

Area 74 Delegates Workshop and Area Committee Meeting

Saturday March 6th, 2021 Hybrid Meeting

Reiter Center, 1858 S Michigan Street, Three Lakes, WI

Notes on the following document. This document includes a list of those that gave oral reports at the Delegate's workshop, I have not identified those that did not submit written reports out of malice, rather to guide Char and other servants for additional information if so needed. If you did send me a written report and I missed it, I am incredibly sorry. Following the list of those that gave reports will be the written high-level summaries followed by the committee recommendations in the same order we gave the oral reports. Each area will be listed in centered bolded font and followed by a summary heading in bold with the report then the committee report heading in bold followed by the committee report.

In a few instances there were 2 committee reports, they are both listed under the committee report heading in their full separate entirety. I left committee member names off not to diminish those that served, rather a small effort to make this document as small and user friendly as possible

Trustee – Jeff – no written report
Trustee – Nicholas
Corrections – MI – Karen
CPC – Sara S
Grapevine – Sara P
Report & Charter – Sara P
PI – Dani M
Treatment – MaryBeth
Finance – Brent – no written summary report
Literature – Sunny & Bill – no written summary

Trustee

Summary

Item F.1 – Review the statement of concern and motion to censure for submission to the 71st GSC

Motions was presented in the form of a letter signed by 14. Motion is stated to be made hoping to preserve unity, not disunity.

Letter is not included due to violation of 5th warranty – punitive and legal consequences. Also unknown from what I (Nicholas) can tell are the 14 signatures.

Summary of Letter

“An erosion of the GSB’s understanding of and adherence to the warranties of GSC and the 12 Concepts”

“At times, the GSB exerts too much control”

“At the same time, the GSB exerts too little guidance or oversight with respect to policies and management of our operating boards and offices”List of specific Censure

CONFIDENTIAL: 71st General Service Conference Background

- 1) At the 70th General Service Conference (GSC), the Conference Committee on Trustees “concluded that a candidate for the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (AAWS) Board was not eligible...The GSB was itself undecided regarding this candidate’s eligibility. This was evidenced in their own split vote for the slate. This division was not openly disclosed to the Conference Committee on Trustees – on the contrary, the retelling of events suggests the issue was intentionally avoided.”

“Overall Chairing of the Conference”

- 2) The Conference Committee on Trustees submitted a slate for approval less the candidate in question. The Chair of the Conference ruled the recommendation out of order, stating that the committee had no such authority. This was wrong because “the Conference Committee on Trustees...does in fact have the authority as outlined in our Concepts, Service Manual, and the Scope and Procedure of the Conference Committee on Trustees. It was wrong in spirit because it unilaterally halted further Conference discussion on the matter...The Chair’s ruling was ultimately challenged, which led to further necessary discussion.”
- 3) Throughout the Conference, “...delegates were cutoff and deliberations were halted before an informed group conscience decision could be reached. Staff was virtually unheard. There is some indication that at least at one GSC session, staff members were told not to participate.”

“Failure to Observe the Will of the General Service Conference”

- 4) At the 70th GSC, procedures were changed and “Floor Actions could either be quashed or tabled to a future Trustee Committee meeting.” “The GSC is an entity which sets its own rules, and has the right to approve, disapprove, or alter any procedural rules it wishes.”
- 5) A floor action to halt the implementation of Google AdWords was not quashed, but the Board implemented Google Ad Words without notifying Conference members until after the fact.
- 6) “Accounting and Communication for the Grapevine has been turned over to AAWS...Concept VIII defines that money and capital is divided between AAWS and the Grapevine.”

“GSB Responsibility to Exercise Oversight of the Operating Corporations...”

“...Projects and Funds”

Items:

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the 71st General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material

CONFIDENTIAL: 71st General Service Conference Background

- 7) The Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) project is a year behind schedule and is reported to be \$800,000 over budget as of April, 2020. At a special finance meeting in August, 2020, three delegates requested information regarding the original scope, schedule and budget. As of November 30, 2020, no report had been provided.
- 8) "The 2019 financial reports indicated that AAWS was \$800,000 over initial budget, a situation that should have resulted in an immediate extended investigation..."
- 9) The Eighth Floor project was intended to be funded only from operating accounts. Work was stopped when COVID arrived. Operating funds decreased as a result, and a drawdown from the Reserve Fund occurred. Work resumed after that, raising the question that reserve funds were used for the project. Benefits of the project have not been communicated to the Fellowship.
- 10) Printer's Manuscript litigation – "No individual, or collective Tenth Step, has been apparent. During these events there was undeniable, and seemingly habitual, lack of transparency; to date, there has been no reconciliation with the Fellowship."

"Lack of Financial Transparency (and Transparency in General)"

- 11) Drawdowns from the Reserve Fund in the amount of \$4.5 million have occurred. There has been no clear accounting to the Fellowship regarding how those funds were used.
- 12) Consultants have been hired at the office with no communication to the Fellowship about costs and benefits.
- 13) Retirement program (VRIP) – "[Twenty] GSO and the Grapevine employees accepted the retirement offer...We were told it was anticipated that maybe four or five people would accept the retirement offer." "The voluntary retirement program is intended to realize cost savings, while in the short term it is in fact costing hundreds of thousands of dollars. The human price for these cost savings is staggering. We have been shown no information describing the actual benefit we will see from this desperate loss."

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Never been censured – considered on 2 occasions, 1994 & 1995 and 2017 & 2018
The GSB responds to each of the claims made in the motion in remaining pages.

No Committee Report

Corrections

Summary

There were 3 Items to review:

Item A. Consider request for a review of all correction related literature to replace terms such as “inmate” and “offender” with less stigmatizing language.

Background notes:

At their January 31, 2021 meeting the Trustees Corrections Committee agreed to forward to the 2021 Conference Committee on Corrections a proposed agenda item, “that the Conference Committee on Corrections review corrections related literature intended for use by members in corrections facilities and take action to remove the words 'inmate' and 'offender' from A.A.W.S. literature and replace these words with more inclusive terms.”

Background:

Letter and Motion from BC Yukon, Area 79

A letter that was submitted by Corrections Chair Area 79, Panel 69, to support the motion passed at the Area 79 Voting Assembly in October 2019. And asked that Areas, Districts and Groups in Canada and U.S. who carry the A.A. message inside, will talk to our inside members and ask them how they feel about our suggestion as presented in this motion. They also pointed out that inside members have limited access to electronic communication and the A.A. prison service workers are the vital link in this process.

Additionally, the motion stated that the feedback from members in correctional facilities in Area 79 indicates that there is a need to review the literature and consider more appropriate language to describe A.A. members in these facilities.

The motion further described that this changed literature would become more likely read and overcome another obstacle for the AA member that is on the inside.

The motion also stated if not passed, the literature will continue to be unused and when leaving the correctional facility may not attend meetings from a lack of sense of belonging.

Finally, the motion also provided other suggestions to replace these words.

Item B. Discuss innovative ways of carrying the message to alcoholics in correctional facilities/programs.

Background notes:

At their January 31, 2021 meeting, the Trustees Corrections Committee agreed to forward to the 2021 Conference Committee on Corrections, a proposed agenda item to “request sharing from the Fellowship to assist A.A. groups in finding innovative ways of carrying the message to alcoholics in correctional facilities/programs” for consideration and discussion.

Background information that was attached is summarized in 3 categories:

1. Proposed Agenda Item from a Tuesday Night Concept Study Letter was addressed to the General Service Conference Coordinator, Patrick C on Dec 15, 2020.

The Tuesday Night Concept Study explained that they have been meeting on weekly conference calls for over 10 years to share their experience, strength and hope in applying their study on A.A. Traditions and Concepts in their daily lives and service work.

Their request was also based on allowing full Fellowship discussion and an informed Conference to offer spiritual guidance and direction to the Trustees and staff to lead us through these worldly times. Later in the letter they mention that the challenging times have revealed new opportunities to access the AA message by finding new ways to hold meetings (such as Telephone conferencing) and hope to find other new ways to reach alcoholics in corrections facilities.

They too also stated that there needs to be updated information produced that entails possible solutions and resources from Groups finding success.

2. Excerpts from Request for Sharing (Activity Report) done on 11/23/2020: There were 4 ways listed that showed innovative ways of reaching the alcoholic while incarcerated during the challenging times: Video, literature, tablets, and Zoom Meetings.
3. Shared experience from H & I committee members: A 2-page report on sponsorship for the AA member/s on the inside. The report entails the current approaches for confined Alcoholics and Sponsorship that has obstacles and is one of the downsides.

An IVSS program describes the logistics of creating a Sponsorship Service Coordinator which would work in cooperation with the current institution coordinator. This effort would be entirely voluntary on both sides (AA member outside and AA member inside) and further highlights the benefits of visiting sponsorship service face to face.

Item C. Review contents and format of Corrections Kit and Workbook

The Conference Committee on Corrections reviewed 6 areas (which are listed in the Background section) of the Corrections Kit and Workbook. "To maximize the effectiveness of the Corrections Kit, The National Corrections Call established two ad hoc committees: One to review the Corrections Workbook, which resulted in a 14-page document with 129 comments. The 2nd ad hoc committee reviewed the Corrections Kit, with 6 Observations and 8 Recommendations (10-page report). The Corrections Committee that reviewed the kit listed a chart where the term "inmates" and "inside" "AA members" are not used consistently throughout. There were 14 terms listed for "inmates, prisoners, offenders" and 8 terms listed for "people, suffering alcoholics, clients, etc.

Committee Report

- A. Consider request for a review of all correction related literature to replace terms such as "inmate" and "offender" with less stigmatizing language.
We agreed this was important and prefer the term Corrections Resident or Resident.
- B. Discuss innovative ways of carrying the message to alcoholics in correctional facilities/programs.
 - 1) We think finding other ways to carry the message inside correctional facilities is a good idea – pandemic or no pandemic.
 - 2) We like the idea of a Sponsorship Committee to serve correctional facilities provided it doesn't prevent the use of other methods to sponsor people inside the walls.
- C. Review contents and format of Corrections Kit and Workbook
 - 1) People should be given choice of print vs digital format.
 - 2) Add meeting guide ap info to the workbook
 - 3) Update language as needed.
 - 4) Add "How to use new technologies such as Zoom, WebEx and other teleconference services to carry message inside correctional facilities.

Corrections - In person @ Three Lakes

Agenda item A - Discussion

Really not enough background. Canada Area 79 and Area 51 only areas responding to this.

“Inmate” to “Convict” ?

Using John Howard Society recommendations is not acceptable, outside entity.

Pricing issues.

a. Recommendation: To not consider.

Agenda item B - Discussion

Good idea! Particularly maybe a challenge such as tablets, and zoom meetings. Sponsorship stressed.

Agenda item C – Discussion

We reviewed background material.

Good suggestions.

AA guidelines need revision concerning court proceedings with regards to sending people to AA meetings. (Illegal)

Cooperating with court, DWI, and similar programs.

CPC

Summary

The Area 74 CPC Committee wants to thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

Our current members are Terri B, Bob H., Marilyn S. and myself, Sara S.

II. Cooperation with the Professional Community

A. +Discuss progress report on LinkedIn page implementation. (Pages 2-46)

The overall goal of the LinkedIn page is to share information on AA with professionals and refer professionals to aa.org.

- LinkedIn ... “total number of users (476 million)”
- Total page visits to A.A.W.S page in 2019 Nov 692, Dec 370, Jan 438
- Clicks from A.A.W.S LinkedIn page to visit aa.org in 2019 Nov 80, Dec 29, Jan 56
- 254 Followers

Additions to Agenda Item A:

The trustees' C.P.C./Treatment and Accessibilities Committee met and discussed 2 proposed agenda items and stated "No Action" yet one item is added to Agenda Item A.

Proposed Agenda Item 1 Area 74

- In the Nov 2020 notes "Consider a request to discontinue a LinkedIn page" and took no action. (Pg. 41)

Background was not added

Proposed Agenda Item 2 Area 26

- "That the General Service Board expand the use of the existing LinkedIn page for A.A.W.S. that fulfills the purposes in accordance with the 2018 Advisory Action" and took no action. (pg. 3 and pg. 41))

This Background was added

4. Letter Area 26 (pg. 42)

- "The current LinkedIn page established by AAWS is not effective and does not achieve the purpose explicitly outlined by the 2018 Advisory Action."

B. +Consider a request to create a pamphlet for mental health professionals. (Pages 47-55)

Background -C.P.C Committee from area 11, Connecticut

2020 Area 74 CPC Recommendation: not to create a pamphlet for Mental Health Professionals.

C. +Review contents and format of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook (Pages 56-59)

NEW Agenda Item:

D. Review draft update of the pamphlet "Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous." (Pages 60-81)

Discussion of G.S.O. Publishing draft updates per the A.A.W.S.' print policy

The updated AAWS Print Policy was approved by the 70th GSC in 2020.

Area 74 CPC Committee Review:

- The Agenda Item comes from GSO Publishing not the fellowship.
- No mention of "Preamble" or 'Bill W.'s 1966" quote.
- New Title "Faith Leaders ask about Alcoholics Anonymous." (pg.61)
- Editors want to change the use of the term "Clergy" to "Faith Leaders. (pg. 61)
- The introduction was completely changed with no editorial identification of the change. (pg. 61-63)
- Added content on how meetings are closed (pg. 70)
- Sections deleted are "The Purpose of This Pamphlet", "How did AA Start", "Are the Clergy welcome at AA meetings?", and "Does AA sponsor Spiritual Retreats?"
- Added sections "Are AA meetings held only in English?" and "Are there any other helpful resources?"

- New heading wording: “How can Faith Leaders Counsel Alcoholics About AA?”
- Ward Ewing a Past Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee made editorial notes to change words and sections throughout the pamphlet. This includes adding an introduction of himself and other comments from him in the introduction.
- The Update does not reflect the 68th Advisory action

NEW Agenda Item:

I Agenda: Agenda

J. Discuss a request to provide additional avenues for A.A. members to share input on the General Service Conference Agenda Items.

Michael B. Member, Area 13, submitted 2020 12-15

“Consider the implementation of new opportunities for A.A. members to submit input on the General Service Conference agenda items prior to the full Conference convening.”

- There is no background

Committee Report

Agenda Items

II. Cooperation with the Professional Community

A. +Discuss progress report on LinkedIn page implementation. (Pages 2-46)

Recommendation: “The Area 74 CPC Committee is reaffirming the motion “The LinkedIn page of Alcoholics Anonymous be discontinued.” and we request that the Area 74 Delegate take the motion as a floor motion to the 71st GSC.”

B. +Consider a request to create a pamphlet for mental health professionals. (Pages 47-55)

C.P.C Committee from area 11, Connecticut submitted the agenda item to create a pamphlet for mental health professionals

- What is the financial cost of making a new pamphlet?
- There are three pamphlets for professionals which cover a majority of the points Presented in the background material.
 - 1) A.A. For Professionals
 - 2) The A.A. Member — Medications and Other Drugs
 - 3) Problems other than alcohol

Recommendation: CPC Committee does not approve “Consider a request to create a pamphlet for mental health professionals”

C. +Review contents and format of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook (Pages 56-59)

Recommendation: Area 74 CPC Committee requests an update to page 15. There is a need to update pg. 15 of the CPC Workbook with correct directions on the website. We found an error on pg. 15 with the directions for the aa.org Website and how to get to "For Professional" and "About AA".

D. Review draft update of the pamphlet "Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous." (Pages 60-81)

Recommendation: Area 74 CPC Committee does not approve "Review draft update of the pamphlet "Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous.".

Comments with Recommendation:

- The fellowship did not request an update to the pamphlet "Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous."
- What agenda item, floor action, or advisory action prior to this Agenda Item D brought on the need to update the pamphlet "Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous"?
- We do not want the term change from "Clergy" to "Faith Leaders". Clergy is a more professional term and widely used.
- Within the updates there are multiple sections missing, content changed, sections moved to other areas
- A.A.W.S. is being dishonest in their presentation of the edited piece by not highlighting or underlining all the changes. In the future, we want ALL edits and content changes be shown side by side with the current pamphlet and the changes highlighted, underlined or in some way identified.
- A.A.W.S. followed the Advisor Action in the 2018 copywrite of the pamphlet and then changed the information in this new update and now the pamphlet does not reflect the 68th Advisor Action.

2018 68th General Service Conference approved

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 68th GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE - passed

9. A new section be added beginning on page 16 of the pamphlet "Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous," between the sections "Why Would the Clergy be Concerned with A.A.?" and "Do Any of the Clergy Belong to A.A.?" with text as follows:

What If You Are a Chaplain in the Military?

Like other members of the clergy, military chaplains are often the "safest" people a problem drinker can approach. Chaplains can help direct alcoholics to available A.A. meetings, either on or near the base. Additionally, if no meetings are available, chaplains may be able to connect interested alcoholics with other A.A. materials, such as books and pamphlets or A.A.'s magazines, Grapevine and La Viña. Online meetings are also available for those members of the military who may be deployed, and chaplains can help

get them connected electronically through correspondence groups. (A.A.'s General Service Office can provide information on such resources.)

- Why are the editorial changes coming from Ward Ewing a Past Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee and not the fellowship? Ward Ewing's statement in the introduction is affiliation and promotion and we do not agree with the introduction change.

GSO Publishing Update:

Introduction

Many thousands of alcoholics owe their lives to a nonalcoholic professional — a medical doctor, psychiatrist, counselor, law enforcement representative, faith leader or member of the clergy — who was knowledgeable enough about alcoholism to recognize the illness and take the actions that would cut through the alcoholic's denial and illuminate the road to recovery.

Often, nonalcoholics are able to help problem drinkers find the help they need to achieve sobriety. For example, in the most recent A.A. Membership Survey, 74% of those surveyed who received treatment or counseling said it played an important part in directing them to A.A.

1

2018 Copywrite:

Introduction

Alcoholics Anonymous is not a religious society. However, A.A. is deeply indebted to members of the clergy of many faiths who have befriended the Fellowship since its founding in 1935.

Concern about that the 70th GSC A.A.W.S. Policy on Publication of Literature will affect all literature including the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous.

2020 70th GSC Advisory Action passed

7. The "A.A.W.S. Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials," approved by the A.A. World Services, Inc. Board of Directors in January 2020, be acknowledged and accepted by the General Service Conference.

Scope and Process for Editorial Updates of Conference-Approved Literature

When considering items for revision, the following criteria will guide the editorial process:

- Does the material use outdated language, jargon, or references?
- Does the material utilize the most current science about alcoholism?
- Does the material focus on inclusivity and represent A.A.'s broad diversity?
- Does the material draw on A.A. history in a way that is relevant and necessary?
- Does the material effectively address the audience to whom it is directed? (Target audience input will be sought in the review process)

I Agenda: Agenda

- J. Discuss a request to provide additional avenues for A.A. members to share input on the General Service Conference Agenda Items.

“Consider the implementation of new opportunities for A.A. members to submit input on the General Service Conference agenda items prior to the full Conference convening.”

Recommendation: Area 74 CPC Committee does not approve “Consider the implementation of new opportunities for A.A. members to submit input on the General Service Conference agenda items prior to the full Conference convening.”

Consider the implementation of new opportunities for A.A. members to submit input on the General Service Conference agenda items prior to the full Conference convening.

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.

Not enough information

2nd Committee

- A. Discuss progress report on LinkedIn page Information.

CPC committee has drafted a letter that has been given to the delegate addressing some of the information, or lack thereof, regarding the LinkedIn page. Why some information regarding the benefits were acknowledged, but the counterpoint of information was not submitted. There are some questions about direct language in the letter that has mixed opinions among the committee members.

An opportunity to find more nonalcoholic trustees through this platform to serve. An opportunity to recruit. Use the professionals to get the message out to receive information. They can talk on amongst their peers.

- B. Consider a request to create a pamphlet for mental health professionals.
*What would be the benefit from what already exists?
What would be the advantage to not printing pamphlets that do not get used but have a posted service announcement in its place. It would save cost and could update content more efficiently. Direct them to webpage or place for info trying to direct them to.*
- C. Review contents and format of CPC Kit and Workbook.
Recommendation update page 15 of the workbook with correct directions on website.
- D. Review draft update of the pamphlet "Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous."
 - What is the definition of Clergy? Is the word used correctly in the context it is being used? If so, why would it be changed?*

Grapevine

Summary

- A. Review progress report on AA Grapevine Workbook revisions.
Background Information included a 2020 Office Report on the Grapevine Workbook stating AA Grapevine, Inc. management has contracted a freelancer, who is also familiar with the Grapevine service structure, to oversee the rewrite and redesign of the AA Grapevine Workbook. He was instructed to review the current Workbook's content and expand on shared experience and how to use Grapevine and La Vina as a recovery tool. The Draft Grapevine Workbook was mailed to the 71st Grapevine Conference Committee Members only.
- B. Review progress report on actions taken from the findings of the AA Grapevine Fellowship Feedback Survey.
Background Information included a 2020 Office Report on the findings of the AA Grapevine Fellowship Feedback Survey. The Office Report includes six opportunities that were identified from the findings of the AA Grapevine Fellowship Feedback Survey and then ongoing actions that were taken based on each of these six opportunities. The background information also included an Overview of the AA Grapevine Survey Results.

The AA Grapevine Survey Summary was mailed to the 71st Grapevine Conference Committee Members only.
- C. Consider a request to develop an AA Grapevine pamphlet on how the AA Grapevine can be utilized to carry the A.A. message.

The Literature Chair from Area 39 sent in a letter requesting that the Grapevine Corporate Board in cooperation with the Grapevine Editorial Advisory Board develop a new pamphlet which would describe how the A.A. Grapevine can be utilized to carry A.A.'s message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic. Background information included the 2021 AA Grapevine Today Flyer and the 2021 AA La Vina Today flyer, How the Magazines Carry the Message from p. 22 of "Guide to the Grapevine Workbook", the Carry the Message postcards in English and Spanish, and the Carry the Message Project instructions in English and Spanish.

D. Review progress report on development of an Instagram account.

In the background notes, it is stated that this agenda item came from a 2020 Advisory Action, however, it should be noted this agenda item was a 2020 Additional Consideration. The committee discussed a request for AA Grapevine, Inc. to establish an Instagram account in line with the Twelve Traditions and encouraged them to continue with their planning. The committee suggested that the Grapevine Board provide additional information on implementation, anonymity, security, affiliation, outside contributions, privacy and promotion and bring a progress report back to the 71st General Service Conference.

Background information includes the 2021 Instagram progress report which provides details with specific examples of how the Instagram account would align with the Twelve Traditions in regards to implementation, anonymity, security, affiliation, outside contributions, privacy and promotion.

Get the Latest from Instagram was mailed to the 71st Grapevine Conference Committee Members only.

Background information also included the 2020 Proposed Instagram Implementation Plan and the AA Grapevine, Inc. Social Media Strategies Report to the 68th GSC both which were reviewed as prior background in past years.

The Proposal: An Evaluation of the Usefulness of Social Media was also only mailed to the 71st Grapevine Conference Committee Members only.

E. Review suggested gender-neutral language options for changes to the A.A. Preamble

The following was a 2020 Grapevine Committee Additional Consideration: The committee also discussed making suggested changes to the A.A. Preamble for gender neutral pronouns. The committee requested that the Grapevine Board consider developing examples of generalized

language options and that a progress report or draft versions be brought back to the 71st General Service Conference.

Background information includes the 2021 Office Report in which the Grapevine Board considered possible language options for requested changes to the AA Preamble for gender neutral pronouns. The AA Grapevine Board identified the following possibilities:

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.

Background information includes an email from Ames S. the Executive Editor regarding degenderizing language. Ames talks in his email about the AAWS process related to the degenderizing of AA materials. He discusses the recent Conference acknowledgment and acceptance of our new AAWS editorial "Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials," where they will be engaged in a Language Review that will include degenderizing, where appropriate, across all of our pamphlets. Ames talks about reaching out to industry resources and organizations/entities that are engaged in this process of degenderizing to see what information they might be able to provide. He stated in all their print material they try to utilize the style standards established by preeminent news organizations such as the New York Times.

Background information includes the Grapevine Conference Committee background on the Preamble from 2020. This background included a 2020 Office Report on the A.A. Preamble. In 2018 and 2019, AA Grapevine received six requests to revise the A.A. Preamble. The Grapevine Board made the decision to separate the requests into two different Agenda items. One asked to consider revising the "gender neutral pronouns" and the other made a request to consider replacing the words "men and women" with the word "people".

Further background information includes the 1st printing of the Preamble in the Grapevine from June 1947, the Grapevine article from May 1992, The Best of the Grapevine, pp. 274-275, Report from the Trustees' Committee on the GSC from February 1, 1987, and the Grapevine Conference Committee background

on the Preamble, 1987. All of this information was reviewed as prior background last year.

An email with supporting documents from Lucky M. was only mailed to the 71st Grapevine Conference Committee Members only.

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

The background notes refer to a 2002 Advisory Action stating, "It was unanimously recommended that the Conference Committee on the Grapevine annually review a list of proposed related items at least one year in advance of possible production, so that the Conference might provide guidance, recognizing possible production, so that the Conference might provide guidance, recognizing that the committee may request more than one year to review some proposed items."

Background information for this agenda item includes a Staff Report for 2021 with a List of Conference approved titles for Grapevine and La Vina.

Committee Report

- G. Review progress report on AA Grapevine Workbook revisions.

The committee reviewed the progress report on the AA Grapevine Workbook revisions and will look forward to seeing the work that the freelancer is doing on this project. We are glad the Grapevine is putting the historical information on the AA Grapevine website from the AA Grapevine Workbook.

- H. Review progress report on actions taken from the findings of the AA Grapevine Fellowship Feedback Survey.

The committee reviewed the progress report on actions taken from the finding of the AA Grapevine Fellowship Feedback Survey. We are pleased they conducted this survey and are now making changes based on the information that was gathered from this survey. We look forward to hearing what the Conference Committee on Grapevine has to say about the AA Grapevine Survey Summary that was only mailed to their Conference Committee for review.

- I. Consider a request to develop an AA Grapevine pamphlet on how the AA Grapevine can be utilized to carry the A.A. message.

The committee considered a request to develop an AA Grapevine pamphlet on how the AA Grapevine can be utilized to carry the A.A. message. We reviewed the pamphlet P-52 which explains the Grapevine and LaVina. However, our committee agreed with the idea Area 39 had but thought instead of a new pamphlet describing how the A.A. Grapevine can be utilized to carry A.A.'s message of recovery to the still suffering

alcoholic, why not add this information to each issue of the Grapevine and LaVina as we believe more people will see it then having it in a pamphlet. We do not feel another pamphlet is needed.

We like the following examples listed by Area 39 about how the A.A. Grapevine can be utilized to carry A.A.'s message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic:

1. Meeting topics
2. Correctional Facilities
3. Probation and Parole
4. Treatment facilities
5. Loaners
6. Public Information (Displays, Barbershops, Dr.'s offices, etc.)
7. Accessibilities
8. A.A. Anniversary gifts
9. Newcomer Packets
10. Sponsoring Newcomers
11. Military A.A.'s stationed over seas
12. Vacation/Travel
13. Telling your own story (including how to submit your own story)
14. Art/Photographs (photo of your group)
15. A.A. Grapevine booklets/book
16. A.A. Grapevine website (archives as well as current articles)
17. Area, District and/or Group Grapevine Representative

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We believe these examples would be best printed in the Grapevine/La Vina itself. We believe there are already too many pamphlets and that this new pamphlet wouldn't be utilized very well. Our committee would recommend including this information in the actual magazine or updating Pamphlet 52 to include it would sound like better options.

J. Review progress report on development of an Instagram account.

In the background notes, it is stated that this agenda item came from a 2020 Advisory Action, however, it should be noted this agenda item was a 2020 Additional Consideration. The committee reviewed and discussed the progress report on the development of an Instagram account. We appreciate the work put in by the A.A. Grapevine Inc. to establish an Instagram account in line with the Twelve Traditions. We believe the details with specific examples of aligning the Instagram account with the 12 Traditions was well thought out. We are in favor of an A.A. Grapevine Instagram account. We believe social media is the way of the future and to not explore it could risk A.A. being lost to the next generation.

K. Review suggested gender-neutral language options for changes to the A.A. Preamble

We reviewed the 2021 Office Report in which the Grapevine Board considered possible language options for requested changes to the AA Preamble for gender neutral pronouns. We discussed the AA Grapevine Board's identified following possibilities:

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.

Our committee had discussion about the meaning of the words fellowship and community. We agreed fellowship sounded more spiritual than community. However, we also had a discussion if the word fellowship referred to males and if the word may turn some off due to it possibly having a connection to religion. Two committee members noted they did not see the need for gender neutral pronouns and changing "men and women" in the AA Preamble. We ended up with the consensus of our committee having three members in favor of option #1 and three members in favor of option #3.

- L. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2022 or later.
 - The committee reviewed the list of suggested AA Grapevine book topics for 2022 or later and we were in agreement with all of them. There are none listed that we are not in agreement with. We did find the topic entitled, 'Mid Sobriety Crisis', to be a topic of discussion for our committee.

Report & Charter

Summary

- E. Consider a request to revise Concept Eleven essay of the Twelve Concepts for World Services.

Background Information includes a letter from Area 44 Delegate who is the submitter of this Agenda Item. This agenda item is a request to update the Concept XI essay to accurately reflect the current A.A. Service Structure as opposed to the Service Structure from 1960 when Bill W. first wrote the essay. Additional information is provided by Area 44 giving recommendations to update Concept XI. The recommendation is 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 A.A. Grapevine Inc. The ownership of these service corporations by the General Service Boards should also be clarified. Next, the background includes History and Actions Excerpts dating back to 1985 with additional committee considerations and Advisory Actions pertaining to this matter over the years. Lastly, the background information contains the Concept XI Essay.

Committee Report

- E. Consider a request to revise Concept Eleven essay of the Twelve Concepts for World Services.

We discussed the background information from the Area 44 Delegate who is the submitter of this Agenda Item. Our committee is in favor of this agenda item to update the Concept XI essay to accurately reflect the current A.A. Service Structure as opposed to the Service Structure from 1960 when Bill W. first wrote the essay. We believe it would be better to update the Concept XI essay to accurately reflect the current A.A. Service Structure and add a footnote about the Service Structure from 1960 when Bill W. First wrote the essay. Currently, Concept XI essay shows how things used to be with footnotes of current practice. This is confusing. Our committee believes updating this makes sense. We like the idea of the book reflecting current practices with foot notes of how things were done before, for history.

PI

Summary

The PI packet I received has 66 pages of information. Some of the background material dates go back as far as 2016 and there are notes each year after. I am not sure how to summarize all this information and document what I think is missing and break it down into a report, this is my attempt at it. I have read and skimmed and read the material again to come up with a high-level summary, but I keep going back in my head, thinking that I am voicing my option as to what is important in all the agenda items. I believe all the information is important and I don't want to miss something that others may find beneficial, so I encourage a skim/read by everyone of the entire report. As we have done in past delegate workshops, we focused on the items to consider. I have put a greater emphasis on that, but I will include more information that I feel others may want to read about.

There are 8 agenda items listed items A-H

Items A – D are reports given from several different departments, ranging from website analytics, technology services, a list of add on and changes done to AA.org, search engine optimization, and Google Ad Words just to name a very few.

Item B may have some interest as this was a hot topic the last few years regarding Google Grants and the Seventh Tradition, we are given the report from the Ad Hoc Committees from Jan 2021, this report will be forwarded to the conference Committee on Finance. They do include data on Google Ad performance and example of Google Ad.

Item E is one we will want to investigate further as it is the “Consider” item. This is “consider draft plan to create podcasts”. This item includes background from reports,

considerations, and PI committee meetings. They provide an update to the research and considerations regarding logistics and sustainability, content production to the pilot and beyond. Content will be interesting as they note that there are already several podcasts on recovery related topics that are available to the public and most being member stories, members sharing on the steps and traditions, workshops etc. so the G.S.O. is in a “unique position to share insights into the service structure: issues from the board meetings and conferences, communication about or by trustees, and 12 concepts in action through the service structure and more”.

Item F is a review of the “A.A. Triennial Membership Survey” report. The background included several recommendations that were not accepted at conference along with the recent one that was accepted in 2020. This item includes the survey from 2014, and recommendations for a future survey starting in 2021. Part of that recommendation is procedural and implementation, it includes a timeline that starts from July 2021 out into future surveys into 2024 and beyond. The timeline that starts this year may use Netsuite to gather group information that will be passed onto delegates. I am not sure if these recommendations will be acted on this year and would like to review further with my committee.

Item G #1. is a Discussion of PI Pamphlets with a “consideration of revising the pamphlet “speaking at Non- A.A. Meetings” Several accounts of background notes, the area request and suggested content along with a draft example of a packet.

Item G #2 - Discuss Public Information Pamphlets. Background includes a list of conference approved PI Literature and PI Service material 12 items total. There are bullet points of information under each item and lists of changes over the years. The committee suggested that further discussion and review of the research grid provided to the full committee is needed to best evaluation the relevancy and content of literature, the committee will add this item to their agenda at their meeting.”

Item H- Review of content and format of PI kit and workbook, from Jan 2021 background there is a consideration of shared concerns on the relevancy of a print copy workbook and kit for the PI committees, and suggestions to explore the development of an A.A. Service Committee App and possible creation of a new digital PDF Version of the P.I. Workbook, a memo was included.

Committee Report

IV. Public Information

- A. Review 2020 annual reports from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.
- B. Review the 2020 trustees' Public Information Committee progress report on Google Ads performance. AA is not a business and using Google

Ads is a type of promotion. Additionally, Google Ads have tracking capabilities on any one clicking on the ad, which is a break of anonymity, regardless of whether any one is actively tracking or not; It still is being recorded and saved somewhere on a server. On the 'pro-Google ad' side of the discussion, AA needs a method of being found when a struggling AA is searching for recovery help. Google Ads answers that need.

- C. Review progress report regarding the 2021 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.
- D. Public Service Announcements (PSAs):
 - 1. Review the 2020 Report on the "Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcements." Yes, review and determine if expense is worth usefulness.
 - 2. Review a progress report on the development of two PSAs.
- E. Consider draft plan to develop podcasts.
 - Should not be considered before logistics are answered first: How will it be produced? Who will run it...in house? How to sustain it? How much will it cost Is this the best direction for AA monies, creating a production studio. Will there be ads? Answer details first, then consider creating podcasts.
- F. Review "A.A. Triennial Membership Survey" report. Info should go to our Delegate before July 2021.
- G. Discuss Public Information pamphlets.
 - 1. Consider revising the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings." After review of current pamphlet, it does not need to be changed. it is not broken. The suggested revised 'Outline', for example, is exactly as what is in the pamphlet already. No changes necessary.
 - 2. Discuss trustees' Public Information Committee review of P.I. pamphlets.
 - Understand anonymity: yes to revision
 - Brief Guide to AA: overlapping pamphlets, not brief, we don't need it, PI postcards are in development.
 - AA at a glance: Created in 1954; suggested revisions are editorial and reasonable.
 - AA Fact File: A small booklet, Today's 'press' would do nothing with this. Very out of date. This could definitely be updated and made electronic.
 - Message to Teenagers: Outdated and should be eliminated from literature. Other pamphlets cover this material and Postcards are being developed, as well as other electronic/textable ways of passing on information.

What does Anonymity Mean to A.A.? : A digital version would be nice.
It could be updated and kept on card form.

H. Review contents and format of P.I. Kit and Workbook.

Treatment

Summary

Item A: Review progress report on the pamphlet "AA for the Older Alcoholic".

- More stories with a broader and diverse representation
- Asking for additional stories by 3/31/2021
- Revised introduction
- Reference to online A.A.
- Update "How to Find A.A. Section"

Item B: Review progress report on audio interviews with A.A. members who are in the Armed Forces

- Production is editing audio clips from preexisting podcast.

Item C: Review contents and format of Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook

- Remove video "Hope:Alcoholics Anonymous"
- Include video "Young People in A.A."
- Include pamphlet "LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A>"
- Include pamphlet "The God Word"
- Put together A.A. Guidelines on Treatment
- Relevancy of print copy of workbook

Item D: Review contents and format of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook

- Relevancy of print copy of workbook
- Update/Replace "A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs"
- Review suggested Workbook updates

If time allows the Committee will also discuss how to treat online only meetings of AA.

Committee Report

Item A: Review progress report on the pamphlet "AA for the Older Alcoholic".

Committee did this review and agree to suggested revisions and update.

- More stories with a broader and diverse representation
- Asking for additional stories by 3/31/2021
- Revised introduction
- Reference to online A.A.
- Update "How to Find A.A. Section"

Item B: Review progress report on audio interviews with A.A. members who are in the Armed Forces
Committee did this review.

- Production is editing audio clips from preexisting podcast.

Item C: Review contents and format of Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook

- Remove video “Hope:Alcoholics Anonymous”
Committee has no strong opinion but noted that the video is dated.
- Include video “Young People in A.A.”
Committee agrees.
- Include pamphlet “LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.”
Committee agrees.
- Include pamphlet “The God Word”
Committee agrees.
- Put together A.A. Guidelines on Treatment
- Relevancy of print copy of workbook
Committee agrees that an on-line version would be best practice and reduce costs.

Item D: Review contents and format of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook

- Relevancy of print copy of workbook
Committee agrees that an on-line version would be best practice and reduce costs.
- Update/Replace “A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs”
Committee was unable to access this and has no opinion on update/replacement but notes that their alcoholics that require special accommodations and the fellowship needs to more cognizant of this fact.
- Review suggested Workbook updates

NOTE: Changes of kits and workbooks will not be floor recommendations and will go back to the appropriate committees.

If time allows the Committee will also discuss how to treat online only meetings of AA. The committee believes that a new Area should be created for online only meetings. If these groups are supporting GSO financially they should have a voice. The committee recognizes that there are logistical issues involved but the committee believes these can be overcome.

Finance

Summary

No Report Given

Committee Report

A: The Pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.”

Continue with pamphlet change review. Emphasis on using Group Conscience for fund distributions.

B: Review Self-Support Packet.

C: 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.

Status Quo is OK. Emphasis on Groups can meet in a club.

D: Discuss Concept XII, Warranty Two and the practice of "selling of our books at cost or less."

Group autonomy sets the use and relevance of funds. Discussion and conscience feel that this should be left as is. If information is brought forward at the Conference that could affect this conscience, we ask that our Delegate assert their 3rd Concept Right of Decision and bring back to the fellowship the results of their decision.

E: Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.

F: Review the Conference-approved level of \$10,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members.

G: Review the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$5,000 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member.

H: Review the "Google Grants and the Seventh Tradition Report."

Still comes down to Traditions and Concepts. It still feels like this is an outside contribution.

Literature

Summary

No Report Given

Committee Report

The Literature Committee was asked by the Area 74 Delegate to provide recommendations on 4 specific items:

Item G. Consider requests to revise text related to open meetings in Pamphlet 16 "The AA Group."

Recommendation: The Committee recommends *AGAINST* moving forward with this revision. (10-1)

Discussion: The Committee felt this provision is adequately provided for within the *Group Conscience* for participation in open meetings for non-alcoholic attendees

Item V. Consider adding the Long Form of each Tradition at the beginning of each essay for that Tradition in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

Recommendation: The Committee voted 11-0 in favor of proceeding with this addition.

Item X. Consider revising the pamphlet "The AA Group," to reflect the importance of the group as a "spiritual entity" as stated in the long form of Tradition Five.

Recommendation: The Committee voted 11-0 in favor of adding the description "spiritual entity" on page 9 of this pamphlet.

Item Y. Consider the text highlighting service roles at the group level in Pamphlet 16, "The AA Group."

Recommendation: The committee voted 11-0 to accept revising the wording of question 9, p29 from "*holding office*" to "*trusted service*."

In addition to these 4 requested areas of input, the Committee offers some input on several other agenda items:

Item Z. The Committee unanimously approves of moving forward with revisions to the pamphlet "*A.A. for the Native North American*."

Discussion: It was pointed out that there are over 577 recognized tribes just within the United States of America, with different dialects even with those tribes. This does not even take into account Canada. Literature should be consulted upon with the Native speakers in that particular area.

Item F. The Committee discussed at length the addition of the subtitle "*How Not to Take the First Drink*." To the book "*Living Sober*."

Recommendation: The committee voted 8-3 in favor of adding the above subtitle.

Discussion: The majority of dissent in this area stems from whether or not this book should even be Conference approved literature. Consensus was that whether or not it SHOULD be, fact is that it IS. Subtitle is approved to move forward from this Committee.

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