

73rd General Service Conference

“AA’s 3
Legacies”



Our Common
Solution”



**THE FINAL
RESPONSIBILITY AND
THE ULTIMATE
AUTHORITY FOR AA
WORLD SERVICES
SHOULD ALWAYS
RESIDE IN THE
COLLECTIVE
CONSCIENCE OF OUR
WHOLE FELLOWSHIP**

PLAYBILL

RICHARD RODGERS THEATRE



HAMILTON

DINNER AND A SHOW BEFORE CONFERENCE BEGINS



PARK AVENUE CLINTON ST







Alcoholics Anonymous

PLANNING

Location Plus



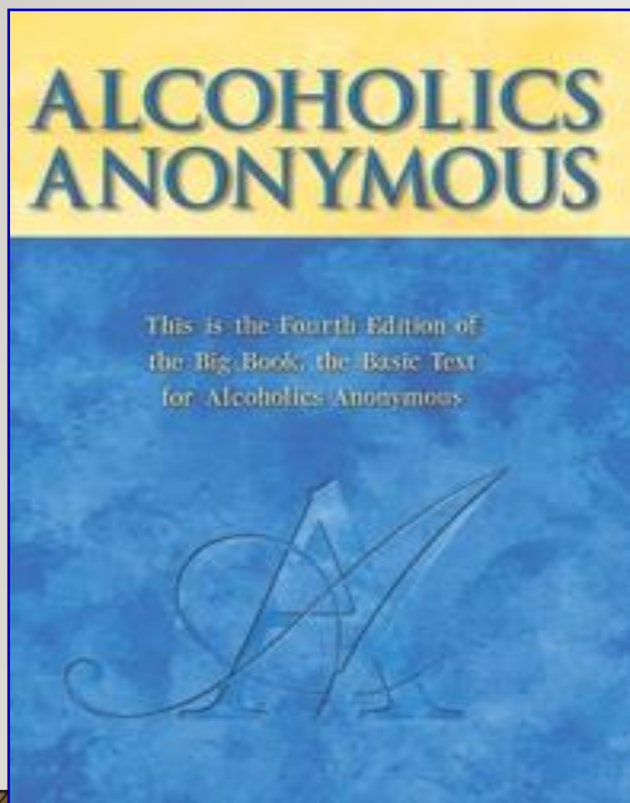
AREA
HIGHLIGHTS



READING ROOM

PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK

TOP SECRET!



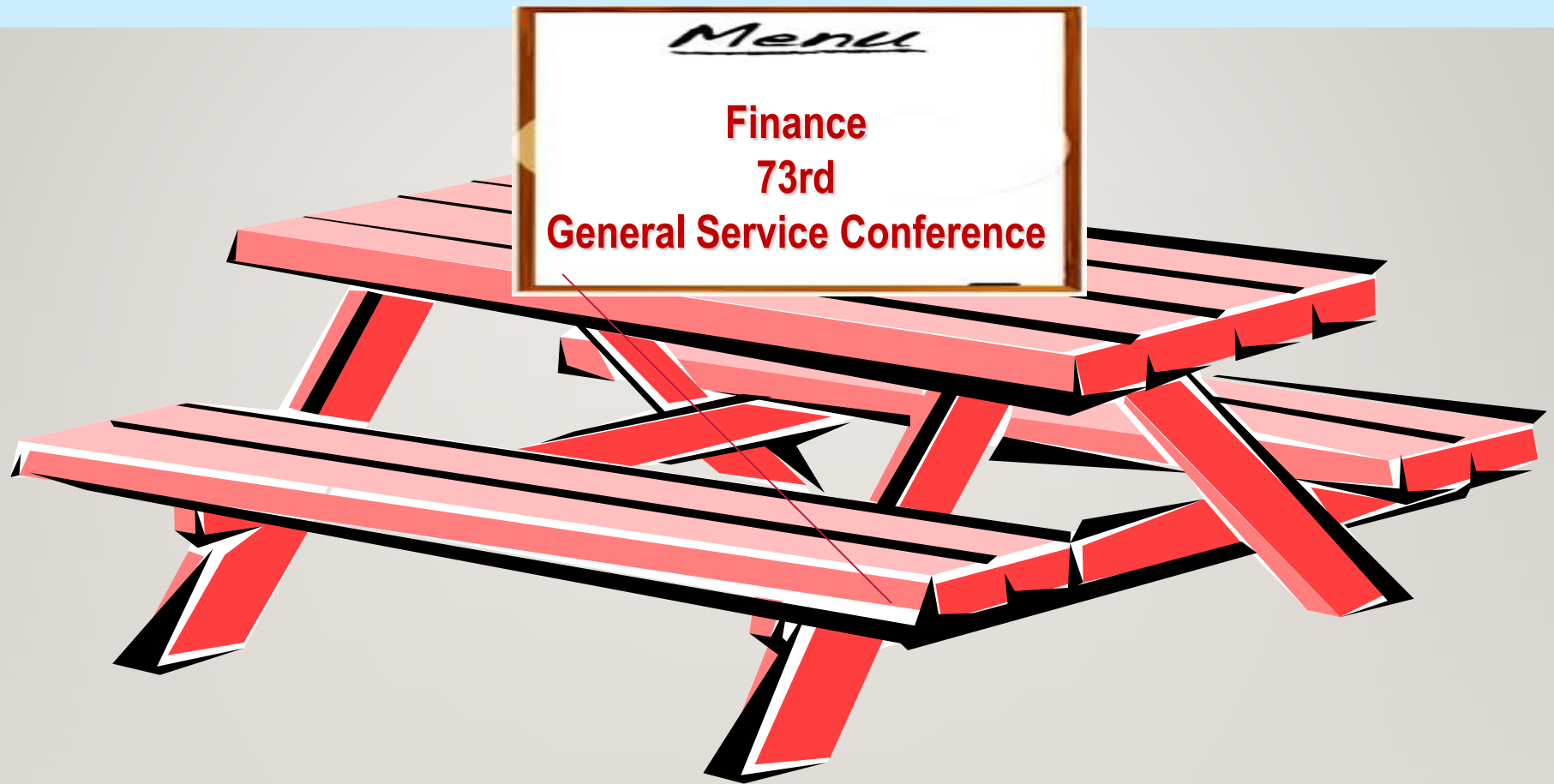
TREATMENT/ACCESSIBILITIES

**COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENT FOR
CONFERENCE**

**CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS BEGIN**



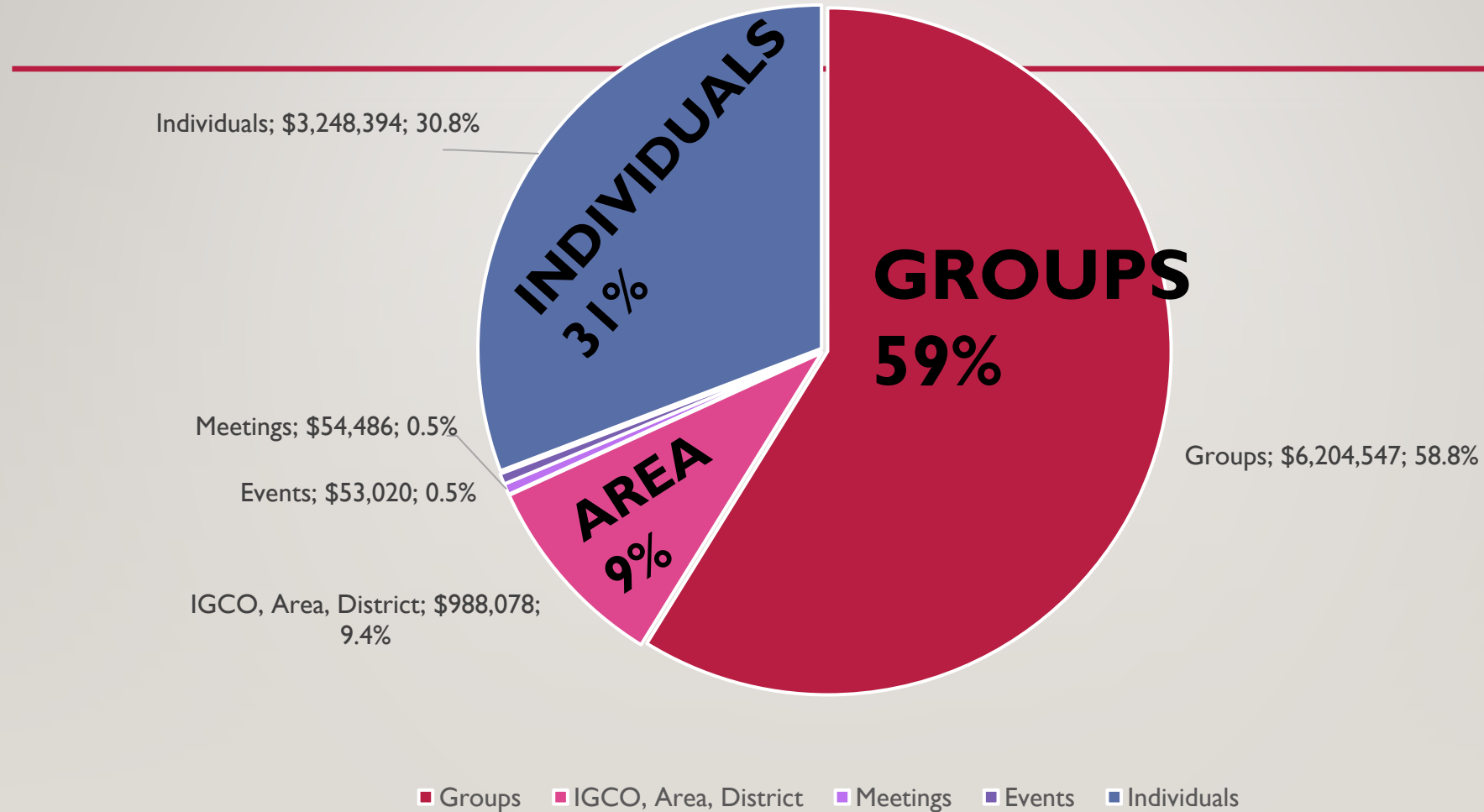
AROUND THE PICNIC TABLE



Kevin Prior, CFA, CPA
Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustee
General Service Board Treasurer

CONTRIBUTIONS BY TYPE OF CONTRIBUTOR

9



2022 GSO FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ **7th Tradition of Self-Support – \$10.55 million down 2.1% from \$10.78 million in 2021**
- ❖ **Operating Expense - \$17.82 million up 19.9% from \$14.86 million in 2021**
- ❖ **Program Service Expense - \$7.17 million down 2.7% from \$7.37 million in 2021**
- ❖ **Supporting Services Expense - \$10.65 million up 42.2% from \$7.49 million in 2021**
- ❖ **Self-Support - covered 59% of operating expense**
- ❖ **AAWS publishing gross profits – \$4.89 million down 22.3% from \$6.29 million in 2021**
- ❖ **Operating deficit of \$1,579,305; operating cash decrease of \$2,064,135**

AAWS – PUBLISHING – 2022 ACTUAL vs 2022 BUDGET

LITERATURE SALES	2022 ACTUAL	2022 BUDGET	INCREASE (DECREASE)
Gross Sales – Literature	11,999,441	11,000,000	999,441
Discounts	(479,173)	(550,000)	(70,827)
Shipping Charges	277,893	330,000	(52,107)
Net Sales - Literature	11,795,265	10,780,000	1,015,265
Cost of Literature Sold- Printing	6,901,151	5,390,000	1,511,151
Gross Profit	4,894,113	5,390,000	(495,887)
Gross Profit Percentage	41.5%	50.0%	(8.5%)

LITERATURE PRICE INCREASE

- ❖ **20% on Books**
- ❖ **30% on Pamphlets**
- ❖ **20% on Miscellaneous Items**

2023 GSO BUDGET

- ❖ Operating revenue \$18,791,320 compared to \$15,910,334 in 2022.
- ❖ Contributions \$10,500,000 compared to \$10,548,525 in 2022.
- ❖ Literature gross margin \$7,950,000 compared to \$4,894,113 in 2022.
- ❖ Total operating expense \$17,085,479 before \$1.2M depreciation compared to \$17,821,142 in 2022.
- ❖ Operating surplus of \$505,841 after depreciation compared to \$1,579,305 deficit in 2022.

2022 PRUDENT RESERVE

Beginning Balance January 1, 2022	12,852,286
Investment Earnings	96,774
Change in GV subscription liability	200,000
Drawdowns	(200,000)
Additions	0
Ending Balance December 31, 2022	12,949,060

Composition of Ending Balance	
Cash	2,727,969
Certificates of Deposit (CDARs)	11,444,990
Accrued Interest	19,601
Less Grapevine subscription liability	(1,243,500)
Ending Balance	12,949,060

Number of Months Expenses Held	Based on 2022 expenses	Based on 2023 expenses
January 1, 2022	8.32	7.29
December 31, 2022	8.38	7.35



2022 GRAPEVINE FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ **Grapevine paid print subscriptions decreased 7% in 2022. Subscriptions for the online and mobile app magazine decreased 27%**
- ❖ **2022 Grapevine results were a gross margin on subscriptions of \$ 790K and a net profit of \$675K on other published items. Operating expenses of 1.8 Million for an operating loss of \$ 405K**
- ❖ **General Fund support of La Viña service activity was \$ 637K in 2022 compared to \$389K in 2021.**
- ❖ **La Viña magazine circulation increased by 4% in 2022 compared to a 12% decrease in 2021 after several prior years of pre-pandemic growth.**



Grapevine & La Viña Apps

AA General Service
Conference
April, 2023



iPhone



Android

Meeting readers where they are

A TOUR OF OUR GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

ESPECIALLY THE ARCHIVES



Full Conference Begins...



COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Committee Considerations:

///Took No Action:///

Advisory Actions:

Floor Actions



RECOMMENDATIONS:

**Recommendations are Motions that come out of Conference Committees
They are already made and seconded.**

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.

Advisory Actions:

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





Floor Actions

It is possible for a Conference action to come from the floor. Floor actions may be introduced at any time during the Conference except at the Sharing Sessions. When a floor action is to be heard, its maker will be given two (2) minutes to state the rationale behind the action, after which the chair shall ask if there is a motion that the Conference decline to consider the floor action.



Declining to Consider a Floor Action

A motion to decline to consider a floor action is made without comment



AGENDA

Our 2024 Theme for The General Service Conference

“Connecting with Love, Unity and Service.”

Presentation Theme: “Responsibility in Service: When and How to Give”

Presentation Topics:

- . “Safety throughout the Structure in our Fellowship”
- . “1728 Sponsorship”
- . “Overcoming the Barriers to Participation”

Workshop Topic:

“Connecting Home Groups to the Conference Throughout the Year, to Better Inform the Group’s Conscience.”

AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION

The General Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself during the 2025 General Service Conference and that a Conference Inventory Planning Committee be established by the General Service Board to develop a comprehensive inventory plan, timeline and cost estimate, to bring forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on Agenda for consideration. The motion passed

AGENDA

Recommendation: The reading of the Area Highlights from the 73rd General Service Conference be suspended and included in the 2023 Conference *Final Report*, to allow discussion of the following topics:

- Are the decisions of the General Service Board producing Unity within the Fellowship and inspiring confidence in the Board's future functions?
- The General Service Board Code of Conduct
- Is the prudent reserve being used as the Conference intends?

Note: The Conference Committee on Agenda caucused during the opening session of the General Service Conference to consider this motion from the floor regarding changing the Conference week schedule. **The motion failed.**

Cooperation with the Professional Community

RECOMMECOMENDATIONS

That the pamphlet “A.A. in Your Community” be approved with minor editorial changes. MOTION PASSES

Additional Committee Considerations: ITEMS OF INTEREST

- *The committee considered a request to retire the pamphlet “A Member’s Eye View” and took no action.* The committee agreed that some members consider the pamphlet a useful tool for carrying the A.A. message. However, the committee expressed support for removing the pamphlet from Cooperation with the Professional Community materials as it may appear outdated and less effective for providing information about A.A. to the professional community.
- ***further details available in Delegate’s Report***

Grapevine and La Viña

- **Recommendation:**
- **Alternate delegates be provided access to the same Conference materials as their sitting delegates, except for materials shared during Conference week.**
- **MOTION FAILED**

Treatment and Accessibilities

Recommendations:

- The revised pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic—Never too Late” be approved with minor edits in a format that does not require folding.

Motion Passed

- The 22 interviews recorded to date as part of the Military Audio project be approved, giving the General Service Office (GSO) the latitude to distribute the audio interviews in various formats and on various platforms, and that an update report be provided to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

Motion Passed

Treatment and Accessibilities

ITEM OF INTEREST (CONSIDERATION)

- The committee discussed the suggestion that an Accessibility Inventory be conducted throughout A.A.'s services and structure and suggested that the trustees' CPC/TA Committee take an inventory of what resources are currently available from the General Service Office and the AA Grapevine to meet accessibility related challenges and consider the best methods for communicating about those resources to the Fellowship.
- The committee discussed carrying the message to alcoholics with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities, and suggested that:

REPORT AND CHARTER

Recommendations:

- *The A.A. Service Manual* not be printed in 2023 and that a new edition be published biannually (i.e., every two years), beginning in 2024. **Motion Passes**
- A full rewrite be conducted of chapters 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 to correct inaccuracies and to better clarify the roles, responsibilities and relationships between the General Service Office, AA Grapevine, and A.A. World Services, Inc. in *The A.A. Service Manual* and that the trustees' Literature Committee forward these draft sections or a progress report to the 2024 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. **Motion Passes**
- Anonymity-protected Conference *Final Reports* be posted annually on aa.org beginning with the 2023 General Service Conference. **Motion Passes**

Finance

Recommendations:

Materials produced and maintained by A.A. World Services, AA Grapevine, La Viña, and the General Service Office (GSO), clarify that the General Service Board is the entity which receives all voluntary A.A. contributions and that GSO performs contribution processing. Any text changes should be implemented when each item comes up for reprint or revision. **MOTION PASSES**

The suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference be increased from \$1,800 to \$2,200. **MOTION PASSES**

The Trustees Finance & Budgetary Committee develop additional ways to report quarterly the fiscal performance of the AAWS, GSB and GV Boards throughout the year to the members of the General Service Conference for the purposes of transparency and assisting in the reporting to the A.A. Fellowship. **MOTION PASSES**

Finance

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

The committee considered a request to discuss proposed agenda items related to changes to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. The committee suggested that the Trustees' Literature Committee seek input from the Fellowship (including but not limited to Area delegate feedback) regarding any possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s founders. The committee requested that a progress report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Finance. (Mindful of budgetary restraints, the committee suggests financial prudence when determining how best to obtain Fellowship sharing.)

Finance

- The committee reviewed the Conference-approved level of \$10,000 for individual Bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members and **took no action**. The committee feels the level was doubled in 2019 and is still appropriate as is. The committee also felt that the current limit captures the spiritual elements embodied in our principles reminding us that modest personal contributions align with the concept of personal anonymity.
- The committee reviewed the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$5,000 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member and **took no action**. The committee felt that the current limit was satisfactory and captures the spiritual elements embodied in our principles reminding us that modest personal contributions align with the concept of personal anonymity.

POLICY/ADMISSIONS

Recommendations:

- The “Process for Polling the General Service Conference Between Annual Meetings Using Virtual Technology” be approved as amended **MOTION PASSES**
- To foster unity, trust, and transparency in the Fellowship, the members of the General Service Conference meet outside of the annual meeting for general sharing sessions at least two times per year utilizing virtual meeting technology. The General Service Board Chair and Delegate Chair will set the date and time as well as determine what issues currently facing the Fellowship would be chosen as topics. **MOTION PASSES**
- *Committee recommendations were made Pre-Conference to allow representatives from several other countries to attend the General Service Conference as observers.*

POLICY/ADMISSIONS

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

- The committee reviewed the “Report of the GSB Ad Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the U.S./Canada Service Structure” and expressed appreciation for the report, particularly the results of the survey to delegates. The committee agreed that an important next step would be for delegates to find out more about the online groups in their areas and requested that the ad-hoc committee provide them with sample questions they may use in that inquiry.

The committee looks forward to the next iteration of the ad hoc committee and the continued exploration of the possibilities for the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada general service structure.

POLICY/ADMISSIONS

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

- The committee requested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee (TGSCC) explore all possibilities for **extending the deadline for submitting Proposed Agenda Items (PAIs) to allow areas more time to consider items at their Fall assemblies.**
- The committee also requested that TGSCC conduct a survey of delegates to find out the effect EDW has had upon their areas, especially related to the submission deadline and the engagement of members and groups in the group conscience process.
- Finally, the committee requested that TGSCC consider creating a simple video or other communication that would reinforce the idea that PAIs can be submitted year-round, as well as help the Fellowship better understand the role of PAIs as a document to reflect the outcome of a group conscience rather than a petition or **suggestion box.**

CORRECTIONS

Recommendations:

- Item #5. in the Procedures of the Conference Committee on Corrections which currently reads:
“To maintain correspondence with committee secretary and other committee members during the year,”

Be revised, to read:

“To maintain communication with committee secretary and other committee members during the year.” **Motion Passes**

- The following section be added to the pamphlet “A.A. in Correctional Facilities” on page 12 between the sections titled “Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS) – a special kind of A.A. service” and “The following-through – released A.A. persons in custody”:

Sponsorship

Like all A.A. members, persons in custody can benefit from sponsorship. For more information, please refer to the Corrections Kit and Workbook or contact your local Corrections committee. **Motion Passes**

CORRECTIONS

ITEM OF INTEREST:

The committee discussed the 2021 and 2022 versions of the service piece **“Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare”** and concluded that the service piece is a necessary and useful tool for A.A. groups. The committee suggested revisions to be considered for inclusion in the next printing of the service piece.

TRUSTEES

Recommendations:

The following slates were approved:

- The slate of Trustees of the General Service Board
- The slate of Officers of the General Service Board
- The slate of Directors of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board
- The slate of Directors of the AA Grapevine Corporate Board

TRUSTEES

- The committee thoroughly discussed the General Service Board's actions at the January 29, 2023, Board Planning and Sharing session that led to the resignation of the board chair. The committee agreed that the board's failure to fully utilize the spiritual principles of Alcoholics Anonymous to address leadership problems was deeply concerning. The committee also agreed that failure to expedite communication to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous about the board chair's resignation and lack of transparency regarding the board's decision resulted in widespread mistrust and disunity. After lengthy and prayerful discussion, the committee took a vote to censure the General Service Board failing to achieve substantial unanimity.
- The committee met individually with each current General Service Board trustee to hear their vision for the future of Alcoholics Anonymous, assessment of the current state of the board, and what actions can be taken to improve communication. The committee agreed the board must improve communication with the Fellowship, including listening to the Fellowship. *The committee suggested that the board utilize an externally facilitated process to make organizational improvements.*

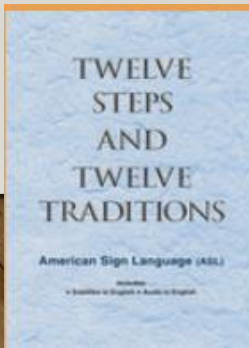
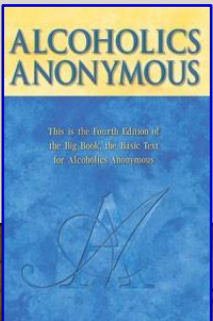
TRUSTEES

- **The committee requested that the General Service Board find time and space to continue to develop spiritual practices in harmony with the A.A. principles of reflection, accountability, and healing. The committee encourages the board to continue their work on reviewing and clarifying the board's code of conduct, whistleblower policies, and confidentiality policies to provide a clear path to remedy any possible problems within the General Service Board.**

LITERATURE

Recommendations:

- The revised draft of the existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” be approved. **Motion Passes**
- The print version of the pamphlet “Too Young” be retired and that the content be repurposed as an animation video at an estimated cost no higher than \$70,000. The committee requested that a progress report or a rough cut of the video be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature. **Motion Passes**
- The work on the draft pamphlet based on A.A.’s Three Legacies be ceased. The committee noted that the material gathered would be most useful as service material. **Motion Passes**



LITERATURE

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Consideration regarding the translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language. The Committee agreed with the general direction of the project. The committee requested that the project continue to move forward and that a draft or progress report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.

- **The committee discussed new proposed agenda items (PAI's) related to the plain language Big Book translation and took no action.** The committee acknowledged the concerns of members, groups, and areas in the Fellowship regarding the oversight of the process of a translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth edition) into plain and simple language. The committee noted that these concerns will be addressed at a special section during the 2023 General Service.

******* Note: See Committee Considerations for more information*******

PUBLIC INFORMATION



Recommendations:

The Membership Survey pamphlet be updated to reflect the findings from the 2022 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey, with minor editorial changes.

Motion Passes

The AAWS Board prepares sufficient periodic analytics reporting on our current communications platforms to be provided to the trustees' Public Information Committee and the Conference Committee on Public Information.

(Note: This replaces the 2004 Advisory Action which is outdated and no longer adequately serves as the basis of our communication channel reporting.)

Motion Passes

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Public Information Conference Committee had over 20 additional Considerations. I'll give a brief overview of that list. The details are available in my Delegate report.

- An Instagram account for AA World Services
- Placing PSA videos on streaming platforms
- Suggestions on improving the Membership Survey process
- Progress on the 2022 “Young People's Video Project”
- Updates on the Comprehensive Media Plan
- Anonymity on social media
- “AA at a Glance”
- Speaking at Non-AA Meetings
- A “Message to Teenagers” flyer
- Tracking progress on our PSAs
- GSO Podcast
- AA World Services YouTube Account
- The Meeting Guide App
- aa.org website



ARCHIVES

NO
RECOMMENDATIONS:

Archives
WORKBOOK

www.aa.org

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS

Recommendations:



The following three cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2035:

Phoenix, Arizona **Indianapolis, Indiana** **New Orleans, Louisiana**

MOTION PASSES

That up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2025 International Convention at A.A.'s expense. **MOTION PASSES**

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS

ITEM OF INTEREST:

The committee discussed the update report on methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention, which summarized the survey data indicating that ***there was not an overwhelming desire by the Fellowship to change the current practice.*** The consensus of the committee was that we should keep with the current practice of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention wherein the chair has the choice of closing the meeting with either the Lord's Prayer, the Serenity Prayer, or the Responsibility Statement.

FLOOR ACTIONS

Floor Action #1: It was recommended that: Starting in 2024, voting for trustee elections may utilize paper or electronic ballots. **Decline to Consider**

Floor Action #2: It was recommended that: The 2016 Conference Advisory Action stating: “General Service Conference delegates be provided a copy of the final approved annual General Service Office and AA Grapevine budgets with the Pre-Conference material for all future Conferences” be reconfirmed. **Decline to Consider**

Floor Action #3: It was recommended that: The 73rd General Service Conference censure the General Service Board due to poor communication to the Fellowship regarding the resignation of the former Chair of the General Service Board and for the process that was followed regarding the acceptance of her resignation. **Motion Fails (after much deliberation and discussion)**

FLOOR ACTIONS

Floor Action #4:

It was recommended that:

To enhance trust among General Service Conference members, the following actions be taken:

- The General Service Board prepare a report delineating the history of their Confidentiality Policy and the reason(s) for enacting it, submitting it for review to the Conference Trustees' Committee at the 2024 General Service Conference.
- The General Service Board initiate a review regarding the need for a less restrictive Confidentiality Policy, submitting a draft or progress report to the Conference Trustees' Committee at the 2024 General Service Conference.
- The existing Confidentiality Policy of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., be made null and void. **Decline to Consider**

FLOOR ACTIONS

Floor Action #5:

It was recommended that:

In an effort to improve communication, ensure Board policies are reflective of our principles, and reestablish a relationship of trust between the General Service Conference, the General Service Board and the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, the General Service Board is asked to undertake an inventory prior to the 74th General Service Conference. To assist the Board in this endeavor, the 73rd General Service Conference will establish a working group to aid the General Service Board in formulating possible inventory questions. **Motion Passes**

**GENERAL SERVICE BOARD INVENTORY / 73RD CONFERENCE
WORKING GROUP**

FLOOR ACTIONS

Floor Action #6

It was recommended that: The General Service Board create an Ad Hoc Joint committee on Communications throughout out service structure that includes trustees, delegates, and staff members. **Decline to Consider**

Floor Action #7

It was recommended that: Following the work of the trustees' ad hoc committee on policy review, **Conference members be asked to sign a code of conduct** which guides how we work together including but not limited to:

- Confidentiality
- Communications
- Mutual respect
- Social media
- Transparency

This code should include an acknowledgement that mistakes will be made and should suggest mechanisms for righting any wrongs.

This code should follow in spirit and language the principles outlined in our 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts and our Conference Charter.

This code should be reviewed annually by the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions

Motion Failed

Floor Action #8

It was recommended that: The General Service Board begin to develop supplemental reporting focused on the actual costs of the various service items we provide, with an initial draft being brought back to the Conference Committee on Finance for review at the 74th General Service Conference. These reports should include the budgeted costs of these items, any changes to the budgeted amounts, the long-term trends of the costs, as well as a reasonable projection of future costs for the services, when possible. Expenses to consider shall be regarding initial development, ongoing content creation, maintenance & upkeep, as well as any other substantive ancillary costs.

Decline to Consider

Floor Action #9

The process for selecting the delegate chair and the alternate delegate chair for the following year's GSC will be: (Refer to Report for Full Floor Action)

Declined to consider

Floor Action #10

The options for closing the Big Meeting at the International Convention be the Serenity Prayer or the Responsibility Statement. **Motion to Recommit Motion Passes (Recommit to ICRF)**



GOODBYE NEW YORK



**THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO
SERVE!**