prior to the print versions.</p>
What your group might consider:	Review Kit and Workbook. Does your Group have suggestions for changes to the Kit or Workbook?
Access the workbook and kit:	https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/m-40i_TFWorkbook.pdf https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/f-167w_TF_Kit.pdf



Conference Committee: Treatment and Accessibilities E

Agenda Item:	Review contents and format of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This is a standing agenda item. Between conferences, ideas for changes to the Workbook or the contents of the kit may be received. Note: workbooks and kits are service material, and suggested changes to the content do not require recommendations, rather, they are put forth as Additional Committee</p>

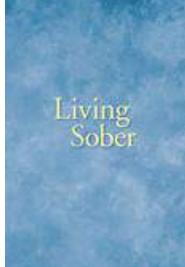
	<p>Considerations. Because of the current supply chain challenges, including paper shortages, it is anticipated that the revised kit contents and workbook will be available in digital format prior to the print versions.</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Review Kit and Workbook. Does your Group have suggestions for changes to the Kit or Workbook?</p>
<p>Access the workbook and kit:</p>	<p>https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/m-48i_SNWorkbook.pdf https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/f-182w_SN_Kit.pdf</p>

 Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities F (EDW from Literature)**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Consider revising the pamphlet, “The A.A. Group,” to reflect the importance of the group as a “spiritual entity” as stated in the Long Form of Tradition Five.</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p> 	<p>This item requests adding the Long Form of Tradition Five to the “What is an AA Group” section on page 12 of the pamphlet, which already expresses the group in terms of Tradition Three and Warranty Six. The Group as a spiritual entity is not mentioned until page 31, and only in reference to safety. Perhaps the inclusion of the Long Form of Tradition Five in this section will provide a clearer picture that an A.A. Group is, as suggested by our Traditions, a spiritual entity. The long form of Tradition Five states, “Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose - that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers” (<i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> pg. 562).</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Does your Group support this recommendation? Why or why not?</p>
<p>Access current version of the pamphlet:</p>	<p>https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-16_theaagroup.pdf</p>

 Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities G (EDW from Literature)**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Consider request to revise text in the chapter “Getting plenty of rest” in the booklet <i>Living Sober</i>.</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>Submitted by a Group in Alcoholics Anonymous “proposes that the language in <i>Living Sober</i>, Essay #12 (Getting Plenty of Rest) ‘Nobody has ever died of lack of sleep’ be removed because not only is that a misleading statement, it is not true.” Further information submitted with this PAI is: <i>That statement in Living Sober is false. It suggests to alcoholics that sleep is not important, and that there are no consequences to being deprived of sleep. That is misleading, since medical institutions everywhere tell us otherwise. In fact, lack of sleep can kill us. At a minimum, lack of sleep reduces our immunity, it increases our stress responsivity, impacts our ability to think properly, increases the risk of hypertension,</i></p>

	<p><i>dyslipidemia, cardiovascular disease, weight-related issues, metabolic syndrome, type 2 diabetes mellitus, and colorectal cancer. Lack of sleep affects our memory, our mood, and our ability to make rational decisions. We become more prone to accidents around the house and when behind the wheel of a vehicle. Plus, for alcoholics we must be extra careful. As AA reminds us, we should avoid getting too hungry, angry, lonely, or tired, because we tend to misconstrue signals and think being tired means being thirsty. Sleep is a healthy part of well-being, and we should not discount its importance.</i></p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Does your Group support this change? Why or why not?</p>

Conference Committee: **Trustees A**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Review resumes of candidates for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Canada Regional Trustee • Pacific Regional Trustee
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>For the two Regional Trustee trusted servant positions, the Area Delegates from the corresponding region, and an equal number of members from the Trustees' Nominating Committee and the Conference Committee on Trustees will vote utilizing the third legacy procedure.</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Review election procedures. Discuss how Area 50 can encourage eligible candidates to stand for Trustee positions. Area 50 is in the Northeast Region, which will be electing the Northeast Regional Trustee at the 2023 General Service Conference.</p>

Conference Committee: **Trustees B**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>This is a standing agenda item to present the slates of trustees and officers of the GSB each year. The Conference Committee on Trustees can only approve or disapprove of the entire slate.</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Congratulations! If you've read this far you get to take a meditation break! Just reflect on the slate with gratitude for our trusted servants in A.A. from top to bottom (from GSR's to Class A and Class B Trustees)! The GSC will do the rest.</p>

Conference Committee: **Trustees C**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>This is a standing agenda item to present the slate of Directors each year. The Conference Committee on Trustees can only approve or disapprove of the entire slate.</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Congratulations! If you've read this far you get to take a meditation break! Just reflect on the slate with gratitude for our trusted servants in A.A. from top to bottom (from GSR's to A.A.W.S. Directors)! The GSC will do the rest.</p>

Conference Committee: **Trustees D**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.</p>
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Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	This is a standing agenda item to present the slate of Directors each year. The Conference Committee on Trustees can only approve or disapprove of the entire slate.
What your group might consider:	Congratulations! If you've read this far you get to take a meditation break! Just reflect on the slate with gratitude for our trusted servants in A.A. from top to bottom (from GSR's to AA Grapevine Directors)! The GSC will do the rest.



Conference Committee: Trustees E

Agenda Item:	Discuss 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?	<p>At the 2018 and 2019 GSC’s, the Conference Committee on Trustees reviewed proposals to reorganize the A.A.W.S. and General Service Boards. The committee noted that although a reorganization was not considered necessary at this time, that the trustees’ Nominating Committee develop procedures that were more specific. The 2020 Conference Committee requested that Alternate Trustees be considered in the procedures. Due to consequent responsibilities and related legalities (NYS Attorney General Responsibilities of Directors of NFP Corporations) required by the corporate boards, the proposal has not been amended to include alternates. The 2021 Conference Committee on Trustees reviewed and discussed the revised “Procedures for a Partial or Complete Reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or AA Grapevine Boards,” and requested that the trustees’ Nominating Committee consider further review, with specific attention placed upon on the time frame and procedure for the selection of Regional Trustees. The committee appreciated the details and comprehensive work in the revised plan and made editorial suggestions to mirror the updated Conference Charter. The committee requested that a revised plan be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Trustees.</p> <p>At the October 2021 meeting, the trustees’ Nominating Committee reviewed and discussed notes from the 2021 Conference Committee on Trustees that expressed some disappointment about the trustee committee taking no action on their committee considerations from the 71st General Service Conference. The trustees’ Nominating Committee considered the request for action stated in the notes for “Procedures for partial or total reorganization of the G.S.B., A.A.W.S. and AAGV Boards” and took no action. The trustees’ Nominating Committee noted the current language in the General Service Board bylaws on filling unexpected trustee vacancies. The trustees' Nominating Committee felt that a discussion of the request for action by a trustee of a region, and area delegates within the region, would be an approach that is consistent with the G.S.B. bylaws.</p> <p>Procedures for partial or total reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or AA Grapevine Boards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The specific issue on this from those who had concerns was about timing. How do you acquire a group conscience/hold a third legacy election for a nominee in a matter of days? One person noted that while unlikely, there is the possibility of a floor action

	<p>resulting in reorganization. There was not a full consensus in the committee that further procedure should be written that would necessarily apply to all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a clear understanding that if any further specifics are to be added regarding this issue, suggestions would need to come from the Conference committee. (Mixed feelings about that.) • REQUEST FOR ACTION: Have the current regional trustees bring the topic up with their area delegates. How would they want to handle such a quick election of a regional trustee nominee? Do they think there should be a further clarification in the reorg procedures that guides the areas? Or should each region and area be looking at how they would approach this autonomously? This feedback could help inform members of both committees prior to the next Conference.
What your group might consider:	<p>Review the Revised Suggested Procedure to Reorganize the GSB and Boards of AAWS, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc. from February 2022. While there is not considered to be a need to reorganize any of the Boards at this time, does your Group support the proposed reorganization procedure? What recommendations do you have for quick selection of a regional trustee nominee?</p>

 Conference Committee: **Trustees F (EDW from Literature)**

Agenda Item:	Consider revising text highlighting service roles at the group level in the pamphlet, "The A.A. Group."
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Requested change to page 29, question #9, to change from <i>"Mindful that holding office is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our officers with care?"</i> To <i>"Mindful that trusted service is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our trusted servants with care?"</i></p>
What your group might consider:	Does your Group support this change? Why or why not?
Access to <u>current</u> version of pamphlet:	https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-16_theaagroup.pdf



 Conference Committee: **Trustees G (EDW from Literature)**

Agenda Item:	Consider request to revise the pamphlet "Do You Think You Are Different?" to include stories reflecting greater diversity.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The submitter notes that this pamphlet, that was published in 2018, seeks to be inclusive of the population in the Canada/US structure. The stories reflect different backgrounds such as nationality, culture, religion, age and gender.

	<p>However, this pamphlet does not cover all aspects of the different populations in our Canada/US structure. Our countries have a unique multicultural population with immigrants from Asia, the Middle East among many others. In addition, Canada has many different indigenous peoples as well. The submitter would like AA World Service Inc. to consider moving forward by adding new stories to be more inclusive of our diverse populations to demonstrate respect for all who come to AA meetings and carry the message for people who are missing, and believes that adding additional new stories to this pamphlet will help our Canada/US multicultural population. To show our AA support and make a sense of belonging to them.</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Does your Group support updating the stories in this pamphlet to reflect the greater diversity in A.A.</p>
<p>Access to current version of pamphlet:</p>	<p>https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-13_doyouthinkyourediff.pdf</p>

 Conference Committee: **Archives A**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Review contents and format of Archives Workbook.</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p> 	<p>This is a standing agenda item. Between conferences, ideas for changes to the Workbook may be received. Note: workbooks are service material, and suggested changes to the content do not require recommendations, rather, they are put forth as Additional Committee Considerations.</p>
<p>What your group might consider:</p>	<p>Does your group have any suggestions/comments/changes it would like to see in the Archives Workbook? Your Delegate will want specific feedback. Does your group have an Archives Chairperson?</p>
<p>Access:</p>	<p>https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/m-44i_archivesworkbook.pdf</p>

Conference Committee: **International Conventions/Regional Forums A**

<p>Agenda Item:</p>	<p>Discuss update report on methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention.</p>
<p>Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>The committee had a thoughtful and wide-ranging discussion regarding methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention, particularly the use of the Lord's Prayer and the understanding that although the prayer is part of the history of A.A. and is widely used and supported in some areas, it could make some members feel excluded and support the perception of A.A. as a religious organization. The committee also discussed possible options to the Lord's Prayer including, the Third Step Prayer, the Seventh Step Prayer and A.A.'s Declaration of Unity. The committee agreed that it would be beneficial to gather additional shared experience from the Fellowship to make an informed decision. The committee requested that the trustees' International Conventions/Regional</p>

	Forums Committee explore the preference of the Fellowship regarding methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention by use of a survey through multiple communication platforms (e.g., Box 4-5- 9, AA Grapevine/La Viña, etc.); and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums.
What your group might consider:	Does your Group support use of the Lord’s Prayer at the International Convention? Why or why not? If not, what suggestions do you have for other methods of closing the meetings?

Conference Committee: **International Conventions/Regional Forums B**

Agenda Item:	Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first time attendees, and suggested:</p> <p><u>2021</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Consider using the meeting guide app to further convey Regional Forum information. ➤ Continue using videoconferencing technology to broadcast portions of future in-person forum programs allowing members who may not have resources or time to travel to participate. ➤ Ensure future host regions are well informed about dates, locations, programs, and ways the local membership can participate. ➤ Extend outreach materials to invite the Spanish-speaking and LGBTQ communities to attend Regional Forums. ➤ Conduct at least one presentation or workshop in Spanish and/or French at each Regional Forum.
What your group might consider:	Does your Group have experience with Regional Forums? How did your members hear about them? What suggestions do you have about encouraging interest and attracting first-time attendees?



(End. Thank you so much for your love of and service to Alcoholics Anonymous.)