**Area 74 Delegate’s Workshop Summaries – Workshop held on 3/8/2025, attendance was 48**

**Area 74 Conference Committee on Trustees** (6 in attendance)

 ITEM A1: Review resumes of candidates for East Central Regional Trustee

We could not review  the resumes ,  So we talked about the candidates a lot of us were familiar with a lot of the candidates we assumed our delegate will vote for our candidate.

ITEM G: Consider request to include the version of the Lasker Award text in A.A. Comes of Age in the book Alcoholics Anonymous.

We reviewed the current version now in the back of the Big Book after much discussion we came to the conclusion the version as it is now has a lot of spirituality   and adding more words to it would take some of that away.

 ITEM F: Review Censure Process Proposal

 We spent a lot of time on this it seems concept 10 says it can be done but does not give a path to do it. This proposal is a way to    carry out censure if and when needed, there is a lot if background on this proposal that we looked at, one question is what  actions could be censured

and who would determine it altho there is a list on page 2 of the background, is there more?

We also asked is censure punitive.

 summitted by James M   S&G Chair

**Area 74 Finance Committee Report to the 2025 Delegate’s Workshop 8 participants:**

Item A. Consider a request to reaffirm the 1975 Advisory Action that Delegates emphasize to the Groups the affect that inflation has had on the contribution of dollars and the necessity for adjusting contribution accordingly, to support services provided by the General Service Board. (GSB) There is no justification for this. We are not children; we can figure out the money issue ourselves and not have to be scolded to give more money. Noting: there was another Agenda Item that has been withdrawn. The Agenda item asked for a review of money spent. The Agenda item has now been withdrawn. The Trustees’ Committee was not transparent & did not review the data. They decided to take the NO consideration. However, in this Agenda Item A, they they are asking the Fellowship for more money even though we didn’t get Background information on the 1975 Advisory Action. Nicholas found it and read it to the Committee. It was very convincing because of what was happening in the world at the time: there was an oil crisis and a 14.4 interest rate. A member questioned how we can Stewards of the Area’s money if the GSB & Trustees’ Committee cannot be honest & transparent about one Agenda item and not the other? We need to encourage and educate the Fellowship on what things we spend money on and what is appropriate use of the Area’s money. We want to know why we’re “transparent” with one Agenda item but the other?

Agenda Item B. Review suggested area contribution for Delegate expenses for the Conference. Is it time to raise the contribution amount? Area 74 currently pays $2,200 to seat the Delegate. The entire paid by the Conference could be anywhere between $7,000 to $10,000 due to inflation. The Committee recommends a review to see if it’s feasible for the Area to increase the amount. The Area does contribute more later if possible.

Agenda Item C. Review the conference-approved level of $10,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members. Can individual bequests increase every year in perpetuity every year through a trust or only a one time contribution of $10,000. Due to the increase, we think the increase is valid.

Agenda Item D. Review the Conference-approved level of $7,500 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member. Limits can be attributed to “the power of the purse”. This would seem like a “random review process”. The committee observed from the background history of the money spent going back many years, that there were many increases.

Agenda Item E. Review Self-Support Package There has been a huge change/shift from the 2017 Self-Support packet to the 2025 packet being reviewed today. The packet contains 7 pamphlets: 1. Self-Support card-nice personalized explanation and facts that will help someone who is considering support. Very honest & transparent. 2. Self-Support Money & Spiritually-Nice picture/Logo. Very appealing. 3. AA Group Treasurer-Modern picture showing cell phone and how to contribute using your cell phone. Easy to understand verbiage for the Treasurer, Easy to understand about the legacy of the Group Treasurer. Powerful! 4. AA-Guidelines-no change 5. 7th Traditions Contribution flyers (2)-Lists 12 reasons to contribute. Pleasing because of pictures of much of AA literature. When is it overkill? The committee wondered how much the new packet cost vs the old packet. Inflation? 6 & 7. La Viña & Birthday Contribution Envelope Agenda Item F. Consider request to remove phrase, “A Group may also decline to hear reports from a GSR at all.” The Trustees’ General Service Conference Committee on 11/2/24 meeting report said, “We reviewed the request to remove the phrase and ‘agreed to forward’ to the 2025 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.” Our committee reviewed page 10 of the new 2025 A.A. Service Manual, and agreed that the verbiage was not needed and seems very punitive. We wanted background on why anyone would think this was appropriate to put in the Service Manual in the first place. There was no background available. \*\*Perhaps the Reports & Charter Committee could shed some light

**Grapevine Discussion for Delegates Workshop 3/8/2025**

* Present
  + Bryon B. Chairman and past delegate, Mark Alt GSR from Dist. 1, Bryan B GSR and Dist. 5 grapevine chair, Tim GSR Dist. 5, Max GSR Dist. 5, Brian L GSR Dist. 5, Bill D Area Chair and Alt Delegate, Terry O Dist. 8 Grapevine Rep and Alt DCM and Area Structures and guidelines committee member, Sieria T GSR Dist. 5, Mary B GSR Dist. 1
  + 10 Area 74 attendees

Item C Review the 5-year financial plan for La Vina.

* Background
  + La Vina launched in 1995 and the GS conference approved funding for 5 years with the idea that if it was not self-supporting in 5 years it would be discontinued. The following conferences continued to approve funding even though it was losing money, the value it brought was worth it
  + What is the La Vina currently
    - It is bimonthly and mimics the Grapevine for spiritual parity
  + La Vina is a service that we offer and is part of our primary purpose to carry the message.
  + The plan was developed and is being presented it is not implemented yet.
  + We do not have access to the actual 5-year plan, as this is reserved for just the people who are part of the conference committee and this is for different reasons, such as copyright and other reasons. This committee will bring their report and their review of the 5-year plan to the full GSC.
  + A lot of subscriptions for La Vina are done through La Vina reps in a city or group and not on an individual level.
  + There is a competition with the Mexican version of the grapevine.
  + The Grapevine also operates at a loss some years.
* Questions
  + What are the debts that are spoken about or are they just the operating expenses?
    - We looked at the recent financial reports.
      * 636k loss in 2022 and 755k loss in 2023 that are supplemented by the GSO
  + Are net losses expected to continue to grow?
    - There was 100k growth in the losses from 2022 to 2023.
  + Why is there a large difference between revenue per Grapevine app and revenue per La Vina App?
    - The grapevine makes 2.89 and La Vina makes 1.79.
  + Is the addition of 1 Spanish speaking employee coming out of the GSO budget or the La Vina budget?
  + What is the percentage of overprinting that La Vina does? What are the storage costs?
  + Ask the delegates who have experience with La Vina what their experience is?
  + Is there an option of going all digital?
  + Is La Vina worth the value that it provides? And do we want to support it at a loss?
  + Is there a better way to carry the message of AA to Spanish speaking alcoholics?
    - La Vina is not the only way, maybe we need to consider better outreach?

Item D Review the progress report on a plan for a more effective La Vina subscription procedure, fulfillment process and customer service experience.

**Background**

* La Vina customer service is terrible, the grapevine had issues a few years ago and it was worked on and is much better today.
* The GSC last year asked La Vina to fix the issues of subscription fulfillment and customer service. There was an ad hoc committee to do this.
* The subscription growth for Grapevine from 2023 to 2024 has gone up 17%, which is significant. Whatever they did must have made a difference.

**Questions**

* What changes were made for the Grapevine that influenced the increase in subscriptions?
* How can we reach out to Spanish speaking AA groups, as an Area?
  + There is one in dist. 1 that we know of, where are there others
* How can we help make la vina more accessible?
* Can the La Vina put together resources for non-Spanish speaking members to help them reach out to Spanish Speaking alcoholics?

Item F Consider request to review the pamphlet “Grapevine and La Vina: Our meetings in print”

**Background**

* Proposed in order to revise and fix outdated and missing information, specifically digital services.
* An example is if you submit a story and it is published the pamphlet has the wrong information on if they will contact you.
* Digital services are missing or has the wrong information.
* It is not a substantive change but details.

**Questions**

* Does this fall under the periodic review of literature?
* Since the PAI was submitted are there any other changes or improvements that would work well?
* Is the AA Grapevine statement of purpose going to stay the same?

Item G Review report on “AAGV/La Vina media platforms”

**Background**

* The report is to tell us about the metrics and changes for the app, website, podcast, Instagram, youtube, audio projects, the catalog.

**Questions**

* Can they provide data visualization (Graphs) for the explanation of the numbers and metric?
* Can they make the report more understandable to the layperson?

Our Experiences with the Plain Language Big Book

* Dist. 1 has a new group that is studying the Plain Language Big Book.
* One person who attended has found the book to be easily understandable.
* We have heard that corrections and treatment committees have had positive experiences with it.
* A few of us liked it and have learned news things and see it as the language of the heart for them
* Others have seen that it isn’t changing the big book, but is a good tool to help carry the message to alcoholics

**Area 74 Corrections Committee Items to be Discussed at Delegates Workshop**

**CORRECTIONS**

**Item E** – Consider request to update appendix IV in the book Alcoholics Anonymous to include other awards and commendations received by AA since 1951.

Individual Submission No support from area or District

Background indicates: Trustees Committee agreed to forward this item to 2025 Conference Committee on Literature

Feedback from Corrections Committee at Delegates Workshop:

* This item was presented by an individual and did not go through the group conscience process.
* How does the divergent medical opinions play out
* Are we opening the door to having huge appendices
* How would medical research of today positively or negatively impact the need for a spiritual solution
* Is it being boastful –
* Is it too much reading
* Could the awards be seen as influential
* History may be of interest to alcoholics already in the program
* Would this be setting a precedent
* We have no idea how many awards there are – And does that make a difference

**POLICY AND ADMISSIONS**

**Item C:** Discuss Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) progress report and draft plan. Recommendation was already made to implement at the 2025 EDW General Service Conference

* It doesn’t seem like Archives got any new distributions. We weren’t clear on what the tables and charts were actually saying.
* It looks like after the EDW nothing has been distributed to Archives and what was given to ICRF was taken away. That was curious to us. And Report and Charter agenda item was sent to Finance.
* Could Archives or ICRF look at 1 item?
* What do we gain and what are we loosing.
  + It doesn’t help us get the Conference Agenda items any sooner.
  + Delegates no longer get to weigh in on what is being placed on the Agenda. The decision is made long before the January phone call.
  + The release of information doesn’t coincide with Area 74 calendar so we really can’t weigh in as an informed group conscience.
* This issue was a hot topic – there was strong conversation

**Item E**: Consider request that a supermajority of voting members be required to change or amend founders literature.

Does your group support increasing the approval threshold from two-third (substantial unanimity) to three-fourths (super majority) for changes to literature written by AA.’s founders

* If you want a super majority would 75% enough to make it a super majority, or should it be more.
* Having a higher supermajority would preserve higher unity
* It will make it harder to change the original writings

**Item G**: Consider request to prioritize a selection criteria to inform the committee selection process

Is having a consistent number of new delegates on each committee more important than maintaining a geographic spread within each committee.

* We don’t know that these are mutually exclusive – they are both important
* What is more important whether you are all new or where you’re from - both
* If it’s software why couldn’t the decision process be weighted to consider both
* What happened in the Corrections Committee in 2023 that made them even bring this to the table
* One member said the geography would be more important than experience on the committee. Because you can’t compensate for life experience

**Plain language Big-Book**

* When working with a sponsee, my mind went back to what I learned in the Big Book.
* General consensus was that they would be beneficial in jails
* One person was curious about the glossary and who came up with and approved the glossary terms.

Literature Committee

* ﻿Item J. We voted 6-2 in favor of the request to include the Twelve Concepts in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. Niccie B was on this committee, she’s been an AA member for 17 years and had never heard of the concepts. We feel that this would better expose the concepts to members who might otherwise be unfamiliar with them.  
    
  Item K. We unanimously voted no to consider a request to update the book Living Sober. One member loves the book as is. We already have several pamphlets that address diversity. We find it ironic to ask for a book that was written by a gay man, Barry Leach, to be revised to include more diversity. Jeff and Jim suggested revising the book digitally but not in print, Rick really likes print.  
    
  Item L. For any changes being made in the Plain Language Big Book, we’re all in favor of the revision process.

**Public Information Report**

* Item F. Review report on meeting guide app.
* There is tracking on the meeting guide. The 'everything aa' app doesn't have that to inform GSO.
* There are 1.6 million active users.
* Possible additions to the app could be literature, even "audio" literature. Also a section for online meetings (that are not tied to a certain locale). This online idea is in the works but not fully established yet. Additionally, a way to contribute to GSO. And lastly,  a consideration to make clear our non-affiliation with the churches where many meetings are being held.
* An idea for a day counting calendar came up. Most of us like the meeting guide but find it misses the newcomer. About the only way they run across it, seemingly, is to Google it.
* Item G. Review report on GSO's website.
* In general the wbsite is great for information. But search engine could be improved. The website is sort of boring, graphically. Might need to be more jazzy/colorful. Love that BB can be seen in sign language. Online Chat could be quite wonderful if able to implement it well. Australia and Great Britain have already added this to their websites. So, Item G is to discuss revisions to the report about the GSO website. We are really asking the groups to weigh in on their overall impressions of the website....how does it positively (or negatively) affect the brand new person coming to AA?
* Item M. Discuss Public Information pamphlets/materials.
* Here we beg the question, do these literature items meet the needs of AA, fulfilling our primary purpose - reach the suffering alcoholic!
* We didn't have time to read all the pamphlets. One of the young people videos seemed to maybe break anonymity. The 'Under 25' one. Pamphlets can be helpful to carry the message. Groups can be asked if any of the listed materials seem to be outdated or no longer helpful. Also design may need improvement or the message of the great joys of recovery may need to be stronger...especially in the young people videos.
* Report and Charter --
* Item A3. Remove the word 'woman' from the Concept IV essay written by Bill W.
* It could be something to not change because it's a founder's writing. Or it may need to be updated to keep it from sounding chauvinistic and offensive. It was simply written that way because back then all the staff members at GSO were women.  Bill wanted them to have the same voting privileges as the AA service members. This item is suggesting this sentence could be non-gender specific.  It's not about changing gender identity. What's printed is inaccurate, meaning it's not just women who are staff members at GSO currently.
* Item B. Consider a request..... Founders writings.
* This is from Area 35, Northern MN. By Founders writings they are talking about such things as the BB, Traditions,  As Bill Sees It, AA Comes of Age, archival articles by Silkworth, Dowling, etc., etc. The issue is about changing the vote from a 2/3 majority (to make any alterations to the above mentioned literature) to a 3/4 super majority of the voting members. This makes it more difficult to make any changes to these types of historical documentation. It would change some of the wording in Article 3. This idea has been put forth a couple of times already at the GSC but the committee has taken no action.

**Area 74 CPC Committee Roll call - Mike N., Barry, Pat A., Lil, Therese, Dylan, Chareasa**

**Agenda - Item G - Discuss plan to print and distribute the comprehensive summary of the 2025 General Service Conference Inventory**

Some people do not have easy access to internet/computers.

Better to have print version - usable with newcomers to explain what takes place

Print version has spiritual value; cost is minimal in the grand scheme.

\*\*Will this be an independent publication of the conference report?

Print version will be available for future servants.

\*\*Can the inventory be included in the GSC report?

**Group agrees that a printed version is valuable.**

**Item I - Consider the request to suspend oral presentations of all Area Service Highlights and continue printing highlights in the final report.**

Oral presentations seem like a valuable use of time in the interest of building community and gaining knowledge.

Time given to this honors the delegate and gives them additional validity.

Demonstrates variety across the country, contributing to the delegates’ knowledge base of how AA can work.

Time constraints should be acknowledged, but maybe elimination of another topic could be considered.

Perhaps a way to do this is to have “tables” with X number of area delegates to share out.

If the elimination of this is the only proposed option to free up time, perhaps explore other options. as this seems to be valuable and purposeful to our AA health.

**Group agrees that oral presentations should be kept, in some form or other.**

**Item J - Consider a proposal pilot for a Harmony and Effectiveness Session to discuss grievances about General Service Board Actions**

Seeks to  establish a process for resolving conflicts within the structure, mainly delegate referencing GSB action.

Re: When - after the board reports, finance reports, and conference committee meetings have occurred. This is a time when attendees are tired and spent, which is not a good time to do this.

Concepts 3 and 10 already address issues of conflict.

Mechanisms are already in place to address major problems.

Also concept 11, the conference charter, correspondence to the GSB, and the general sharing session at the conference are in place to address matters.

**Group agrees that the proposed pilot for a Harmony and Effectiveness Session is NOT warranted**

Area 74 Delegates Workshop

Afternoon Post Committee Reports Questions and Summary

1. **Agenda**

G. Discuss plan to print and distribute the comprehensive summary of the

2025 General Service Conference Inventory

* Who would the summary be sent to?
* A copy of a past printed summary was shown
* It was suggested that the printed summary be optional and up to individual delegates to request quantity desired (if any)

I. Consider the request to suspend oral presentations of all Area Service Highlights and continue printing highlights in the final report – no questions

J. Consider a proposed pilot for a Harmony and Effectiveness session to discuss Grievances about GSB actions

* Did the background material distinguish between general sharing vs. Harmony sessions?
* This question was answered that Harmony and Effectiveness Session would be a new addition and not the same as existing sharing session
* It was pointed out that this item seems similar to Trustees – Item F

*[to simplify this summary report going forward – items without any questions or comments after the report was given may be omitted]*

III. **Corrections**

E. Consider request to update Appendix IV in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*

to include other awards and commendations received since 1951.

From Literature EDW - No questions

however comments included lack of support for adding any accolades

IV. **Finance**

1. – no questions (at first – see below for more)
2. Clarifying question asked and answered from the floor regarding this item and it’s similarity to Area specific matter addressed at last assembly
3. No questions
4. No questions
5. Regarding self-support packet a question from the floor – Are the 2017-2024 figures included and what else has changed from the “old” packet? Answer – “just the look”
6. No questions

Following a question about the background information from the floor “Who submitted the item A request for consideration?” This question was incorrectly answered with misinformation and comments by a Finance committee member opining. Our Current Delegate spoke with the facts. Accurate information was provided citing the contributing Area and Delegate who raised the floor action at 74th GSC to consider reaffirming a 1975 Advisory Action; clarifying that neither GSO nor GSB are asking for increased contributions. With grace patience and poise, we were diplomatically reminded that false and/or misleading statements can be divisive.

V. **Grapevine and La Viña**

C. Review the 5-year financial plan for La Viña no questions

D, F, & G no questions

VI. **Literature**

J. Consider request that the Twelve Concepts for World Service and essays on the Twelve Concepts for World Service be included in the current publication, *12 Steps*  *and 12 Traditions* (PAI 23) no questions but our Delegate clarified the actual size of the twelve concepts essays correcting an earlier statement that it was the service manual

K, L no questions

VII. **Policy/ Admissions**

C. no questions

E. Consider request that a Super Majority of voting members be required to change or amend Founders Literature - discussion ensued with some misunderstanding the difference between 2/3 two-thirds vote (substantial unanimity) and three- fourths vote (super majority).

This was further muddled by someone referring to a completely different matter of protection of the 12 Traditions, Concepts and 6 Warranties and Article XII of the Conference Charter page C48 of The AA Service Manual as well as Appendices K and L.

G. Selection criteria to inform the committee selection process for assigning new delegates to a conference committee. No questions

VIII. **Public Information**

F. Meeting Guide App – questions about tracking and Is it trying to do too much?

G. Review report on GSO’s A.A. Website - No questions and a request to ask your groups and members about experience with aa.org and provide feedback to our Delegate about website use

M. no questions

IX. **Report and Charter**

A-3 to remove the word “woman” from Concept IV essay in the next service manual to accurately read “any paid staff member” instead of any paid woman staff member

B. Consider a request to expand Article Three in the Conference Charter to protect the Co-Founders' writings

XI. **Trustees**

A1(ECR) – Due to the special election and time sensitive circumstances for selecting a nominee from our area to put forward as East Central Regional Trustee, by the very nature of rushing without an alternative candidate – Area 74 groups and members did not have a voice or a vote.

F. Censure process proposal – there were questions about historical background, and punitive action going against Concepts

G. Expanding appendix IV In the book Alcoholics Anonymous to provide a more detailed and explicit explanation of the Lasker Award - no questions

XIII. **International Conventions/Regional Forums (IC/RF)**

D. Ways to encourage interest and participation at Regional Forums

Suggest ask groups and bring ideas to next Assembly