

Delegate's Sharing: Tracy M.

## **Report from the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference**

Good Morning

My Name is Tracy and I am an Alcoholic. I am so grateful and honored to be your Panel 72 Delegate. What a gift to be able to take Area 16 with me in my heart to The General Service Conference in New York City. Serving as your Delegate and being able to sit down with so many other Trusted Servants that love Alcoholics Anonymous with that kindred passion is comparable, to me, of my first Assembly, when I realized that AA was so much bigger than my small home group.

We arrived in New York City on Thursday before the Conference so I could see some of New York. The Conference was held at The Brooklyn Bridge Marriott. We caught the Subway and a Train to "Stepping Stones" Friday for a special tour. There were a few other Delegates that had come to Conference early that were on the same tour. This was an overwhelming spiritual experience to me. I sat at Bill's desk and at his kitchen table. We were able to see the 1<sup>st</sup> Big Book ever published. Bill and Lois had both written on the inside cover of the book. We spent the afternoon in town and had lunch

in the beautiful countryside after the tour.

I also want to thank my patient, supportive Husband. I was with him long enough to fall into exhausted sleep and get ready to start again in the mornings. His adventures all over New York City kept him occupied most of the time. He searched diligently for Coke Zero and the exact creamer I like in my Coffee. Lucky for him that I am not high maintenance. LOL.

Before going into my report this morning, I want to tell you all that I will not talk through every detail of what transpired at conference. I will detail what I think may be of interest to our Area and I'll be happy to answer any questions you might have. My Delegate Report will be posted online, in the Minutes of this Business Meeting, and in The Message. The full General Service Conference Final Report will be published this September.

I will share my Conference Committee's Recommendations and Considerations. Our work in our Committees as Delegates at Conference is an important part of how the Fellowship weighs in on the Agenda Items assigned to that Committee. Thank you all for

allowing me to participate in this amazing Process.

Our individual Conference experiences, like our stories are guided by what we saw, heard, and felt.

What I saw was a beautiful place filled with AA all around me. I saw schedules, documents, assignments, and many reports. I heard the beautiful laughter of fellowship and passionate discussions of conference business. I heard that same sound I hear whenever we gather in large groups.

What I felt is hard for me to describe. The welcoming spirit of everyone at Conference was beautiful. I was excited, overwhelmed, and emotional. I also had a rough time where I felt lost and very sad. Thankfully there were people there that felt the same way and let me know that I wasn't alone.

My Conference Committee Assignments were Treatment/Accessibilities with Remote Communities Guidelines and Joint cooperation with the CPC Trustees Committee on Military Audio updates.

Our Area has been a part of the Military Audio Project from it's beginning with one of the 3 audios at our aa.org websites being from Warner Robins, GA. I Sponsored Dee

when she was interviewed. She is a Retired Full Bird Colonel, Air Force. Our consultants, Tom and Jerry, on this project have worked hard and made many improvements in Audio and Graphics. Many have responded to the request for stories that will be updated on the aa.org website.

At the beginning of Conference, conference members receive reports from our General Service Board Chair, Chairs of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (AAWS), the Grapevine Board, and our General Service Board Treasurer. These reports will be included in the Final Conference Report which will be available in September. I will provide a brief summary of our finances

### **2021 GSO FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

7th Tradition of Self-Support – \$10.78 million set another record, up 5.07% from \$10.26 million in 2020

Operating Expense - \$15.28 million down 31.6% from \$22.34 million in 2020

Program Service Expense - \$7.59 million down 38.7% from \$12.39 million in 2020

Supporting Services Expense - \$7.70 million down 22.6% from \$9.95 million in 2020

Self-Support - covered 70.5% of operating expense and 142.0% of program service exp.

AAWS publishing gross profits – \$6.30 million down 4.3% from \$6.58 million in 2020

Operating surplus of \$1,697,141 but operating cash increase of only \$53,177

## 2022 GSO BUDGET

	2022
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$16,761,400</b>
<b>Contributions</b>	<b>\$10,000,000</b>
<b>Literature gross profit</b>	<b>\$6,534,000</b>
<b>Total operating expense</b>	<b>\$18,111,969</b>
<b>Operating deficit of</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>\$1,350,569</b>	
<b>surplus in 2021.</b>	
<b>+\$1,697,141</b>	

**2022 deficit to be paid for with 2021 surplus.**

Reserve Fund In 2020, the Reserve Fund was drawn down by \$4 million dollars. The initial draw was due to the immediate cancellation of the international convention. Much of the convention loss was ultimately

covered by insurance. However, by that time, literature sales had substantially dropped.

Contributions have offset part of this loss but net from 2019 we are still taking in less revenue. Trustees Finance and the GSB are taking a cautious approach to the reserve fund:

A small transfer of \$250,000 was made in 2021. A transfer in January 2022 was not made despite the 2021 surplus in light of the budgeted loss for GSO in 2022 (transition year) Strong desire not to put more in the reserve than we can truly afford resulting in ill-timed budget changes or the need to withdraw from the fund.

Based on the 2021 balance and the 2022 budgeted expenses the reserve fund 7.84 months of expenses are in reserve. The generally understood target range is 9 to 12 months. The cost per A.A. member for services is \$7.59. The challenge is for each member to contribute \$5.14 in 2022.

The detailed Financial Reports will be available in the Final Conference Report.

### 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.

### **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.

### **ADVISORY ACTIONS:**

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

I will share with you the Advisory Actions. I have included some of the Considerations as they pertain to items of interest expressed at our Pre-Conference. We had 9 Floor Actions at Conference.

### **Agenda**

RECOMMENDATIONS

**OUR 2023 THEME FOR THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**

**“AA’S THREE LEGACIES-OUR COMMON SOLUTION.”**

**PRESENTATION THEME:**

**“GENERAL SERVICE-OUR MIGHTY PURPOSE AND RHYTHM”**

**PRESENTATION TOPICS:**

1. **“OUR COMMON PERILS AND COMMON SOLUTION”**
2. **“USING AA’S LITERATURE IN CARRYING THE MESSAGE”**
3. **“FOSTERING A THRIVING THREE LEGACY CULTURE”**

**“WORKSHOP TOPIC:**

***PRACTICING OUR TWELVE TRADITIONS ACROSS ALL GROUP SETTINGS”***

We will vote on approving these for our Prepaid Conference and Cluster Forum theme and topics at our September Assembly.

- The Agenda Committee recommended that the General Service Board develop a status report on the progress and outcomes from the 2013-2015 Conference inventory and

include a draft plan for another Conference inventory with considerations of its value, timeline and approach to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Agenda.

## CPC

No recommendations

### Item of Interest

- 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.

## CORRECTIONS

NO RECOMMENDATIONS

### Items of interest:

- Reconsider use of the term "person in custody" in A.A. literature. **Took no action**

- Consider requests to limit changes to the book Alcoholics Anonymous. **Took no action.**
- Discuss request to make A.A. literature changes slowly and with A.A.'s primary purpose in mind. **Took no action**

## LITERATURE

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Review draft language regarding safety and A.A. to be included "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship."
- Review draft language regarding safety and A.A. to be included in Living Sober.
- Review progress report regarding the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated."
- Review draft of the revised pamphlet "Young People and A.A."
- Discuss existing version of the pamphlet "Twelve Traditions Illustrated."
- Review the draft update of the pamphlet "Is A.A. for You?"
- Review the draft update of the pamphlet "Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?"
  
- Review the draft update of the pamphlet "Frequently Asked Questions About A.A."

- Review the draft update of the pamphlet "This is A.A."

### Committee Considerations:

- 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.
- Review progress report regarding requests to develop study guide workbooks for A.A.
- Review progress report regarding development of a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

### Items of Interest

- Discuss changes to the text of the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* as directed by the 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference. **Took no action**
- Consider an update of the book *Experience, Strength and Hope*. **Recommendation that failed to pass.**

## FINANCE

## NO RECOMMENDATIONS

### Items of Interest

- Consider request to add a historical disclaimer to the front of the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. **Took no action**
- Consider request that all proposed changes to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* be handled in footnotes. **Took no action**

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- The suggested revisions to the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity."- Digital Age be made
- Add section about virtual meetings to the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity"
- The outdated "A.A. Fact File" be retired.
- The changes and updates to the 2022 membership survey be approved.
- That an AA membership survey be conducted with a cost not to exceed 20K.

### Committee Considerations

2022 Comprehensive Media Plan move forward.

## TRUSTEES

## RECOMMENDATIONS

We approved all the recommended slates of trustees for the General Service Board and directors for the GV Board and AAWS Board.

- That the pamphlet “Do you Think You Are Different?” be updated to stories representing greater diversity and bring a report to the 73<sup>rd</sup> GSC **Passed**

## GRAPEVINE

### NO RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Items of interest

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.

## POLICY/ADMISSIONS

### RECOMMENDATION

- The Policy and Admissions Committee will approve routine Observer Requests from outside the US and Canada without full Conference approval.
- The compilation of all Conference committee background be made available simultaneously in English, French and Spanish.

#### Items of interest

*The Deadline for proposed agenda items will be Sept. 15th. Which means that if our Area wanted to submit an agenda item as an area, we would need to approve it by the May*

*Assembly. However, posting for sharing will still be Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>.*

Agenda Item: Restore the paragraph in the story “Freedom from Bondage”, **failed to pass.**

## REPORT AND CHARTER

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Committee approved that *The A.A. Service Manual*, Chapters 8, 9, 10, and 11, be revised to correct inaccuracies and provide clarity and consistency in roles, responsibilities, between the GSO, AA GV and AAWS.
- The Committee approved removing items 5 and 6 that related to Regional Directories

be removed from the Scope of the Report and Charter Composition, Scope and Procedures.

#### Items of interest

- The Committee took no action on a request to add a "GSR Preamble" to the GSR Pamphlet
- The Committee took no action on a request to move "The Doctor's Opinion to page one in the book Alcoholics Anonymous

### **TREATMENT/ACCESSIBILITIES**

#### RECOMMENDATION

that the Long Form of Tradition Five be added to the pamphlet, *The A.A. Group* on page twelve in the section "What is an A.A. Group?" at its next printing.

#### Items of interest

- 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 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."

### **INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS**

- Suggested that a question regarding the of the Lord's Prayer at the close of the Big Meetings at the International Convention added to the survey being sent to members and IG/CO this summer.
- Theme of the 2025 International in Vancouver will be: "90 Years- Language of the Heart"

### **Floor Actions**



### **Floor Action #1:**

It was recommended that:

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*.

### **Motion to Decline**

**Voting: Yes 82 no 37 - The Conference Declines to hear the floor action**

### **Floor Action #2:**

It was recommended that:

The trustees' Committee on Literature continue to make edits to the draft pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated" with a new draft or progress report to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature, keeping in mind: color, diverse expressions of spirituality and accessible interpretation of meaning in the illustrations.

**Passed**

### **Floor Action #3:**

It was recommended that:

The 2022 Membership Survey questionnaire receive final editorial review by the trustees' Public Information Committee after consulting with our professional survey methodologist, to address concerns raised by the 72nd General Service Conference related to the survey questions about Racial and

Ethnic Background, and Employment Status. **Passed**

### **Floor Action #4**

It was recommended that: 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.

**Decline to Consider**

### **Floor Action #5:**

It was recommended that:

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. **Failed**

### **Floor Action #6**

It was recommended that:

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.

### **Decline to Consider**

#### **Floor Action #7**

It was recommended that:

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.

**Failed**

#### **Floor Action #8:**

It was recommended that:

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. **Decline to consider.**

#### **Floor Action #9:**

It was recommended that:

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.

**DECLINE TO CONSIDER 7/42**

**AMENDMENT 51/64**

**FAILED 48/70**

**RECONSIDER 76/40 (SIMPLE)**

**AMENDMENT 61/50**

**FAILED 38/75**

**AFTER MORE THAN 3 HOURS OF DISCUSSION. MOTION FAILED**

This Floor action brought out the discussions that up to this point in the Conference were not heard. I expressed what my Area had presented at our Pre-Conference and also how I felt about not being able to discuss the Floor Actions and the no action taken items concerning our literature. There were strong opinions expressed. I was grateful to have had the chance to speak on this subject.

After Conference wrapped up with the Panel 71's saying their farewells. We closed Saturday morning. The Trustees that were rotating out were honored with a closing Brunch.

The Tour of GSO wrapped up the week of Conference. This was a Spiritual Experience for me. The Offices of our

Staff and especially the Archives and Grapevine displays. We were the first Tour in two years and the Staff were happy to have us see where they do the daily work with Alcoholics everywhere. Amazing!

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Area 16 Delegate.

Remember My full report will be available on our website at [aageorgia.org](http://aageorgia.org)

The Final Conference Report will be available in September. GOD BLESS!