

# 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference



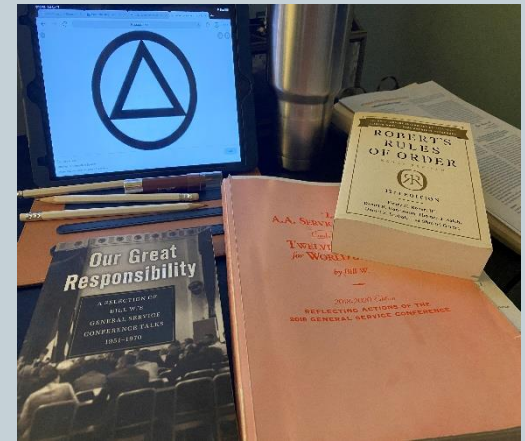
A.A. IN A TIME OF CHANGE



# What I Saw, Heard, and Felt



"I DO NOT THINK THAT ANY OF US  
WOULD PRESUME ALCOHOLICS  
ANONYMOUS IN ITS PRESENT FORM  
WOULD NECESSARILY LAST FOREVER.  
WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT IT WILL  
LEAD TO BETTER THINGS FOR THOSE  
WHO SUFFER FROM ALCOHOLISM."  
(BILL W., REMARKS AT THE 1956 GSC)



## 71<sup>st</sup> Annual General Service Conference

2021: A.A. in a Time of Change

2021: Les AA à une époque de  
changement

2021: A.A. en una época de cambio

# Starting the day...



## **THE SERENITY GROUP**

An open A.A. meeting held during the 71st General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous

Sunday, April 18, – Friday, April 23, 2021

10:30 a.m. EST Fellowship  
10:45 – 11:45 a.m. EST Serenity Group

# 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference



71st General Service Conference		71st General Service Conference		71st General Service Conference	
1 Agenda	10	1 Agenda	3	1 Floor Action	1
2 CPC	4	2 CPC	3	2 Floor Action	1
3 Corrections	3	3 Corrections	1	3 Floor Action	1
4 Finance	9	4 Finance	2	4 Floor Action	1
5 Grapvine and La Viña	6	5 Grapvine and La Viña	1	5 Floor Action	1
6 Literature	37	6 Literature	15	6 Floor Action	1
7 Policy/Admissions	10	7 Policy/Admissions	5	<b>Total Submitted Floor Actions</b>	<b>6</b>
8 Public Information	10	8 Public Information	7		
9 Report and Charter	5	9 Report and Charter	4		
## Treatment and Accessibilities	4	10 Treatment and Accessibilities	1	<b>71st General Service Conference</b>	
## Trustees	8	11 Trustees	5	Total pages of Conference Background	1487
## Archives	2	12 Archives	0		
## ICRF	2	13 ICRF	0		
<b>Total Final Agenda Items</b>		<b>Total Committee Recommendations</b>			
	<b>110</b>		<b>47</b>		

# 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference



## 71st General Service Conference - Hours in Session

# Days	Day	Start Time	End Time	Planned Hours in Session - must remove 1 hour A.A. meeting a.	Add-On Hours To Get Work Completed	Total Hours in Session
1	Saturday	11 a.m.	8:30 p.m.	7.75		7.75
2	Sunday	Noon	9 p.m.	6.5		6.5
3	Monday	9:45 a.m.	10:30 p.m.	10.75		10.75
4	Tuesday	Noon	9:15 p.m.	7.25		7.25
5	Wednesday	1:30 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	6.75		6.75
6	Thursday	Noon	9:30 p.m.	6.75	0.5	7.25
7	Friday	Noon	11:10 p.m.	8.75	0.5	9.25
8	Saturday	11 a.m.	Midnite	7.5	4.5	12
9	Sunday	Midnite	2:15 a.m.	0	2.25	2.25
<b>Total</b>				<b>62</b>	<b>7.75</b>	<b>69.75</b>



# IMPROVED AUDIT RESULTS



- Completed on schedule
- Unqualified or “clean” audit opinion
- No material weaknesses
- No significant deficiencies
- Only one recommendation (compared to seven last year)

# Around the Picnic Table



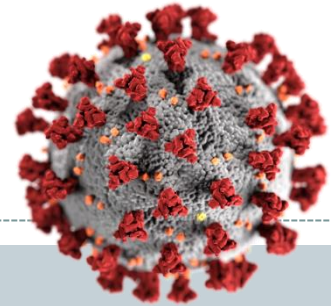
## MEMBER SERVICES & STATISTICS 2020

2020	
Number of Members	1,473,390
Cost of Services per Member	7.34
7 <sup>th</sup> Tradition Self-Support Contributions per Member	<u>6.81</u>
Cost of Services <b><u>NOT</u></b> covered by Self-Support	.53
Number of Groups	71,190
Cost of Services per Group	\$151.85
7 <sup>th</sup> Tradition Self-Support Contributions per Group	<u>144.12</u>
Cost of Services <b><u>NOT</u></b> covered by Self-Support	7.73
Percentage of Groups Contributing	34.8%
Number of Groups that Contributed	24,779
7 <sup>th</sup> Tradition Self-Support of Groups that contributed	\$238.95





# Effects of Covid 19 Pandemic



## IMPACT OF PANDEMIC ON 7<sup>TH</sup> TRADITION

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS	2020	2019
Amount contributed by groups	\$6.0 million	\$6.9 million
Number of groups contributing	24,779	28,180
Percent of groups contributing	34.8%	40.6%
Average group contribution	\$238.95	\$245.94

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	2020	2019
Amount contributed by individuals	\$4.3 million	\$1.9 million
Per capita contribution	\$6.81	\$6.09

## 2020 Financial Results – What Happened?

- ❖ We are grateful to the fellowship for your generous response to our 7th tradition messages which increased contributions by \$1.4 M compared to 2019.
- ❖ The pandemic caused literature gross profit to decline by \$2.78M compared to 2019.
- ❖ \$1.2 M in VRIP severance payments
- ❖ \$3.6 M in pension related expenses.
  - ❖ \$5.1 M VRIP pension payments for participants who elected a lump sum payment instead of payments spread over their lifespan. (paid from pension fund not general fund)
  - ❖ Less \$1.5M savings in the amount needed to pay expected benefits over retiree lifetimes
- ❖ Travel, meals, and accommodations decreased by \$1.1 M due to the pandemic.

## 2020 PRUDENT RESERVE

- Why did we need \$4 million from the Reserve Fund?
- The simplest answer is that we had many items which required cash and there was not enough cash on hand.
- The longer answer is that literature sales were down significantly at a time when there was a need for cash to meet our obligations.
- At year end gross profit from literature sales was \$6.58 M, 32.9% less than a budget of \$9.8 M and 29.7% less than 2019 gross profit of \$9.36 M.

# 2020 COVID-19 IMPACT

## SERVICES CONTINUE AT AAWS AND GRAPEVINE



Over 125,000

Alcoholics provided with digital Grapevine subscriptions free of charge



1,800

Pieces of inmate correspondence

1,200 members behind the walls connected to members outside

March 2020

More than 90,000

emails/phone calls answered requesting information or help from GSO, since the office physically closed on March 20.



One

Completely virtual General Service Conference designed from the kitchens, living rooms and home offices across the US and Canada



December 2020

# Understanding the “Lingo”



## **Advisory Actions**

Recommendations made by the Conference Committee and shared, discussed , and voted on with substantial unanimity by the conference voting members.

## **Committee Considerations**

Items discussed but no action taken or recommendation made. Committee recommendations which are not adopted must be included in a separate section in the Final Conference Report.

## **Took No Action**

A committee may decide not to make any recommendation or further discussion of an Agenda item.



# I. Agenda



## The 2022 General Service Conference Theme:

**72<sup>nd</sup> GSC: A.A. Comes of Age 2.0:  
Unified in Love and Service**

### **Presentations:**

- **How do A.A.s go to any length to Recover, Unify, and Serve?**
- **Going Beyond Fear**
- **How to Reach Anyone, Anywhere**

**Workshop topic: The Warranties – Our  
Promise to our Fellowship and the World**

## II. Cooperation with Professional Community



Implement a dynamic A.A.W.S. LinkedIn page to provide current and relevant content about A.A. to professionals in accordance with A.A. principles and Traditions.



## II. Cooperation with the Professional Community



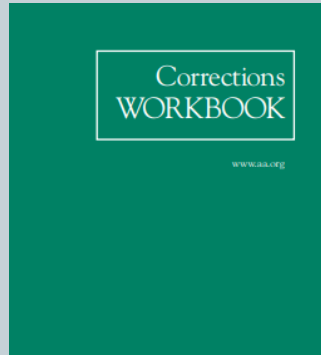
Develop a pamphlet directed to mental health professionals.

Approve the updated draft pamphlet “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous” with the title “Faith Leaders Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous”.

# III. Corrections

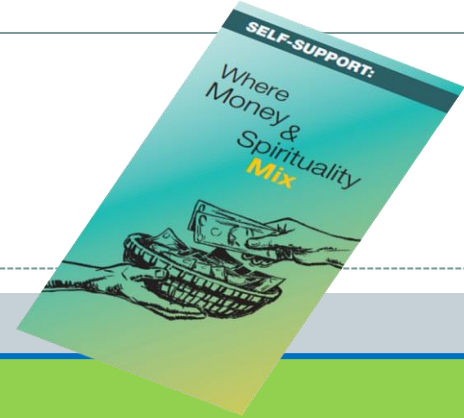


- Revise A.A.W.S. literature directed to members behind the walls replacing the terms “inmate” and “offender” with “persons in custody”.



- Over 100 recommended changes and updates to the Corrections Workbook and Kit.

## IV. Finance



A watermark with the word “SAMPLE” be added to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> pie charts on page 13 of the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix”.

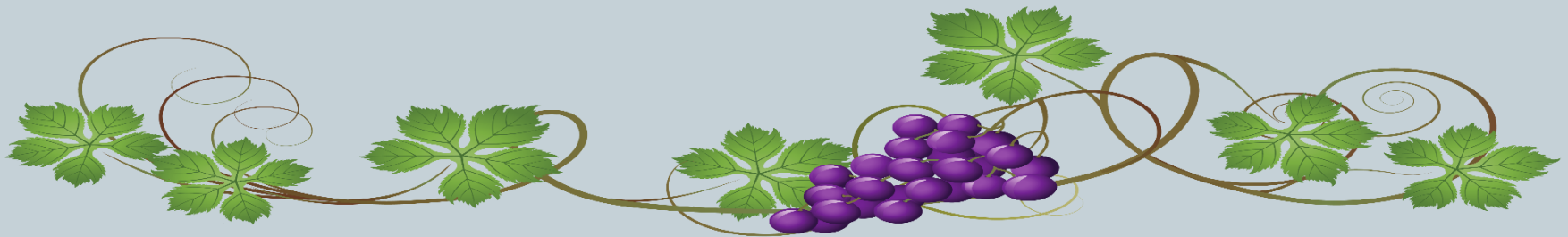
Revise Language on page 7 and page 13 of the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” to reflect the performance of service entities which may vary from area to area to make contributions based on the needs of your area.



# V. Grapevine and LaVina



The committee recommended the 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 LaVina.



# V. Grapevine and LaVina



## Book Titles to Consider for 2022:

12

**A.A.'s Twelve Concepts  
(working title)**

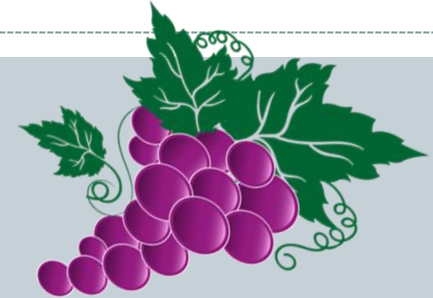


**The Home Group II**

# V. Grapevine and LaVina: Floor Action



The A.A. Preamble be changed to:



“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. “

# V. Grapevine and LaVina Floor Action



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.”

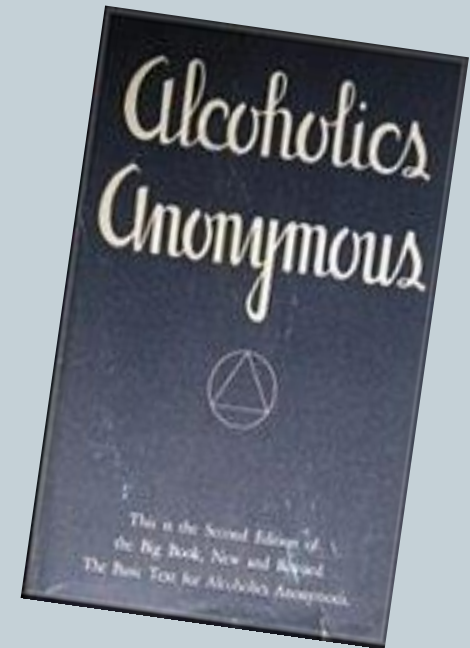
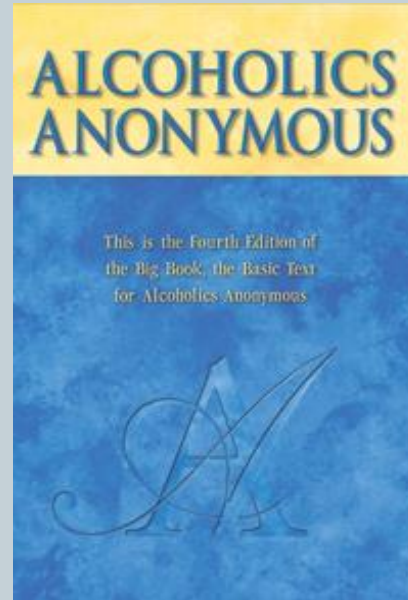
# V. Grapevine and LaVina Floor Action



“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.”

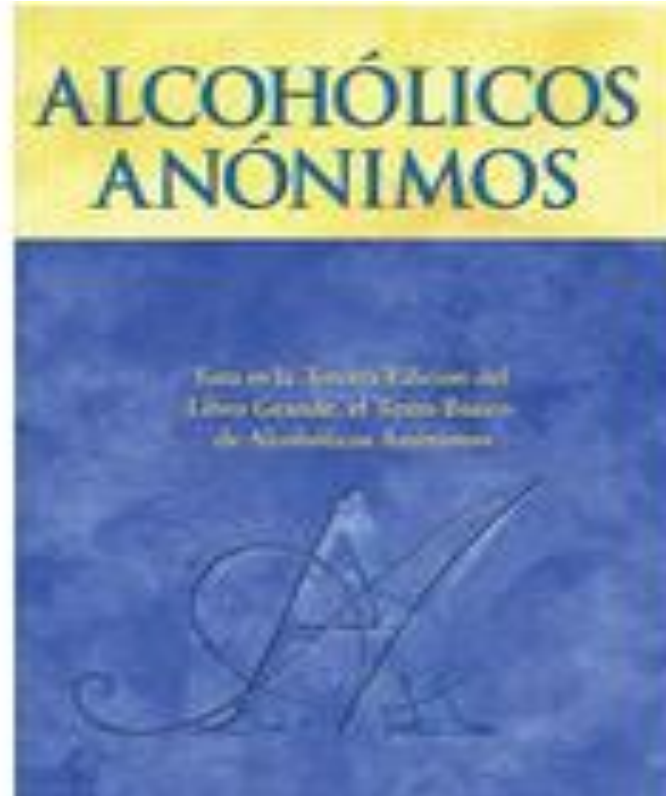


# VI. Literature



## 5<sup>th</sup> Edition

# VI. Literature: Alcoholicos Anonimos



**4<sup>th</sup> Edition**

# VI. Literature



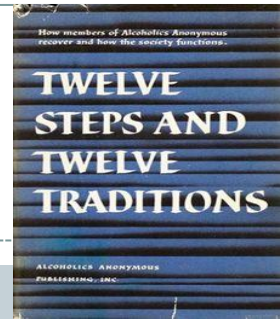
Common words instead of complex words

Active voice

Positive tone when possible

Keep words and sentences short

# VI. Literature



## Updates to the Twelve and Twelve

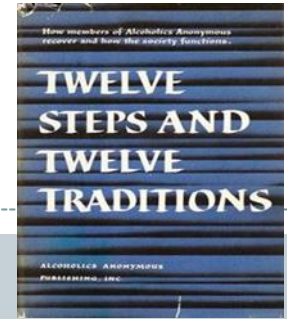
Page 66

“No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health.

to

“No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony.”

## Vi. Literature



# Twelve and Twelve

Text on page 117

Change wording:

“find a mate of the opposite sex”

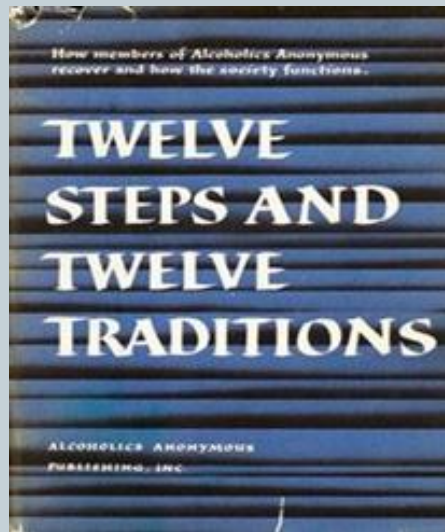
to

" find a partner”

## VI. Literature



- 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.



## VI. Literature



- The existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” not be retired.
- The draft update of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” be approved with the working title, “Experience Has Taught Us: Our Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”





## VI. Literature



“A.A. for the Black  
and African-  
American Alcoholic”

The draft pamphlet  
for Spanish-speaking  
women in A.A. be  
approved

**Floor Action:** "A.A.  
for the Native North  
American"

# VII. Policy and Admissions



## Equitable Distribution of Workload



# VII. Policy and Admissions

## Online Groups



# VII. Policy and Admissions

**Did not pass**

**There was a  
recommendation to  
change the floor action  
process to include a  
Motion to Consider  
rather than a Motion to  
Decline to Consider**

# VIII. Public Information

Two New PSAs:  
“Party” and “Wall”

Available Summer  
2021



# VIII. Public Information



## PODCASTS

- Sharing within the Fellowship
- Info about A.A. to the Public
- Format for Service Material

## VIII. Public Information



- Revise pamphlet “Speaking at Non A.A. Meetings”
- Revise Flyer: “A Message to Teenagers”





# IX. Report and Charter



- Discontinue printing of the A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.)
- Approval of the revised manuscript of the A.A. Service Manual and the Twelve Concepts for World Service 2021-2023 with the inclusion of the original Conference Charter.



# IX. Report and Charter



## **Appendix C**

### **Current Conference Charter (United States and Canada)**

1. *Purpose:* The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of world services and of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Conference shall be a service body only; never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous.

Amend paragraph one , the Purpose statement of the Current Conference Charter, be amended to read:

*Purpose: The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of world services and of the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, **and the Twelve Concepts** of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Conference shall be a service body only; never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous.*

# IX. Report and Charter



Considering a request to revise Concept Eleven essay of the Twelve Concepts for World Service, the committee recommended a new section entitled “Amendments” be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Services.

## Concept XI

*While the trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore, the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.*

# X. Treatment and Accessibilities

Approval of audio interviews with AA  
Members who are in the Armed Forces

Male: Navy Captain

Female: Air Force Pilot

Male: Army Combat Medic



# XI. Trustees



- The approval of the slate of trustees and officers for the General Service Board **PASSED**
- The approval of the slate of directors for A.A.W.S., Inc. **PASSED**
- The approval of the slate of directors for A.A. Grapevine Board, Inc. as presented **PASSED**



# General Service Board Trustees

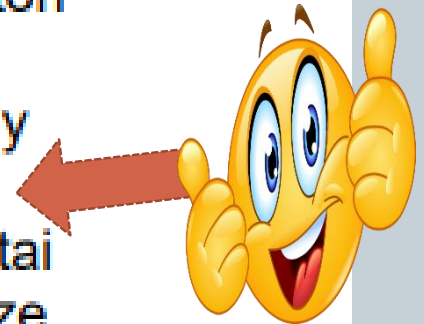


## Class A Trustees

Molly Anderson  
Hon. Christine Carpenter  
Linda Chezem, J.D.  
Sr. Judith Ann Karam, C.S.A.  
Al Mooney, M.D., FAAFP, FASAM  
Nancy McCarthy  
Kevin Prior, MBA, CFA, CPA

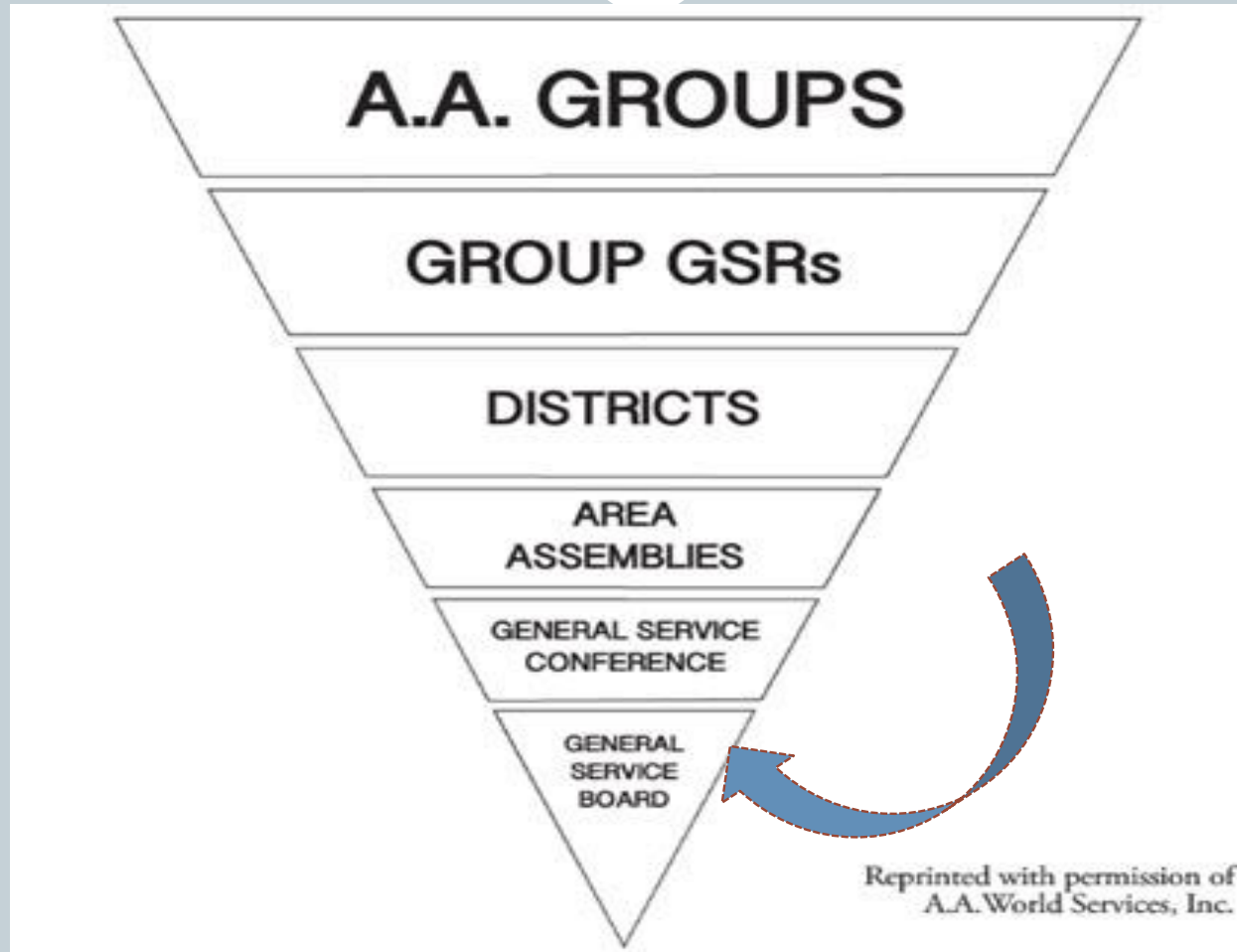
## Class B Trustees

Beau Bush  
Cathi Clark  
Jimmy Dean  
Josh Eggleston  
Kathi Fowler  
Francis Gilroy  
Tom Hoban  
Deborah Koltai  
Trish LaNauze  
Jan Lembke  
Mike Lewis  
Paz Preciado  
Marita Hagen Rhinehart  
Irma Van De Bon-Nicol



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# XI. Trustees





# XII. Archives



- No Recommendations

## G.S.O. Archives Mission

The mission of the Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Office Archives is to document permanently the work of Alcoholics Anonymous, to make the history of the organization accessible to A.A. members and other researchers, and to provide a context for understanding A.A.'s progression, principles and traditions.



Talking: (Gss): Michelle M. Archi...



# XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums

## No Recommendations



Committee Consideration: Gather additional shared experience from the Fellowship to make an informed decision on methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention by conducting a survey through multiple communication platforms.

# The 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference

April 24-30, 2022

Brooklyn, NY

Welcome Panel 72s!









Contact me or Join Me for  
**Coffee and Conversation**

June 2nd 7PM

Zoom ID 930 5601 7418 PW Coffee



Debi Keane  
Area 16 Delegate  
Chair Conference Committee on Corrections  
[delegate@aageorgia.org](mailto:delegate@aageorgia.org)  
770-668-4685

**THANK YOU**

