

AREA 45

73RD POST CONFERENCE

Delegate Report





HIGHLIGHTS

Presentation Flow

- 01** Can you speak General Service?
- 02** A Mighty Purpose and Rhythm
- 03** Financial Highlits (See the Full Financial Report on Area 45 Website)
- 04** Committee Reports
- 05** Floor Actions

CAN YOU SPEAK GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE?

Committee Recommendation

Automatic motions that have been made and seconded. They are discussed and voted on by the Conference.

Advisory Action

Recommendations of Conference Committees or floor actions approved by the whole Conference body with substantial unanimity (2/3 vote).



My Personal Experience At

AA THREE LEGACIES - OUR COMMON SOLUTION

— *Ken T.*

FROM THE PICNIC TABLE REPORT

2022 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



2022 GSO FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

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

COMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

13 Committees In Total

The Committees that make up the Conference are:

Cooperation with Professional Development.
Grapevine and LaVina
Treatment and Accessibilities
Report and Charter
Finance
Policy and Admissions

Corrections
Trustees
Literature
Agenda
Public Information
Archives
International Conventions/Regional Forums



COOPERATION WITH PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

Recommended

The committee recommended that the pamphlet “A.A. in Your Community” be approved with minor editorial changes.



Grapevine and LaVina - Our Meeting In Print

GRAPEVINE/LA VINA RECOMMENDATION

Due to EDW

The committee recommended that alternate delegates be provided access to the same Conference materials as their sitting delegates, except for materials shared during Conference week.

After Conference-wide discussion, a motion, and reconsideration, it was voted down.

Treatment

and

Accessibilities

RECOMMENDATIONS

“A.A. for the Older Alcoholic—Never Too Late.”

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

Military audio interviews.

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

TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES CONT'D

*Accessibilities Inventory**

The committee discussed the suggestion that an Accessibility Inventory be conducted throughout A.A.'s services and structure and suggested that the Trustees' CPC/TA Committee takes an inventory of what resources are currently available from the General Service Office and the AA Grapevine to meet accessibility-related challenges and consider the best methods for communicating about those resources to the Fellowship.

REPORT AND CHARTER RECOMMENDATIONS

Service Manual

The committee recommended that The A.A. Service Manual not be printed in 2023 and that a new edition be published biannually (i.e., every two years), beginning in 2024.

Service Manual

The committee recommended that a full rewrite be conducted of chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 to correct inaccuracies and to clarify the roles, responsibilities better, and relationships between the General Service Office, AA Grapevine, and A.A. World Services, Inc. in The A.A. Service Manual and that the trustees' Literature Committee forward these draft sections or a progress report to the 2024 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

Conference Final Report

The committee recommended that anonymity-protected Conference Final Reports be posted annually on aa.org beginning with the 2023 General Service Conference.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Recommendations

Voluntary Contributions

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

Consistent Reporting

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

Delegate Conference Contribution

The committee recommended that the suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference be increased from \$1,800 to \$2,200.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Consideration (EWD)

*Agenda Items Regarding the 12 & 12**

The committee suggested that the Trustees' Literature Committee seek input from the Fellowship (including but not limited to Area delegate feedback) regarding any possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s founders.

Questions to be considered:

Should suggested revisions be subjected to a 2-year Conference review process?

Should any future suggested changes retain the original writing with footnotes for the text being updated?

Should there be a threshold for review (group, district, area)?

Should the changes to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions by the 2021 General Service Conference remain?

Should a new policy regarding Bill W.'s writing be readjusted to guide future changes?

POLICY

/ADMISSIONS

Recommendations



POLLING

The committee recommended that the “Process for Polling the General Service Conference Between Annual Meetings Using Virtual Technology” be approved as amended below:

Process for Polling the General Service Conference
Between Annual Meetings Using Virtual Technology



UNITY, TRUST, TRANSPARANCY

The committee recommended that to foster unity, trust, and transparency in the Fellowship, the members of the General Service Conference meet outside of the an annual meeting for general sharing sessions at least two times per year utilizing virtual meeting technology.

CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE

Recommendations

CORRECTIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

Conference Committee Composition, Scope and Procedure

The committee recommended that item #5. in the Procedures of the Conference Committee on Corrections, which currently reads:

“To maintain correspondence with committee secretary and other committee members during the year,”

Be revised to read:

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

Sponsorship

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

Sponsorship

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

TRUSTEES COMMITTEE

Recommendations



SLATING OF THE BOARD

GSB

All Recommended:
6 Class A Trustees
with one Class A Trustee
seat left empty.
14 Class B Trustees
including the Newly Elected
NERT
SWRT
Trustee-at-Large/Canada

GSB Officers

Recommended:
Chair: Vacant
1st Vice-Chair: Mike L.
(Acting Chair)
2nd Vice-Chair: Sister Judith
Ann K., C.S.A.
Treasurer: Kevin P., MBA,
CFA, CPA
Secretary: Irma V.
Assistant Treasurer: Paul K.
Assistant Secretary:
Jeff W.

AAWS

All Recommended:
7 Trustees
2 Employees

AA Grapevine

All Recommended:
8 Trustees
1 Employee

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

Board Chair

After a lengthy and prayerful discussion, the committee took a vote to censure the General Service Board for failing to achieve substantial unanimity.

Communication

The committee agreed that the board must improve communication with the Fellowship, including listening to the Fellowship. The committee suggested that the board utilize an externally facilitated process to improve the organization.

Inventory

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

TRUSTEES ADDT'L RECOMMENDATION

*“Do You Think
You're
Different?”
(EDW)*

The committee recommended that the Trustees' Literature Committee update the stories in the pamphlet “Do You Think You're Different?” to represent greater diversity, revise the front and back matter, and bring back a draft pamphlet or progress report to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.



WE HAVE A NEW
**NORTHEAST
REGIONAL
TRUSTEE**

Ken T. from Area 30 (Eastern Massachusetts)

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Recommendations
and Considerations



Recommendation

Twelve Traditions

Illustrated

The committee recommended that the revised draft of the existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” be approved.

Recommendation

Too Young Pamphlet

The committee recommended that the print version of the pamphlet “Too Young” be retired and that the content be repurposed as an animation video. The committee requested that a progress report or a rough cut of the video be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION- THE PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK*

The committee discussed new proposed agenda items (PAIs) related to the plain language Big Book translation and took no action. The committee acknowledged the concerns of members, groups, and areas in the Fellowship regarding the oversight of translating the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth edition) into plain and simple language.



AGENDA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

2024 General Service Conference Theme

The committee recommended the following theme for the 2024 General Service Conference: “Connecting with Love, Unity, and Service.”

2024 G.S.C. Presentation Theme

The committee recommended the following presentation theme and topics for the 2024 General Service Conference: Presentation Theme: “Responsibility in Service: When and How to Give”

Presentation Topics:

1. “Safety throughout the Structure in our Fellowship”
2. “1728 Sponsorship”
3. “Overcoming the Barriers to Participation”

2024 G.S.C. Worksop Topics

The committee recommended the following workshop topic for the 2024 General Service Conference: “Connecting Home Groups to the Conference Throughout the Year to Better Inform the Group’s Conscience.”

AGENDA CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CONT'D

Area Highlights

The Conference Committee on Agenda recommended that the reading of the Area Highlights from the 73rd General Service Conference be suspended and included in the 2023 Conference Final Report to allow discussion of the following topics:

Are the decisions of the General Service Board producing Unity within the Fellowship and inspiring confidence in the Board's future functions?

The General Service Board Code of Conduct

Is the prudent reserve being used as the Conference intends?

Other Recommendations

Note

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

Conference Inventory

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

Public Information

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

2022 A.A.
Membership
Survey Results
Reporting
Pamphlet

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

Analytics
Communications

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

ANONYMITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA PI COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION*

The committee reviewed the progress report on the request to create a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media. The committee requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee and staff secretary focus on developing and administering a survey to all age demographics, particularly a young population, on obtaining results that will inform decisions on any future new form of communication. The committee looks forward to a progress report to be brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.



Floor Actions

Agenda

FLOOR ACTIONS 1 - 3

I.

Trustee Elections - Not Approved

Starting in 2024, voting for trustee elections may utilize paper or electronic ballots.

2.

Budgets - Not Approved

The 2016 Conference Advisory Action states: “General Service Conference delegates be provided a copy of the final approved annual General Service Office and AA Grapevine budgets with the Pre-Conference material for all future Conferences” be reconfirmed.

3.

Censure the Board - Not Approved

The 73rd General Service Conference censured the General Service Board due to poor communication to the Fellowship regarding the resignation of the former Chair of the General Service Board and for the process that was followed regarding the acceptance of her resignation.

FLOOR ACTIONS 4 & 5

4.

Confidentiality Policy - Not Approved

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

The General Service Board prepare a report delineating the history of their Confidentiality Policy and the reason(s) for enacting it, submitting it for review to the Conference Trustees' Committee at the 2024 General Service Conference.

The General Service Board initiate a review regarding the need for a less restrictive Confidentiality Policy, submitting a draft or progress report to the Conference Trustees' Committee at the 2024 General Service Conference.

The existing Confidentiality Policy of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., be made null and void.

5.

Board Inventory - Approved

To improve communication, ensure Board policies are reflective of our principles, and reestablish a relationship of trust between the General Service, The conference, the General Service Board, and the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, The General Service Board is asked to undertake an inventory before the 74th General Service Conference. To help the Board in this endeavor, the 73rd General Service Conference will set up a working group to help the General Service Board formulate possible inventory questions.

FLOOR ACTIONS 6 & 7

6.

Communication Ad-Hoc Committee - Not Approved

The General Service Board create an Ad Hoc Joint committee on Communications throughout out service structure that includes trustees, delegates, and staff members.

7.

Code of Conduct - Not Approved

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

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

This code should acknowledge that mistakes will be made and suggest mechanisms for righting any wrongs. This code should follow in spirit and language the principles outlined in our 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts, and our Conference Charter. The Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions should review this code annually.

FLOOR ACTIONS 8 & 9

8.

Actual Cost Budgets - Not Approved

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

9.

Voting Committee Chairs - Not Approved

Beginning with the 2024 GSC, the delegate chair and alternate delegate chair for the following year's GSC will be elected in the Conference session scheduled immediately following the completion of all committee reports and completion of the discussion of and voting on floor actions (if any). Following the election of the delegate chair and alternate delegate chair for the following year's GSC, each primary Conference committee will convene and elect its own committee chair and alternate committee chair for the following year's GSC, according to each Conference Committee's Composition, Scope, and Procedure, the newly elected delegate chair and alternate delegate chair is ineligible to stand for primary or secondary Conference Committee chair or alternate chair.

FLOOR ACTION 10 - APPROVED

The option for closing the Big Meeting at the International Convention is the Serenity Prayer or the Responsibility Statement.

