

72ND GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

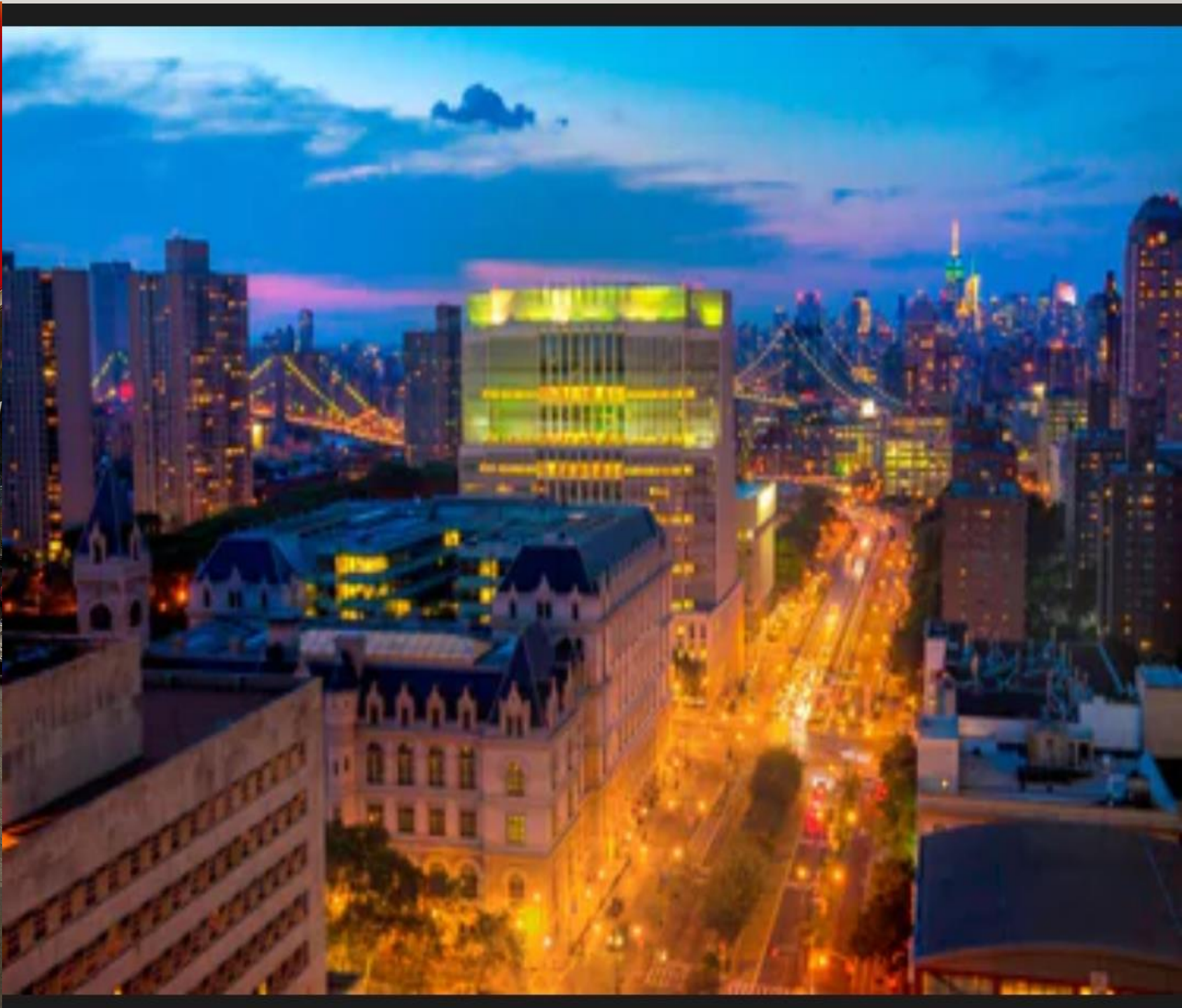
“A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service”

PRESENTED BY: TRACY MILLER

YOUR AREA 16 PANEL 72 DELEGATE







Stepping Stones Historic Home of Bill & Lois Wilson

Katonah, NY

Bill & Lois' Home
1941 to 1988

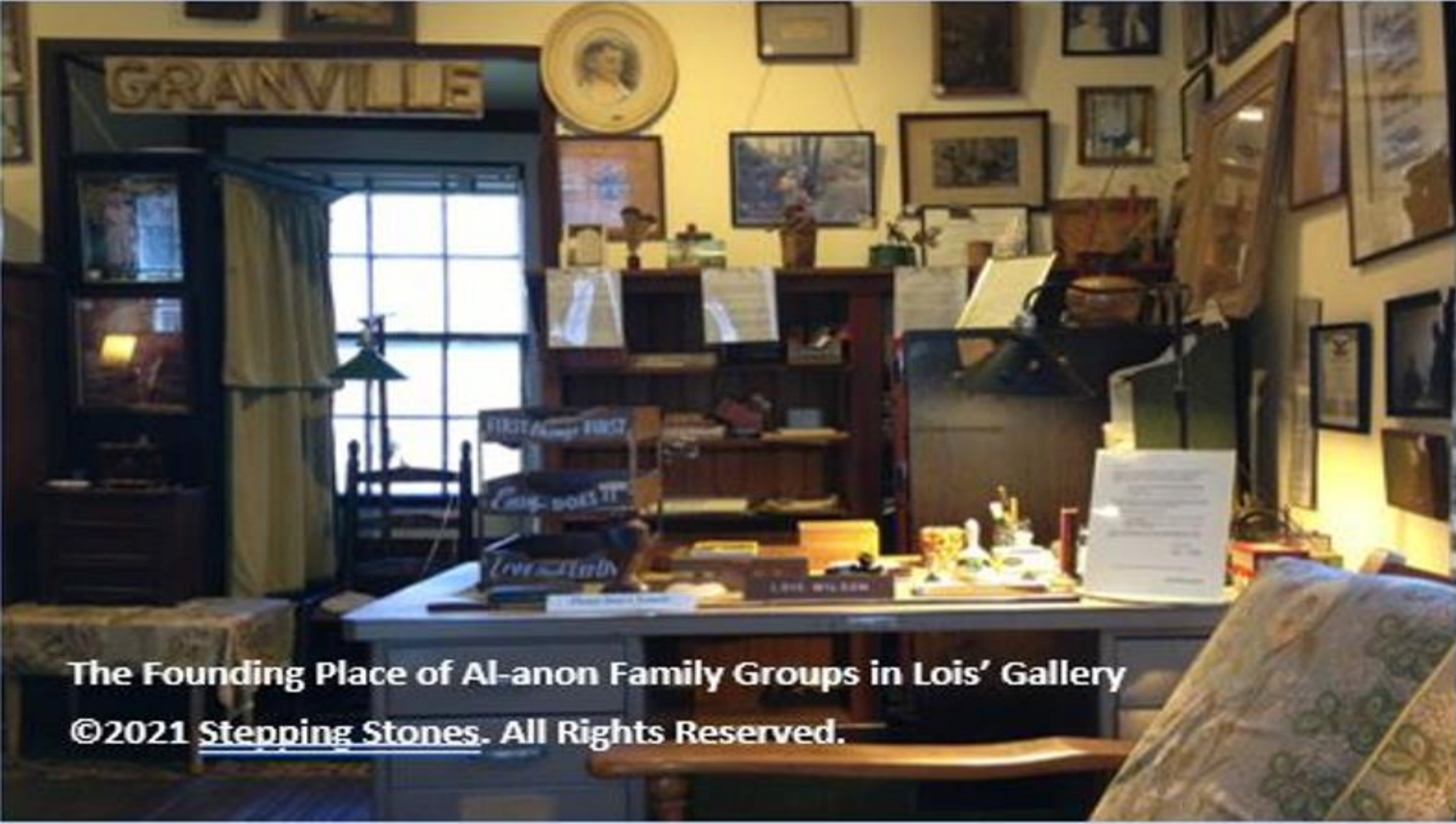






Living Room at Stepping Stones. ©2021 Stepping Stones. All Rights Reserved.



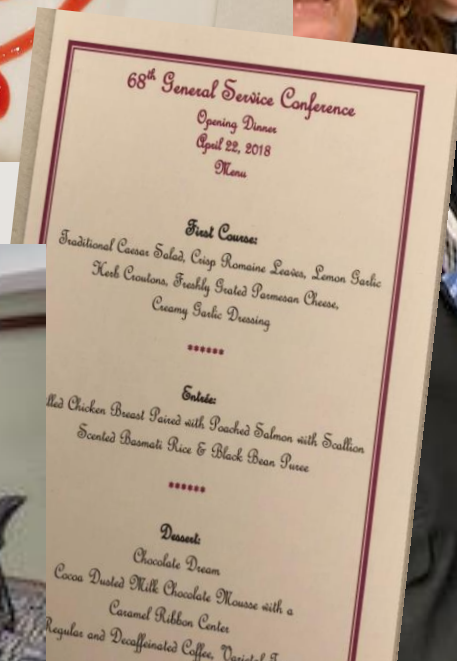


The Founding Place of Al-anon Family Groups in Lois' Gallery

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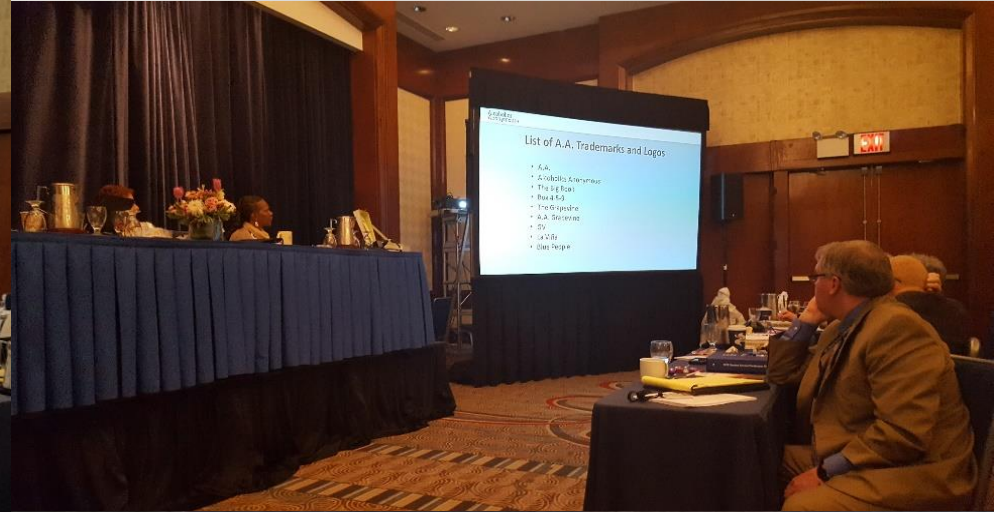






FINE DINING WITH GREAT FOLKS

Full Conference Begins...



Electronic voting

AROUND THE PICNIC TABLE

Menu

Finance

72nd

General Service Conference



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	2021
Total revenue	\$16,761,400	\$17,377,021
Contributions	\$10,000,000	\$10,775,871
Literature gross profit	\$6,534,000	\$6,297,678
Total operating expense	\$18,111,969	\$15,282,198
Operating deficit of surplus in 2021.	- \$1,350,569	+\$1,697,141

2022 deficit to be paid for with 2021 surplus.

GRASS ROOTS CHALLENGE CONTRIBUTIONS

- 2021 Challenge amount \$7.34
- 213 Challenge contributions received in 2021 for a total of \$10,367
- Compares to \$24,030 received in 2020
- • 2021 Cost of Program Services \$7.59 M **PER MEMBER**
- Divided by 1,475,520 members
- Equals \$5.14 2022 Challenge amount



<u>Reserve Fund</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
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was drawn down by	\$4 million		
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A TRANSFER OF		- \$250K	
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<u>No Payment in 2022</u>			<u>0.00</u>
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. A transfer in January 2022 was not made despite the 2021 surplus in light of the budgeted loss for GSO in 2022 (transition year)

Balance in Reserve	7.84 Months of Expenses
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TARGET RANGE IS	9 TO 12 Months of Expenses
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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



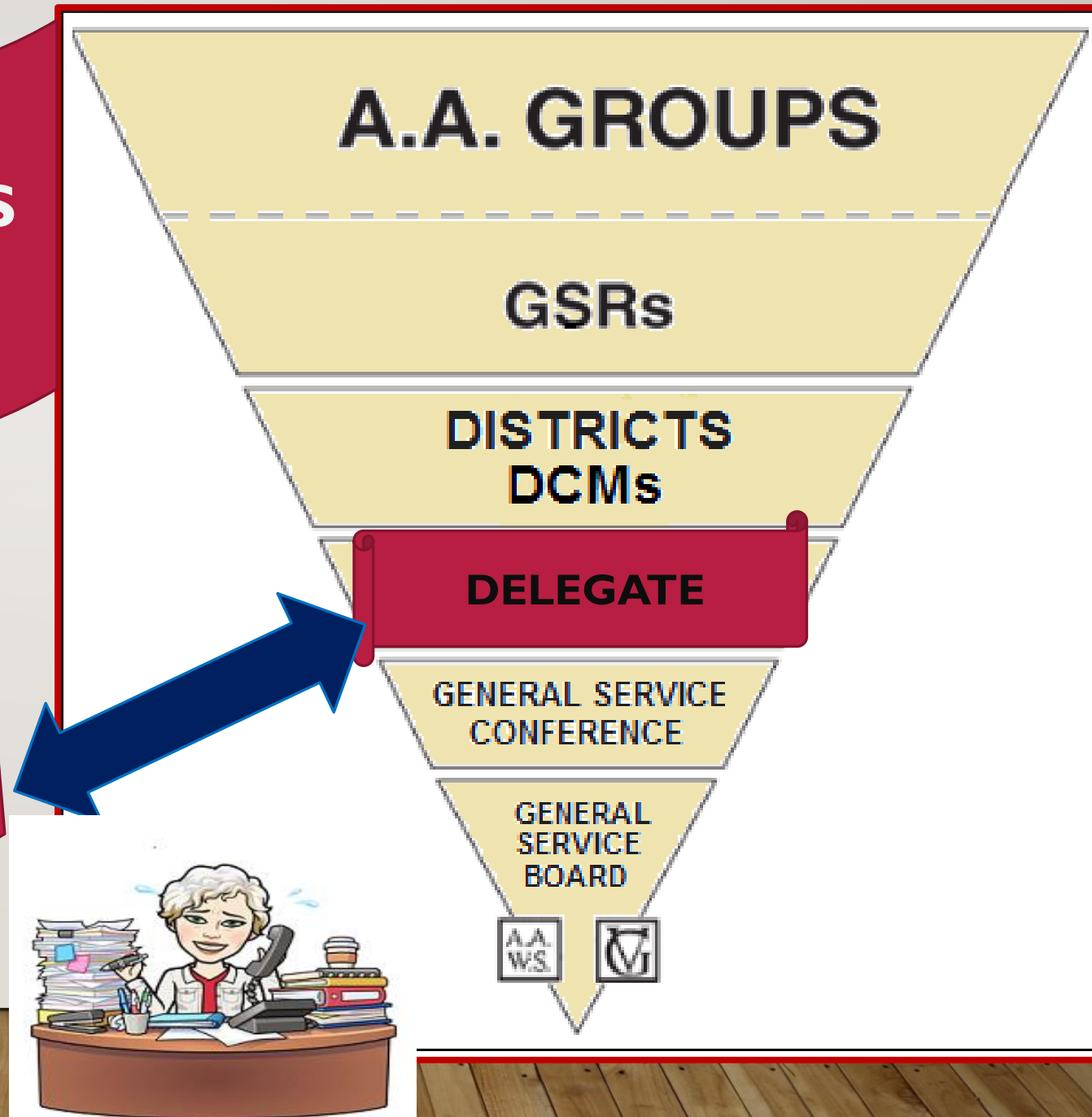
COMMITTEE REPORTS

Electronic voting



TREATMENT/ACCESSIBILITIES

**COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENT FOR
CONFERENCE**



AGENDA

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”*

Cooperation with the Professional Community

*******NO RECOMMENDATIONS*******

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 THE USE OF THE TERM 'Person in custody' in our literature for inside members *and* Took No Action

The committee discussed the request to limit changes to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* *and* Took No Action.

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.



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."



LITERATURE

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 71st 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 73rd GSC **Passed**

Additional Consideration

In regards to the pamphlet “Do You Think You Are Different?” It was suggested that the Trustees review and update.



GRAPEVINE

NO RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 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

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Policy and Admissions Committee will approve routine Observer Requests from outside the US and Canada without full Conference approval.
- The full background material will be available prior to 2/15 of each year in English, Spanish and French.

Items of interest

1. *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. 15th.*
2. Agenda Item: Restore the paragraph in the story “Freedom from Bondage”, **failed to pass**

TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES

RECOMMENDATION

The committee recommended 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.

- The committee discussed the contents and format of Treatment and the Accessibilities Kits and Workbooks.
- The committee 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.”

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



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 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: Total Votes 119 Yes 82 no 37 - The Conference Declines to hear the floor action

Floor Action #2

That edits continue to the draft pamphlet “12 Traditions Illustrated” 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

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 no discussion

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.

This Floor Action was on the floor through

DECLINE TO CONSIDER 75:42 AMENDMENT 51:64 FAILED 48:70 -RECONSIDER 76:40 (SIMPLE)-

AMENDMENT 61:50 (74)- FAILED 38:75 (76)

AFTER MORE THAT 3 HOURS OF DISCUSSION. MOTION FAILED



A TOUR OF OUR GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

ESPECIALLY THE ARCHIVES





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

