

Report of the 70th General Service Conference

AREA 16 ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IN GEORGIA GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

This Year's Theme: 2020: A Clear Vision for You

Why Do We Need a Conference at All?

One of the last things that Bill and Dr. Bob agreed on before Dr. Bob died was the need for a General Service Conference to provide final responsibility and ultimate authority to the Groups themselves for the future of our Fellowship. Pg. 20 of AA Service Manual

Bernard B. Smith, non-alcoholic friend of Bill and Chairman of the General Service Board in 1954 said we need a Conference "to ensure that changes within AA come only as a response to the needs and wants of all AA and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of AA never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcohol problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is.

Who makes up the Conference?

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

68.8%

> 93 Delegates

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

20.0%

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

FUNCTION: Responsible for policy and implementation.

11.2%

> 15 General Service Office and Grapevine Staff

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

Data on Delegates

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

New Trustees

Class B

Mike Lewis

Irma Van de Bon-Nicol

West Central Regional Trustee

Western Canada Regional Trustee

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AGENDA

Theme of 71st GSC: **AA in a Time of Change**

Presentation Topics:

Recovery in a Changing World

Unity in a Changing World

Service in a Changing World

Workshop Topics: **Inform-Communicate**

Involve-Act

Inspire-Attract

PASSED



CPC

Committee Considerations-

The Committee considered discontinuing the pamphlet "AA In Your Community" and took no action but suggested that the Trustees' CPC/Treatment & Accessibility Committee consider updating this pamphlet.

The Committee made suggestions for the 71st GSC to consider concerning LinkedIn and creating a pamphlet for mental health professionals.

Corrections

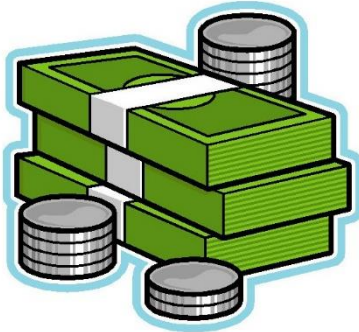
Committee considered a report from AAWS Publishing on digitized literature for correctional facilities.

Review and update Corrections Workbook; add "The God Word" pamphlet to Corrections Kit.

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FINANCE



The committee recommended adding draft language related to the virtual basket be added to the pamphlet, “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”. **PASSED**

Committee Considerations:

The committee considered the pie charts in the Self Support packet and took no action. (See Floor Actions)

Heard a report from the trustees’ Ad Hoc committee on Google AdWords/Grants and the 7th tradition. (See Floor Actions)

GRAPEVINE



The Committee recommended that the name of this committee be changed to “The Grapevine and LaVina Committee”. **PASSED**

The Committee considered changing the wording of the first sentence of the Preamble

Took No Action.

Committee Considerations:

The Committee suggested that the GV Board develop examples of gender-neutral language to bring to the 71st GSC.

Provided a list of suggested book topics to be produced in 2021 or later in English and Spanish.

The Committee discussed a request to establish an Instagram account in line with the Twelve Traditions and suggested a progress report be brought back to the 71st GSC.

The Committee proposed an annual survey of the Fellowship in all three languages on which books should be produced.

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International Convention/Regional Forums

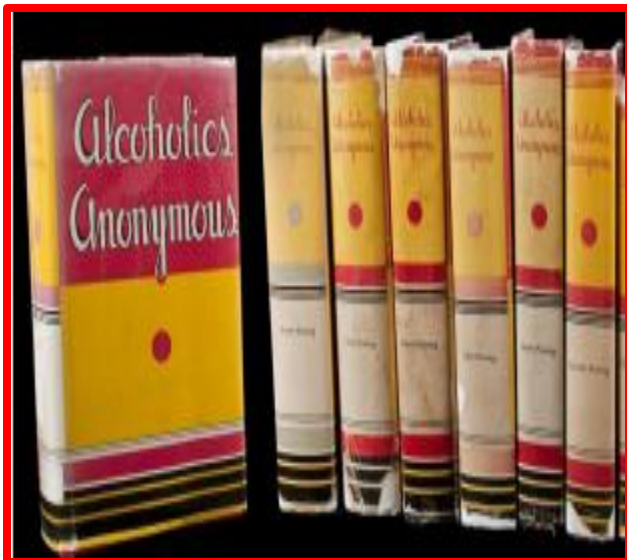


Committee Considerations:

The Committee reviewed and accepted a report from Talley Mgmt. on the 2020 IC.

The Committee discussed the use of the Lord's Prayer at the end of "Big Meetings" at IC and recommended additional discussion at the 71st GSC.

The Committee discussed a variety of ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and included a variety of options and suggestions for implementation at the local level.



Literature

The updated draft video of "Your General Service Office, the Grapevine, and the General Service Structure". be approved. **PASSED**

The "A.A.W.S. policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials be acknowledged and accepted by the GSC. **PASSED**

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Literature Committee Considerations:

Request the trustees continue to explore plain language accessible translations, and large print versions of Alcoholics Anonymous as well as study workbooks to determine if they can be addressed with a common solution. A progress report should be brought back to the 71st GSC.

Reviewed progress reports of pamphlets, “The Twelve Steps Illustrated” and “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated” and requested that progress reports be brought back to the 71st GSC.

Reviewed drafts of pamphlets “Too Young?” and “Young People and A.A.” and look forward to the reviewing revised draft pamphlets and/or samples of other potential formats of these pamphlets at the meeting of the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature.

Reviewed the progress report on the development of the pamphlet on A.A.’s Three Legacies and requested a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature.

Reviewed the progress report on the development of the pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women in A.A. and requested a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature.

The committee requested that the trustee’s make available to the Fellowship, as soon as possible, in Spanish, English, and French, the presentation “The Big Book Researching Issues, Possible Tools and Access that was presented to the Literature committee. The committee noted the importance for the Fellowship to be informed about the nature of the accessibility challenges regarding A.A. literature.

The committee reviewed the progress report regarding safety in A.A to be included in *Living Sober* and “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship”. The committee requested a review of the draft language be taken with accessibility in mind as it relates to reading level. Requested a progress report be brought back to the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature.

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POLICY/ ADMISSIONS

It was *recommended* that the Process for Approving Observers to the GSC be approved; that electronic voting be used for Trustees' elections and that the process for picking Conference dates be changed.

PASSED—Became
an Advisory Action

Public Information

Recommended that all A.A.W.S. video titles be adjusted for search engine optimization (SEO).

PASSED

Public Information Committee Considerations:

The committee reviewed and accepted the 2019 report on the “Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcements.” The committee noted the recent efforts by G.S.O. to explore editing a Conference -approved PSA to remain useful for local committees reflecting “social distancing” by A.A. groups and members.

The committee also considered reports on the A.A.W.S. and GV websites, the A.A.W.S. YouTube account, the GoogleAd Words/Grants, the Comprehensive Media Plan, the plan to create video shorts from existing pamphlets, the proposed new system of financial reporting of PSAs, creating a new form of communication about anonymity, and developing A.A. podcasts, and many more suggestions for the Trustees (see full report).

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Report & Charter

The Committee **recommended** that the words “participating in the vote” be added to Article 4 of the current Conference Charter.

The Committee discussed restoring the 2 paragraphs and footnote that were removed from the essay on Concept Eleven and **Took No Action**.

The Committee reviewed the draft of the Service Manual and requested that an updated draft be brought to the 71st GSC.

Treatment and Accessibilities

The pamphlet, “Bridging the Gap” be updated for currency and inclusion to reach a broader scope of treatment settings about temporary contact services and that a progress report or draft be brought back to the 2012 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities. **PASSED**

Committee Considerations:

Suggested the trustees’ C.P.C./T.A. committee develop a Bridging the Gap Committee Workbook to include a list of BTG temporary contacts available from G.S.O.

The committee urged that the call for stories to update the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic” be reopened to gather a broader and more inclusive representation of A.A. experience.

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TRUSTEES

Slates of Trustees, officers of GSB and the directors of AAWS and AA Grapevine, Inc. boards were recommended for election.

Archives



Committee Consideration:

Considered requests to develop a book on A.A. history from 1955 through the present. Suggested that the trustees' Archives Committee consider possible themes, content ideas, and the time-period the book might cover. Requested a report be brought back to the 2021 Conference Committee on Archives.

Floor Actions forwarded to the 71st GSC

- Trustee's committee revise the pie chart percentages in the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" to emphasize more clearly that any percentages included in the pamphlet are only suggestions and examples, not recommendations.
- The GSC consider developing a PSA about Alcoholics Anonymous geared toward minorities.
- The 70th GSC approve the slate of Directores for A.A.W.S. as originally submitted.

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- The pamphlet “A.A for the Black and African-American Alcoholic” be updated to include fresh stories and a new title that is respectful and inclusive.
- The slate of Directors of A.A.W.S as submitted by the Conference Committee on Trustees be approved.
The launch of Google Ad/Words Grants by the General Service Office be halted until the 71st GSC convenes and approves that launch and the the “Ad Hoc Committee Progress Report, dated Marc 30, 2020, be immediately released to all members of the 70th GSC.

Floor Action Declined for Consideration

- Since many agenda items from the shortened 70th Virtual General Sevice Conference will be forwarded to the 71st GSC in 2021, the 71st GSC Conference Committee on Trustees consider the extension of the 71st GSC by as many as three working days and that consideration be offered regardless of whether the 71st GSA is face-to-face or held digitally.



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