

## 72nd GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

### AGENDA

#### Committee Considerations:

- The committee expressed appreciation for the special Board presentation related to the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada service structure at the 72nd General Service Conference.

The committee agreed that a sharing session with more time for a broader range of perspectives from among Conference members would be helpful. The committee requested that the General Service Board conduct an interactive sharing session at the 73rd General Service Conference on the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada service structure and include the following question within the framework of the sharing session:

- What are the successes and challenges at the group, district and area levels with respect to this topic?

### ARCHIVES

#### Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the Archives Workbook and expressed satisfaction with the content. The committee also received a verbal report on some of the revisions and updates to the draft workbook, including:
  - New shared experiences and a new subsection from local archivists on specific topics pertaining to archival work;
  - Revised Guidelines for Collecting Oral Histories to include text offering suggestions on ways to conduct ASL interviews with members in the Deaf community to offer a wider diversity of sharing;
  - Replaced gender-specific language throughout the workbook;
  - Updated Archives policies; and other minor editorial updates.

### COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

#### Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed a progress report on the LinkedIn page implementation and an update from the senior digital communications analyst. The committee requested that a progress report be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on C.P.C. and suggested that it include the following content:
  - An additional cadence strategy that increases the number of posts per month developed over the year.
  - A strategy of posting often, to increase the search result ranking.
  - Posts targeted to professionals on topics such as A.A. anonymity, Self-Support, cooperation without affiliation, and our public relations policy.
- The committee also discussed a comprehensive approach in exploring and optimizing digital resources. The committee requested that the staff secretary send a memo to the trustees' Public Information Committee with the following suggestions to be included as part of the Comprehensive Media Plan (CMP):
  - Explore effective ways to post videos and documents on non-A.A. platforms.
  - Noting the multiple committee and Board discussions on the use of QR codes, identify where and how to approach QR code usage in A.A. materials at C.P.C./P.I. events.
- The committee reviewed the suggested revisions to the draft pamphlet "A.A. in Your Community" and received an update from the executive editor. The committee offered additional suggestions and asked the staff secretary to forward a memo to the trustees' C.P.C./T.A. committee with additional sharing and suggestions on the content. The committee requested that a progress report or final draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community.
- The committee reviewed a progress report on the development of an outward facing pamphlet for mental health professionals and expressed their appreciation. The committee noted that utilizing a focus group was a useful approach to explore and identify the needs of mental health professionals when they are addressing the suffering alcoholic. The committee asked that the staff secretary forward a memo with additional suggestions to the trustees' C.P.C./T.A. committee. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community.
- The committee considered a request to create a new pamphlet designed to help C.P.C. committees reach as many doctors as possible and took no action, noting that many healthcare professionals may lack the time to meet with C.P.C. committees and that health care systems differ in the U.S. and Canada. The committee suggested that service material could be developed for A.A. members on how to speak with their own healthcare provider about Alcoholics Anonymous.
- The committee reviewed the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook and asked that the following suggestions be incorporated:
  - Develop a disclaimer that clarifies that the printed version of the items in the kit may not reflect the most up to date revisions on aa.org. Online versions will reflect the most updated versions.
  - Include a list of changes of revised pamphlets and service materials based on the A.A.W.S. literature policy.
  - Include experience from online, in-person and virtual C.P.C. events and activities.
  - Use accessible formats for all digital devices.

### CORRECTIONS

#### Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the Corrections Kit and Workbook and provided a detailed list of revisions to the trustees' Corrections Committee for their consideration. During their discussion, the committee noted the increased use of online A.A. meetings in correctional facilities and suggested that G.S.O. staff gather shared experience regarding online meetings in correctional facilities for addition to the Corrections Workbook.
- The committee discussed the request to reconsider use of the term "person in custody" in A.A. literature and took no action. The committee affirmed the need for language that is inclusive and non-stigmatizing, as expressed by the 71st General Service Conference. The committee also discussed that implementation of the advisory action was already in place and that it would be premature at this time to reconsider the action.
- The committee discussed the request to limit changes to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* and took no action. While the committee discussed the concerns expressed by the Fellowship, the committee noted that we operate on a system of trust and checks and balances and agreed that A.A.'s Twelve Concepts adequately provide guidance to our trusted servants to make decisions that reflect the informed group conscience of the Fellowship as a whole.
- The committee suggested that during the development of the 5th Edition Big Book the trustees' Literature Committee consider including a reference in the section of Appendices III and V that additional information is available on [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org).
- The committee discussed the request to make A.A. literature changes slowly and with A.A.'s primary purpose in mind and took no action. The committee agreed the cadence and role of the annual General Service Conference already provides the appropriate guidance. The committee also noted that through Concept Four, "The Right of Participation," all members of Alcoholics Anonymous are invited to participate in the year-long process of the General Service Conference.

## **FINANCE**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the Self-support Packet and requested that the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee undertake a full review of the service items in the packet. The committee compiled a list of suggestions for the service material in order to provide language that is clear and consistent for the U.S. and Canada.
- The committee requested that the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee review the service materials and the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" to clarify that although contributions are sent to the General Service Office, contributions are made to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee asked that an update report or draft pamphlet reflecting the changes be brought to the 2023 Conference Committee on Finance for review.
- The committee discussed the agenda item "Consider request to add a historical disclaimer to the front of the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*" and took no action. The committee agreed that the current introduction in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* already addresses concerns regarding the language in the book.
- The committee discussed the agenda item "Consider request that all proposed changes to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* be handled in footnotes" and took no action. The committee agreed that they did not want to mandate a specific format for possible changes to a future Conference. The committee noted that future proposals for changes should be considered by the group conscience of each Conference.

## **GRAPEVINE AND LA VIÑA**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the progress report on the AA Grapevine Workbook revisions and looks forward to having it available on the website, in English and Spanish. The committee also forwarded editorial suggestions for the workbook to the Grapevine office.
- The committee reviewed the progress report on the Grapevine and La Viña Instagram accounts and requested a progress report be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña. The committee appreciated the diligence of the AA Grapevine Corporate Board in considering anonymity protection when developing content for both Instagram accounts. The committee also appreciated the dedication and enthusiasm the staff applied to the Instagram accounts. The committee also forwarded suggestions to the Grapevine office to encourage members to submit anonymity-protected content to Instagram pages.
- The committee agreed to forward to the AA Grapevine Corporate Board the suggestion that Grapevine produce in the year 2023 or later:
  1. Best of Dear Grapevine (working title) - Previously published letters from the pages of Grapevine by A.A. members which were printed in the magazine's letters section, Dear Grapevine.
  2. Book for Newcomers (working title) - Previously published stories by A.A. members sharing helpful tools and suggestions during their first year in sobriety.
  3. Best of La Viña II (working title) (La Viña book) - Spanish-speaking A.A. members share their experience, strength and hope, from the pages of La Viña.
  4. Prayer & Meditation (working title) (La Viña Book) - Previously published stories by Spanish-speaking A.A. members sharing about the many ways they practice Step Eleven (possibly including some translated stories from the GV version).
- The committee discussed the wide-ranging impact the AA Preamble change has had on the Fellowship. The committee felt that after careful consideration of Fellowship feedback, it would be premature to quantify the impact when many A.A. members are still either uninformed or ambivalent about the change. The committee emphasized that at every level of our Conference process there is a reciprocal responsibility of all A.A. members and trusted servants, of participation and communication, to embrace the guiding principles of trust and transparency.
- The committee requested that the Grapevine office consider the feasibility of producing or utilizing American Sign Language (ASL) content.

## **INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the update report submitted by the trustees' committee regarding surveying the Fellowship on methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention. The committee understands that a survey has been developed to gather information from the Fellowship regarding aspects of the 2025 International Convention; and that a question(s) regarding use of the Lord's Prayer and options to the use of the Lord's Prayer (e.g., the Third Step Prayer, the Seventh Step Prayer and A.A.'s Declaration of Unity) will be added to the survey. It is anticipated that the survey will be dispatched in May 2022 via mail and 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 2023 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums.
- The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first time attendees and suggested:
  - Consider options to the title "Regional Forum" utilizing more current language.
  - Continue utilizing digital communication options; however, also continue non-digital options to ensure full accessibility and participation by members who may not have access to technology.
- Theme: "90 Years – Language of the Heart" / « 90 ans – Langage du Coeur » / "90 años – Lenguaje del corazón"

## **LITERATURE**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the 2022 matrix of A.A. recovery literature. The committee agreed to follow up with the Publishing Department with suggestions regarding the usefulness and purpose of the recovery literature matrix and looks forward to reviewing the matrix at their meeting during the 2023 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed a draft pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies and offered additional suggestions for the trustees' Literature Committee to consider. The committee requested that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee reviewed a progress report on the update of the pamphlet "Too Young?" The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee reviewed a progress report on the update of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic." The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee reviewed a progress report on the update of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American." The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding development of a Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos*. The committee requested that a progress report or draft manuscript be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding the translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language. The committee requested that a progress report or draft manuscript be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding strategy to make current literature accessible in all possible formats. The committee encourages the trustees' Literature Committee to continue in their efforts to make literature accessible in all formats and provided several suggestions for more e-literature and other accessible digital platforms, such as Liquid Mode PDF for mobile screens.
- The committee reviewed the Subcommittee Report on Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) and several requests for development of study guides from the Fellowship. The committee also reviewed the minutes of the discussions on this item by the trustees' Literature Committee. The committee noted that additional information would be needed in order to provide direction on these requests. The committee requested that the trustees' Literature Committee provide further information regarding the purpose of the proposals and examples of what Big Book or *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* study guides would look like.
- The committee reviewed a draft of the Literature Committee workbook and noted that the development of the workbook is moving in the right direction. The committee provided several suggestions regarding the length and content of the workbook and requested that a revised draft be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature for review.
- The committee discussed the changes to the text of the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* resulting from advisory actions of the 71st General Service Conference and took no action. The committee noted that there does not appear to be a consensus on the changes among A.A. members at the local level.
- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding development of a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The committee requested that a progress report or draft manuscript be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.

## **POLICY/ADMISSIONS**

### Committee Considerations:

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

- The committee reviewed the G.S.O. general manager's report regarding General Service Conference site selection, noting with appreciation the level of detail regarding specific sites considered. The committee requested that the next site selection report provide detail on the financial, logistical, and spiritual implications of holding the General Service Conference at other locations throughout the eight regions of the U.S./Canada service structure, perhaps in rotation with the New York City metropolitan area.
- The committee reviewed the dates for the 2026 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 agreed to select three proposed dates for the 76th General Service Conference. The committee selected the following dates in order of preference for the 76th General Service Conference: April 26-May 2, 2026; April 19-25, 2026; and May 3-9, 2026. The committee noted that these proposed Conference dates do not conflict with any significant holidays and allow the Fellowship ample time before the Conference to review and discuss agenda items. The committee asked that all Conference members be notified of the final dates for the 76th General Service Conference as soon as they are finalized by G.S.O. management.
- The committee reviewed with appreciation the progress report on the development of a process using virtual meeting technologies for polling the General Service Conference between meetings and looks forward to development of the process.
- The committee reviewed the Progress Report from the trustees' Ad Hoc Committee on the Participation of Online Groups in the U.S. and Canada Service Structure and expressed appreciation for the ad hoc committee's work. Given the Fellowship's interest in this topic and a desire for accountability to the Conference, the Policy/Admissions committee requests a progress report be provided as part of their background material in advance of the 73rd General Service Conference.
- The committee considered the request to revise the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" to reflect shared experience on service sponsorship and took no action. The committee felt that the topic of service sponsorship is already addressed well in the current version of the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" and in the current *A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services*.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2022 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan (CMP). The committee expressed support for the vision and architecture and reported that this version of the CMP brings a practical and implementable plan into vision. The committee agrees it serves as an inventory of ongoing work and plans, a guideline for the General Service Office and AA Grapevine Office in their work, budgeting processes, and HR planning to effectively support A.A. members in carrying the message to all who suffer from alcoholism.

The committee offered the following suggestions for the next iteration of the CMP to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information.

- Continue to focus on standardizing a unified stylistic approach in our messaging and media.
- Create a synopsis or executive summary of the CMP as the complete document is detailed.
- Now that we have a CMP that outlines many channels of work the committee requested the Trustees ensure we do not lose the work that is captured and avoid trying to branch off into too many directions and digital platforms.
- Consider the creation of a short video capturing how a Comprehensive Media Plan can be a helpful guidepost as we seek to use new and existing communication platforms, in keeping with our Traditions.
- The committee recognized that we are a Fellowship of varying technical abilities. The committee noted the importance of ensuring we are not leaving anyone with technical barriers behind.
- Include additional information in the CMP on how Alcoholics Anonymous can connect with the professional community.
- Use consistent A.A. language throughout the CMP versus more marketing or business terminology.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the trustees' PI Committee report on the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube account. The committee offered the following suggestions and looks forward to a report to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information.
  - Staff continue to update the A.A.W.S. YouTube account to maximize its effectiveness as a social media channel to carry the message to the alcoholic.
  - Improve the ability to search and locate our A.A.W.S. YouTube channel as members have shared it is difficult to find and many are unaware that we have a YouTube channel.
  - Consider adding more Spanish video content.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2022 trustees' Public Information Committee report on the Google Ads performance. The committee encouraged G.S.O. to develop an annual project calendar relating to Google Ads. The committee noted that the office should continuously optimize the Google Ads campaigns based on standard best practices in keeping with A.A. Traditions focusing on target audiences utilizing A.A. literature we currently have and that may be developed. The committee offered the following suggestions and looks forward to the report to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information:

The Communication Services Department in cooperation with the staff secretary should make the following updates to the campaigns to ensure improved campaign performance.

- Evaluate and experiment with ad targeting
- Creation of more and diverse content
- 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
  - Review analytics on messaging to ensure it is reaching the target audience
  - Include keyword testing of AA Google Ads searches to ensure they are being made available to those seeking help with a drinking problem.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the Communication Services Department report on the A.A.W.S. Meeting Guide App. The committee looks forward to a report to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information. The committee suggested that the Meeting Guide App keep its focus on providing information on locating A.A. meetings.
  - The committee reviewed and accepted the 2021 annual reports from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding aa.org. The committee finds the website is easier to navigate and user-friendly. The committee suggested that G.S.O. continue to improve our search engine optimization, setting priorities and reasonable goals to move forward.
  - The committee reviewed and accepted the 2021 annual report "AAGV/La Viña Website, Marketing and Podcast" regarding aagrapevine.org. The committee finds recent modernization of the Grapevine website to be effective and inviting. The committee finds the AA Grapevine Podcast is well received by many A.A. members and an effective method for sharing the collected voices of A.A. members. The committee noted that the current hosts might limit attraction to all members, potential members, or professionals and to consider the full intended audience regarding diversity, attraction, and belonging.
  - The committee reviewed and accepted the distribution and tracking information for the video PSAs:
    1. Sobriety in A.A.: My Drinking Built a Wall
    2. Sobriety in A.A.: When Drinking is no longer a Party.
 The committee encourages enhancing our future tracking and distribution to include comparison analytics to other non-profits with public service announcement distribution.
  - The committee reviewed and accepted the 2022 report on the "Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcements." The committee found the current Conference-approved PSAs to be relevant and useful. In assessing the need for a new video PSA, the committee did not see the need at this time.
  - The committee reviewed and accepted the 2022 trustees' Public Information Committee feasibility research on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms and requested that further research be conducted. The committee offered the following suggestions and looks forward to a report to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information.
    - Committee members would like to see additional research comparing paid versus donated media value ads and the effectiveness of these different approaches.
    - Include research on Canadian streaming platforms to better understand PSA regulations and the specific streaming platforms found within Canada.
    - Focus on obtaining A.A. member feedback from various age groups on the desire from the Fellowship to embark on A.A. paid placement ads on streaming platforms.
  - The committee reviewed the progress report and G.S.O. Podcast Plan and considered all the proposals, and the work completed this past year. The committee met with the Grapevine publisher, Communication Services staff, and Publishing staff who responded to key questions. The committee suggested that the trustees' Public Information Committee, Communication Services Department, and A.A.W.S. Publishing Department in cooperation with the staff secretary, focus on proposal one, to consider moving in the direction of creating a G.S.O. Podcast using the AA Grapevine podcast experience.

The committee shared that the focus described in the 2021 Advisory Action, "Podcasts providing sharing within the Fellowship and information about A.A. to the public be produced and distributed by G.S.O. in cooperation with the Grapevine Office," is on target and that G.S.O. can create episodes on many service-related discussion topics. The committee feels that the different topic focus will help avoid competing with the Grapevine Podcast. To support the successful continued development of the G.S.O. Podcast the committee offers the following suggestions and looks forward to a progress report to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information.

- Entrust G.S.O. to manage the podcast's creation and adherence to A.A. principles to allow the seamless production of a regular series of episodes.
  - Ask the trustees' Public Information Committee to research the best methods for future podcast episodes to be completed in Spanish and French.
  - Develop the methodology to invite participants in recorded sessions based on topics to include our trustees, staffs, and members in the episodes.
  - Establish internal and external resources to support the production of the G.S.O. Podcast. It may be helpful to engage freelance support that brings experience on creative Podcast development and formatting.
  - Implement analytics as described in the G.S.O. Podcast Plan to report annually to the Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee considered the suggestion to revise the flyer "A.A. At a Glance" and requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee and staff secretary focus improvements based on the following suggestions and looks forward to a progress report or draft flyer to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information.
    - Keeping most of the content messaging of this effective Public Information tool, modernize the look and language of the flyer.
    - Remove any reference to the word "hopeless drunks" to focus more on the solution, not the problem in this communication.
    - Update the contribution and self-support language to remove any reference to a dollar amount of contribution.

- The committee considered the suggestion to revise the pamphlet “Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings” and asked that the trustees’ Public Information Committee move forward with the update. The committee asked that the staff secretary start with the draft pamphlet provided for review. In addition, the committee shared their own editorial revisions. Finally, the committee requested the staff secretary send a memorandum to the A.A.W.S. Publishing Department of all changes and looks forward to a progress report or draft pamphlet to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee considered the request to replace the “A.A. Fact File” with a service material version of a new digital P.I. Press Media Kit. The committee reviewed the new digital P.I. Press Media Kit and offered suggestions to the “Who are A.A. members” and the “24-hour plan” sections.
- The committee considered the request to create a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media by reviewing a draft survey developed to gather shared experience from the Fellowship. The committee requested the trustees’ Public Information Committee and staff secretary focus on distributing the survey, to all age demographics, particularly a young population, and obtain results that will inform decisions on any future new form of communication. The committee looks forward to a progress report to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee discussed the content and format of the P.I. Kit and Workbook. The committee noted the updated content list provided by the staff secretary and agreed to all the changes.

## **REPORT AND CHARTER**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee accepted a report from the Publishing Department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of the 2022 General Service Conference *Final Report*.
- The committee discussed the General Service Conference *Final Report* and noted the following:
 

The committee reiterated their support for last year’s committee consideration and appreciated the use of digital versions and encouraged the Conference coordinator to continue noting the availability of these in pre-Conference documents.

The committee noted the importance of the *Final Report* and encouraged area delegates to make its local reporting innovative and fun, especially considering the use of new digital technologies.

The committee also noted the importance and effectiveness of making use of Fellowship Connection to connect the trusted servants in the service structure to the digital version of the *Final Report*. The committee suggested that the following local efforts might be helpful in these initiatives:

  - An area or district thank you letter and an invite to the area assembly with a link to the *Final Report*.  
(Note: Fellowship Connection lists GSRs and these trusted servants can be introduced to their DCM and/or area delegate and be invited to participate in the local district and area discussions of the General Service Conference.)
  - Areas consider making the *Final Report* accessible in newly digital formats.
  - The creation of a local anonymity-protected voice only power point.

(Note: The *Final Report* reflects Conference actions and discussions, therefore the committee wanted to express that the *Final Report* is an extension of the experience we learn about in *The A.A. Service Manual*.)
- The committee discussed the request to include the G.S.R. preamble in the pamphlet “G.S.R.: Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole” and took no action. The committee agreed that the GSR pamphlet adequately describes the role and purpose of a G.S.R. The committee agreed that this statement is better left to local group autonomy.
- The committee reviewed the 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.” Bill W. references an Amendments section in the introduction to the *Twelve Concepts for World Service* and the committee wanted to reaffirm the 2021 advisory action that: “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.” The committee requested that the staff secretary work with A.A.W.S. Publishing on a draft update of the section to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
- The committee reviewed several chapters of *The A.A. Service Manual* and wanted to note the following.
 

*The A.A. Service Manual* can be utilized for all individuals involved in the General Service structure. The text is not limited to new people in service or only G.S.R.s. Class A trustees, appointed committee members, non-trustee directors and other roles in general service should be able to draw upon the experience shared in specific chapters.
- The committee followed up on the 2021 committee consideration regarding updating and continuing to make available the print listing of Central Offices, Intergroups and Answering Services for the United States and Canada (Item F-25). The committee discussed the estimated cost to fulfill this request as well as results of a poll involving 107 Intergroup/Central Offices and decided unanimously to request the General Service Office retire this document and remove it from aa.org. The committee noted that cooperation between local areas, districts and Intergroups/Central Offices is important in helping prospective A.A. members find Alcoholics Anonymous, highlighting that local services, coupled with data stewardship, can help ensure accuracy of Intergroup/Central Office locations. In addition, the committee encouraged communication and sharing of ideas through the ICOAA seminar and the General Service Conference. The committee recognizes an overdependence on G.S.O. and recognizes that in some cases the necessity and importance of local relationships is overlooked.
- The committee discussed the request that the chapter titled “The Doctor’s Opinion” be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* and took no action. The committee noted that Bill W. was involved in the repagination of *Alcoholics Anonymous* for the second edition. It was also noted that such a change would impact other pieces of A.A. literature

that reference pages in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The committee added that they did not recognize a strong “spiritual need” to revert to the original pagination.

- The committee discussed a possible edition of *The A.A. Service Manual* in American Sign Language (ASL). While aware of the long list of projects and current workload at G.S.O., the committee requested that the A.A.W.S. Board research the need for and feasibility of a translation of *The A.A. Service Manual Combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service* into ASL and asks that a report be brought to the 2023 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. In addition, the committee encourages local areas, districts, and Intergroups/Central Offices to make ASL interpretation and service opportunities more accessible to the Deaf community.

## **TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES**

Committee Considerations:

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

The committee also provided additional notes on gaps in the stories to the committee secretary to be forwarded to the trustees’ Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2023 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

- The committee reviewed and accepted a progress report on military audio interviews and suggested that the trustees’ Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee:
  - Reach out to military senior leadership.
  - Seek interviews from members in various military/armed forces branches.
  - Consider broader distribution channels, through diverse communication methods such as AA Grapevine, La Viña, WhatsApp, and LIM.
  - Distribute a questionnaire to interviewees for the audio-military project.
  - The military consultants on the trustees’ Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee develop a project plan that will include reporting to the entire trustee committee.
- The committee discussed the draft version of the A.A. Guidelines for Remote Communities and offered the following suggestions:
  - The committee encourages G.S.O. Publishing to continue to maintain the most current cultural terminologies.
  - Remove the names from the sharing in the guidelines (though currently anonymity protected; highlight the message rather than the name).
  - Remove the section “Three Challenges” and replace it with the title “Challenges in carrying the message to underserved populations” and include broader sharing with culturally sensitive language.
  - Remove the current sharing on sponsorship from the section “Spanish-Speaking Women in A.A. Remote Community” and include sharing that positively highlights the importance of sponsorship.
  - Also include in the section “Spanish-Speaking Women in A.A. Remote Community” information on special-interest meetings/groups, like what is shared in the Conference-approved pamphlets “Hispanic Women in A.A.” and “Women and A.A.”
  - Expand the section and title on online group/meeting resources to include a broader cross-section of digital sharing and resources.

The committee asked that the staff secretary to revise the service piece and looks forward to it being made available to Remote Committees once the updates have been made.

- The committee discussed the contents and format of Treatment Kit and Workbook. The committee noted with appreciation that the suggestions provided in the 2021 Committee Consideration that will be implemented at the next Kit update.
- The committee discussed the contents of the Accessibilities Kit and Workbook and suggested that the section “Sharing Experience” in the workbook include experience on A.A. members with service animals.
- The committee discussed the content and format of the Kit and Workbooks. The committee encourages G.S.O. to continue to explore and develop digital approaches to publishing and updating A.A. resources so that changes can be updated more quickly and efficiently with the most up-to-date resources for local committees. The committee also noted the importance that print versions also be made available to those who prefer to receive printed materials.
- The committee considered a request to remove the sentence “Nobody has ever died of lack of sleep” in the section “Getting plenty of rest” in the booklet *Living Sober* and took no action. The committee noted that the section includes this comment later in the chapter: “If the condition persists, it may be advisable to check with a good physician who understands alcoholism well.”

## **TRUSTEES**

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the resumes, and approved as eligible for election, all Class B trustee candidates for the Eastern Canada and Pacific regions.
- The committee considered a request to revisit highlighting service roles at the group level in the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” and took no action. The committee appreciated the discussion about the role and attitude of humility of trusted servants. They acknowledged that the phrases “holding office” and “officer” are used in several sections of the pamphlet, and have equivalent meaning to being a trusted servant. It was also noted that groups are free to adapt the inventory questions to suit their needs.
- The committee reviewed the pamphlet “Do You Think You're Different?” and requested that the trustees' Literature Committee begin to look at the accuracy and effectiveness of direct translation practices, resulting in an ineffective vehicle to presenting an authentic and culturally relevant message to linguistic communities.
- The committee requested that AA Grapevine board consider using “Do You Think You're Different?” as a recurring theme. This would allow for the presentation of a diverse group of current voices finding a common identification.
- The report of the trustees' Nominating Committee noted they had begun discussion of thread-based forums and that more discussion is needed. The Conference committee had a discussion on thread-based forums which could allow better communication throughout the Conference structure and is forwarding a summary of their suggestions to the trustees' Nominating Committee.

### ***Recommendations Not Resulting in Conference Advisory Actions***

These recommendations were presented but did not achieve a majority.

### **LITERATURE**

- The draft pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated” be approved with minor editorial revisions.
- A second volume of the book *Experience, Strength and Hope* be developed with stories dropped from the Fourth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and that a progress report be brought to the Conference Committee on Literature once development of the publication is in progress.

### **POLICY/ADMISSIONS**

- The paragraph in the story “Freedom from Bondage” which was removed due to pagination issues from the fourth edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* be restored in all future printings and publications in which the story is included.

### ***Floor Actions Not Resulting in Conference Advisory Actions***

- With the translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language, that the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts, not be translated into plain language in any way: that these remain in the existing form in English as in previous editions of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. **(Conference declined to consider.)**
- The General Service Conference impose a one-year moratorium on any new agenda item received through September 15, 2022, with new agenda items held to be placed on the agenda for the 74th General Service Conference, allowing the General Service Board and its corporate affiliates time to adjust and align their processes to accommodate the 2022 Policy and Admissions recommendation to provide simultaneous translation of all background material. **(Conference declined to consider.)**
- The trustees' Ad Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups develop a plan to create one or more non-geographic Areas for online and telephone groups in the U.S./Canada General Service Conference structure, with a progress report on the plan to be presented to the 73rd General Service Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions.
- That the following GSR Preamble be added to the pamphlet “Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole”:

#### **The GSR Preamble**

We are the General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of A.A.

We realize the ultimate authority is a loving God as he may express Himself in our Group Conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that they can reach an informed group conscience. In passing along this group conscience, we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship.

Let us, therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our group and A.A. as a whole.

**(Conference declined to consider.)**

- The trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference evaluate the current process of developing Conference background material and bring back to the 2023 General Service Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions a plan that describes the process of developing background material, keeping in mind the Conference desire for background material to be targeted, balanced and with relevant historical content.
- The Advisory Actions from Panel 71:
  - Advisory Action 18 for changes to page 117 phrase “opposite sex” with the word “partner”
  - Advisory Action 19 changes to page 66, “No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health. No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony”
 in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, be returned to the original text. **(Conference declined to consider.)**
- The 1995 Conference Advisory Action be reaffirmed that the first 164 pages of the Big Book, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Doctor Bob’s Nightmare” and the Appendices remain as is.