

## 2024 Conference Committee on Finance

**ITEM A:** The General Service Board should develop supplemental reporting focused on the actual costs of the various service items we provide, with an initial draft being brought back to the Conference Committee on Finance for review at the 75th General Service Conference.

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### Background:

1. Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) Submission Form - PAI 41
2. Memorandum from Trustees Finance and Budgetary Committee to Conference Finance Committee

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**(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion. PAI #41**

The General Service Board develops supplemental reporting focused on the actual costs of the various service items we provide, with an initial draft being brought back to the Conference Committee on Finance for review at the 75th General Service Conference.

These reports should include information such as:

- Budgeted cost
- Any changes to the budgeted cost
- Estimated total cost

Additionally, the relevant parts of the new report(s) would be included as background information for any agenda item listed in the report(s).

**(2) What problem does this proposed item address?**

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.

As we begin to increase our creation of online materials (podcasts, apps, Instagram accounts, etc.), they come with more long-term costs such as server fees, development costs as platforms evolve, and ongoing content creation, to name a few, and this will only increase over time. While these tools have wide popularity amongst the fellowship, many of them, such as The Meeting Guide app, are free but can come with significant costs.

**(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).**

*Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.*

I am submitting this on behalf of Area 47 Central New York, which passed it unanimously at our assembly on June 11th.

- Christopher M. Area 47 Delegate

**(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:**

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**List background material(s) included with the proposal:**

As we begin to increase our creation of online materials (podcasts, apps, Instagram accounts, etc.), they come with more long-term costs such as server fees, development costs as platforms evolve, and ongoing content creation, to name a few, and this will only increase over time. While these tools have wide popularity amongst the fellowship, many of them, such as The Meeting Guide app, are free but can come with significant costs.

**(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?**

If approved, new reporting would be developed to communicate better the costs of the services being provided to the fellowship.

Additionally, the relevant parts of the new report(s) would be included as background information for any agenda item listed in the report(s).

**(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.**

Christopher M.  
Area 47 Panel 73 Delegate

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**(7) Final comments:**

Another Area opted to discuss this PAI to provide some more information that may be of potential benefit. They did not have their assembly until after Area 47 held our vote, so I'm including their input here. (They were clear from the start that they would not be voting on it simply because they were not involved in its creation)

- Revenue #s for items we sell (and identify "free" items, perhaps separate sections priced items vs. free items)
- Reporting on the item's origin (advisory action, staff idea, board decision, etc.)
- Reporting on any draws from the reserve fund for any item (both historical and prospective)

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## Memorandum

November 29, 2023

To: 74th General Service Conference  
From: Zenaida Medina, Secretary to Trustees Finance and Budgetary Committee  
Re: Proposed Agenda Item 41

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At its October 29, 2023 meeting, the Trustees Finance and Budgetary Committee (TFC) of the General Service Board (GSB) considered Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) 41, a request that the GSB develop supplemental reporting focused on the actual costs of various service items, with an initial draft being brought back to the Conference Committee of Finance (CFC) for review at the 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. The Committee agreed to forward this PAI to the 74<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference.

The TFC requests that the CFC consider:

- Which service items to report on
- The frequency of reporting (quarterly or annual)
- The level of detail reported (summary or line item)

Suggestions for service items to report on include but are not limited to:

- Development of certain new literature titles
- Cost of certain capital projects such as software, app, and website development
- Maintenance cost of software, apps, and website
- International services

## Background

The following service costs are currently reported to the General Service Conference as part of the audited financial statements, which are also available upon request to any member of the Fellowship:

- Literature Development and Distribution
- Communications
- Group Services
- Public Information
- Cooperation with the Professional Community
- Treatment/Accessibility
- Correctional Facilities
- Loners and Overseas Services
- General Service Conference
- Regional Forums
- Archives
- Nominating
- World Service Meeting
- Grapevine

- La Viña

Thank you.

cc: Robert Wilcox, General Manager  
Diana Lewis, Conference Coordinator

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**2024 Conference Committee on Finance**

**ITEM C:** Review progress report reflecting shared experience from the Fellowship reflecting on possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s founders.\*

+Carryover from a previous EDW plan

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**Background note:**

In response to a Committee Consideration from the 73rd General Service Conference suggesting 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.

**Excerpt from trustees' Literature Committee January 27, 2024 Meeting Report**

As of January 25, a total of 1,171 responses have been received via online and postal mail. The breakdown by region:

Online (region/area unknown)	2
East Central	80
West Central	15
Western Canada	6
Eastern Canada	1
Southeast	264
Northeast	154
Pacific	247
Southwest	94
International*	35

*\*Received a response explaining that the correspondence was directed to members in the U.S./Canada structure*

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## CONFIDENTIAL: 74th General Service Conference Background

It was noted that approximately 2/3rds of the responses came from individual members, with the remaining representing sharing from group, district, or Area discussions.

The committee discussed and agreed to develop and distribute another letter to be sent to the Fellowship to clarify the intent of the original letter (e.g., designed to help inform area discussions — through Conference process/delegates, not a survey). The committee also discussed and agreed to distribute to the Regional Trustees the sharing received to date so that they can distribute to the respective Area delegates.

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### **Background:**

1. Sharing on Founders Writings - Proposed Questions, Document from the Trustees' Literature Committee (November 2023)
2. February 2024 Correspondence from Trustees' Literature Committee

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**Please direct all  
communications to:**

P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
Fax: (212) 870-3003

November 13, 2023

Dear Trusted Servants:

A.A.'s Co-Founder, Bill W., in his 1953 address to the General Service Conference, stated that he did not consider himself the author of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Big Book (*Our Great Responsibility*, p. 92). He also alluded to the fact that in the various A.A. literature published prior to his passing, he borrowed heavily from other sources, and that other A.A. members made significant contributions.

On the other hand, addressing the historical context of some of the writings of our Founders, many members in our Fellowship have expressed strong sentiment against any changes in the first 164 pages of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Big Book, as well as the Preface, the Forewords, The Doctor's Opinion, Doctor Bob's Nightmare, and the Appendices. In fact, as early as 1995 and most recently in 2022, Advisory Actions designed to protect the above-referenced contents have been passed by the General Service Conference.

In response to a Committee Consideration from the 73rd General Service Conference suggesting 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 agreed it would be beneficial to gather shared experience from the Fellowship regarding this topic.

We would like to hear from you — the top of the triangle! While we hope that the suggested questions will help to spark thoughtful sharing and discussion, please feel free to add questions that we may not have thought of that you feel may best inform the discussion. Most of all, we are grateful for and thank you for your participation.

In fellowship,

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The trustees' Literature Committee (2023-2024)

Attachment: Suggested Questions

## **HOW SHOULD WE TREAT A.A. FOUNDERS' WRITINGS?**

### SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Do you think that A.A. Founders would object to or embrace revisions to their writings? If yes, why? If not, why?
2. Do you think the Founders' writings are effective in reaching new members? If not, what measures do you think can be taken to resolve this issue?
3. What reasons would you consider for changing our Founders' writings?
4. How do you feel about changing A.A. Founders' writings to replace outdated references?
5. What suggestions do you have for preserving the Founders' writings, along with keeping pace with our current A.A. Society and its future?
6. Should there be a special Conference process for approval of changes to our Founders' writings? (e.g., super, or qualified majority – 75%, and/or two-year consideration process.)
7. What additional ideas, thoughts, or suggestions can you share about changing or not changing the Founders' writings?

*Note: Please be as concise as possible in your responses to the questions.*

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February 7, 2024

### **A TENTH STEP FROM THE TRUSTEES' LITERATURE COMMITTEE**

We appreciate and thank all who took the time to discuss the “proposed” questions and provided sharing. However, we realize that for the vast majority, our correspondence was unclear as to its intent and that caused confusion. We apologize for this confusion.

The November 13, 2023, correspondence enclosing “proposed” questions was not intended to be a “survey.” Instead, we hoped the questions would spark discussions at the local level. And that the local sharing would be provided to the Area Delegates.

However, in a subsequent meeting with the delegates, it was stated that the sharing could be forwarded to the General Service Office. As a result, many in the Fellowship sent us individual letters relating their viewpoints on the matter.

We realize now that this invitation confused matters and inadvertently circumvented the Conference process wherein the Area Delegates bring to the Conference the sense of their respective Areas.

We have gathered the sharing received and will provide this sharing to the regional trustees who will in turn distribute to the Delegates in their Region. You may be interested to know that there is a sharing session planned for this year’s General Service Conference on this very topic — “How Should We Treat Writings by A.A.’s Founders.” To be clear, this is just a sharing session — not a voting or policy making discussion.

While we admittedly missed the mark with the November 13 correspondence, one silver lining is that members are discussing this important subject. We hope you continue to discuss in your local areas and connect with your Area Delegate. For more information about the Conference process and how we work together “to help the alcoholic who still suffers,” you may want to access the pamphlet “Circles of Love and Service” <https://www.aa.org/circles-love-and-service>.

With gratitude for your service and participation.  
The Trustees’ Literature Committee (2023-2024)

**Conference Committee on Finance**

**ITEM D:** Review video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” for effectiveness and relevance\*

\* 2024 EDW distribution

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**Background Notes:**

*From the October 29, 2023, Meeting of the trustees’ CPC/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee:*

The committee reviewed video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” as part of their regular review of material under the purview of 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.

*2011 Committee Consideration of the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities:*

The committee considered removing one line of dialog from the video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” and took no action. The committee requested instead that the trustees’ Committee on CPC/Treatment and Accessibilities review the entire script of the video, taking into consideration concerns expressed by the Conference Committee, and return a progress report to the Committee at the 2012 Conference.

*2009 Treatment and Accessibilities Advisory Action:*

It was recommended that the revised video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” be approved.

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**Background:**

1. Evaluation tool – “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” video
2. “Hope” video <https://www.aa.org/Hope-Alcoholics-Anonymous>

### Evaluation Tool

To help determine the effectiveness and relevance of the video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous,” which has been a part of the Treatment kit (the current version was approved by the 59<sup>th</sup> GSC), please consider the following:

1. Is information included in the video up to date? For example, have the ways to find AA changed? (note: avoid referring to phone books for example)
2. Does the video include slogans or tag lines? Are they up to date?
3. Does the video convey a message the organization is currently looking to get across?
4. Consider the value of having the message presented in a fresh, new way. Does the age of the video diminish its value?
5. Are issues discussed in the video timely or dated (are past events like Olympics or Presidential Campaigns mentioned?)
6. Do scenes portray real world issues/current state of society, or do they seem far-fetched?
7. Do scenes appear dated (hairstyles, clothing, way of speaking, etc.)
8. Does the video production value hold up?
9. Does video reach a wide audience demographic, or does it appear to reach a more targeted audience?
10. Is the call to action and contact information on the video still current, and correct?

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