

2021 General Service Conference

Agenda Topic Summaries

San Diego / Imperial Area 08

Pre-Conference Assembly

April 10, 2021

Meeting ID: 949 1673 5944

Passcode: GSC2021

Disclosures:

The materials in this document are only summaries of the background. Information presented in the summaries is carefully distilled or extracted to be concise and provide enough information so that all districts and members can fully participate. For more information on any particular item(s), please contact your DCM to obtain full background information.

Please do not consider the summaries opinions of the Area officers. Only the section on “What the Delegate needs to know” is personally from our Delegate.

This includes background for the 71st General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential AA document; Distribution is limited to AA members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Websites (including social media pages) available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members.

A Message from the Delegate

How to Use These Summaries

This document contains the **Agenda Topic Summaries** of the background information for all the items to be considered by the thirteen conference committees of the 71st General Service Conference (GSC). The topics will be discussed by each committee, and the committees **may** or **may not** send recommendations to the whole Conference for consideration and vote.

The **purpose** of these summaries is so that they may be used as a tool by General Service Representatives (GSRs) to provide their group with pertinent information to facilitate an informed group conscience and then to convey that group conscience to the Delegate. In many cases, the summaries serve as an appetizer and those GSRs and groups with an interest in more information should request the complete background from their District Committee Member (DCM). Please remember to **treat the background as AA Confidential**, and do not share it in any public forum or with non AA members.

Please pay special attention in these summaries to the section at the end of each topic: “What does the Delegate need to know?” Not all topics make for fruitful discussion at group level, and this is intended to help you narrow that down. Many of the agenda topics are only for that particular committee (such as reviewing a draft or progress report on the development of a piece of literature) and do not require a group conscience. Other topics appear every year, such as reviewing workbooks and kits used by Public Information, Corrections, etc. Local committees may wish to share their experience. These summaries may also be used by other members of our Fellowship to communicate good information about the agenda topics and, where appropriate, to convey opinions to the Delegate.

Your Delegate this year serves on the **Conference Committee to Grapevine & La Vina** as well as on the secondary committee to **Archives**. Please bear in mind that I will have the opportunity to discuss the agenda topics in those sections in depth during my committee meetings at the Conference.

What is unique to 2021 is that several topics were forwarded from the 70th GSC (those are noted with a + sign in the topic header). This is because the first virtual Conference had a limited schedule and chose to not address everything on the agenda last year. The schedule for this year’s virtual Conference is intended to allow enough time to address those items, and these summaries include any new information provided by the trustees’ committees on work done over the course of the year. I have everything that was shared during last years Pre-Conference Assembly. As such, I am not looking to discuss items from last year unless new information has been compiled. If your group feels strongly about further discussion on an item from last year, please, by all means, be sure to do so and bring this item up for further discussion during our upcoming Assembly.

Thank you for participating in the Conference process!

In love and service,
Jerry S. (Delegate – Area08, Panel 70)

Conference Theme, Presentation and Workshop Topics

The theme of the 71st General Service Conference is:

“A.A. in a Time of Change”

The Presentation/Discussion topics will include:

Practicing A.A.’s Spiritual Principles in a Changing World:

Recovery in a Changing World

Unity in a Changing World

Service in a Changing World

The Workshop Topic will be:

Inform – Communicate

Involve – Act

Inspire – Attract

These are wonderful AA topics that can be talked about and discussed throughout the Fellowship, in assemblies, districts, intergroup/central office gatherings, and in groups. While we don’t hear “group consciences” on these, please consider using them for your AA events. We will also have some time for sharing on the Conference Theme at the Pre-Conference Assembly.

+ Conference Committee: Agenda — Item A

Agenda Topic	Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, process and 2019 Evaluation Summary.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2019, this committee reviewed the 2018 General Service Conference evaluations and noted that improvements were implemented from previous years' suggestions. The background includes a copy of this year's evaluation form. A summary of results from the 2019 evaluation form is also in the background and is generally positive about the 2019 Conference – though there were concerns about the translations (particularly the Spanish translation) being late.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

+ Conference Committee: Agenda — Item B

Agenda Topic	Review the 2019 January Conference Call participant survey results.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	A conference call in January 2019 – which included sharing from Conference committee members, the chair of a corresponding Trustee's committee, and a staff secretary – gave Conference members an opportunity to review items on the agenda and discuss items still being considered by trustees. This conference call was then evaluated by the call participants. The evaluation form, results of the survey, and comments from the survey, are all included in the background. There are also suggestions for the call in the future.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

+ Conference Committee: Agenda — Item C

Agenda Topic	Discuss 2020 report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Since 2016, efforts have been made to enhance the General Service Conference agenda review and selection process, giving delegates a role in the vetting and selection of proposed agenda items. By 2019, a conference call (including members of a Conference committee, the corresponding trustee's committee chair, and a staff secretary) was implemented. That phone call occurred again in 2020 (with improvements from suggestions from the previous year), and another questionnaire was sent out; answers from that questionnaire are summarized in the background and are positive about the process – one comment is that the process, "for right now, it's perfect as is," though another comment suggests creating a workbook for Conference committee chairs to help them understand their roles as chairs.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

+ Conference Committee: Agenda — Item D

Agenda Topic	Discuss the General Service Conference schedule.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The background includes scheduling ideas for the General Service Conference – focused on the question "What can we stop doing during Conference week?" Suggested options include discussing the status of agenda items from previous Conference actions prior to the January board meeting, finding a way for Delegates who are not on a specific committee to be able to offer input to the committee prior to the committee meeting, and starting earlier in the morning. Sharing on the question about what can be eliminated during the Conference week is summarized in the background. Possible items to eliminate include the keynote speaker and Area Highlights; the report also suggests reducing the time spent on Sharing Sessions and streamlining the elections process.

What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.
--------------------------------------	---

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Items E**

Agenda Topic	Review suggestions for the theme of the 2022 General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The theme of the conference, the presentation topics (Item F), and the workshop topic ideas (Item G) revolve around the basic principles of AA; these suggestions can provoke discussion at Area and District meetings as well. Regions, areas and districts often incorporate the theme of the Conference in discussions, giving members of AA an opportunity to participate and be more informed. The background includes a list of 45 suggestions of the theme of next year's Conference. The background also has a list with the themes from every Conference from 1951 to 2021.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: **Agenda— Item F**

Agenda Topic	Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2022 General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	There are 34 presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2022 General Service Conference listed in the background material. Also listed are past presentation/discussion topics from 1985 up to 2021.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2022 General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	There are 33 workshop topic ideas for the 2022 General Service Conference that came from the fellowship in the background material. There is also a list of past workshop topics from 1985 to 2021.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item H**

Agenda Topic	Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, distribution process and 2020 Evaluation Summary.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The committee understands there is a significant amount of evaluation information to review and lessons to be learned that can enrich the General Service Conference experience and its schedule for next year. Ideas of particular interest included how to better use or enhance our adoption of Robert's Rules of Order and how to best plan the wide variety of Conference sessions for a virtual versus an in-person event. A summary of results of the 2020 evaluation form is in the background and is mostly positive with multiple notations about better use of time and more attention to translation. Electronic distribution was appreciated by a majority of members.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item I**

Agenda Topic	Review 2021 report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' General Service Conference Committee.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	To continue building effective and ongoing communication between our Trustee Committees and Conference Committees, two specific types of communication have been implemented. Starting in 2016, the trustee chairs and AA Grapevine board chair have communicated via

	conference call (or other electronic means) with their Conference committee chairs It was also suggested in August 2018 that “before the January [General Service Board] meeting, the entire Conference committee have a conference call with the corresponding trustees’ committee chair and staff secretary to review items submitted as agenda items and to talk about items still being considered by the trustees’ committee.” These January conference calls have taken place annually since 2019. There is a survey of the results in the background material which focuses on the effectiveness of this communication.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item J**

Agenda Topic	Discuss a request to provide additional avenues for A.A. members to share input on General Service Conference agenda items.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In a letter submitted to the Conference Coordinator on behalf of a member from Maryland, this request was made with this suggestion: “Ultimately, after committee work is complete, proposed committee recommendations would then be presented to the delegates, for them to return to their areas and gather feedback prior to Conference debate and discussion, and ultimately, vote.”
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think this could help delegates become more informed before discussion and vote at the Conference? Does your group have any other suggestions?

+ Conference Committee: **Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Discuss progress report on LinkedIn page implementation.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The LinkedIn page was launched on November 19, 2019 in English, French and Spanish. The overall goal of the LinkedIn page is to share information on AA with professionals and refer professionals to aa.org. You can find the page here: www.linkedin.com/company/aaworldservicesinc/ The progress report in the background has charts with data from Nov. 2019-Jan. 2020 on page visits, how many clicked through to aa.org, and impressions of the one post so far (featuring information about AA exhibits at national professional events). As of the date of the report, the page had 254 followers. While not currently being done, ideas for possible content on the page include posting a version of the announcements from Box 459 when there are vacancies for non-alcoholic (Class A) trustees on the board, or bios of current or past nonalcoholic trustees. Also being considered are posts with an image and a link to specific AA digital resources, such as the <i>About AA</i> newsletter for professionals, the information for professionals page, Grapevine and La Viña, and the YouTube channels.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee have any feedback on the progress report or ideas on how the LinkedIn page could be better utilized?

+ Conference Committee: **Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to create a pamphlet for mental health professionals.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This request came from the CPC Committee in Area 11, Connecticut, who received a vote of confidence at an Area assembly to put it forward. They noted that in our existing literature, medical professionals are addressed but nothing speaks directly and specifically to the mental health professional. The group feels if a specific pamphlet existed it might increase the chances of mental health professionals reading it and being better able to help a person with a desire to stop drinking. Ideas suggested for possible content in such a pamphlet included: AA is not the same as psychotherapy; AA is spiritual, not religious; prescribed medications do not interfere with the principles of AA; there is no cost and no affiliation with other entities; information about the website and smartphone app; suggestions to attend an open meeting and be in contact with the local CPC committee. More detail is in the background.

What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee feel there is a need for a new pamphlet directed at mental health professionals? Why, or why not?
--------------------------------------	--

+ Conference Committee: **Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review contents and format of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Kits and Workbooks are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference (GSC). Between Conferences, ideas for changes to a Workbook or to the contents of a Kit may be reviewed by the appropriate trustees' Committee and implemented. Alternatively, the trustees' Committee may choose to forward an idea to the Conference Committee for review. Members of the Conference Committee then have an opportunity to review proposed changes to a Workbook or Kit during the next GSC.</p> <p>The CPC Committee Workbook is contained in the Kit and can also be ordered separately. The content list of the Kit is available online and includes links to digital versions of many items, including the Workbook: www.aa.org/cpckit</p> <p>The background this year included some suggestions for the PI Workbook that may also have relevance to the CPC Workbook, including a comprehensive review/revision as it "has failed to keep pace with how work is being done using the internet," and to seek wider experience from the Fellowship and local committees.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly; if your group has suggestions regarding materials that should be added or deleted, please share them with the Delegate or Alternate Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: **Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review draft update of the pamphlet "Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous."
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In January 2019, the committee discussed the procedure to process GSO Publishing updates per the "AAWS Policy on Publication: Keeping Literature Current." The committee noted that additional logistical details to the process warrant consideration for additional definition and agreed to continue discussions in March 2021. Background material includes a draft updated pamphlet, "Members of the Clergy Ask about AA." The content of a piece of literature presented for final approval to the Conference will be fully edited, with no expectation of further change being made prior to publication other than as may be specified by the Conference in granting its approval.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: **Corrections — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Consider request for a review of all correction related literature to replace terms such as "inmate" and "offender" with less stigmatizing language.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Beginning as a motion from Area 79 (British Columbia/Yukon), background materials note that terms such as "inmate" and "offender" are used by corrections facility administration, not by incarcerated AA members. These words may be taken as derogatory and do not create a sense of belonging. Literature containing these words may not feel inclusive and can go unused. In order to lower the barriers, offer respect, and to aid in recovery, this proposal suggests alternate words should be chosen for the literature, such as "member on the inside" or "incarcerated member."
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that terms like "inmate" and "offender" should be replaced in corrections literature? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: Corrections — Item B

Agenda Topic	Discuss innovative ways of carrying the message to alcoholics in correctional facilities/programs.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This past year has brought changes in the way we communicate. This agenda topic encourages sharing within the Fellowship to assist AA groups to find innovative ways of carrying the message to alcoholics in correctional facilities/programs. Suggestions for new solutions to connecting to incarcerated members can offer hope and may save lives. Some examples in the background include teleconferencing, increased literature in facilities during the pandemic, and visiting sponsorship services.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group have any ideas on how to communicate with incarcerated members and increase opportunities to share the message of AA? Does your group know about the North County H&I Virtual Panel effort?

Conference Committee: Corrections — Item C

Agenda Topic	Review contents and format of Corrections Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Every year, the Corrections committee at the Conference reviews the Corrections Kit and Workbook. Outdated information may be updated or removed by GSO staff members, who report those changes to the trustees. This year the background includes a report from a National Corrections Ad hoc Committee with suggestions for new items to include. The Kit and Workbook are available online at www.aa.org/pages/en_US/corrections-committees .
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly; if your group has suggestions regarding materials that should be added or deleted, please share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: Finance — Items +A1 and A2

Agenda Topic	Review the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix:" Consider a request regarding contribution percentages to service entities. Discuss mechanization of group contributions.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Two pie charts are currently provided on pages 12 and 13 that list suggested percentage breakdown for group contributions between the various service entities. A third chart is provided with no percentages; this is intended for the group to use to create their own breakdown. Area 61 (Rhode Island) has asked that the sample charts be eliminated leaving only the top pie chart with no suggested percentages. They understand that the pie charts are meant to be examples only, but they believe that they are taken literally by many groups. Furthermore, another group submitted that set percentages lead to a mechanization of the process, not allowing for flexibility and thought. The pandemic has shown that certain entities need more money during changed circumstances, while other entities spend less.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel it is necessary to show sample percentages in this pamphlet? Does your group feel the need to adjust their percentages when there are changed circumstances? Why, or why not?

+ Conference Committee: Finance— Item B

Agenda Topic	Review Self-Support Packet.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The self-support packet is reviewed annually by the Finance Committee. It consists of a number of pamphlets, the self-support card, AA Guidelines on Finance and the Birthday Envelope.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: Finance — Item C

Agenda Topic	Reconsider the 1972 G.S.C. Advisory Action stating “G.S.O. should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from groups meeting in clubs as long as they are sent in the name of the group.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	A District in Northern Illinois is asking GSO to consider accepting contributions from clubs, as anyone attending AA meetings at the club is an AA member, and there is a difference between a club being an outside entity and a hospital or institution being an outside entity. GSO currently feels that they are unable to determine whether all clubs are composed solely of AA members.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that GSO should accept contributions from clubs? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: Finance — Item D

Agenda Topic	Discuss Concept XII, Warranty Two and the practice of “selling of our books at cost or less.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This item originated from a past delegate in Area 40 (Montana) and the 38 pages of background include correspondence and archival documents. The proposal notes that in the Concept XII essay, Bill advises that AA should not function in the same manner as a charity with regard to freely giving away our literature, yet those who administer the Pink Can Fund and the Carry the Message Project are assigned responsibilities that require them to do exactly that. Currently these funds are being used to purchase literature for incarcerated individuals who cannot afford or do not have access to the literature on their own. The author of the proposal says he does not intend to suggest, or advise against, either program being discontinued, and notes that they serve an expressed and vital need. In Warranty Two, Bill W. wrote that “Up to now we AA’s have strongly believed that money charity to the individual should not be a function of the AA groups or of AA as a whole.” And the submitter feels current policy and procedure documents of various committees in the AA service structure are in conflict with the language in Concept XII, and that this discrepancy warrants discussion.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about the discrepancies presented regarding money charity and book sales at cost or less?

Conference Committee: Finance — Item E

Agenda Topic	Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Conference Area Delegate fees are reviewed every few years. The last adjustment was in 2017 when the suggested Area contribution increased from \$1,600 to \$1,800.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: Finance — Item F

Agenda Topic	Review the Conference-approved level of \$10,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Individual bequest contribution limits are reviewed every few years. The last adjustment was in 2019, when the bequest limit was increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: Finance — Item G

Agenda Topic	Review the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$5,000 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The annual contribution limit from an individual AA member to the General Service Board is reviewed every few years. The last adjustment was in 2018 when the limit increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: Finance — Item H

Agenda Topic	Review the “Google Grants and the Seventh Tradition Report.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Google offers all non-profits the opportunity to receive up to \$10,000 a month in “in-kind” media value (free advertising). This might or might not be compared to PSA distribution on radio or TV airtime. AA World Services, Inc. utilizes this grant, clarifying that it has not accepted any money from Google, only services. AAWS cites that it already currently receives services with non-profit sales discounts from a list of major companies and that the Google grant does not set a precedent. The full report is included in the background, including the Conference history and actions on topics relating to Google.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that accepting Google Grants for AAWS is in line with the 7 th tradition? Why, or why not?

+ Conference Committee: Grapevine and La Viña — Item A

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on AA Grapevine Workbook revisions.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Grapevine Workbook is available via aagrapevine.org and is used primarily by Grapevine Representatives and Committees. This is an annually standing agenda item for the Grapevine committee.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

+ Conference Committee: Grapevine and La Viña — Item B

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on actions taken from the findings of the AA Grapevine Fellowship Feedback Survey.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In the Fall of 2018, a survey was conducted by the Grapevine to measure attitudes toward the magazine, in order to identify opportunities to improve perceptions and relevance as personal recovery tools to the fellowship. This survey was distributed online and was completed by 4,568 members of the fellowship – both subscribers and non-subscribers. The opportunities identified included: 1. An opportunity to improve perceptions and relevance of Grapevine/La Viña as important personal recovery tools; 2. Confusion surrounding funding of Grapevine and La Viña; 3. Current content being geared toward younger members of the fellowship, as well as members with long-term sobriety; 4. A desire for a simpler subscription model; 5. A better digital experience; and, 6 Improve La Viña engagement.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

+ Conference Committee: Grapevine and La Viña — Item C

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to develop an AA Grapevine pamphlet on how the AA Grapevine can be utilized to carry the A.A. message.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This request came from the Area 39 (Western Missouri) Literature Chair with a proposed working title of “How to use the AA Grapevine to Carry the AA Message.” It came as a response to the 2020 initiative of making the fellowship aware of the ways the Grapevine can be used to carry the message. Some suggestions for the pamphlet include a paragraph on

	how the Grapevine can be used in each specific area of AA life, as well as information on how to subscribe to the Grapevine.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that a pamphlet on how the Grapevine could be used to carry the AA message is needed? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: Grapevine and La Viña — Item D

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on development of an Instagram account.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Instagram is an online mobile photo-sharing site that allows its users to share pictures and videos either publicly or privately (as well as through a variety of other social networking platforms). It is visual in nature, allowing images to be displayed with or without short descriptions.</p> <p>In 2017, the Committee discussed the continued exploration of the Instagram account by AA Grapevine and requested further exploration and a plan to be brought back to the following Conference.</p> <p>In 2018, the Committee reviewed the Social Media Report, which included Instagram, and suggested further exploration of the social media strategy in its upcoming strategic plan, taking into account issues related to anonymity, security, affiliation, outside-contributions, and privacy and promotion.</p> <p>In 2020, AA Grapevine, Inc. was advised to set up an Instagram account in line with the Twelve Traditions and encouraged further planning. The Grapevine Conference Committee suggested that the Grapevine Board provide further information and report back to the 71st GSC on progress.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group want AA Grapevine, Inc. to continue with developing an Instagram account? Why, or why not? Does your group have any specific concerns?

Conference Committee: Grapevine and La Viña — Item E

Agenda Topic	Review suggested gender-neutral language options for changes to the A.A. Preamble.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2018 and 2019, Grapevine received six requests for revision of the AA Preamble to make the language gender-neutral. Requests were made by a group in Silver Springs, MD, two separate groups in Brooklyn, NY, another group in Manhattan, Area 13 (Greater Washington DC) and Area 27 (Louisiana). Many of the sources of this topic cited their interest in aligning AA with the increasing diversity of gender expression within the fellowship. They state that, as it stands, the Preamble is not all-inclusive. The requests are all in the background.</p> <p>In 2020, the Conference Committee requested that the Grapevine Board consider developing examples of generalized language options and that draft versions be returned to the 71st GSC. The Board took into consideration AA's 12 Traditions and the guidelines used by the AA Publishing Department and identified the following possibilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alcoholics Anonymous is a Fellowship of people who share... 2. Alcoholics Anonymous is a community of people who share... 3. Alcoholics Anonymous is a Fellowship for sharing experience, strength and hope to solve a common problem and to help others to recover from alcoholism. 4. Alcoholics Anonymous is a community for sharing experience, strength and hope to solve a common problem and to help others to recover from alcoholism.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group have a preference for any of the suggested gender-neutral language for changing the AA preamble? What were their reasons?

Conference Committee: Grapevine and La Viña — Item F

Agenda Topic	Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2022 or later.
--------------	--

Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	At every Conference, the Grapevine Committee reviews a list of proposed book topics. Here are some of the ones mentioned in the background information (for both Grapevine and La Viña): 1. AA's Twelve Concepts (working title) - Previously published stories from the pages of Grapevine by AA members about their various experience with the twelve concepts; 2. The Home Group II (working title) - Previously published stories by AA members about their experiences with their home groups, including meetings that do not meet in person. Possibly a 30 th Anniversary edition of the original Grapevine Home Group book.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What do the members of your group think about these topics for Grapevine/La Viña books? Are there other topics they would like to see addressed?

+ Conference Committee: **Literature — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review proposed “A.A.W.S. Policy on Conversion of Written Conference-approved Literature and Service Material into Video Format.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Recognizing the ever-increasing demand for content in video and audio formats, a policy has been developed that aims to “keep our content available and accessible while ensuring that we do so within the scope of our Traditions.” Drawing upon the approach developed by the AA Grapevine the new policy is designed to provide “an opportunity for discussion and a balance of sharing from those conducting the work and those receiving it.”
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

+ Conference Committee: **Literature — Item B1**

Agenda Topic	Consider requests to revise the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> : Add pages 3 through 41 of the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” as an appendix in the next printing.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The proposal comes from Area 13 (Washington DC) because “it is believed that having the pamphlet inserted would encourage best practices and participation in general service. Ultimately, this could help improve our service culture to the benefit of the groups, the still suffering alcoholic, and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.”
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think of this proposal? Is the new appendix needed or not? Why?

+ Conference Committee: **Literature — Item B2**

Agenda Topic	Consider requests to revise the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> : Revise the first 164 pages.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This proposal comes from a district southwest of Philadelphia and seeks to audit the first 164 pages of the Big Book for the purpose of identifying changes that can be made to make the Big Book more reflective of the AA membership composition. Driving the proposal is the blunt assessment contained within the Communications Audit commissioned by the General Service Board that AA materials present “an overall perception of AA as an organization obsessed with its own history and perhaps out of touch with today’s population.” The proposal further states that the focus of the audit “should be on; Identifying Pronoun usage – where possible the gender-neutral form should be incorporated; Passages or sections that are no longer consistent with or relevant when taken in context of society in general or the AA membership composition; and, the chapters <i>To Wives</i> and <i>The Family Afterward</i> should specifically be evaluated for revisions to be more consistent with today’s membership.”</p> <p>Once the audit has taken place, the proposal states that items identified “should be prioritized both by the ease of editing and the possible impact to the context of the message. Changes to the overall message should be minimized or avoided entirely. Simplification of the vocabulary should not be considered and references to historical figures and events should remain unchanged. Where possible, suitable changes should be suggested for incorporation into the text subject to Conference approval.” The proposal gives examples of possible edits in keeping with the audit and those that are not.</p>

	In 1995 the Conference decided that: “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> , the Preface, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Doctor Bob’s Nightmare” and the Appendices remain as is.”
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about the proposal? Is an audit needed or not? Why?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Items + C1, + C2, + C3, and Item W**

Agenda Topic C	Consider proposals related to possible Fifth Edition of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> : Develop a Fifth Edition. Develop a Fifth Edition of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> with updated stories and revisions to Appendices III and V. Add a proposed addendum to a Fifth Edition foreword of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> at the time it is published.
Agenda Topic W	Consider the development of a draft Fifth Edition of the Big Book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>, noting past Advisory Actions.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	We have consolidated these items as they all relate to a possible 5 th Edition. The first proposal, from Northern Illinois, suggests that the time is right for a new edition with stories that better reflect today’s fellowship. The second proposal is from our Area, California Northern Coastal, and reflects both pros and cons resulting from our extensive discussion to approve a new edition updating the stories and also appendices III (the Medical View of AA) and V (the Religious View of AA). The third proposal comes from Bedford, Southern Indiana and is from a District. It calls for an addendum to the Foreword of the next edition of the Big Book and supplies proposed wording to address the perceived male gender bias implicit in the book. A final proposal is from Area 29 (Maryland); that Area voted in December 2020 to request the development of a Fifth Edition of the Big Book, noting that, in 1995, the General Service Conference had recommended that the first 164 pages of the Big Book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> , the Preface, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Doctor Bob’s Nightmare” and the Appendices remain as is. A similar advisory action (in 2002) recommended that the text in the book, <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> , also remain as is.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think it is time for a 5 th edition? Why, or why not? If so, what content or sections should be updated? Why?

+ Conference Committee: **Literature — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Consider development of a draft Fourth Edition of the book <i>Alcohólicos Anónimos</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2019, the Conference asked the trustees’ Literature committee to consider this item and it has been placed on the agenda this year for Conference Consideration. The 3 rd and current Spanish language edition was published by AAWS in 2008. Since then various requests have been received to address perceived errors and omissions in the translation and to update the stories. The process from decision to publication of the 3 rd edition took four years and is detailed in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that it is time for a new edition of the Spanish language Big Book? Why? What changes are needed?

+ Conference Committee: **Literature — Item E1**

Agenda Topic	Consider requests to revise the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> : To remove the phrase “opposite sex” from paragraph two on page 117 in the chapter “Step Twelve.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This proposal comes from a group in St. Petersburg, Florida, having failed to achieve substantial unanimity at the district level. The current text on page 117 of the <i>Twelve and Twelve</i> states: “Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made—spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way.”

	The proposer states that the removal of the words would be more inclusive, the words are religious in nature and in conflict with Tradition 10, and that some members were personally offended by the text as written as it implied a condition of membership. He also states that those against the change were concerned that if we start changing anything, where would we stop and that, as written, the <i>Twelve and Twelve</i> was good enough to get them sober, so it's good enough for everyone.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about this section of the 12x12? Is the removal of the phrase "of the opposite sex" necessary? Why, or why not?

+ Conference Committee: **Literature — Item E2**

Agenda Topic	Consider requests to revise the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> : To reconsider use of the phrase "lustful enough to rape" in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter "Step Six."
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This proposal comes with substantial unanimity from Area 07, California Northern Interior. Step Six, paragraph 13, the current version of the <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> reads as follows: "No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health."</p> <p>The reasons given for suggesting this change are: lust is not the cause of rape and this inaccuracy at best misinforms AA members and at worst triggers AA members—many of whom are sexual assault survivors; the causes of sexual assault were not studied, well-known, or understood when Bill W. wrote that sentence; and, use of the are unnecessary—words that have such potential to provoke trauma belong in literature that's more narrowly focused, like pamphlets. Aware of the declaration the General Service Conference made in 2002: That no changes be made to the text of the <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> because "the book has helped so many alcoholics find recovery," and because "Bill's writing [should] be retained as originally published," the proposers argue that it would be more likely to keep survivors and perpetrators in the fellowship from getting upset enough to consider a drink, or become agitated enough to leave a needed meeting. Since the current language in the <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> regarding sexual assault is "incorrect and outdated," the proposers request "that you please reconsider your 2002 recommendation."</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about this statement in the 12x12? Is it necessary it be removed or changed? If so, why? If not, why not?

+ Conference Committee: **Literature — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to add a subtitle to the booklet <i>Living Sober</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This proposal comes directly from a group in Laguna Beach, California. The proposer states that the book is, "perhaps, the best piece of literature for a newcomer who is trying to stay away from the first drink" and, therefore, they suggest that the title of <i>Living Sober</i> be amended to read: " <i>Living Sober - How Not to Take the First Drink</i> ."
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think the proposed subtitle should be added to <i>Living Sober</i> ? Why, or why not?

+ Conference Committee: **Literature — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Consider requests to revise text related to open meetings in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group."
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This item was discussed by Area 14, North Florida, where it did not pass. However, the proposer requested the delegate still forward the item for consideration. It was also discussed by Area 60, Western Pennsylvania, where it did pass by substantial unanimity. It is proposed to remove the words "Non-alcoholics may attend open meetings as observers" from the pamphlet to bring it into alignment with the Blue Card and to avoid the potential of silencing the alcoholic who does not yet realize they are one.

What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think this change to the pamphlet is needed? Why, or why not?
--------------------------------------	---

+ Conference Committee: **Literature — Item H**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to revise text related to self-support in the pamphlet “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This item appears to be a request from the four delegates representing areas in Quebec. They request that the second paragraph in the section on page 17 of the pamphlet <i>Frequently Asked Questions About AA</i> be removed completely or at least modified to read as the second paragraph on page 7 of the pamphlet <i>Self-Support Where Money & Spirituality Mix</i> under the section titled “What does membership in AA cost?” It suggests omitting the words “and other meeting expenses, including coffee, sandwiches, cakes or whatever else may be served,” and to align with the wording in the pamphlet on self-support that states: “rent, refreshments, AA literature,” etc. to avoid the perception that AA is a catering service.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think this change to the pamphlet is needed? Why, or why not?

+ Conference Committee: **Literature — Item I1**

Agenda Topic	Consider revising the pamphlet “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship”: Change the suggestion that sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This proposal, made by an AA member requests that the following paragraph, found on page 12 under the heading “Can any member be a sponsor?”: In most instances, AA custom does suggest one limitation, already noted on page 10: If the group is large enough to allow a choice, sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex. The reasons are the same from both viewpoints; we AA members, no matter how long we have been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from “our primary purpose.” be updated to read: “AA custom does suggest one limitation: sponsorship should be avoided wherever a romantic entanglement might arise between sponsor and newcomer. We AA members, no matter how long we have been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from “our primary purpose.” The suggested change is designed to be sensitive to and accommodate transgender and non-binary members because a segregation of men and women leaves these members at risk of misunderstanding, ostracism, rejection, and even violence.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think this change to the pamphlet is needed? Why, or why not?

+ Conference Committee: **Literature — Item I2**

Agenda Topic	Consider revising the pamphlet “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship”: Expand the section on “Service Sponsorship” and retitle the pamphlet to include service sponsorship.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This proposal comes from Area 44, New Jersey and is a second attempt to have this item on the agenda. The request is that the Service Sponsorship section in the pamphlet Questions & Answers on Sponsorship (P-15) be expanded, and that the pamphlet be retitled to include Service Sponsorship. Items that might be included in the revision might: reinforce the notion that service work often begins with a suggestion from a service sponsor; have more members engage in service work; point out the benefits of service to the individual, the group and the fellowship; define service work as a responsibility of the recovering AA member; discuss ways in which a person in service can attract others to service; explore ways in which a service sponsor can assist those new to service; and, present personal experiences of those serving as service sponsors.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think this revision is needed? Why, or why not? If so, what helpful information could be included?

+ Conference Committee: Literature — Item J

Agenda Topic	Consider request to include a G.S.R. preamble in the pamphlet “G.S.R.: Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This item comes from Area 21, Southern Illinois. The proposer believes that adding the GSR Preamble to the GSR pamphlet would be beneficial for the following reasons: the GSR Preamble is a clear-cut directive to GSR’s regarding their responsibility; adding the GSR Preamble to the pamphlet, would provide consistency and thus unity across AA as a whole; and, if added, it would affirm Conference approval when read at District and Area Functions. The exact wording is: “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 AA 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 AA as a whole.”
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think GSR preamble should be added to the pamphlet? Why, or why not? Are there any other publications in which the reproduction of the GSR preamble might be helpful?

+ Conference Committee: Literature — Item K

Agenda Topic	Review recovery literature matrix (2019).
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The matrix is designed as a tool for the trustees’ and Conference literature committees, containing pertinent information to inform periodic review. It contains data that may be of interest to your group, such as quantities of literature published over the past 5 years and downloaded in 2017 and 2018.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

+ Conference Committee: Literature — Item L

Agenda Topic	Consider updating the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Two years ago, the Conference asked the trustees’ Literature committee to consider this item and it continues to be on the agenda this year for Conference consideration. The pamphlet was published in 2001, was retitled in 2007, and had a cover redesign in 2018. Also included in the background is the 2018 report, “Reaching Out to African-American Alcoholics,” which references the fact that the pamphlet has not been revised since its publication in 2001. Feedback from staff and professionals is also included that suggests updating the pamphlet would be helpful to both members and professionals who refer people to AA. A memo from the trustees’ Literature Committee, written in January 2021, is new information included in the background this year. That memo notes there was significant support last year to update the pamphlet, but that a vote did not occur because of time constraints associated with the pandemic. The trustees continued exploring the need and approaches to update the pamphlet, and the memo highlights input from the Fellowship, noting a desire for new stories reflective of the broad diversity of experiences within the black community, stories that speak to today’s Fellowship in language accessible to “modern day” readers, and stories that don’t shy away from the difficulties faced by black AA members in attending meetings, service events, and other aspects of the Fellowship.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think of this pamphlet? Is an update needed? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: Literature — Item M1

Agenda Topic	“The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” pamphlet: Discuss draft update of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2016, the General Service Conference voted to revise the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” with a modernized presentation of both text and illustrations to reflect contemporary AA experience. In 2017 and 2018, draft illustrations and text were shared with Conference members. By 2019, a progress report was shared with the Conference, at which point members of the Conference Literature committee asked for an emphasis on the importance of anonymity on social media. By 2020, a draft of the new pamphlet was prepared and reviewed by the Conference Literature committee. The draft was well received, but the committee noted that this new draft update is a distinct item from the original version of “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated,” addressing a different audience and serving a different purpose. A new draft of the pamphlet is available to Conference members only and is not included in the background material.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: Literature — Item M2

Agenda Topic	“The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” pamphlet: Consider not retiring the existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2016, the General Service Conference voted to revise the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” with a modernized presentation of both text and illustrations to reflect contemporary AA experience. By 2020, a new draft of the revised pamphlet was reviewed and forwarded to the Conference (see Item M1). The Literature committee last year discussed not retiring the previous pamphlet because of the “wealth and depth of material contained in the current pamphlet.” They also noted that the new draft being updated appears to be a distinct item from the original version of “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated,” addressing a different audience and serving a different purpose. The committee asked for information on whether any pamphlets had been revised in the past with previous versions still being published. A letter from the GSO Archives Director included in the background notes that “no pamphlet has ever been revised with the original version continued on.”
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that the existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” should continue to be published? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: Literature — Item N

Agenda Topic	Review draft language regarding safety and A.A. to be included in <i>Living Sober</i> and “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2018, the Conference literature committee requested new text addressing safety in the book <i>Living Sober</i> and in the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.” The focus of the language was meant to focus on safety at the group level. By 2020, the Publishing department had developed language that could be inserted on page 76 of the book <i>Living Sober</i> ; you can find that language in the background material (Document 6). The Publishing department also developed language that could be inserted on pages 14 and 23 in the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship;” that language is also in the background material (Document 7).
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group like the suggested language regarding safety that could be included in <i>Living Sober</i> and “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship?” Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: Literature — Item O-Q

Agenda Topic O	Review the draft update of the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”
Agenda Topic P	Review the draft of the new pamphlet on AA’s Three Legacies.
Agenda Topic Q	Review the draft of the new pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women in A.A.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	These items relate to new or updated content previously commissioned and the drafts of these projects are only available to members of the Conference Literature committee.

What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.
--------------------------------------	---

Conference Committee: Literature — Item R-T

Agenda Topic R	Discuss progress report regarding the pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.”
Agenda Topic S	Discuss progress report regarding the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts illustrated.”
Agenda Topic T	Discuss progress report regarding the pamphlet “Too Young?”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	These items relate to new or updated content previously commissioned and the progress reports are to update the Conference Literature committee on the status of these projects.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: Literature — Item U

Agenda Topic	Consider if proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, can be addressed with a common solution.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Since at least the 1970s, the Fellowship has been discussing “Big Book Study Guides” and other interpretations of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>. By 1977, numerous requests (from treatment centers and from AA members) to reprint portions of the Steps or the Big Book to create study guides to supplement the program led the AAWS Board to determine that permission should not be granted. The Board also decided to not publish any study guides because “there are no authorities in AA, and even a self-appointed ‘teacher’ has feet of clay. Hence, it is preferable that the individual member or prospect interpret the literature according to his own point of view.”</p> <p>In the past few years, however, a number of proposals to simplify the language of the book, modernize the language into contemporary English, or create workbooks supplementing the AA program have been made. Included in the background are multiple proposals: one (from the San Diego/Interior Area) requests a translation of the book into a fifth-grade level; a second (originating in the North Florida Area) requests an individualized workbook to accompany the Big Book; and a third (from a group in New Jersey) requests that the chapters ‘To Wives,’ ‘The Family Afterwards,’ and ‘To Employers’ be removed from the Big Book. Other requests include removing the words ‘He’ and ‘Him’ from Steps 3, 7, and 10, and replacing them with ‘Higher Power’ or ‘God,’ asking Jewish Rabbis, Muslim leaders, Indian Ancient Vedas scholars to edit the book to encourage diverse spiritual language, creating a Big Book dictionary, and creating a workbook to study the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts.</p> <p>Because so many of these proposals have been sent to the Board, an exploration into what underlying need was driving these requests was launched. The subcommittee tasked with that project reported that most of the need was driven by concerns about accessibility (because of literacy levels) and relatability (because of changes in culture and language). The detailed subcommittee report is included in the background. A video of the PowerPoint presentation from the 70th General Service Conference was made available in 2021, and the slides from that video are included in the background.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	<p>Note: If your group has feedback on the video, we will hear it here during the Assembly.</p> <p>Should we continue exploring possible solutions that could help make our message more available? If so, what additional information would be helpful to determine if additional items are needed to increase accessibility and relatability to the AA program? Would a translation into modern or simple language help? What tools would help others understand our program of recovery? Workbooks? Dictionaries?</p>

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item V**

Agenda Topic	Consider adding the Long Form of each Tradition at the beginning of each essay for that Tradition in the book, <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	An AA member from the northern islands of Washington state asked that the Long Form of each Tradition be printed at the beginning of each essay for that Tradition. The rationale for this proposal, he explained in an email in July 2020 (printed in the background), is that the long form of the Tradition is often forgotten, is far too under-utilized, and is unknown to many AA members.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that the Long Form of each Tradition should be included at the beginning of each essay for that Tradition in the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> ? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item W** (See Items C1, C2, and C3)Conference Committee: **Literature — Item X**

Agenda Topic	Consider revising the pamphlet, “The A.A. Group,” to reflect the importance of the group as a “spiritual entity” as stated in the Long Form of Tradition Five.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Several AA members who have been meeting on a weekly conference call for more than 10 years have asked that the pamphlet “The AA Group” be rewritten to reflect the importance of the group as a “spiritual entity.” A letter from these AA members notes that, on page 12 of the pamphlet, the section “What is an AA Group?” expresses the Group in terms of Tradition Three and Warranty Six; the Group being a spiritual entity is not mentioned until page 31 (and only in reference to safety). The members suggest that the inclusion of the Long Form of Tradition Five on page 12 could help emphasize that the group is a spiritual entity.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that revising the pamphlet is necessary? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item Y**

Agenda Topic	Consider revising text highlighting service roles at the group level in the pamphlet, “The A.A. Group.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	A group in Washington DC has asked that language from page 29 in the pamphlet “The AA Group” be revised; currently, the pamphlet (in one of the questions in the AA Group Inventory section) asks “Mindful that holding office is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our officers with care?” The change would be to “Mindful that trusted service is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our trusted servants with care?”
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that revising the pamphlet is necessary? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item Z**

Agenda Topic	Consider updating the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Area 79 (British Columbia/Yukon) passed a motion to update the pamphlet “AA for the Native North American” to reflect more current language, current stories, and populations (the pamphlet says there are 4 million Native people in the United States and Canada, but there are actually more than 7 million). In the proposal, Area 79 notes that in recent years, the term Native American has been widely used, but it is falling out of favor with some groups, and the term Indigenous People is now preferred. The pamphlet was first published in 1989 and reviewed in 2009.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that this pamphlet should be updated? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: Literature — Item AA

Agenda Topic	Review G.S.O. Publishing updates per the A.A.W.S. print policy. 1. Review the draft update of the pamphlet, “Is A.A. for You?” 2. Review the draft update of the pamphlet, “Is there an Alcoholic in Your Life?” 3. Review the draft update of the pamphlet, “Frequently Asked Questions about A.A.” 4. Review the draft update of the pamphlet, “This is A.A.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	A policy (approved in 2020) to revise already-existing literature to keep it current has resulted in updates to four pamphlets; most of the updates relate to degenderizing language, the use of outdated references or jargon, the relevant focus on AA history, and how effectively each pamphlet addresses the audience to whom it is directed. The edited updates are all accessible in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: Literature — Item BB

Agenda Topic	Review Matrix (2020)
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The matrix is designed as a tool for the trustees’ and Conference literature committees, containing pertinent information to inform periodic review. It contains data that may be of interest to your group, such as quantities of literature published over the past five years and downloaded in 2017, 2018, and 2019.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

+ Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item A

Agenda Topic	Review G.S.O. General Manager’s report regarding General Service Conference site selection.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The progress report memo states that GSO would have a better negotiating advantage with requests for two-year contracts with hotels, having some flexibility with dates, and starting the process as soon as possible. The progress report outlines a timeframe for approval of dates that GSO management believes would be more effective. Efforts have begun to request proposals and information from hotels to determine the most cost-effective and appropriate venues for future Conferences. GSO management is also planning to explore venues outside New York City and State for the 2025 Conference. In working on site selection, previous Advisory Actions regarding the Conference, the Conference Charter, and Bylaws of the General Service Board, AAWS, and Grapevine, Inc. are being considered (relevant excerpts are in the background).
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

+ Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item B

Agenda Topic	Review the Floor Action process.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This item was submitted by Area 29 (Maryland). They propose that a review of the process would be to “prevent any Conference member from circumventing the normal Conference process”, listing careful discussion and study of background material as parts of a fully informed vote. The background material includes their letter, notes from their area discussions on the motion, and a general history of Conference Floor Actions, which details how procedures have evolved over the years. In July 2020, a Trustee Emeritus proposed a suggestion for clarification of the Floor Action Procedure, citing Roberts Rules of Order, “ <i>It is preferable to avoid a motion containing a</i>

	<p><i>negative statement even in cases where it would have a meaning since members may become confused as to the effect of voting for or against such a motion.</i>"</p> <p>It currently reads, "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 <i>decline</i> to consider the floor action. A motion to decline to hear a floor action..."</p> <p><u>A proposed revised procedure might read as follows:</u> "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 <i>consider</i> the floor action. A motion to hear a floor action..."</p>
<p>What does the Delegate need to know?</p>	<p>How does your group feel about the Floor Action process?</p>

+ Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item C

<p>Agenda Topic</p>	<p>Consider a proposed process for how a Conference committee could review, discuss and act on proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee.</p>
<p>Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>The General Service Board recognizes the desire by the Conference for greater delegate participation in the agenda process. For over 20 years, the Board has welcomed chairpersons of Conference committees and the delegate chairperson at the quarterly Board Weekend prior to the General Service Conference. It was requested that a process be developed for how a Conference committee could review, discuss and act on proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee and to include suggestions for the January conference call between trustee committee chairs and corresponding Conference committees. The proposals are available in full with supporting documents, implementation details, and historical information in the background.</p> <p>Proposal: Items not forwarded will be sent to the corresponding Conference committee for review and a standing item would be added to each Conference committee to reviews those. Background will be included that was reviewed or discussed to make their decision and it will also be included in the full background annually. The committee will not be asked to act on it, but rather to determine if they agree with the decision to take no action or if an item needs more work for consideration. They will send their decision back to the trustees' committee to either agree, for more work or information, or for reconsideration, along with rationale, so that a final decision could be made.</p> <p>The January call would include a clear invitation that the trustees' committee is interested in the thoughts of the Conference committee members as to whether these Agenda Items not forwarded or still under consideration should be forwarded to the Conference committee, with the Board keeping its final responsibility for selection in keeping with Concept 3. The focus of the call is to obtain sharing on the proposed agenda.</p>
<p>What does the Delegate need to know?</p>	<p>How does your group feel about this proposed process? Does your group feel that there is a better way to handle items not forwarded to a Conference committee?</p>

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item D

<p>Agenda Topic</p>	<p>Review dates for the 2025 General Service Conference.</p>
<p>Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?</p>	<p>In December 2020, the Conference Coordinator met with GSO management and it was agreed that the General Manager would ask the Policy and Admissions Committee to review possible dates for the 2025 General Service Conference this year. Having several options for dates can help in site selection negotiations. It is also important to avoid conflicting with significant holidays whenever possible. Included in the background are a list of Conference dates and a 2025 calendar listing holidays and observances.</p>
<p>What does the Delegate need to know?</p>	<p>We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.</p>

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item E

Agenda Topic	Review the “Report on Translation and Interpretation of General Service Conference Material.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This 9-page report was submitted in July 2020 to provide an overview of the processes that have been developed and implemented to complete the translation of most, not all, Conference Materials into French and Spanish. It speaks briefly to the process of simultaneous interpretation during Conference week and divides the translation of written materials into two categories: Conference Translation and Background Translation.</p> <p>2018 was the first year the background material was translated into French and Spanish. The bulk of this report is an overview of the process of translating the background material into French and Spanish by the first week in March, the participants involved, the timeline, and the expense of the project. The report explores the lessons learned and takeaways of hiring an agency to do the work compared to in-house AA translators. It also addresses challenges such as irregular style inconsistencies, even when provided a style sheet, inaccurate translations that did not conform to AA style, and sometimes poor performance or timeliness. Following the conclusion of the report is a list of questions directed to the Fellowship seeking shared experience on the need, presentation, and usability of the background material.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Did your group make use of translated background material in Spanish to obtain group consciences? Was it helpful to the process? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item F

Agenda Topic	Consider revising the process for polling the General Service Conference between annual meetings to make use of virtual meeting technologies.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The most recent Advisory Action impacting the “Process for Polling the General Service Conference between Annual Meetings” was in 2019. It added more time within the polling process (which is conducted via email or phone) for discussion of recommendations. Since that advisory action, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to widespread use of virtual technologies by AA groups, districts, areas, and by the General Service Conference. Many trusted servants are now experienced with using virtual platforms for presentations, discussions, sharing sessions, and votes. The current polling process and the timeline are in the background material and it explains the circumstances under which a poll is taken.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think revising the process to make use of virtual technologies could improve the polling process? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item G

Agenda Topic	Consider a request that a procedure be drafted for appealing a ruling by a General Service Conference chair.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This item was submitted by Area 29 (Maryland) and is accompanied by three letters from other area delegates supporting the proposal (Area 81 New Brunswick & Prince Edward Island, Area 60 Western Pennsylvania, and Area 65 Northeast Texas). The proposal requests that a procedure be drafted for appealing a ruling by the General Service Conference Chair, stating that the purpose of the request is to preserve and protect the right of appeal as well as clarify the role of the Chair at the Conference. Key points in Area 29’s proposal make several references to the Traditions, Concepts, Warranties, and the Conference Charter, as well as Robert’s Rules of Order.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about drafting a procedure to appeal a ruling by a General Service Conference Chairperson?

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item H

Agenda Topic	Discuss the revised proposed process for equitable distribution of workload.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The trustees' General Service Conference Committee began this report in 2018 to review options in order to create a plan for equitable distribution of the workload of Conference committees. Some Conference committees have historically had more Agenda Topics to discuss than others. At the 70th General Service Conference, this report was reviewed by the Conference committee on Policy/Admissions and sent back for revision with a request for more specificity on how this proposed process would impact what could happen regarding agenda items considered at the Fall and Winter trustees' committees' meetings, and on how it would impact the delegate chairs' participation in the Winter Board Weekend and on the Conference Committees' January conference call.</p> <p>The equitable workload distribution process involves creating additional primary committees as needed, and the development of a sample composition, scope, and procedures document for an "additional primary committee" was requested. The revised trustees' Proposed Process for Equitable Distribution of Workload and Scoring Tool includes a new annual deadline of September 15 for proposed agenda item submissions for an upcoming General Service Conference.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item I

Agenda Topic	Review the report on the Conference Committee Assignment Application implemented for the 2020 Committee Selection process.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In August 2020, the Conference Coordinator was given the green light to research a possible helpful technical tool for the Committee Selection Process: a web-based application solution. The goal was to alleviate the possibility of human error and provide for the absolute randomization of the committee selection process while meeting all Advisory Action and best practice constraints. The report documents the process, cost, and shares the results.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item J

Agenda Topic	Consider requests regarding participation of online groups in the General Service structure.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The committee agreed to forward to the 2021 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions six proposed agenda items related to the topic of online groups not affiliated with a physical meeting space having a voice and a vote in the General Service structure. While each of the six agenda items are related to the same topic of the participation of online-only groups in the General Service structure, they are unique in how they are worded, their path to becoming an agenda item, and what (if any) background they have included with the submission.</p> <p>Although online meetings are not new, because of the pandemic the volume of online-only groups increased very rapidly in a short span of time. Online meetings and groups are recognized as AA meetings and meeting information is listed in directories, but because they are not tied to a geographic location, they are not affiliated with any Area, and thus have not been represented within the General Service structure. They are not assigned a group number and therefore do not have General Service Representatives to participate and vote in District or Area events.</p> <p>The background includes six letters (two from different Areas, two from Districts, and two from individual groups) requesting this topic be considered at the Conference. Also included is sharing gathered from General Service Offices in other countries.</p>

What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about participation of online groups in the General Service structure of the United States and Canada? Can your group foresee possible concerns and/or solutions to these requests?
--------------------------------------	--

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review 2020 annual reports from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This is a standing item on the agenda. New content added on aa.org includes roughly 50 additions including seven relating to the pandemic, reports on website activity and analytics, a report from group services on challenges from phone only groups, a report on the "My Portal" trainings for Area Registrars, a report back on website and app development activities, and updates regarding YouTube, LinkedIn, and Search Engine Optimization. The background describes continued integration of Google technologies into website processes and development of the Meeting Guide App. There were also reviews of a request to add website visit reports to aa.org, aagrapevine.org, and aalavina.org.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review the 2020 trustees' Public Information Committee progress report on Google Ads performance.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2019, the Conference approved applying for "LegitScript" certification to qualify for Google AdWords/Grants, applying for a Google AdWords Grant, and implementing Google AdWords for the purpose of providing information about AA to the public. After further discussion (in 2020), GSO had been directed to carry out the 2019 Public Information Committee Advisory Actions to apply and implement Google AdWords/Grants in-kind donated services of ad space (worth \$10,000 of donated <i>media value</i> (not money) which is available to all nonprofits). From December 16, 2020, to January 14, 2021, Google Ads Performance resulted in 3,100 clicks, 24,500 impressions, a cost-per-click of \$1.43, and a total cost of \$4,560. The most "attention" we get from Google searches through the Google AdWords is "Find a Meeting." Google Ads performance is resulting in reaching a wide demographic, with the most active demographic being men between ages 25 and 34.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report regarding the 2021 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This is an annual item and this year's report focused on the work of the Comprehensive Media Plan subcommittee. Communication is at the heart of AA's mission to extend the hand of recovery from alcoholism to anyone who seeks our help. This media plan outlines all the activities AA does to carry the message publicly and the committee continues to refine this draft plan document. There were also a series of press releases throughout the year: Alcoholics Anonymous Holds Virtual World Service Meeting — <i>First Time in History</i> (published in December 2020); Alcoholics Anonymous Celebrates 85 Years with the 2020 AA Online International Convention (published in June 2020); <i>Physically Distanced but Digitally Connected: The Alcoholics Anonymous Message Carries On Amid Coronavirus (COVID-19)</i> (published in May 2020); and AA Groups Using Digital Platforms to Find Sobriety During Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak (published in March 2020).
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item D1**

Agenda Topic	Public Service Announcements (PSAs): Review the 2020 Report on the “Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcements.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This is an annual item. Our current video PSAs remain useful according to the Comprehensive Media Plan subcommittee report. Also noted, audio PSAs are being updated to reflect the current ways people search for AA, and video PSA titles were updated for search engine optimization. Video and Audio PSAs are all online: https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/public-information-committees
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item D2**

Agenda Topic	Public Service Announcements (PSAs): Review a progress report on the development of two PSAs.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2019, the General Service Conference approved an Advisory Action that two PSAs be developed at a cost not to exceed \$50,000 for each PSA, and that if full-face characters are shown, to include an ‘actor portrayal’ disclaimer on screen. The trustees’ Committee on Public Information reviewed the Comprehensive Media Plan subcommittee report on the messaging and audience of each PSA and noted that the two PSAs in development are geared toward minorities, in line with a floor action presented at the 70 th Conference. Progress made in 2020: The trustees’ committee will continue to meet to review the current rough cuts and to provide feedback. The committee asked that the Conference PI chair be included in their next meeting. The committee noted that if draft PSAs are completed prior to the 71 st General Service Conference that they are forwarded to the 2021 Conference Public Information Committee for review. The committee suggested that if a new PSA were approved, that the PSA be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees. The committee also noted that a targeted online paid PSA placement might be explored.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Consider draft plan to develop podcasts.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This proposal came from a member in Area 49 (South East New York) and a motion of support was passed at the Suffolk County Assembly to send it forward. The background includes the original motion from Area 49. The trustees’ Committee on PI agreed to develop a plan and met several times since February 2020 to develop a <i>draft</i> plan to create podcasts. According to the plan, the Digital Product Manager of the Communications Services Department will be leading a working group to continue this analysis; this group will include members from all pertinent entities, including Grapevine, Staff, Publications, and the Communications Services Department. The podcast working group will support the development of a sustainable structure for GSO involvement in podcast media projects and a pilot podcast. Considerations around logistics, content, production, and the pilot are being discussed by the working group.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What kinds of Podcasts would your group like to hear from AA?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Review “A.A. Triennial Membership Survey” report.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Historically, every three years there is an AA membership survey of the fellowship, but there has been a delay since the last one done in 2014. There was a professional review of the methodology of the survey itself and a detailed report from the trustees’ Committee on PI is included in the background. The possibility of utilizing of a digital questionnaire is discussed in the report. The report also noted the importance of updating the questionnaire to expand the

	gender markers to allow for better reflection of the diversity of our membership and potential members. The report recommends using our current methodology, with proposed improvements and procedural changes, and undertaking the next survey in 2021.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item G1**

Agenda Topic	Discuss Public Information pamphlets: Consider revising the pamphlet “Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This request came from Area 64 (Tennessee). Area 64 did their own analysis of the pamphlet and found “disorganization, unclear language, and (it) lacking vital information.” The Area then developed its own suggested outline for this pamphlet: 1. Non-AA Meetings 2. Which AA is Qualified 3. What and how to Share about AA 4. Brief Outline for a Talk and 5. Frequently Asked Questions by Non-AA Groups.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think of this pamphlet? Is an update needed? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item G2**

Agenda Topic	Discuss Public Information pamphlets: Discuss trustees’ Public Information Committee review of P.I. pamphlets.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Conference has 10 approved Public Information Pamphlets and four different Public Information service materials. Six of these titles (Understanding Anonymity, A Brief Guide to AA, AA at a Glance, AA Fact File, Message to Teenagers, and What Does Anonymity Mean to AA) are under review. The committee is considering format, outdated language, and means of delivery for revision.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item H**

Agenda Topic	Review contents and format of P.I. Kit and Workbook
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The review of these items is on the agenda every year, but this year the background includes a memo from GSO staff. The PI Kit and Workbook have always been in a print format. The AAWS Board discussed the relevancy of a print copy of the workbook and may explore a service app and/or web-based or PDF versions of the PI Kit and PI Workbook. The current Kit and Workbook are available online: https://www.aa.org/pikit
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly; if your group has suggestions regarding materials that should be added or deleted, please share them with the Delegate or Alternate Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

+ Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Discuss General Service Conference <i>Final Report</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This committee will discuss the 2019 and 2020 General Service Conference <i>Final Report</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	What do you think of the Conference Report? Do you find it user friendly? How could the Conference Report be improved?

+ Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Discuss AA Directories (Canada, Eastern US and Western US)
--------------	---

Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This is an annual item for the committee to discuss. In 2019, the committee requested that GSO explore alternative methods of accessing and distributing the contact information contained in Directories, especially in light of the new database system being created and the Meeting Guide app and asked for a report to be brought back.</p> <p>The report found the following: The current directories available are the 2017-2018 editions, as it was decided in 2018 not to print a new edition during the implementation of the new database system. The purpose of directories is to provide AA members with contact information for groups, especially members who are travelling or who live in rural or remote areas. A 2015 survey of Intergroup/Central Offices showed that while some like to have them on hand, most use the internet now to find area meetings and contacts. There is an AA Near You section on aa.org that has contact information for local hotlines and websites, and the Meeting Guide app is now widely used.</p> <p>Looking at potentially printing again, it would have to wait until at least spring of 2021, as there have been challenges with the launch of the new database that will take some time to work through. Being mindful of the fact that not everyone uses technology, a suggested alternative is to use the leaflet <i>Central Offices, Intergroups and Answering Services for the US and Canada</i> (F-25) more widely for those without computer or smart phone access. Historical cost of directories is in the background.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that we should continue printing directories? Why, or why not? Would the suggested leaflet be adequate, or does your group have any other ideas?

Conference Committee: Report & Charter — Item C

Agenda Topic	Review the draft of <i>The A.A. Service Manual, 2021-2023 Edition</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Since the 2020 General Service Conference, two proposed agenda items were forwarded to GSO's Publishing Department for consideration in the thorough evaluation, update, and redesign of the <i>Service Manual</i> recommended by the 2018 Conference, a project that has undergone several drafts and will be reviewed at the 2021 General Service Conference. Area 45 (Southern New Jersey) requested an explanation of "Additional Committee Considerations" be added to the <i>Service Manual</i>. The second request was from Area 36 (Southern Minnesota) to add wording about the importance of Intergroups and Central Offices and a recommendation of District and Areas electing an Intergroup Liaison.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: Report & Charter — Item D

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to amend paragraph one, the <i>Purpose of the current Conference Charter</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This comes from Area 44 (Northern New Jersey) with a request to amend the first paragraph of the Conference Charter to mention the Twelve Concepts so it would read, "The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of the world services and of the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous..."</p> <p>The current version reads, "The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of the world services and of the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous..."</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	How does your group feel about the proposed change to the Conference Charter?

Conference Committee: Report & Charter — Item E

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to revise Concept Eleven essay of <i>The Twelve Concepts for World Service</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This agenda item comes from Area 44 (Northern New Jersey) requesting to update the Concept XI essay to accurately describe both the Trustee Committee structure and the organization of the service corporations, Alcoholics Anonymous World Service, Inc. and the AA

	Grapevine, Inc. The ownership of these service corporations by the General Service Board should also be clarified. It was observed that several changes that have occurred with the structure of trustees' committees since Bill W's writing of the essay now get explained in too many footnotes, leading to confusion in understanding the Concept. Included in the background is the submitter letter and proposal as well as History and Actions Excerpt regarding footnoted, asterisked, bracketed, etc. phrases and proposing changes to Bill's writing in <i>The Twelve Concepts for World Service</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about the proposed changes to the Concept Eleven essay in <i>The Twelve Concepts for World Service</i> ?

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on the pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic."
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2019 there was a Conference Advisory action to revise the pamphlet "AA for the Older Alcoholic – Never too Late". In 2020, the Treatment and Accessibilities committee noted they hoped a revised pamphlet would be representative of a broad and diverse community, including stories from ethnic, cultural and LGBTQ communities, lifestyle diversity, members who got sober later in life, veterans (from the Vietnam War or later), members with hearing loss or mobility issues, members who attend online or telephone meetings, members with dementia, Alzheimer's, or mental health diagnoses, and diverse spiritual paths. Throughout 2020 there were calls for additional stories that reflect these experiences (another request for more stories has a deadline of March 15, 2021). Any stories not included in this pamphlet could be considered for the <i>Grapevine</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review a progress report on audio interviews with A.A. members who are in the Armed Forces.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2019 there was a Conference Advisory action to: "... develop anonymity-protected audio interviews with military professionals about their experience with AA as a resource for posting online." Four such interviews were completed, and the committee is continuing its work towards a final product.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review contents and format of Treatment Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Every year, the Treatment and Accessibilities committee at the Conference reviews the Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook. Outdated information may be updated or removed by GSO staff members, who report those changes to the trustees. The Kit is available online at https://www.aa.org/treatmentkit ; the current Workbook is available online at https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/treatment-committees/m-40i-treatment-committee-workbook . Typically, service kits are updated annually (each fall). This year there was discussion about the "print first" approach about these assets and if they could be adapted into an AA Service Committee App or another digital format.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly; if your group has suggestions regarding materials that should be added or deleted, please share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review contents and format of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.
--------------	--

Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Every year, the Treatment and Accessibilities committee at the Conference reviews the Accessibilities Kit and Workbook. Outdated information may be updated or removed by GSO staff members, who report those changes to the trustees. The Kit is available online at https://www.aa.org/accessibilitieskit ; the current Workbook is available online at https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/m-48i_SNWorkbook.pdf . This year there was discussion about the “print first” approach about these assets and if they could be adapted into an AA Service Committee App or another digital format.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly; if your group has suggestions regarding materials that should be added or deleted, please share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item +A and A1**

Agenda Topic A	Consider the revised “Procedures for a Partial or Complete Reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or A.A. Grapevine Boards.”
Agenda Topic A1	Review memo response regarding the consideration of alternate trustees.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The 2018 Conference Committee on Trustees reviewed a proposal to reorganize the AAWS and General Service Boards and took no action on the proposal. Though they didn’t see a need at that time, they did request that the trustees’ Nominating committee develop procedures for a partial or complete reorganization of our corporate boards should a need arise in the future. A subcommittee was formed and procedures were drafted and brought back to the 2019 Conference, together with pertinent information provided by legal counsel.</p> <p>The 2019 Conference Committee reviewed the draft and provided suggestions for additional specificity. One of those suggestions included a revision to Article 4 of the Conference Charter, which was reviewed by the Report and Charter Committee and approved by the 2020 Conference. The 2020 Conference Committee on Trustees reviewed the revised procedures and suggested that the use of alternate trustees be considered, and a revised plan be brought back to the 2021 Conference. A memo in the background from the General Manager explains that current practices and procedures would not allow for the creation of an alternate trustee, and points to how the current draft plan offers a viable solution for prompt reorganization of the Board. So, no changes were made in the draft from February 2020 and the Conference Committee on Trustees will be reviewing the same revision of the suggested procedures from last year, available in the background. Other documents in the background include the General Service Board Conflict of Interest Policy and a document from the NY State Attorney General on the Responsibilities of Directors of Not-for-Profit Corporations.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group feel about these Procedures? Are they sufficient to guide the Fellowship through such a reorganization? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item B1**

Agenda Topic	Review resumes of candidates for: East Central Regional Trustee
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The resumes are only available to members of the Conference Committee on Trustees, but you can see a list of names of the candidates elected by each Area in the East Central Region in the background. The East Central Regional Trustee will be elected by conference delegates from that region, and members of the trustees’ Nominating Committee and the Conference Committee on Trustees in accordance with the procedures laid out on the voting sheets in the background and Chapter 9 of the <i>AA Service Manual</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone. Your Delegate <i>may</i> be a voting member in this election as a member of the Conference Committee on Trustees.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item B2**

Agenda Topic	Review resumes of candidates for: Southeast Regional Trustee
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The resumes are only available to members of the Conference Committee on Trustees, but you can see a list of names of the candidates elected by each Area in the Southeast Region in the background. The Southeast Regional Trustee will be elected by conference delegates from

	that region, and members of the trustees' Nominating Committee and the Conference Committee on Trustees in accordance with the procedures laid out on the voting sheets in the background and Chapter 9 of the <i>AA Service Manual</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone. Your Delegate will be a voting member in this election as a member of the Conference Committee on Trustees.

Conference Committee: Trustees — Item B3

Agenda Topic	Review resumes of candidates for: Trustee-at-Large/U.S.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The resumes are only available to members of the Conference Committee on Trustees, but you can see a list of names of the nominees elected by each Area in each of the six Regions in the United States in the background. The Trustee-at-Large/U.S. will be elected by conference delegates from all 79 Conference Areas in the United States, and members of the trustees' Nominating Committee in accordance with the procedures laid out on the voting sheets in the background and Chapter 9 of the <i>AA Service Manual</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone. Your Delegate will be a voting member in this election.

Conference Committee: Trustees — Item C

Agenda Topic	Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board has been reviewed and recommended by the trustees' Nominating Committee and will be reviewed by the Conference Committee on Trustees before the Conference meeting for disapproval, if any. The chairperson of the Conference Committee on Trustees will then present the slate to the entire Conference for disapproval, if any. The slates with the names of trustees and officers are in the background material, and include seven Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees, and 14 Class B (alcoholic trustees). Three of those Class B trustees will be elected at the Conference (see Topics B1, B2, and B3 above). Resumes for the new trustees were provided only to members of the Conference Committee on Trustees.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: Trustees — Item D

Agenda Topic	Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The slate of directors of AA World Services, Inc. has been reviewed and recommended by the trustees' Nominating Committee. Resumes for the two new nontrustee directors were provided only to members of the Conference Committee on Trustees. The entire slate will be reviewed by the Conference Committee on Trustees before the Conference meeting for disapproval, if any. The chairperson of the Conference Committee on Trustees will then present the slate to the entire Conference for disapproval, if any. The names of the slate of directors are included in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: Trustees — Item E

Agenda Topic	Review slate of directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The slate of directors of AA World Services, Inc. has been reviewed and recommended by the trustees' Nominating Committee. A resume for one new nontrustee director was provided only to members of the Conference Committee on Trustees. The entire slate will be reviewed by the Conference Committee on Trustees before the Conference meeting for disapproval, if any. The chairperson of the Conference Committee on Trustees will then present the slate to

	the entire Conference for disapproval, if any. The names of the slate of directors are included in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: Trustees — Item F

Agenda Topic	Review the “Statement of Concern and Motion to Censure for Submission to the 71st General Service Conference.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The Statement of Concern and Motion to Censure the General Service Board (GSB) was submitted by some of the delegates who attended last year’s Conference. The issues raised by those delegates are in the background and fall into two general areas: 1) Concern that at times the GSB exerts too much control over the Conference; and 2) Concern that the GSB exerts too little guidance or oversight with respect to policies and management of our operating boards and offices.</p> <p>The background also includes a number of documents intended to address the issues raised by the submitters of this item. If your group wishes to discuss this, members should read all of the background material.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	What are the views of your group on the motion to censure? Is it warranted or not, and for what reasons?

Conference Committee: Trustees — Item G

Agenda Topic	Review report on amending the A.A. World Services, Inc. Bylaws.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>At the 70th GSC, the Conference Committee on Trustees had an additional consideration for the trustees after issues surfaced related to the disapproval of a slate of directors: “Consider amending the Bylaws of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., Article III, <i>Directors</i>, to include language similar to that contained in the Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. regarding proposed new member trustees.”</p> <p>The background contains a status report on this consideration from the Chairperson of the General Service Board. AAWS undertook an analysis and reviewed the bylaws for AAWS and the General Service Board, the Conference Charter, various documents on scope and procedures, and our Concepts, and does not recommend any changes at this time. The General Service Board is now studying the matter. There are a number of legal issues and at least four Concepts implicated in amending the AAWS bylaws, and if a bylaws change is recommended, legal counsel will be sought before bringing anything forward to the Conference for guidance or approval. Work will continue on this following the 71st GSC this year, and a report will be brought back to the 72nd GSC.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

+ Conference Committee: Archives — Item A

Agenda Topic	Review Archives Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Kits and Workbooks for CPC, Corrections, Public Information, Treatment Committee, and Accessibilities, and the Archives Workbook are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference. The Archives Workbook can be found online: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/archives-committees/m-44i-archives-workbook
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly; if your group has suggestions regarding materials that should be added or deleted, please share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or by phone.

Conference Committee: Archives — Item B

Agenda Topic	Review report on “Proposed Book on A.A. History.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2019, two proposals were forwarded to the trustees’ Literature Committee for the creation of a new book on the history of AA, looking to start in the year 1955. Due to the nature of the content, the request was added to the agenda of the Conference Archives Committee in 2020. At the 70 th GSC, the Conference Archives Committee asked the trustees’ Archives Committee to consider possible themes, content ideas and the timeframe that a book on AA History might cover and report back at the 71 st GSC. The trustees’ Archives Committee asked our GSO Archivist for a summary of the discussions and ideas expressed by the Conference Committee as well as suggested content ideas and to continue discussion. The working group, which included members of the departments of GSO Publishing and Archives, worked to comply with the request. In January, the trustees’ Archives Committee adopted a report setting out the considerations of the Conference Committee, the ideas of the GSO Working Group with a request for guidance, and the perspective of the trustees’ Archives Committee. The full report is in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel strongly about any of the questions or challenges in the report? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: Int’l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item A

Agenda Topic	Discuss methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	At the 2020 Conference, the Conference Committee on International Conventions/ Regional Forums felt further discussion on the use of the Lord’s Prayer as a closing at the Big Meetings at the International Convention would be beneficial and suggested the 2021 Conference continue the discussion. At the International Convention, there are three “big meetings.” On Friday night, the meeting has traditionally (for the last four conventions) ended with the Lord’s Prayer. On Saturday night, the meeting has ended with the Serenity Prayer. And on Sunday morning, the meeting has ended with the Responsibility Statement. The scripts for meetings during the day on Friday and Saturday have allowed meeting coordinators to close with any of these choices (or the option of a moment of silence). The background includes the meeting script and a 2019 letter from the 70 th Conference Committee Chair detailing how this item came from the committee.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group have any suggestions on how to close the Big Meetings at the International Convention?

Conference Committee: Int’l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item B

Agenda Topic	Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Regional Forums are held several times a year and are a service provided by GSO staff and the General Service Board with the intent of allowing the general AA membership (not just people involved in General Service) meet and interact with GSO staff and General Service Board members. This helps members put a face to their trusted servants. In order to encourage interest and attract first-time attendees, this committee discusses several ideas each year. In 2020 some ideas discussed were continuing to provide options for remote attendance, providing digital access to Forum materials and presentations (including use of the Meeting Guide App or mobile app) and having a “video invitation” from the GSB Chair. Recent discussion has focused on compiling notes from first-time sharing at a Forum, developing a Regional Forum app, developing a micro-site (in addition to postal mailing of Forum flyers), increasing outreach to different populations (like young people and Spanish-speaking communities), encouraging local welcome committees to create Save the Date flyers, inviting AAWS/AA Grapevine directors to “non-service” AA events to increase awareness of the Forum, and placing information about Regional Forums in the <i>A.A. Grapevine</i> and <i>La Viña</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	Do members of your group know about Regional Forums? If not, what are some of the things that could attract members of your group to attend a Regional Forum?