

2024 General Service Conference

AREA 74

Delegate's Workshop Report

The items in this document are what the Area 74 Delegate is asking Districts, Groups, and individual AA members to give him feedback on. The list below (corresponding with the yellow highlighted items) will be discussed at the Winter Assembly on 03/30/2024.

**Thanks to our friends in
California Northern Coastal Area 06
For creating this helpful template**

Disclosures:

The materials in this document are summaries of the background for the different agenda topics under discussion at the General Service Conference this year. Information presented in the summaries is carefully distilled or extracted to be concise and provide enough information so that all districts and members in Area 74 can fully participate. For more information on any particular item(s), please refer to the background documents (available from your DCM and from the Area website www.area74.org)

Please do not consider the summaries to be the personal opinions of the Area 74 Delegate. Only the section on "What the Delegate needs to know" is personally from our Delegate. Everything else is intended to be a *summary* of what is in the background.

This includes background for the 74th General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential AA document. Distribution is limited to AA members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites (including social media pages) available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members.

A Message from the Delegate: How to Use These Summaries

This document contains the **Agenda Topic Summaries and input from committees of the Area 74 Delegate's Workshop** held in Wausau, WI on 3/2/24. These items all come from the background information for all of the items to be considered by the thirteen Conference committees of the 74th General Service Conference. The topics will be discussed by their respective committees, and the committees **may** or **may not** send recommendations to the whole Conference for consideration and vote.

The **purpose** of these summaries is so that they may be used as a tool by General Service Representatives (GSRs) and District Committee Members (DCMs) to provide their groups and districts with pertinent information to facilitate an informed group conscience and then to convey that group conscience to the Area 74 Delegate. In many cases, the summaries serve as an appetizer and those GSRs and groups with an interest in more information can obtain the complete background by way on our Area website. You can access the website at www.area74.org – then click on the link for 74th General Service Conference.

Please remember to **treat the background as confidential**, and do not share it in any public forum or with non-AA members. This is because the background may contain first and last names of AA members, their emails, their addresses, or other personal information.

At the bottom of each summary is a section called: “What does the Delegate need to know?”

Not all topics make for fruitful discussion at group level, and this is intended to help you narrow that down. Many of the agenda topics are only for that specific committee (such as reviewing a draft or progress report on the development of a piece of literature) and do not require a group conscience, but they still may be of great interest to read and share. Other topics appear every year, such as reviewing workbooks and kits used by Public Information, Corrections, etc. Local committees may wish to share their experience. These summaries may also be used by other members of our Fellowship to communicate valuable information about the agenda topics and, where appropriate, to convey opinions to the Delegate. The questions in this section, if any, are intended to be a guide, not a limit, for your sharing sessions. Feel free to interpret them broadly.

You can share your group consciences with me at the Pre-Conference Assembly on March 30th – hybrid. I will also be hosting virtual listening sessions posted in the Area Newsletter the Now & Then. I will also be utilizing survey monkey as an opportunity for people to provide input to me, but I prefer hearing group consciences so that other groups can hear what your group had to say. This allows for a more fruitful discussion.

Thank you for participating in the Conference process!

In love and service,
Nicholas Stabenow-Schneider
A74/P74 Delegate
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These are the specific items/questions I will be seeking feedback on at the 03/30/2024 Winter Assembly. I am also open/wanting to hear feedback on the additional questions in the table below (not highlighted) and any item that is important to you. (For the 16 questions directly below - please see yellow highlighted items in the table below for corresponding information)

1. **Consider a request to develop a pamphlet on the unhoused alcoholic in A.A.**
2. **Consider updated Singleness of Purpose text to replace the existing paragraph in the pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals.”**
3. **Consider a request to develop a pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in A.A.**

4. Consider a request that the General Service Board develop supplemental reporting focused on the actual and evolving costs of various services provided by the GSB.
5. Review progress report reflecting shared experience from the Fellowship on possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s founders.
6. Discuss the cost effectiveness and sustainability of continuing to print La Viña.
7. Explore the services provided by AA Grapevine and how they should be funded.
8. Consider a request to develop a pamphlet on the Asian and Asian-American alcoholics in A.A.
9. Review draft manuscript of the translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language.
10. Consider a request that the words "Donation" and "Contribution" be swapped under Warranty One in "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" pamphlet.
11. Review report of the GSB Ad-Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the U.S./Canada Service Structure.
12. Public Information B1/B2/B3 – Overall input/summary on PSAs
13. Consider revised proposal to develop an AAWS Instagram account.
14. Discuss the reporting of Simple Majority Items.
15. Review report on what resources are currently available from the General Service Office and the AA Grapevine to meet accessibility-related challenges and how those resources are communicated to the Fellowship.
16. Review progress report on updating A.A. Service Material to better carry the message to alcoholics with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities.
17. Discuss guidelines or parameters for deadlines of Conference agenda items.
18. Discuss a report concerning virtual programming for the 2025 International Convention.
19. Discuss options for closing the Big Meeting at the International Convention.

Conference Committee: Agenda — Item C

Agenda Topic	Review workshop topic ideas for the 2025 General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The 16 workshop topic ideas for the 2025 General Service Conference are listed in the background material. In the background, one can also find a list with the workshop topics of every Conference between 1985 and 2024. The Agenda committee will review and discuss all the ideas submitted and present a recommendation to the full Conference for approval.</p> <p>Area 74 Delegate Workshop Committee Highlighted these 5 –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How Online Groups Are Changing the Face of A.A. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Zoom meetings. b. Many meetings are now Zoom only and no physical person. c. Allows those that are not mobile to attend meeting, however they we believe they need to be encouraged to become "Groups" so these can be found by others. 2. Unity -- Putting Our Principles into Practice 3. How to Access A.A. Principles and Structures Online <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Explaining how things work b. Where things are located c. How to access Zoom, Apps, Meeting, Forms etc. d. Would be nice to have AA Websites generally the same offering a basic template to follow. 4. Carrying This Message to All Who Want It

	5. What Can We Be Doing to Encourage Members to Become More Active in Carrying Our Message?
What does the Delegate need to know?	What workshop ideas does your group like?

Conference Committee: Agenda — Item G

Agenda Topic	Review Conference Inventory plan for the 2025 General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The General Service Conference will hold its inventory in 2025. The background notes that inventory participants will include all voting members: first- and second-year delegates, trustees, directors, and staff.</p> <p>A draft of the plan for the 2025 Inventory is in the background. The inventory will include fifteen workshop groups, each with approximately nine members. Preliminary inventory will be conducted via an online survey, which will then be shared to each working group. Workshop groups will meet during time slots reserved for presentations, and then report back the result of their discussion to the full Conference. A comprehensive inventory report will be produced after the inventory is complete; it will be distributed electronically to all Conference members and be posted on the AA website; information about the inventory may be included in Box 459 and other AAWS publications.</p> <p>There are potential questions for inventory in the background.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group have any concerns about the Inventory plan for the 2025 General Service Conference? If so, what are they?

Conference Committee: Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item D

Agenda Topic	Discuss effectiveness and relevance of CPC videos currently on aa.org.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In October 2023, the trustees discussed ways to update the videos targeted at professionals and what approaches should be considered concerning, content, cost and other factors when reviewing current CPC videos. They noted the current language of the videos and asked for consideration to be made to assist in focusing the content for pre-professionals as well as professionals.</p> <p>During a follow-up meeting in January 2024, trustees reviewed a proposal to revise three CPC videos currently available on the AA.org website. The committee requested the term “pre-professionals” be replaced by “para-professionals” to ensure that we are including those who work alongside the professionals in supporting roles. The committee noted the estimated production cost appears reasonable. Video editing (with six rounds of revisions) would total \$3,000; stock music costs \$2,000, and translation would cost \$1,000.</p> <p>The videos under review are at: www.aa.org/A.A.-Video-for-Healthcare-Professionals. www.aa.org/A.A.-Video-for-Legal-and-Corrections-Professionals. www.aa.org/A.A.-Video-for-Employment-Human-Resources-Professionals.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group have any concerns about updating these videos? Are there additional suggestions to enhance the effectiveness and relevance of these videos?

Conference Committee: Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item E

Agenda Topic (1)	Consider a request to develop a pamphlet on the unhoused alcoholic in A.A.
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Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This agenda item is being proposed by Area 40 (Montana). It was first proposed by a group who recognized a need in their community within District 41 (centered around Great Falls, MT). The Area Literature Committee passed the motion and brought it to the floor of the Assembly, where it passed with substantial unanimity. The background notes that the Area reviewed current AA literature prior to submitting this proposed agenda topic and did not find any references to the unhoused or homeless. The request asked for a pamphlet on AA for the Unhoused Person that specifically addresses alcoholism, what A.A. is and is not, and that includes personal stories from A.A. members who have experienced homelessness. The trustees' Literature Committee received this request and forwarded it to the Conference for input.</p> <p>Area 74 Delegate Workshop Committee added the following; Pros: This is based in recovery, it fills a need and relatively inexpensive.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think this pamphlet would be useful? Why or why not? How do we address the barriers that unhoused alcoholics experience in accessing A.A.?

Conference Committee: **Corrections — Item A**

Agenda Topic (2)	Consider updated Singleness of Purpose text to replace the existing paragraph in the pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2022, the Conference Committee on Corrections made multiple suggestions for revision and update to the Corrections Workbook, including a change to the “Singleness of Purpose” section of the pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals.” That change centered on updating professional terminology based on evolving language regarding alcoholism and addiction. GSO Publishing has also suggested that we remove professional labels (like Substance Use Disorder) from our literature so that we do not need to update literature as professional terminology changes.</p> <p>As a result of these suggestions, the following paragraph would replace a paragraph that uses professional terminology in the pamphlet.</p> <p>“Some professionals refer to alcoholics and drug addicts as a single group when using professional terminology. Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Nonalcoholics may attend open A.A. meetings as observers, but attendance at closed meetings is limited to persons who have a desire to stop drinking.”</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that this change accurately communicates the difference between open and closed meetings to corrections professionals? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Corrections — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review the video “Carrying the Message Behind These Walls” for effectiveness, relevance, and intended audience.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The video “Carrying the Message Behind These Walls” addressed multiple audiences over an extended duration. The Trustees’ Corrections Committee suggested that the Conference review the video for effectiveness, relevance, and intended audience. They noted that a shorter, more targeted presentation could be more effective.</p> <p>The video can be found online at www.aa.org/Carrying-the-Message-Behind-These-Walls.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that the video “Carrying the Message Behind These Walls” remains effective and relevant? Would they prefer an updated video? What changes would your group like to see in a new video? In what format (DVD, VHS, streaming) would they like to see future videos?

Conference Committee: **Corrections — Item D**

Agenda Topic (3)	Consider a request to develop a pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in A.A.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Area 06 (California Northern Coastal) requested that a pamphlet entitled “Experience, Strength and Hope: AA for the Transgender Alcoholic” be produced. The Area passed this proposal by substantial unanimity after multiple years of discussion. While a pamphlet for the LGBT alcoholic already exists, the Area noted that gender identity and expression is different from sexuality, and the unique barriers of transgender, non-binary, genderqueer, gender-fluid, two spirit, and gender non-conforming alcoholics could be better addressed in a separate pamphlet. This proposal began at Queer Femmes: A Meeting for Trans Women and Queer Femmes of All Genders, a group in Oakland, CA, was forwarded to the District, where discussion occurred for the better part of 2018. The proposal was then forwarded to the Area, which discussed the proposal for two years until the motion to forward the request passed in 2021.</p> <p>The background includes a letter from the originator of the proposal that details the numerous reasons a separate pamphlet is being requested.</p> <p>The background also links to the pamphlet “LGBTQ Alcoholics in AA,” which can be found online at www.aa.org/lgbtq-alcoholics-aa.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that this pamphlet would be useful? Why or why not? How do we address the barriers that transgender alcoholics experience in accessing AA?

Conference Committee: **Finance — Item A**

Agenda Topic (4)	Consider a request that the General Service Board develop supplemental reporting focused on the actual and evolving costs of various services provided by the GSB.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Area 47 (Central New York) submitted this proposed agenda item. As online services increase, (Meeting Guide app, podcasts, Instagram accounts, etc.) they come with more long- term costs such as server fees, development costs as platforms evolve, and ongoing content creation, which will increase over time. This proposed new reporting would be developed to communicate better the costs of the services being provided to the fellowship and could be included as background information for any agenda item listed in the report. The background has some considerations listed regarding content, frequency, and the level of detail to consider, as well as a list of items that are already reported on.</p> <p>Area 74 Delegate Workshop Committee added: Stated need: The intent is to provide better insight as to what our various services cost and better inform the fellowship of where our contributions are being spent.</p> <p>Support: Passed unanimously at the area 47 assembly on 6/11/23.</p> <p>Traditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two – trusted servants. • Nine – service boards and committees directly responsible to those they serve. <p>Steps: None identified by this committee.</p> <p>Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One – final responsibility and ultimate authority should reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship. • Three – right of decision, trust in our trusted servants. <p>Benefits/Drawbacks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stated benefit: If approved, new reporting would be developed to communicate better the costs of the services being provided to the fellowship. • Other benefits: accountability, transparency, restoration of trust. • Drawbacks: additional workload and clutter, “information overload.” <p>Resources/Costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources needed: compilation of data into a presentable format. • Cost estimate: no cost estimate included in the submission.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to existing documents needed: nothing that would require legal action. <p>Other Methods to Meet Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other options: verbal reporting instead of written but probably not an effective way to communicate. <p>Pros:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trust, transparency, better informed groups. <p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small resource need to compile this report.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think this new reporting will be an effective tool to communicate the cost of certain services to the fellowship? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Finance— Item C**

Agenda Topic (5)	Review progress report reflecting shared experience from the Fellowship on possible future changes to literature written by A.A.’s founders.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Following a Committee Consideration from the 73rd General Service Conference 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, the trustees’ Literature Committee met to discuss and subsequently developed a list of suggested questions for discussion. The list was distributed to all Conference Delegates with the anticipation that the Area Delegates would schedule discussions within their Areas, utilizing the proposed questions to help inform the discussions.</p> <p>The background includes a letter noting that this was never intended to be a survey of groups – but rather a discussion at each Area.</p> <p>Area 74 Workshop Committee added: History: Various proposals to changing writings by the A.A. founders has been presented at past conferences. Previous changes include (for example): removing two paragraphs from the essay on concept eleven in the service manual (women folk are a problem); two changes in the twelve and twelve (“opposite sex” and “lustful enough to rape”). Source: Conference committee on literature. Stated need: Not specifically stated in the agenda item itself. Letter went out to fellowship in November of 2023 asking the fellowship how we should treat the A.A. founders writings. Support: Intent is to seek feedback. Traditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One – common welfare should come first. People are concerned that changes may cause a fracture in our fellowship. Two – a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience. People are concerned that not everyone is aware and able to participate. <p>Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twelve – carrying the message. Is the message changing? <p>Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One – final responsibility and ultimate authority should reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship. Four – right of participation, is everyone represented and weighing in? <p>Benefits/Drawbacks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stated benefit: No stated benefit, this agenda item was to gather information. <p>Resources/Costs:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources needed: getting information out to fellowship and then getting information back.
What does the Delegate need to know?	As an Area, we will share our groups' experiences on possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s founders during the Assembly as part of a sharing session.

Conference Committee: Finance— Item D

Agenda Topic	Review video "Hope" for effectiveness and relevance.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In October 2023 The trustees' CPC/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee met and reviewed the video "Hope" as part of their regular review of material associated with treatment and accessibilities. The committee agreed to forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities the video "Hope" for discussion on its' effectiveness and relevance. The current video was approved in 2009, and an evaluation tool in the background provides some useful questions to ask when reviewing this specific video.</p> <p>The video is at www.aa.org/Hope-Alcoholics-Anonymous.</p> <p>Area 74 Workshop Committee Added:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is information included in the video up to date? Yes. 2. Does the video include slogans or tag lines? Don't remember hearing any. 3. Does the video convey a message the organization is currently looking to get across? Yes. Main actor is celebrating her first year of recovery, general discussion of recovery, discussion of primary purpose, sponsorship, participation in groups. 4. Consider the value of having the message presented in a fresh, new way. Does the age of the video diminish its value? Not sure that the value is diminished, it just appears outdated. Could have more diversity in the actors. 5. Are issues discussed in the video timely or dated? N/A 6. Do scenes portray real world issues/current state of society, or do they seem far-fetched? No, other than recovery. 7. Do scenes appear dated (hairstyles, clothing, way of speaking, etc.) Yes, clothing, hairstyles. 8. Does the video production value hold up? Yes, it's just dated. 9. Does video reach a wide audience demographic, or does it appear to reach a more targeted audience? Could have more diversity in the actors. 10. Is the call to action and contact information on the video still current, and correct? Yes
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel the "Hope" video is still relevant and an effective tool for reaching alcoholics today? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: Grapevine and La Viña — Item C

Agenda Topic (6)	Discuss the cost effectiveness and sustainability of continuing to print La Viña.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	La Viña was started in 1995 as the result of a Conference Advisory Action based on an expressed need for a Spanish edition of the Grapevine. The Conference recommended that funding for up to five years of publication be obtained from the General Service Board Reserve Fund, and that if, after five years, it was determined to no longer be feasible, publication be discontinued.

	<p>Many Committee Considerations and Recommendations, in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2010, 2015, 2017, and 2018 recognized the demonstrated effectiveness of La Viña, its spiritual benefits as a Twelfth Step tool, and overall support for its continued publication and need for it to achieve spiritual parity with the A.A. Grapevine. At the same time, some of these Conference Considerations recognized the need for La Viña to continue striving for the goal of becoming self-supporting, and that funding La Viña as a service through the General Fund is an issue that affects the overall fellowship.</p> <p>In 2023, an individual member submitted a proposed agenda item requesting that the Conference review the overall cost effectiveness and sustainability of continuing to print La Viña, referencing financial reports released by the General Service Board over the last five years. The specific numbers are available in the full background material. The member noted in their submission that they believe in the usefulness of La Viña and are hoping only for an informed group conscience.</p> <p>Area 74 Workshop Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. La Vina was started in 1995 as a service with the intention of reviewing its effectiveness and cost in 5 years. It has been continued to be reviewed over the years and they have determined that the cost is worth the service offered. 2. 2023 breakdown of finances is 150k revenue and 636k cost to GSO. There are 7,281 circulations in 2023 and that equals \$20.60 revenue per subscription and \$87.35 cost per subscription. 3. For our group we do not have any experience or knowledge of how La Vina affects Spanish speaking people. We think this could be brought back to communities to discuss. 4. From a purely financial viewpoint it does not seem sustainable to continue to print La Vina 5. Our opinion is that if it was published digitally this would continue to be a tool that can make 12th step work possible.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Please share the impact (positive or negative) that the La Viña magazine (both print and/or digital version) has had on your recovery and in your community.

Conference Committee: **Grapevine and La Viña — Item D**

Agenda Topic (7)	Explore the services provided by AA Grapevine and how they should be funded.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Since its inception, the AA Grapevine has been meant to be funded solely through subscriptions and (more recently) the sale of Grapevine books and other items. This has been reaffirmed by the Conference numerous times, in 1993, 1994, 2008, and, most recently, in 2017.</p> <p>In 2023, the Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee discussed that La Viña (a Spanish-language magazine similar to the AA Grapevine) is funded by the General Service Board as a result of a Conference Advisory Action. The Trustees' committee suggested that the Conference discuss whether the Grapevine also be funded by the General Service Board. The background includes the letter from the Trustees' committee.</p> <p>The Grapevine currently produces, as a service to the Fellowship, the AAGV Podcast, the Grapevine and La Viña Instagram accounts, and the Grapevine and La Viña YouTube accounts; in 2023, these services cost \$91,390.</p> <p>The background also includes an excerpt from the bylaws of the General Service Board.</p> <p>Area 74 Workshop Committee:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Should the Grapevine services which include digital formats in all their forms be funded only through subscriptions and sales or should our groups contribute through the 7th tradition? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The digital methods of carrying the message in today’s culture offer a necessary and effective tool. Our founders’ beliefs were to embrace changes and be flexible in how we carry the message. There are great possibilities in carrying the AA message in the digital world.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that the AA Grapevine should be funded solely through subscriptions and sales, or would your group like to see Seventh Tradition contributions used to fund AA Grapevine services?

Conference Committee: **Grapevine and La Viña — Item E**

Agenda Topic (8)	Consider a request to develop a pamphlet on the Asian and Asian-American alcoholics in A.A.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Area 49 (Southeast New York) requested that a pamphlet for Asian and Asian-American alcoholics in A.A. be produced. This motion was discussed at the Area 49 assembly on September 2023 and passed with a vote of 90 in favor and 2 opposed. This agenda topic arose from a member in Area 49. The member shared that as an Asian in recovery, he didn’t feel like he belonged. He noted that the drinking culture is different from Western drinking culture, and that this can lead to difficulty in relating. Additionally, the member noted that some Asian members were dropping out of the program, and their Western fellows didn’t seem to know what to do or say. Finally, the member notes that the Chinese translation of the Big Book contains only the first 164 pages, and not the personal stories in the back. The member shared that the Twelfth Step says we carry the message of recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic.</p> <p>Area 74 Workshop Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Area 49 has discussed and passed a motion to submit an agenda item to consider the request to develop a pamphlet for Asian and Asian-American AAs. 2. The member who brought this forth is an Asian in recovery and felt that he did not belong. He noted that that the Asian drinking culture is different from the western culture and cause difficulty in relating. 3. There are pamphlets for many specific groups of people with the goal of bringing the message to the still suffering alcoholic. 4. Our experience is that having varied stories of experience strength and hope is helpful in reaching more people and making them feel welcome and included. 5. Ultimately the responsibility of carrying the message and helping people identify with it, falls on the fellowship. 6. Further consideration would be beneficial to making a decision on this request.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think this pamphlet would be useful? Why or why not? How do we address the barriers that Asian and Asian-American alcoholics experience in accessing A.A.?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item F**

Agenda Topic (9)	Review draft manuscript of the translation of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition)</i> into plain and simple language.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Following an Advisory Action at the 2021 General Service Conference, the Trustees Literature Committee has been working on a translation of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition)</i> into plain and simple language. The Advisory Action

	<p>requested that it be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible.</p> <p>Following the 2023 General Service Conference, the Conference Committee on Literature agreed with the general direction of the project and requested that it continue to move forward. Conference members were also permitted to review the draft of the book privately and securely in a reading room.</p> <p>The Trustees Literature Committee has reviewed the draft manuscript of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> (Fourth Edition) translated into plain and simple language and agreed to forward it to the 2024 Conference Literature Committee. They also reviewed and submitted a “letter of understanding” outlining the confidentiality guidelines related to review of the manuscript (to ensure A.A.’s legal rights in the registration of the approved final draft of the manuscript with the U.S. Copyright Office, maintain the integrity of A.A. literature and ultimately our most valued asset which is A.A. unity). After the 2024 Conference Literature Committee reviews the draft manuscript, several things may happen, among them: The Committee might approve the manuscript and recommend it be approved by the Conference as a whole, permitting Conference members to review it in a reading room before voting. The Committee might also send the manuscript back to the Trustees Committee on Literature with any significant concerns or changes to the proposed draft.</p> <p>Area 74 Delegate Workshop Committee: The Literature Committee was tasked with discussing the review of the draft manuscript for the big book into plain and simple language. The discussion got very heated between the 14 of us! It was clear that we were very passionate about whether this would help or hurt AA, so we had a lot of pros and cons to this.</p> <p>Pros: it would help members who are isolated who don’t have access to a sponsor, excited to see what it says, less masculine wording, more gender equality, more contemporary language.</p> <p>Cons; two different books at a book study, we’re catering to those who are too lazy to understand it, the first 164 pages should be left alone, members stories shouldn’t be changed, words written at a first grade reading level wouldn’t invoke a psychic change(no more flimsy reed). *** The PLBB will be written at an aprox 5th grade reading level, the current book is written at a high school graduate / freshman college level)</p> <p>Here are the questions we had; is GSO gonna be able to change this at any time? What’s going to be written in the Forward? Where did the need for this come from, where did it originate? Is the plain language version going to be what countries with different languages use to translate? How will they handle gender? Will the 12 step wording be changed? Will it actually be easier to read? How are you going to translate the word ‘insanity’?</p>
<p>What does the Delegate need to know?</p>	<p>What does your group hope this plain and simple language translation of The Big Book (Alcoholics Anonymous) includes? What does your group hope this book accomplishes? What specific concerns/fears does your group have about this new book? The Delegate will be reading this draft at the Conference – The Delegate needs to know what you want them to focus on when reading and discussing this potential new book.</p>

Conference Committee: Literature — Item H

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on the video animation of the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Following an Advisory Action at the 2022 General Service Conference, the Trustees Literature Committee has been working with the Publishing Department on adapting the video animation of the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated” published by the General Service Board of A.A. Great Britain. The video animation can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=qN6t4jAXJd0.</p> <p>At the 2023 General Service Conference, the Conference Literature Committee discussed this project, acknowledging that it is pending for budgetary reasons. In preparation for the 2024 General Service Conference, the Trustees’ Literature Committee reviewed a progress report on the project, including cost estimates submitted by the Publishing Department, and agreed to forward this to the 2024 Conference Literature Committee. The Publishing Department has met with the animation company responsible for producing the animation video “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated.” The ballpark cost estimate for an English (“Americanized”) version, including minor revisions to the illustration and a new narration recording of American English is \$2,780. A separate budget was created for French- and Spanish-language versions, which would be the second phase of the project. There are two options presented on how to handle the French- and Spanish-language versions. One would use translated voiceovers for French and Spanish versions with illustrated visual treatment also translated in French and Spanish versions. The second option would use translated voiceovers for both French and Spanish versions with the illustrated visual text remaining in English and with French and Spanish subtitles of the visual text for each version. The section option costs \$1,210 less.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about adapting the video animation of the 12 Concepts for World Service produced by A.A. Great Britain? What does your group think about the options to have the visuals translated into French and Spanish in comparison to having the visual text remaining in English with French and Spanish subtitles?

Conference Committee: Literature — Item I

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on video adaption of the pamphlet “Too Young?”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>At the 2023 General Service Conference, there was an Advisory Action that the print version of the of the pamphlet “Too Young?” be retired and that the content be repurposed as an animation video at an estimated cost no higher than \$70,000. The committee requested that a progress report or a rough cut of the video be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature. The pamphlet they are working on repurposing can be viewed at www.aa.org/too-young.</p> <p>In October 2023, the trustees’ Literature Committee reviewed a progress report on this project submitted by the Publishing Department. An excerpt from the January 2024 trustees’ Literature Committee meeting report stated that the committee had reviewed three art samples showing the direction of the graphics for the video project. The committee discussed how the designs should stay clear from stereotypes and that feedback from young people may be beneficial. The committee will be forwarding the art samples, which are confidential, to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.</p> <p>In addition to the art samples, the trustees’ Literature Committee is also sharing additional updates with the Conference Committee. First, research with various animation production companies suggests that the cost to develop the Too Young animation video will be significantly higher than \$70,000. To stay within this budget, the trustees suggest exploring the option of producing one storyline rather than multiple stories in the pamphlet. Some other factors for consideration are the length of the animation and the initial production phases, including factors like colorization and the style of the animation. The current step in the animation process is obtaining approval</p>

	from the Conference on the final draft of the storyboard. The remaining steps are art direction, voiceover narration recording, illustration, animation, sound design, integration, and delivering the final product.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about the progress of this project so far? Are there any additional concerns or suggestions your group thinks should be considered as the project moves forward?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item K**

Agenda Topic (10)	Consider a request that the words "Donation" and "Contribution" be swapped under Warranty One in "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" pamphlet
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated," there is a sentence that originally read, "So long as we refuse to take outside contributions and limit donations from individual members, we shall not become wealthy in any perilous sense."</p> <p>This agenda topic arises from a group in Area 58 (Oregon). The agenda topic was originally proposed in 2022 and requested that the words "contribution" and "donation" be swapped – so the sentence would read: "So long as we refuse to take outside donations and limit contributions from individual members, we shall not become wealthy in any perilous sense." The original proposal notes that the word "donation" implies charitable giving, and that our "sobriety is not a charity."</p> <p>As a result of discussion at the 2023 General Service Conference, A.A.W.S. revised the pamphlet as follows: "So long as we refuse to take outside contributions and limit contributions from individual members, we shall not become wealthy in any perilous sense." This was done in accordance with a 2006 Advisory Action that recommended that the word "donation" be replaced with the word "contribution" in A.A.W.S. literature as it comes up for reprint. As the pamphlet is printed now, the word "donations" is not used at all.</p> <p>The original submitter of the Agenda Topic believes that the wording should be as noted in their original proposed Agenda Topic – that is, the word "donations" used to refer to money coming from outside sources, and the word "contributions" to refer to money coming from A.A. members. The A.A.W.S. Board agreed to forward this to the 2024 General Service Conference, noting that the sentiment within the Fellowship may have shifted since the 2006 Advisory Action.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that the word "donations" should be used in the pamphlet when referring to money coming from outside sources? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item D**

Agenda Topic (11)	Review report of the GSB Ad-Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the U.S./Canada Service Structure.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2021, two advisory actions passed at the Conference. The first recognized online groups and encouraged their participation, listing those groups who asked to be listed within the group's preferred district and area, with the default option being the location of the group's primary contact. This supersedes the 1997 Advisory Action that designated online groups as "international Correspondence Meetings." The second advisory action in 2021 was that the Board form a committee to explore future possibilities for the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada General Service structure.</p> <p>In 2023, the committee requested delegates find out more about the online groups in their areas and requested that the ad-hoc committee provide them with sample questions they may use in that inquiry. The background has the history and current reporting, current</p>

	<p>database information, the survey of area delegates, regional forums and workshop presentations, and the international perspectives from the World Service Meeting.</p> <p>Area 74 Workshop Committee: Pro's: 1. Gives a "Home" to all virtual groups/members 2. Could divide into regions. 3. How many individuals consider a Online Meeting – their "Home Group" 4. Con's: 1. Carry the 12-step work outside the virtual meeting. 2. Will GSR's participate in the General Service Work 3. Need to be a virtual Service Structures</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	How does your group feel about the participation of online groups in the General Service Structure? What have been the challenges and solutions as participation has increased? What more can be done to increase awareness to online groups about their ability to participate? How should online groups participate? Should there be an online-only area or areas? Online-only districts? Or is the current situation working well right now?

Conference Committee: Public Information — Item A

Agenda Topic	Review the 2024 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The committee reviewed and accepted the 2023 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan (CMP) and expressed continued support for the vision and architecture of this version of the CMP. They shared that the plan provides a great framework and guardrails that capture the public information work, messaging, and channels GSO and AA Grapevine are using to make the Fellowship, general public, media, and professionals aware of the relevance of Alcoholics Anonymous. The background material includes the 2024 Comprehensive Media Plan by the Trustees' Public Information Committee and a detailed table of content. The introduction also describes a Comprehensive Media Plan a one of the primary focuses of the Trustees' Public Information Committee.</p> <p>Area 74 Delegates Workshop Committee: Historical Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Has this been on the agenda previously?</i> Yes • <i>If so, when?</i> Since 2014 • <i>If so, what was the outcome?</i> 2023 CMP was approved • <i>What, if anything, has changed since prior conferences?</i> Consider the creation of a section on how projects requesting user generated content, such as the Young People's Video Project, fit into our CMP and messaging for AA. <p>Genesis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What is the source of the item?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trustee or AA World Services (AAWS)/Grapevine office personnel: PI Committee • <i>What is the stated need? Is it compelling?</i> Yes, to develop content that is more readily available across multiple formats for our Fellowship to share while staying well within our spiritual principles • <i>Has support from multiple Areas, Districts, Members been expressed?</i> N/A <p>AA Traditions:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What, if any, AA Traditions affect the Item? How?</i> Traditions 11/12 should be followed closely when considering new media platforms <p>AA Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What, if any, AA Steps affect the item? How?</i> Step 12. This affects how we carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic <p>AA Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What, if any, AA Concepts affect the item? How?</i> All concepts ensure that everyone’s voice is heard and considered <p>Benefits/Drawbacks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What is the stated benefit?</i> Reaching out to young people • <i>Are there other potential benefits?</i> Reaching out to professional community, corrections, all persons who use digital media • <i>What are potential drawbacks?</i> Breaking Anonymity <p>Resources/Costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Would implementation require extensive resources – human, material, physical, financial, etc.?</i> Most media has a substantial financial cost. There is also human resource cost to implement these media avenues • <i>Is the total financial cost estimated in the submission, and if so, how much is that financial cost?</i> No, it’s not estimated • <i>Would implementation require changes to multiple documents?</i> Possibly <p>Pro’s:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focused plan to reach the still suffering alcoholic 2. Plan involves multiple media avenues 3. Ability to target specific/diverse audiences <p>Con’s:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Breaking anonymity 2. Cost concerns 3. Consistency of message 4. Platform rules/” call to action”
What does the Delegate need to know?	Share your group’s thoughts directly with the delegate

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item B1**

Agenda Topic (12)	Public Service Announcements (PSAs): Review the 2023 report on the “Relevance and Usefulness of Video PSAs.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	At the October 2023 meeting, the trustees’ committee reviewed and discussed the current videos and audio PSAs for timeliness, accuracy, effectiveness, and their ability to reach diverse audiences. Conversation focused on three television PSAs: “My Drinking Built a Wall,” “We Made Changes to Stop Drinking,” and “Opening Doors to a New Life.” They expressed no concerns about these three PSAs. They also discussed the PSA When Drinking is No Longer a Party” and suggested that video remained useful. They also noted that the PSA “Since Getting Sober I Have Hope” might not be as useful in one language as it is in another. They also suggested the Conference consider retiring the 30 second version of the English-language PSA “Since Getting Sober I Have Hope.” The committee also asked Communication Services Department to research whether the 15 second version of the English-language PSA “Since Getting Sober I Have Hope” remained useful.

After discussing the radio PSA “We Know How You Feel,” the committee agreed to retire the 15 second version. The committee asked the Publishing Department to research whether the last part of the PSA could be edited to remove reference to “Giving AA a call.” The committee also agreed to recommend that the PSA “We’re All in This Together” be kept in circulation but to continue to discuss how we can best communicate the message that A.A. is welcoming and inclusive.

Area 74 Committee Workshop:

Historical Context:

- *Has this been on the agenda previously? Yes*
- *If so, when? Since 1999*
- *If so, what was the outcome? 2023 Reviewed and Accepted*
- *What, if anything, has changed since prior conferences? The committee agreed to forward a suggestion to the Conference Committee to consider retiring the 30 second version of the English-language PSA “Since Getting Sober I Have Hope”. The committee also asked Communication Services Department to research whether the 15 second version of the English-language PSA “Since Getting Sober I Have Hope” could be updated to remove reference to calling or phone books. The committee discussed the radio PSA “We Know How You Feel” and agreed to retire the 15 second version. Discussed the radio PSA “All of a Sudden, Everything God Crazy” whether the last part could be edited to remove reference to “Giving AA a call”*

Genesis:

- *What is the source of the item?*
 - Trustee or AA World Services (AAWS)/Grapevine office personnel: PI Committee

Benefits/Drawbacks:

- *What is the stated benefit? How we can best communicate the message that AA is welcoming and inclusive*
- *Are there other potential benefits? Spreading awareness and availability of AA*
- *What are potential drawbacks?*

Resources/Costs:

- *Would implementation require extensive resources – human, material, physical, financial, etc.?*
- *Is the total financial cost estimated in the submission, and if so, how much is that financial cost?*
- *Would implementation require changes to multiple documents?*

Other Methods to Meet Need:

- *Are there other options to meet the stated need?*
- *If so, what are some potential methods?*

Pro’s:

4. PSAs are relatable to Alcoholic
5. Relevant with the current times
6. Inclusivity – representative of multiple people

Con’s:

5. Needs more visible/effective “call to action”

	6. Only Television limits audience 7. High cost to create if need updating
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group have any suggestions on the Relevance and Usefulness of these PSAs?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item B2**

Agenda Topic (12)	Public Service Announcements (PSAs): Discuss progress report on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In the fall of 2023, staff on the Public Information assignment requested proposals from various vendors for the work of placing A.A.'s PSAs on streaming platforms with the requested proposals from Connect 360 Multimedia, Moore Marketing, VNR1 Communications, Williams Whittle Agency, PlowShare Marketing, and PSN (Public Service Network). Some of these agencies decided not to submit formal proposals because they understood that our budget would not accommodate the kinds of media purchases they would recommend.</p> <p>Streaming video media is purchased per IP address. If an organization pays for a PSA or ad to be shown to 30,000 Hulu watchers, it will run for those 30,000 users, no more. Background material includes graphics of broadcast media pricing and streaming expected cost and some platform-specific details about different streaming services (like Amazon, Connected TV, Hulu, You Tube ESPN digital, CNN, Fox, USA Today, and Facebook).</p> <p>Area 74 Workshop Committee: Historical Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Has this been on the agenda previously?</i> Yes • <i>If so, when?</i> Since 2021 • <i>If so, what was the outcome?</i> • <i>What, if anything, has changed since prior conferences?</i> The committee requested the staff secretary perform outreach to several vendors and develop a plan detailing target audiences, analytics, and cost for how we would begin to use such streaming platform channels in the US/Canada service structure. The committee requested information on how we could structure a test detailing different spending levels and key metrics that can be used to track the usefulness of this channel type. In addition, the committee wants to include several “free” streaming platforms that might be available to air our PSAs in a cross-section of diverse markets. In fall of 2023, staff on the Public Information assignment requested proposals from various vendors for the work of placing AA’s PSAs on streaming platforms. Some of these agencies decided not to submit formal proposals, because they understood that our budget would not accommodate the kinds of media purchases they would recommend. <p>Pro’s: Streaming is very popular with younger demographic Seems to be most popular media type for most people</p> <p>Con’s: People can pay to remove adds Potential high cost</p>

What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group have any suggestions on the placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms? How much of your Seventh Tradition contributions would your group want to use to purchase PSAs on streaming platforms? Why?
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Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item B3**

Agenda Topic (12)	Public Service Announcements (PSAs): Review progress report on the Mesmerize Point PSA distribution channel.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Mesmerize Point is a distribution channel used by AA to show PSAs. The progress report shows that AA videos were featured on screens in approximately 2,278 locations during the fourth quarter of 2023. These videos appeared approximately 4.7 million times across these locations during the three-month period. The committee asked Mesmerize Point to generate reports that would provide them with more information on the following: <i>What is the geographic spread of venues? (rural versus urban for instance) Can you tell us the number of times English-language videos played versus Spanish? What is the distribution of video players in pharmacies versus medical settings? Can you provide us more information about the type of medical facilities where our videos have run (ie- cardiology versus primary care or pediatrics etc)?</i></p> <p>Area 74 Workshop Committee: Historical Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Has this been on the agenda previously? Yes</i> • <i>If so, when? 2023</i> • <i>If so, what was the outcome? Received progress report</i> • <i>What, if anything, has changed since prior conferences? Videos featured on screens in approximately 2,278 locations during the 4th quarter of 2023 and appeared approximately 4.7 million times across these locations during the 3-month period. A request was made to Mesmerize Point staff to provide more detailed reporting</i> <p>Genesis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What is the source of the item?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trustee or AA World Services (AAWS)/Grapevine office persone <p>Pro's: Focused/targeted demographic Unique locations/ lots of them Customized “call to action”</p> <p>Con's: Focused/targeted demographic Don't always have audio/closed captions</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about the use of the Mesmerize Point PSA streaming channel? What additional questions would your group like to have answers to about the distribution of our public service announcements?

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

Agenda Topic	Review report on Meeting Guide app.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Version 4.0 of Meeting Guide App is active. The App now has about 1,444,008 active users and 950,245 new users. Goals in the future include improving design and improving online versus in-person search.

What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.
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Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item K**

Agenda Topic (13)	Consider revised proposal to develop an AAWS Instagram account.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Communication Services Department, along with the guidance of Public Information Desk, has recommended the creation, implementation, and management of an official Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (A.A.W.S.) Instagram account. This Instagram account would highlight the GSO Podcast (with scheduled posts to build awareness of upcoming episodes with audio clips), upload updates and announcements from GSO (such as new literature offerings, calendars, and upcoming events), host short clips of our approved videos, offer seasonal literature special offers, include Press Releases, newsletters, news, and more, offer features and how-to-guides for the Meeting Guide app, and post excerpts from our literature and archives. All the postings would observe AA’s anonymity and security standards and utilize Conference-approved content. Grapevine and La Viña are currently utilizing Instagram accounts.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Are members of your group familiar with the Grapevine and La Viña Instagram accounts? Does your group feel like a AAWS Instagram account would be an effective tool in carrying the message? Why or why not?

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

Agenda Topic	Review results of A.A. Membership Survey convenience sample pilot.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The P.I. committee last year reviewed the report on the 2022 A.A. Membership Survey process and suggested a study to examine any potential differences in data based on different collection methods. The traditional membership survey process is conducted through Area Delegates. In 2023, they also collected data via the Meeting Guide App and through the AA Website. 32,000 individuals took part in this survey pilot, which enabled the committee to measure the effectiveness of the methods they used. The committee used standardized “data cleaning” methods to make the information gathered suitable for comparison to other surveys. A final report or a progress report on the project will be submitted to the trustees’ PI Committee in July 2024.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Did anyone at your group participate in these online surveys? Does your group feel this is an effective way to understand the Fellowship? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item C**

Agenda Topic (14)	Discuss the reporting of Simple Majority Items.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	During the January 27, 2024 meeting of the trustees’ General Service Conference Committee, the committee heard sharing on the topic of Simple Majority. Specifically, there is a section in the Final Conference Report titled “Recommendations Passed by Simple Majority.” An agenda topic requires a two-thirds vote to become an Advisory Action. However, a 1986 Advisory Action established that “If a committee recommendation does not receive the two-thirds vote required to become a Conference Advisory Action, but has a majority of votes, it automatically becomes a suggestion and will be duly noted in the Conference Report.”

	During the January 27, 2024 meeting, the committee shared that they felt this was ambiguous, and that the Simple Majority section could lead to misunderstandings and confusion. They asked for a discussion on whether the practice of communicating items that failed to achieve substantial unanimity as suggestions is still desirable. Questions and concerns have been received that using the wording “passed” to describe a recommendation that did not pass (as it did not receive the required two-thirds vote), but instead received a simple majority of votes, may cause confusion. They also noted concern that listing these items in the Final Report may take away from the full respect of Advisory Actions that did result from substantial unanimity.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that the reporting of items that did not receive the required two-thirds vote to pass as “Passed by Simple Majority” is confusing? Why or why not? How does your group think items that received a Simple Majority, but not substantial unanimity, should be reported in the <i>Final Report</i>?

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

Agenda Topic	Review updated Bridging the Gap service material.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Service material is under the purview of staff responsibility and does not require conference approval but is included here for committee consideration.</p> <p>The 2023 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities discussed a progress report on a proposed Bridging the Gap workbook, and noted that information on Bridging the Gap and other contact programs already exists in the Treatment and Corrections Workbooks and suggested instead that sharing be collected from the Fellowship and combined with existing resources to develop A.A. Guidelines on Bridging the Gap.</p> <p>At the 2023 trustees’ CPC/Treatment and Accessibilities committee, the committee accepted the progress report on Bridging the Gap service materials, and stated they appreciated the work done to date on the A.A. Guidelines on Bridging the Gap, and agreed to forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities for their consideration additional service material.</p> <p>Draft materials are available in the background on this item.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

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

Agenda Topic (15)	Review report on what resources are currently available from the General Service Office and the AA Grapevine to meet accessibility-related challenges and how those resources are communicated to the Fellowship.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In response to a 2023 Conference committee consideration, GSO staff conducted an internal inventory of accessibility resources produced by A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine. The inventory was originally requested by Maryland’s Area 29 ASL Translation Committee who hoped that a structure-wide inventory process would ideally include members with a disability or accommodation need and also professionals familiar with access services. The list of available resources includes the Big Book and Twelve and Twelve in Braille and American Sign Language (ASL), various pamphlets, the Accessibilities Kit and Workbook, A.A. Guidelines, newsletter articles, and service material such as the Accessibilities Checklist for A.A. Groups. Listed under Grapevine resources are a number of individual articles, as well as the October 2019 special issue titled “Is A.A. Accessible to All?” The report noted that while GSO has a number of resources for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Blind/Visually Impaired alcoholic, there were less resources focused on members with perceptual/learning differences, mobility challenges or mental health concerns. The reported methods of communication for sharing these resources with the Fellowship were the AA.org website, GSO’s newsletter <i>Box 4-5-9</i> and the news section of the Meeting Guide app.

What does the Delegate need to know?	Is your group aware of these accessibility resources and where to find them? What more can the General Service Office do to increase awareness of these materials among its groups and members, and how effective are they in reaching alcoholics with access-related barriers?
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Conference Committee: Treatment and Accessibilities — Item G

Agenda Topic	Review P-27 “A.A. in Treatment Settings” for effectiveness and relevance.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	At the October 2023 meeting of the trustees’ CPC/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee, the committee reviewed the pamphlet “A.A. in Treatment Settings” as part of their regular review of material. The committee agreed to forward a discussion on the pamphlet’s effectiveness and relevance to the 2024 Conference. The Pamphlet is linked in the background material.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think this pamphlet is effective and relevant? Why or why not? How do we make A.A. accessible to members in treatment settings?

Conference Committee: Treatment and Accessibilities — Item H

Agenda Topic	Review F-4 “Where do I go from here?” flyer for effectiveness and relevance.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	At the October 2023 meeting of the trustees’ CPC/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee, the committee reviewed the flyer “Where do I go from here” as part of their regular review of material. The committee agreed to forward a discussion on the flyer’s effectiveness and relevance to the 2024 Conference. The flyer is linked in the background material.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think this flyer is effective and relevant? Why or why not? How can we best help members to connect with A.A. after leaving treatment facilities and correctional institutions?

Conference Committee: Treatment and Accessibilities — Item I

Agenda Topic	Review resource lists for Remote Communities and Cooperation with the Elder Community.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	At the October 2023 meeting of the trustees’ CPC/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee, the committee reviewed the Remote Communities and Elder Community resource lists and agreed to forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities for their review. The Resource List for Remote communities, and the Resource List for the Elder Community is available in the background material.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does you group think we are successfully supporting members in the elder community and other remote communities? Why or why not? How can we ensure that A.A. is accessible to all who need it?

Conference Committee: Corrections —Treatment and Accessibilities — Item J

Agenda Topic (16)	Review progress report on updating A.A. Service Material to better carry the message to alcoholics with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2023, the General Service Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities asked that the trustees review accessibility-related service material and consider updating it with new shared experience on this topic.</p> <p>The trustees’ Committee on CPC/Treatment and Accessibilities reviewed a report on service materials that could be updated to address members with intellectual or information-processing challenges. That list included the Accessibilities Workbook, the Treatment Workbook, and a number of other service materials listed in the background.</p> <p>Note: This topic was originally listed as Corrections Item E; you may have downloaded old background documents, so if you want to find more information in the background, check in the Corrections section if it is not in the Treatment and Accessibilities section.</p>

What does the Delegate need to know?	Please ask your group what publication formats communicate best to those with neurological diversity. What is the best way to gather shared experience from this demographic in our Fellowship? What service materials and committees most likely intersect with this demographic?
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Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item F**

Agenda Topic (17)	Discuss guidelines or parameters for deadlines of Conference agenda items.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This topic was submitted in April 2023 by a past Delegate and Trustee who expressed concern that the current deadline for submitting Agenda Topic items for consideration by the Conference (September 15) may mean that any Agenda Topics meant to censure or reorganize that current Panel’s General Service Board would not be heard until the following year. The past Delegate noted that their topic was based on the (February) 2023 resignation of the General Service Board Chair.</p> <p>The background material contains details of the General Service Conference timeline shifts over the years (1993 to present) to allow for the maximum participation of groups, Districts and Areas in the Agenda Topics process, including changes to the Agenda Topics submission deadline, the finalization of the Topics by the General Service Board, and availability of the background material.</p> <p>The background material notes that the current timeline means that the Conference Committee staff is heavily tasked with the writing, research, editing, processing, printing, etc. of thousands of pages of materials in a short period and that technology may possibly be making it more feasible to meet the deadlines than in the past [Sept. 15 Agenda Topics submission deadline, Dec. 26 release of Preliminary Topics to Delegates, the finalization of the Topics by the General Service Board in late January or early February, Delegates receiving background material by Feb. 15].</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	How does your group feel about the current timeline for the General Service Conference Agenda Topics process? Should the Conference revisit the dates (guidelines) or consider a review of the (timeline) parameters for the General Service Conference Agenda Topics process?

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

Agenda Topic (18)	Discuss a report concerning virtual programming for the 2025 International Convention.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Discussions held by the trustees’ International Conventions-Regional Forums Committee regarding adding virtual programming at the 2025 International Conventions (the first time AA would provide virtual programming) are detailed in the background.</p> <p>Initially, the plan was to include a virtual session as part of a three Big Meetings product, but later it was separated into two concepts: offering virtual sessions as part of the convention and providing a standalone virtual session track for broader participation. The rationale behind this decision includes facilitating international participation amidst travel difficulties and embracing virtual meeting technology, which has been previously used by the General Service Board (GSB). The report suggests focusing on the international element, considering interpretation services, managing capacity, and determining registration methods and fees. Estimates for the cost of virtual sessions are provided, with the intention of covering expenses through registration fees. The trustees’ IC-RF Committee plans to gather feedback from international members and involve the Conference Committee on IC-RF for review.</p> <p>A report from a potential vendor outlines two potential approaches for the convention: a scaled-back hybrid version with reduced budget and capabilities, and a full hybrid</p>

	version offering enhanced interaction. Key considerations include the choice of streaming platform, with Zoom Webinar and Vimeo being primary options, each offering distinct features and pricing structures. The scaled-back version focuses on limited virtual panelists and two-way communication, while the full hybrid version proposes broader engagement strategies including custom content creation and expanded language interpretation. Equipment and staffing requirements are detailed for both scenarios, emphasizing the need for local AV vendors and technical personnel. The report emphasizes that the provided proposals are preliminary and subject to further refinement based on budgetary constraints and project vision.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group want virtual programming options for the International Convention in 2025? What type of virtual programming would they want to see?

Conference Committee: **Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item D**

Agenda Topic (19)	Discuss options for closing the Big Meeting at the International Convention.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>For the last four International Conventions, at the choice of the respective chair, one of the Big Meetings is closed with the Lord's Prayer, one is closed with the Serenity Prayer, and one is closed with the Responsibility Statement. At the 2021 General Service Conference, the Conference Committee on International Conventions/ Regional Forums (IC/RF) discussed methods of closing the Big Meetings at the next International Convention in 2025, particularly the use of the Lord's Prayer. A survey was conducted in 2022 to gather feedback from the Fellowship regarding methods of closing the Big meetings, including the use of the Lord's Prayer and potential alternatives (e.g., Third Step Prayer, Seventh Step Prayer, A.A.'s Declaration of Unity). In December 2022, the Trustees IC/RF Committee reviewed and discussed the survey results and concluded that the data "did not reflect an overwhelming desire by the respondents to change the current practice". While 50% of members who responded supported keeping the current practice, data (in the background) notes that nearly 40% of English respondents and 55% of Spanish respondents wanted to end the practice of using the Lord's Prayer, and that 47% of English respondents and 74% of Spanish respondents wanted to substitute another option for the Lord's Prayer.</p> <p>In 2023, the Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums noted that the consensus of the committee was to continue allowing the chair the choice of closing the meeting with one of the three options. A floor action at the Conference requested that only the Serenity Prayer and the Responsibility Statement be options. Because the Conference ran out of time for substantive discussion on the floor action, a motion to recommit (send it back to the Trustees' Committee) passed – and the Trustees' committee forwarded the item again to the 2024 Conference for more discussion.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group believe the Lord's Prayer should remain one of three options for closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Discuss ways to encourage interests and participation at Regional Forums
What does the Delegate need to know?	<p>Regional Forums are held several times a year and are a service provided by the General Service Office (GSO) staff and the General Service Board with the intent of allowing the general A.A. membership, not just people involved in General Service, to meet and interact with GSO staff and corporate Board members. This helps members put a face to their trusted servants and special workers. In order to encourage interest and attract first-time attendees, this committee discusses several ideas each year.</p> <p>In 2023 the committee suggested adding virtual elements or even adding a virtual fifth forum to the annual calendar. Another suggestion was to disseminate advance information about events using flyers, posters, announcements in Grapevine and La Viña, podcasts, Instagram messages, invitations in ASL, QR codes, and <i>Box 4-5-9</i> articles.</p>

What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.
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Conference Committee: Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item G

Agenda Topic	Discuss the production of a delayed, anonymity protected, digital access video product offering of the three big meetings at the 2025 International Convention
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The trustees' IC-RF Committee met multiple times between October 2023 and February 2024 to discuss incorporating a virtual component into the 2025 International Convention. They proposed adding a digital option for Friday night's meeting, including the flag ceremony, and the Saturday and Sunday Big meetings, at a fee to be determined. The estimated production cost, including anonymity protection editing and hosting, is \$58,000. Additionally, they suggested offering a separate digital access product for the three Big Meetings post-convention. This proposal was shared with the 2024 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums for review.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think this video project would be beneficial for members to be purchased during registration or post-convention? Why or why not?

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