



### **XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums: EN** General Service Conference - Conférence des Services généraux - Conferencia de Servicios Generales

2025-04-30 17:30 - 19:30 EDT

## **Table of Contents**

### **I. International Conventions/Regional Forums: Joint Meeting**

Introductions – Tom H., trustees' committee chairperson.

**II. Review Conference Committee Composition, Scope, and Procedure – Kat Y.,  
Conference committee chairperson.**

**III. Review History & Actions of Conference Committee – Eileen A. and Patrick C.,  
co-secretaries.**

**IV. Report of trustees' Committee – Tom H., trustees' committee chairperson.**

**V. Discussion of trustees' Committee Report.**

### **VI. Agenda Items**

**A. Discuss the upcoming 2025 International Convention.....3**

IC-RF - A0 Cover Discuss 2025 IC.docx.....3

IC-RF-A1 - Planning report on 2025 IC.docx.....4

**B. Review progress report on the development of new declaration to be adopted at  
the 2030 International Convention.....9**

IC-RF-B0 - Cover -2025 Progress report development of new declaration.docx.....9

IC-RF-B1 - 2025 Progress report development of new declaration to be adopted at  
the 2030 IC.docx.....10

**C. Consider that all Sovereign States flags be a part of the Flag Ceremony at an  
International Convention.....13**

IC-RF-C0 Cover - Flag Ceremony request.docx.....13

IC-RF-C1 PAI Request for First Nations Flags.docx.....17

**D. Discuss ways to encourage interest and participation at Regional Forums.....20**

IC-RF-D0-Cover -Discuss ways to encourage interest and participation at Regional  
Forums .docx.....20

IC-RF - D1 - Summary Suggestions 2017 to 2024.docx.....21

IC-RF - D2 - 2024 Western Canada RF Evaluation Questionnaire Summary.docx...25

IC-RF - D3 - 2024 Pacific RF Evaluation Questionnaire Summary.docx.....	32
IC-RF - D4 - 2024 Eastern Canada RF Evaluation Questionnaire Summary.docx....	42
IC-RF-D5-2024 Southeast RF Questionnaire Summary.docx.....	53
<b>E. Review Final Report of the Subcommittee on Regional Forums Improvements.....</b>	<b>63</b>
IC-RF-E0-Cover-2025 Final Subcommittee Report on RF Improvements.docx.....	63
IC-RF-E1-Final 2025 Subcommittee Report on RF Improvements.docx.....	64
<b>F. Review Report from Subcommittee to Review Regional Forums Request for Information (RFI) Forms.....</b>	<b>67</b>
IC-RF-F0-Cover-2025 Subcommittee Report to Review RF RFIs.docx.....	67
IC-RF-F1-2025 Subcommittee Report to Review RF RFI.docx.....	68
<b>VII. Election of chairperson. *</b>	
* Election of chairperson All Panel 76 members are eligible except for the 2026 delegate chairperson and 2026 Conference committee chairpersons. All committee members vote by written ballot (no verbal nominations). Election by plurality. Second place becomes alternate chairperson. New chairperson serves one year beginning at the close of the Conference.	

## 2025 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

**ITEM A:** Discuss the upcoming 2025 International Convention.

---

### **Background:**

1. Planning Report on the 2025 International Convention

Planning Report on the 2025 International Convention (IC)  
February 4, 2024  
From  
Patrick C., 2025 IC Coordinator

Overview: Planning is on target for your 2025 International Convention in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Here are some highlights of the activities taking place between now and July 2025.

Number of registrants to date as of February 2, 2025: While I know this number will quickly be outdated, I wanted to share that we have a total of 28,305, in person registrants for the 2025 International Convention. This is on pace with where we were at this time for past conventions.

Here is a mockup schedule to help with attendees travel arrangements:

<b>Wednesday, July 2, 2025</b>	
Registration . . . . .	8:00 AM – 8:00 PM
<b>Thursday, July 3, 2025</b>	
Registration . . . . .	8:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Hospitality Suites . . . . .	On Individual Schedules
Block Party in the Park. . . . .	7:30 PM – 12:00 AM
Marathon Meetings . . . . .	Starting at Midnight
<b>Friday, July 4, 2025</b>	
Marathon Meetings. . . . .	24 hours
Registration. . . . .	8:00AM – 8:00 PM
A.A. Meetings. . . . .	9:00AM – 5:00 PM
Opening Big Meeting/Flag Ceremony. . . . .	8:00 PM – 10:00 PM
(Doors and Concessions open at 5:30)	
Dance . . . . .	10:00 PM – Midnight
<b>Saturday, July 5, 2025</b>	

**CONFIDENTIAL: 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Background**

Marathon Meetings. . . . .	24 hours
Registration. . . . .	8:00AM – 8:00 PM
A.A. Meetings. . . . .	9:00AM – 5:00 PM
Oldtimers Big Meeting . . . . .	8:00 PM – 10:30 PM
(Doors and Concessions open at 5:30)	
Dance . . . . .	10:30 PM – Midnight
<b>Sunday, July 6, 2025</b>	
Marathon Meetings . . . . .	Until 7:00 AM
Closing Big Meeting. . . . .	9:00AM – 11:00AM
(Doors open at 7:00 AM)	

February 2025 General Service Board Weekend: The trustees’ IC/RF Committee recommended several actions to the General Service Board and the board approved them at their February 3, 2025, meeting. The following may be of interest:

1. The General Service Board approved that, in addition to the AAWS and AA Grapevine Souvenir publications, a ceramic mug be produced, sold and fulfilled for customers, imprinted with the 2025 International Convention logo, be available for sale through the American online marketplace named Zazzle, leading up and through the end of the 2025 International Convention.
  
2. The General Service Board approved the addition of a tiered pricing registration option for Groups and Informal Gathering Watch Parties. Watch party coordinators would register and pay a 2025 IC Virtual Program Session Track registration fee based on a tiered number of watch party attendees as follows:
  1. 5-20 attendees = \$200.00
  2. 21-30 attendees = \$300.00
  3. 31-40 attendees = \$400.00
  4. 41-50 attendees = \$500.00
  
3. The General Service Board approved that local service committees be offered the opportunity to host a 2025 IC Virtual Program Session Track watch party inside an institution or facility. The service committee chair would pay one \$35 registration fee to attend the Virtual Program Session Track and work out the viewing details with the management of each facility.

## CONFIDENTIAL: 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Background

Communications and the 2025 International Convention: We are having success with the communication channels that are in place. This quarter we have produced many communications for the Fellowship and attendees of our 2025 International Convention.

A notice about the mailing of badges will be emailed in April, and the badges will be mailed to registrants in May. Additionally, we plan to outreach all registrants who requested information about our accessibility services on their registration.

The channels we have used for all three languages English, French and Spanish:

1. Our dedicated 2025 IC webpage <https://www.aa.org/international-convention>
  - a. We communicated a link to [Register Now](#).
  - b. Posted update messages from the IC Coordinator
  - c. FAQ update as of February 2025
    - i. The goal is to keep our Fellowship informed, excited and engaged with the planning process that is underway to make their 2025 IC experience a memorable one. The most recent update was related to the fact that we have stopped processing any new group housing requests.
  - d. Download File Communications for all
  - e. We added the “Tips for sharing about the 2025 International Convention event as of January 10, 2025.”
  - f. We have distributed 6 *IC25 Chit-Chat* messages.
  - g. We have distributed a *Box 4-5-9* Article on the Volunteer Welcome Committee
  - h. A FAQ update is being worked on for February 2025.
2. Email blasts to the General Service Conference members to be sent on through the general service structure – Urgent Communications:
  - a. Facebook Groups postings – six or more to date. All the IC25 Chit-Chats are posted.
  - b. Hotel Rooms Available in our Room Block for IC2025
  - c. Registration Day one communication September 10, 2024
  - d. IC 2025 Communication October 7, 2024
  - e. “Tips for sharing about the 2025 International Convention event as of January 10, 2025.”
3. Newsletters
  - a. *Box 4-5-9* – Summer and Fall 2024
  - b. About AA – Spring and Fall 2024
  - c. The Holiday issue of *Box 4-5-9* included a wonderful article on the local Volunteer Host Committee. In the upcoming Spring issue of *Box 4-5-9* there are two articles. One focuses on anonymity at the Convention and the other shares Convention information.
4. [The AA Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Hour Episode Season 7, Episode 11.](#)
  - a. On October 2, 2024, I recorded a monthly update for an upcoming Episode! Coming soon!

## CONFIDENTIAL: 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Background

- i. Registration and housing process.
    - ii. Virtual program session track registration process.
    - iii. An update on the mysterious 50-spigot coffee pot.
  - b. Aired 12-16-24
    - i. Shared on mockup schedule to help attendees make travel plans
    - ii. Explained how the AA speaker suggestion process works
    - iii. Shared, “Did you know that the International Convention AA Grapevine Play”
5. AA Grapevine Instagram
  - a. [https://www.instagram.com/p/C\\_sjc3COraK/](https://www.instagram.com/p/C_sjc3COraK/)
  - b. <https://www.instagram.com/p/C-VHwNbO-Km/>
  - c. <https://www.instagram.com/p/C9ucAAMukbh/>
6. Mobile App Project:
  - a. Detailed Mobile App Requirements - Completed
  - b. Product/Vendor Selection - Completed
  - c. Present decision to Tech Exec Steer – Completed
  - d. Work on App Content and Configuration – January – July 2025
    - i. User Testing/Remediation - March/April 2025
    - ii. App Roll-Out – May 2025
    - iii. Volunteer Training – June 2025
    - iv. IC 2025! – July 2025

We are also planning our public information messaging and media outreach to ensure that the focus on this major “carry the message” opportunity about Alcoholics Anonymous is presented effectively.

2025 IC Advance Program: We are developing the 2025 IC Advance Program earlier than prior timelines so we can communicate it sooner. One highlight of this Advance program is that it will reflect that we have 184 programmed sessions that attendees will be able to choose from on Friday and Saturday during each day of our event from 9 to 5 p.m. Speakers and moderators are being invited to participate in these sessions. You won't be bored!

Local Vancouver Welcome Volunteer Committee: January 25, 2025, the 2025 AA International Convention Volunteer Kick-Off Rally took place at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

The Welcome Committee is taking many initiatives to perform outreach, including personal attendance by Core Committee members at events throughout Area 79, consistent communication through our mailing list (currently sitting at 2,178) as well as communication through an extensive Area, District and Intergroup contact list. Our website - [icvwc2025.org](http://icvwc2025.org) - continues to be an integral part of driving, landing and providing information.

## CONFIDENTIAL: 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Background

At the Volunteer Kick-Off 775 eager AA members turned out to hear more about the International Convention and the volunteer opportunities which await them, and to speak the language of the heart. The Kick-Off Committee planned and executed the agenda with support, of course, from Talley Management and our General Service Office. A welcome ceremony from the Squamish First Nation kicked off the kick off, there was a mini flag ceremony, there was a presentation from GSB Chair Scott H. on the history of AA in BC, there were presentations on the roles of the subcommittees, how to sign up for Volunteer Hub (the volunteer software program), all culminating in a wonderful walk around of displays setup at the edge of the room put together by the subcommittees to entice those in attendance to sign up for their committees. The creativity and energy that the subcommittees put into the Volunteer Fair aspect of the day was inspiring.

Our biggest challenge going forward will be the continued recruitment to get to the 5000 volunteers that we need. While our outreach efforts thus far have been successful enough to get a very enthusiastic group of people to the Kick-Off, we will need to redouble our efforts to get us to the next level, and to the June 8 Training Orientation.

Carry the Message Pavillion: Speaking of service, the Carry the Message Pavillion will be up and running during the Convention. This area is a must-see for all attendees. Especially for those attendees who want to learn more about the service work and opportunities when you arrive back home motivated to carry the message. The pavilion includes booths for Accessibilities, Corrections, Cooperation with the Professional Community, AA Grapevine/ La Viña, Public Information and Treatment so everyone can learn about this type of general service work.



## 2025 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

**ITEM B:** Review progress report on the development of a new declaration to be adopted at the 2030 International Convention.

---

### **Background:**

1. Progress report on the development of a new declaration to be adopted at the 2030 International Convention.

Trustees' IC-RF Committee's  
Subcommittee on a New Declaration  
February 1, 2024, Report

**Subcommittee:** Clint M., chair, Molly Oliver, Kevin Prior, and Ken T. Patrick C. secretary

At the July 2024 meeting of the trustees' IC/RF Committee, the chair appointed a subcommittee comprised of the above-listed members to consider developing a new declaration to be adopted at the 2030 International Convention.

The scope of the committee is based on the following 2024 Conference Committee on IC/RF Committee Consideration:

- That the trustees' International Convention and Regional Forums Committee explore ideas to develop a new declaration to be adopted at the 2030 International Convention. The concept is to review the history of The Responsibility Statement or the "I Am Responsible" Declaration that was introduced at the 1965 International Convention in Toronto and the history of the "Unity" declaration that was introduced at A.A.'s 35th Anniversary International Convention held in Miami Beach, Florida in July 1970. The committee looks forward to a progress report being brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on International Convention and Regional Forums.

Background: The background provided to complete this work was as follows:

1. The History of the Responsibility Statement
2. The History of the Unity Declaration

- The trustees' IC/RF Committee reviewed and accepted a progress report at their November 2, 2024 meeting. The committee appreciated the concept of creating a declaration related to our third legacy of service, potentially the topic of group conscience and participation. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the February 2025 meeting.

Summary of the subcommittee discussion:

- The subcommittee members agreed that the idea to develop a new declaration to be adopted at the 2030 International Convention is a valid consideration to pursue.

## CONFIDENTIAL: 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Background

- The subcommittee discussed (briefly) whether a new declaration be developed for the 2035 IC (100-year anniversary) as opposed to the 2030 IC but felt that this was not necessary to wait.
- It was shared that as people come to Alcoholics Anonymous is there a better way that they can know what they belong to? A way for them to know they are a part of the Fellowship and their voice counts.
- These declarations we have, while, too long to go on a banner are read or stated in unison at many service meetings and events. Some Conventions read them. The responsibility statement is not in our literature but has become a core part of what we do.
- The subcommittee asked about the new declaration process. The history of the other declarations did not go through a Conference process. They were presented to the International Convention as part of the objective “to provide opportunities for a rededication of attendees to the primary purpose of A.A.” The “History of the Responsibility Statement” details the story. Future actions related to the placement of the statement on wallet cards, etc., were actions that were processed through the proper board or committee channels.
- The subcommittee reconsidered adding the Conference process into a new declaration. It might be better to have a specific statement developed and to present a concrete idea, at a future International Convention.
- The current declarations were authored or co-authored by Al S. A former trustee developed the statements that were presented.
- A subcommittee member reflecting on our history of declarations shared that the Conference Committee on IC-RF was looking for us to come up with suggestions. It may not be the best approach for our entire Fellowship work shopping a new declaration. The prior declarations were written by a person or persons focused on a theme. Rather than a committee of people trying to come up with the best idea.
- Another subcommittee member believe that it should be a concrete developed idea that turns into a Focus Speaker Talk by a trustee or GSB trustee or Keynote Speaker on the topic of the declaration that ends with the presentation for adoption of the new declaration by the body of the IC 2025 or IC 2030 like the prior declarations. We have a process that has worked effectively.

**CONFIDENTIAL: 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Background**

- This iteration of the initial subcommittee tackled with the scope of this new declaration idea is on board with proceeding in this manner.

The subcommittee agreed that a “service declaration” may be a good addition to our current responsibility declaration and unity declaration.

- Responsibility
- Unity
- Service – The group conscience concept fits right into the service idea. Respecting the outcome of group conscience that is informed and participating in it.

A Declaration on Service – would nicely round out the Triangle. Service and Group Conscience – participating in it and moving it forward.

The subcommittee felt that it is important to ask for input from the full trustees’ IC-RF Committee at the February 2024 meeting and then see where we need to go from this point.

## 2025 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

**ITEM C:** Consider that all Sovereign States flags be a part of the Flag Ceremony at an International Convention.

---

### **Background Notes:**

The Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums is being asked to consider this agenda item along with a related request from a WSM Delegate from Australia about first nations flags and the Flag Ceremony at the 2025 International Convention.

### Agenda item information:

Through communication by the 2025 International Convention Coordinator with the submitter of this agenda item it was confirmed the focus of the suggestion is based on when this member became a general service representative (GSR) to a Native American AA group that been active for over 40 years, an Elder asked the GSR, why only one tribe gets to carry their Flag at the International Conventions? The Elder informed the member that each Reservation is its own country / Sovereign State that has its own Government.

### Request from a WSM Delegate from Australia related to first nations flags and the Flag Ceremony at the 2025 International Convention:

“My name is Andy P., and I am currently the world service delegate term 1 for Australia. My inquiry is regarding a topic that has been put forward for our national conference in November regarding Australia having a first nations flag carried at the opening ceremony alongside our national flag.”

### Definitions:

The following is meant to include definitions and information as resource to support and inform the discussion of the numbers of potential flags that would need to be included in an International Convention of AA Flag Ceremony during a Friday evening Big Meeting:

1. One definition of a "Native American Sovereign State," also referred to as a "Tribal Nation" or simply "Tribe," is a federally recognized Native American group that has the inherent right to govern itself, meaning they have the power to make decisions about their own affairs, laws, and citizens within their designated territory, essentially acting as a self-governing nation within the borders of the United States; this right is known as "tribal sovereignty."

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

- a. There are 574 federally recognized Native American tribes and Alaska Native entities in the United States. These tribes are distinct political entities with their own sovereignty.
2. One definition of a “First Nations Sovereign State” is a community that has the right to govern itself, including its political, legal, economic, social, and cultural systems. This right is called Indigenous sovereignty.
  - a. The Canadian Constitution recognizes three groups of Indigenous peoples: First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.
  - b. Canada has over 630 First Nations communities, which represent more than 50 nations and 50 Indigenous languages. In 2021, the 2021 Census reported that there were 1,127,010 First Nations people in Canada.

The Friday Opening Flag Ceremony is one of the major highlights of the A.A. International Convention. This opening piece sets the celebratory tone for the weekend with a display of flags representing countries whose members are attending the Convention.

The following is a summary of our current practices of our Flag Ceremony at an International Convention and what we plan to do at the 2025 International Convention.

Information on the most recent historical practice regarding the Flag Ceremonies at the 2005, 2010 and 2015 Conventions:

2015 – 95 countries flags were included in the Flag Ceremony.

2010 – 84 countries flags were included in the Flag Ceremony.

2005 – 90 countries flags were included in the Flag Ceremony.

Time allotted for the Flag Ceremony:

1. The total approved programmed time for the 2025 Friday night Big Meeting is two hours.
2. The Flag Ceremony is estimated to take twenty minutes of the two-hour programming to complete.

Historical information about the selection of Flag Bearers

1. The most important aspect to understand and adhere to is the criteria and process used for flag bearer selection. The A.A. members must reside in and

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

- attend A.A. meetings in the country which they were selected to carry the country flag. They do not have to be “nationals” of that country.
2. All flag bearers are chosen at random from the list of registrants provided by the registration company.
  3. Sometimes, people will write asking to carry a flag or suggest someone who is special to them or their country to carry the flag. In some cases, a group, local office or Board will attempt to present the flag bearer, which we decline. The response is that it is solely a random selection done by the General Service Office (GSO). There is no election, official appointment, etc.
  4. We used the random number selection function in Excel and multiply it by the number of members who have registered for the International Convention from a country. It was developed and used for 2005 and was helpful in 2010 and 2015. This selects the number of the registered individual who will be invited to carry the flag. Once a member was randomly selected, we also check to make sure they have not carried the flag at previous conventions.
  5. Random though much of this is, we always seek a balance of diverse members.
  6. Indigenous people in AA/First Nations participation: It was decided several conventions back to have Indigenous people in AA/First Nations participate in the flag ceremony.
    - a. In Seattle (1990), Native North Americans had performed a “welcome dance” but did not actually have any representation in the parade of flags.
    - b. Several “nations” including the Navajo had asked to carry their flags. It was suggested that we have a local Native North American/First Nations of the host city or province carry a local symbol which is the way we decided to go, and as was done in Minneapolis (2000), Toronto (2005), San Antonio (2010) and Atlanta (2015).
    - c. We also had the Native North American/First Nations be the first person in line of the parade of flags. The selection of the member carrying local symbol was not random (because we do not have registrants designate their native land) but the individual who carried local symbol was recommended and well connected with first nations of each particular city or province.

Plans for the 2025 International Convention:

The International Convention Coordinator and Alternate Coordinator are planning the same path for producing the 2025 International Convention Flag Ceremony and the production of this central and beloved session is well underway.

Vancouver is located on the unceded traditional territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əy' əm (Musqueam), Skwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səfilwətaʔt̚ (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples, who have lived on this land for thousands of years. In 2014, Vancouver was designated a City of Reconciliation, embarking on a sustained relationship of mutual respect with local First Nations.

We are working with a local contact who is supporting the plans for the three local First Nations participation in our 2025 Flag Ceremony.

---

**Background:**

1. Request for First Nations Flags



**From:** [Conference](#)  
**To:** [2025IC](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Forward to Colleague PAI 10-Bear their Flags at IC  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 18, 2024 4:03:35 PM

---

Dear Patrick,

This item below, along with any included supporting documents (if provided), is being forwarded to the **Trustees' International Convention/Regional Forums (ICRF) Committee** for consideration and any action they may wish to take. You were also copied on the acknowledgement emailed to the PAI submitter. You do not need to be in touch with the submitter now unless you have questions.

Please do follow up with the submitter after each meeting where this topic is on the agenda, until a final decision about it has been reached.

Thanks,  
Diana L.  
Conference Coordinator

**General Service  
Conference (GSC)  
Proposed Agenda Item  
Submission Form**

<b>(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.</b>
International conference on, all Sovereign States should be able to Bear their Flags at our International conference
<b>(2) What problem does this proposed item address?</b>
Some indigenous members would like to bear their flag from their Reservation because each reservation is its own Sovereign State / Government

**(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.

Area 8

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

I can't speak for all the International Conferences because I haven't been to them all but the ones That I have been to only one Tribe beared its Flag

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

to let all Tribes that want to bear their Flags

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

Jim T.

---

**(7) Final comments:**

I Became a GSR at the Rincon Carry the Message to the Native American Group that been active for over 40years . I had an Elder ask me, why only one tribe gets to bear their Flag ? The elder informed me that each Reservation is its own country / Sovereign State that has its own Government

## 2025 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

**ITEM D:** Discuss ways to encourage interest and participation at Regional Forums.

---

### **Background:**

1. Summary of Suggestions 2017 to 2024
2. 2024 Western Canada Forum Evaluation Questionnaire Summary
3. 2024 Pacific Regional Forum Evaluation Questionnaire Summary
4. 2024 Eastern Canada Forum Evaluation Questionnaire Summary
5. 2024 Southeast Regional Forum Evaluation Questionnaire Summary

## Summary of Suggestions on Ways to Encourage Interest in Forums from Conference Committees on International Conventions/Regional Forums (2017-2024)

The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first time attendees, and suggested:

### 2024

- Continue to announce Regional Forums at all local A.A. events within the Region.
- That the staff coordinator on the Regional Forums assignment communicate with the Area Contact and Volunteer Committee earlier in the Regional Forum planning process.
- That the staff coordinator on the Regional Forums assignment continues to disseminate Regional Forum information early and often using all modes of communication including email, aa.org, Meeting Guide app., *Box 4-5-9*, and AA Grapevine and La Viña.
- Consider creating short current anonymity protected videos about Regional Forums that can be shared on our communication channels.
- That the General Service Board consider adding the use of current technology including streaming, virtual and/or hybrid components to Regional Forums; and the possibility of using local A.A. resources.
- Consider adding an additional full virtual forum.

### 2023

- That the General Service Board add virtual elements to Regional Forums, or even add a virtual fifth forum to the annual calendar.
- Disseminate advance information about events using flyers, posters, announcements in Grapevine and La Vina, podcasts, Instagram messages, invitations in ASL, QR codes, and *Box 4-5-9* articles.

### 2022

- Consider options to the title “Regional Forum” utilizing more current language.
- Continue utilizing digital communication options; however, also continue non-digital options to ensure full accessibility and participation by members who may not have access to technology.

## Confidential: 75th General Service Conference Background

### 2021

- Consider using the Meeting Guide app to further convey Regional Forum information.
- Continue using videoconferencing technology to broadcast portions of future in-person forum programs allowing members who may not have the resources or time to travel to participate.
- Ensure future host regions are well informed about dates, locations, programs, and ways the local membership can participate.
- Extend outreach materials to invite the Spanish-speaking and LGBTQ communities to attend Regional Forums.
- Conduct at least one presentation or workshop in Spanish and/or French at each Regional Forum.

### 2020

- Providing options for remote attendance.
- Providing digital access to Regional Forum materials and presentations (including use of the Meeting Guide app or mobile app).
- Developing service material for host committees providing shared experience on hosting a Regional Forum and stimulating participation.
- Developing a “video invitation” from the GSB chair.

#### Suggestions for implementation at the local area included:

- Early and consistent communication about Regional Forums, including “What is a Regional Forum; no registration fee; what happens at a forum.
- Involve members at all levels of service; do “sponsorship road trips.”

Use the Regional Forum video after it is released.

### 2019

- Compile notes from the first-timer sharing at a Forum for later distribution to encourage members to attend a future Forum.

## Confidential: 75th General Service Conference Background

- Consider developing a Regional Forum app.
- Consider developing a microsite in addition to postal mailing the Regional Forum flyers.
- Increase awareness at the local level, including “intentional” outreach to different populations (i.e., young people, Spanish-speaking communities).
- Encourage local welcome committees to create “Save the Date” flyers.
- Consider inviting AAWS/AA Grapevine directors to “non-service” A.A. events to increase awareness of Regional Forums.
- Place information about Regional Forums in the AA Grapevine and La Viña.

### **2018**

- When possible, provide bilingual written and PowerPoint presentations, especially important when the Regional Forum is held in an area with a large population of non-English speaking members.
- Consider providing “meet and mingle” opportunities for Forum attendees to meet with trustees and GSO staff in informal settings (i.e., lunch).
- Provide members the opportunity to register earlier than the current two months lead time.

### **Suggestions for Forum workshops include:**

- Lengthen workshop times.
- Trustees and GSO staff could lead more workshops to foster more interaction with Forum attendees.
- Adding workshops that would specifically address the topic of our Primary Purpose.
- Providing additional Spanish workshops.

### **2017**

- Communicating information to groups that are a car ride or day trip away from the Forum site.
- Looking for attractive sites for Forums.

## Confidential: 75th General Service Conference Background

- Forwarding any and all announcements from GSO, including when pre-registration opens.
- Forwarding announcements to states that are in other regions when Forum sites are nearby.
- Utilizing FNV for email blasts to communicate with trusted servants about upcoming Forums.

Additionally, one area through its Assembly Development Committee organizes ride sharing and room sharing for Forums; and one delegate shared that they bring a laptop to A.A. gatherings and use it for pre-registration.



**2024 WESTERN CANADA REGIONAL FORUM – (May 10-12, 2024)**

**Evaluation Questionnaire Summary**

154 participants out of the 343 attendees completed the Evaluation Questionnaire. Below is a summary of the responses.

**1. Please indicate whether this was your first Forum:**

Yes 87 (58.0%)  
No 63 (42.0%)

**2. How did you hear about the Forum?**

Area	70 (48.6%)
District	38 (26.4%)
GSO Flyer	6 (4.2%)
Local Intergroup/Central Office	4 (2.8%)
Homegroup	27 (18.8%)
www.aa.org	11 (7.6%)
Friend	20 (13.9%)
Other	8 (5.6%)

**Responses to other:**

- Grapevine
- Box 459
- Meeting Guide app
- Area Assembly
- WRAASA
- DCM
- Treasurer
- GSB
- Delegate

**3. Did you pre-register online at: [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)?**

Yes 132 (88.0%)  
No 18 (12.0%)

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

## Confidential: 75th General Service Conference Background

### 4. Suggestions to improve the online pre-registration process.

- Send a registration confirmation email.
- Send a reminder to pre-register a few days before registration opens.
- Open pre-registration earlier.
- Provide a mechanism where people can check if they are registered.

### 5. Please select your service position:

GSR	31 (23.3%)
DCM	11 (8.3%)
Area Officer	14 (10.5%)
Area Committee Chairperson	7 (5.3%)
A.A. Member	37 (27.8%)
Non-trustee Director	0 (0.0%)
Delegate	3 (2.3%)
Past Delegate	5 (3.8%)
Trustee	1 (0.8%)
Past Trustee	3 (2.3%)
Friend of A.A.	2 (1.5%)
Other	19 (14.3%)

### Responses to Other:

- District: PI Rep, CPC Rep, Archive Committee Chair, Secretary, Chair, Treasurer, Remote Communities Chair
- DCC - Newsletter
- DCC Treatment and Accessibility
- ASC web team
- WCRF Welcome Committee
- Alternate DCM
- Home Group Secretary
- Past GSR
- Alt-GSR
- Past Area Finance Officer
- PI Committee chair
- A.A. roundup registering chairperson
- Central Office/Intergroup Rep
- Intergroup Finance Chair
- Past AA-DACH Editor, past Literature Officer Sydney, Australia
- Mini Assembly Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

**6. What was effective and what improvements might be made to each of the following:**

**A. Presentations**

**Delegates**

- More time to present.
- Maybe shorten.
- Share on specific topic ex. How an Area prepares for the GSC.
- Make sure the presenter speaks into the mic.
- More time for comments and Q&A.
- Clear and concise with the right amount of levity.
- Professional, efficient courteous great sense of humor.
- Delegates spoke from the heart, their love of A.A. was evident and enthusiasm is contagious.
- Excellent, Fantastic, Awesome and great job etc. (over 30 responses).

**Board and Staff**

- Clear and concise without overbearing finer details.
- A dream come true for me to meet these remarkable folks from New York!
- Very knowledgeable, accommodating, welcoming, inclusive, professional & present! Example of what authentic humble, humorous, loving leadership in A.A.
- Q&A very effective.
- Would love to hear more from the Class A Trustees.
- More updates on the Board and Office Activities.
- Give more examples on the experience and expertise needed to become a Non-Trustee and a Trustee.
- Have the Board and Staff come up to the room and introduce themselves.

**AAWS Board and Your General Service Office**

- The more I learned about what happens on the AAWS Board and the office the more I am convinced that A.A. is safe.
- Improve the PowerPoints. The visuals were too small with too much information per slide.
- Perhaps provide an audio clip from each member who works each desk and a brief description of their positions.
- Handouts to show new attendees more of the Board structure. Particularly the name of Trustees and what is their participation.
- Explaining the interaction of the AAWS Board and GSO was helpful.

**CONFIDENTIAL:** This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

## Confidential: 75th General Service Conference Background

- I now understand the upside-down triangle.
- This is when I started to melt. The presentations spoke to me and penetrated my soul so deeply. This was such a highlight.
- Excellent, Fantastic, Awesome and great job etc.

### AA Grapevine Board and the Grapevine Office

- Would have liked more Q&A.
- Very informative.
- They need to seriously investigate the need for printed Grapevine.
- I'd like to have heard more about the five-year plan and the significance of the expenditure on the app. It was very encouraging.
- I am not sure I am sold on the five-year plan, but it was good to hear about it.
- This part made me feel that I need to help more than ever. Our "newspaper" is very important and as for my district still a little unknown. Meeting the people that work for GV made me understand that they need my support.
- Excellent, Fantastic, Awesome and great job etc.
- I appreciate the financial transparency. I didn't realize there were so few who did so much work. Admitting that self-support was still down the road, for GV and La Viña. They presented a positive message that we as members have dig in and help out.
- I really enjoyed this presentation and immediately downloaded the Grapevine app. As soon as I finish this survey, I will be buying a complete 3-year subscription for the Grapevine. Thank you for the AWESOME app and thank you for your service.

### Trustee at Large, Canada

- I really enjoyed the presentation. I didn't realize Trustee-at-large travel included countries outside of Canada and USA.
- The presentation was a bit long.
- I would have liked to learn more about what the other GSOs in other countries are doing to reach the still suffering alcoholic.
- I think it is important that with current technology being what it is that permission being granted or blurring faces in any photograph is vital.
- I am happy we send someone so soft and kind to represent us at the world level to other countries.
- Was hard to hear the presenter at times.
- It was good to learn about the World Fund and that others contribute to this.

### Treasurer

- Excellent. PowerPoint hard to see some of the graphics.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

## **Confidential: 75th General Service Conference Background**

- Need more time. He rushed through some sessions.
- The information was provided in a way I understand.
- Encouraging and informative.
- The treasurer made me feel confident and informed about our financial state, as he did at conference as well.
- More time for Q&A.
- When presenting in Canada can you give the Canadian dollar equivalent?
- More honest transparency!
- Very funny. Simplify for the A.A. member who is not familiar with finances. I barely understood these presentations at all.
- Do the Treasurers report before the grapevine report.

### **It's "A" Class Act**

- They are the first Class A trustees I've ever met, I'll never forget them.
- They have shown me the "why" and the "how" a Class A operates...the same as us...in love and service.
- Knowing that we have non-alcoholic that are just as passionate as I am about the program is vital to our function.
- I really appreciated their honesty and humor. Her opening up to us in such a private and profound way put to a level of trust in us that no doubt will only make us more trusting as an organization. Trust begets trust.
- I was not aware of the Class A Trustee. This was so informative.
- Amazing, excellent, I am in awe, really good, inspiring, great etc.

### **Sharing from Past Trustees**

- More time - perhaps 10 minutes each.
- We need past trustees at forums and WRAASAs to show continuity, unity, and that these events matter and are vital to AA as a whole.
- This session filled up my cup and made me want to pursue General Service into my golden years!
- It was spiritually moving to see so many past RTs on stage. Each one sharing something so poignant about their experience in their role and their encouragement that one day, one of us, maybe even I, would be given the privilege to serve in the same capacity.
- Their messages were all about serving with each other and embellishing their terms with each other. If this was removed, I don't think anyone would miss it.
- Always been a very favorite part of a forum weekend
- Excellent, amazing, wow! etc.

**CONFIDENTIAL:** This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

## **B. Workshops**

### **Topics**

- More diversity in topics.
- I attended the anonymity online session - I think this issue needs more discussion.
- Use the timer as the shares were too long.
- Having more than two topics to discuss during a workshop.
- Perhaps give more direction to the moderator.

### **Format of the Workshops**

- The moderator could give a brief presentation at the beginning. This would have been instructive and given the sharing more direction.
- Have moderator explain what to expect.
- A timer would have been useful.
- Floor mics would be better placed if they face the crowd.
- Remind facilitators to keep the meeting on track.
- Have someone pop into the room to ensure that equipment is being used and to support those facilitating.

## **C. Sharing Sessions**

- The two-minute timer is perfect!
- Have each person share once before a person gets a second chance.
- More time.
- Shorten the longer presentations and extend the sharing session.
- Opportunities to interact in smaller groups.
- Consider blending the ask-it-basket questions throughout the weekend.
- Time one minute for each question.
- I think it would have been helpful if people had been encouraged to share what was on their mind and to ask the difficult questions  
Seemed like two minutes was a long time to ask questions, some people talked too long. More time for answers.

### **Please list any suggestions to improve the overall Forum experience:**

- More breaks.
- Pause for physical movement breaks.
- Provide a copy of the program sooner.
- Include alternate DCMs and GSRs during introductions.
- Have a person share their A.A. story.

**CONFIDENTIAL:** This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

## Confidential: 75th General Service Conference Background

- Prepare hotel restaurants to expect large groups.
- Please recognize the volunteer committee.
- Badge: Have the name and Area in large font and bolded and the RF title smaller.
- Have food for purchase.
- More breaks.
- Make the presentations more engaging.
- Make the forum available online or hybrid.
- Have different colored name tags for each service position.
- Have the weekend's schedule published earlier.
- More time for the Class A and the First Timer's sharing session.
- Too much packed in overall.
- More meet and greet time.
- Maybe try to connect the different areas positions together.

###

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

**2024 PACIFIC REGIONAL FORUM – (July 12-14, 2024)**

**Evaluation Questionnaire Summary**

313 (260 English/53 Spanish) of the 918 attendees completed the Evaluation Questionnaire. Below is a summary of the responses.

**1. Please indicate whether this was your first Forum:**

	<b>English</b>	<b>Spanish</b>
Yes	108 (42.5%)	31 (60.8%)
No	146 (57.5%)	20 (39.2%)

**2. How did you hear about the Forum?**

	<b>English</b>	<b>Spanish</b>
Area	144 (58.1%)	21 (42.9%)
District	51 (20.6%)	28 (57.1%)
GSO Flyer	31 (12.5%)	7 (14.3%)
Local Intergroup/Central Office	9 (3.6%)	1 (2.0%)
Homegroup	25 (10.1%)	1 (2.0%)
www.aa.org	45 (18.1%)	4 (8.2%)
Friend	22 (8.9%)	2 (4.1%)
Other	17 (6.69%)	0

**Other:**

- PRAASA
- ACYPAA
- Regional Assembly
- Past forum announcement
- DCM
- GSR
- Meeting Guide app
- Ad in Grapevine
- Sponsor
- I was a guest at the hotel

**CONFIDENTIAL:** This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.



**Confidential: 75th General Service Conference Background**

- If you know you know

**3. Did you pre-register online at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)?**

	<b>English</b>	<b>Spanish</b>
Yes	235 (92.9%)	34 (66.7%)
No	18 (7.1%)	17 (33.3%)

**4. Please list any suggestions to improve the online pre-registration process.**

- It took a lot of clicks to get to the registration page.
- Receive the program or schedule at the time of registration.
- Open registration earlier.

**5. Please indicate your current service position:**

	<b>English</b>	<b>Spanish</b>
GSR	41 (17.2%)	13 (29.5%)
DCM	36 (8.3%)	4 (9.1%)
Area Officer	25 (10.5%)	3 (6.8%)
Area Committee Chairperson	14 (5.3%)	0
A.A. Member	44 (18.5%)	11 (25.0%)
Non-trustee Director	1 (0.4%)	0
Delegate	11 (4.6%)	0
Past Delegate	21 (8.8%)	1 (2.3%)
Trustee	0	0
Past Trustee	5 (2.1%)	0 (0.0%)
Friend of A.A.	1 (0.4%)	1 (2.3%)
District Officer	0	6 (13.6%)
Other	39 (16.4%)	5 (11.4%)

**Other:**

- Area and Alternate DCMC, DCM
- Area and Area alternate GV/LV chair
- Literature Committee Chair
- Archives Chair
- Area Tech Chair
- Area Chair
- Alt Delegate
- District Secretary, Recording Secretary, Registrar, Committee Member Chair
- Alt GSR

**CONFIDENTIAL:** This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

## **Confidential: 75th General Service Conference Background**

- Past GSR
- Web Servant
- Home Group Treasurer
- Intergroup Representative
- Grapevine Committee Member
- ACYPAA GS Liaison
- Coordinador de La Viña
- Chair of Hispanic AA women's committee
- H&I Chair

### **6. What improvements might be made to each of the following:**

#### **A. Presentations**

##### **Delegates**

- Discuss A.A. challenges and solutions with more detail.
- Have delegates present on the committees they served on and the General Service Conference experience.
- UNITY.
- Please provide an audio recording and transcription.
- Do not have them all at the same time – spread them throughout the weekend.
- The topics should be of current interest and importance to A.A.
- Have the speaker's face projected on the big screen.
- Bilingual presentations were tough to follow – although I applaud the idea.
- Many positive responses re the presentations and the topic HALT (Humility, Acceptance, Love and Tolerance) and Cultivating Future Service Leadership.

##### **AAWS Board and Your General Service Office**

- Have the presenters relate the material to how it impacts our primary purpose.
- More sharing on the GSO.
- More Q&A.
- The GSO staff video was great; perhaps make it a bit longer and cover "A Day in the Life of a...."
- More progress reports on the new modalities by which we are making the hand of AA more readily available, our 12th Step outreach.
- Provide Spanish and English presentation slides.
- PowerPoint had too much information on them.

##### **AA Grapevine Board and the Grapevine Office**

- How can we help La Viña?

**CONFIDENTIAL:** This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

## **Confidential: 75th General Service Conference Background**

- Would prefer if one topic was discussed more thoroughly.
- Would like to learn about the content origination.
- Provide handouts with relevant information to share with our groups.
- The GV sessions can be shorter.
- Better clarification of all the subscription choices.
- We need better customer service. We never get a response; they just tell us, "We are working on it." La Viña subscriptions don't arrive.
- Show the app features.

### **Trustee-at-Large, Canada**

- Add information on upcoming trips.
- More time is needed for this report.

### **Treasurer**

- More current information with our projections for the future. Insight into discussions being had in finance and budget committee.
- Tighten it up so there is plenty of time for questions.
- More attention to the finances with fewer jokes.
- I would have liked the treasurer's report to be "dumbed down" a little.
- Perhaps a workshop on finance rather than just a report would be a good opportunity for members to ask questions and explore issues more in-depth. The goal would be a better understanding of A.A. financial systems, issues and processes.
- A more detailed (better explained) inventory about results of contributions and about the Gratitude month, since many of us responded to this call.
- The information can be improved and should be clearer.
- Many of us heard this report, perhaps a shorter summary of the information with more time for Q&A.

### **It's "A" Class Act**

- Cover more about her service on the Board.
- Would like to have heard more from our Class A Trustee.

### **Sharing from Past Trustees**

- Give them a subject to focus on
- Have this at another time.
- Shorten this session if necessary, depending on the number of past trustees.
- Negative board bashing shows such a lack of humility or servant leadership.
- Give them more time (10 min) as it is critical to hear their views.
- Q&A afterward.

**CONFIDENTIAL:** This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

## **Confidential: 75th General Service Conference Background**

### **First Time Attendees**

- Should have given Spanish speakers needing translation double time.
- Should there be a break-out or orientation session for these people prior to the start of the Forum to answer any questions?
- A little more interaction with first timers and more time to answer personal questions.
- I would shorten this a bit.

### **B. Workshops**

#### **Topics**

- More topics.
- Current topics experienced by members.
- Provide a summary of the topic.
- GSO and the 'upside down' triangle.
- How to better serve the fellowship from a broader perspective.
- Literature-based.

#### **Format**

- Have a panel versus a moderator.
- More leadership from the moderator.
- Brief presentation to get the group started.
- Discuss 1-2 predetermined ideas or questions to maximize participation.
- Time the shares ~90 seconds.
- Make them longer - 90 minutes.
- More input from the delegates.
- Have a panel who has experience on the topic and then participation.
- All workshops should be interpreted.

### **C. Sharing Sessions**

- Longer so everyone can be heard.
- Limit one person respond to a question.
- The Q&A sessions be like the Ask-It-Basket session.
- "Lesson learned" sessions and ideas to share.
- Have experienced attendees share so those rotating in can learn.

### **7. Suggested Future Presentation Topics:**

- Ways to encourage involvement in service.
- Finding balance in service.
- 7th tradition contributions.

**CONFIDENTIAL:** This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

## Confidential: 75th General Service Conference Background

- Will we ever be self-supporting as a fellowship without literature sales?
- How to talk to our A.A. groups about money.
- Individual contributions outside of the Birthday/Anniversary Plan.
- Tech costs for online or hybrid meetings and the impact on group contributions to other service entities.
- The Use of Technology to Carry the Message - Online Meetings, Online Service Events, and Linguistic Meetings.
- Our Digital Future
- The state and function of GSO.
- GSO serving US/Canada and the relationship to other GSO structures.
- How the work of the GSB impacts A.A. locally?
- Servant Leadership exploration for districts and areas.
- A.A.'s primary purpose.
- How to inform members of their Service Representatives.
- The 12 Traditions.
- Trust! Trust the process! Trust HP! Trust each other!
- The difference between groups and meetings, and how they are accounted for.
- Where will A.A. be in 10 years?
- Who is not in the room?
- Reaching underserved groups (remote communities, language/literacy barriers, etc.).
- How may we avoid rigidity in A.A.?
- Social media - how to apply our spiritual principles?
- Current happenings in A.A.
- How to make a group amends.
- A.A. Around the World - One GSO, One Vote.
- New group registration process at GSO.
- Practice love and tolerance toward newcomers looking for information.
- Discrimination and sexual harassment of women in A.A.
- Women in service.
- How to better use the Twelve Steps and importance of the Traditions.
- How to increase the involvement of the Spanish-speaking Fellowship.
- Leadership.

### 8. Suggested future Workshop topics

- How to make the Grapevine and La Viña fun at all A.A. events.
- History of A.A. - how things evolved into what they are now.
- How can we take what we learn at forums into other A.A. events?
- Exactly how and why proposed Agenda items don't make it onto the agenda.
- Reflections on the Plain Language Big Book - What do members think?

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

## Confidential: 75th General Service Conference Background

- How can we bring YPAA members into General Service in our Area?
- Helpful tips to help the new GSR or trusted servant take an informed group conscience.
- Discuss an inventory 'checklist' for the health of service at the group, district and area level.
- Discussing the "Three Legacies" at the home group.
- How to be a secretary.
- How and when to introduce the newcomer to the service structure?
- How to do a group, district and area inventory.
- What new ways are we reaching the newcomer?
- UNITY.
- Review the aa.org website.
- PSAs and what other areas and groups have tried, what GSO finds helpful, and usage of YouTube videos for this purpose.
- Twelve Concepts.
- Choosing our trusted servants with care.
- Social media.
- Improving home group participation in the general service structure.
- How to teach service beyond the coffee maker.
- Keeping online A.A. meetings safe.
- The Area and its function.
- Mending divides and controversial topics in membership.
- Treasurer and best practices.
- What the Board can and cannot do
- A sharing session versus a Group Conscience
- How does listening help?
- Working with Intergroup offices.
- Safety in A.A.
- CPC.
- Come meet your trusted servants.
- Emotional sobriety.
- Sustainability of GV and LV.
- Regional reports - what's happening across the region?
- Why are Hispanic A.A. women not seen as equals by Hispanic men?
- The importance of equality in service.
- Creating service sponsorship committees at areas, districts to help with rotation.
- Back to basics: carrying the message.

### 9. Suggestions to improve the overall Forum experience:

- Add an extra day.
- More interaction through including breakouts and round tables.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

## Confidential: 75th General Service Conference Background

- I have workshops on Sunday.
- Better interpretation equipment for everyone.
- More one-on-one with staff members.
- The archives display should be closer to the main ballroom.
- Begin and end each session with a prayer.
- I didn't like the smoke in the casino. Perhaps a healthier venue.
- Please provide an audio recording and transcription.
- Provide webinar access for online members.
- One end-of-the-day social event would be nice.
- Stickers with the meeting guide app and QR code on it.
- Better signage.
- Improve interpretation. Minimum of 3 interpreters and 3-4 ASL interpreters. Utilize local areas as they will know the best interpreters with better rates.
- More QR codes and have them in the main ballroom.
- Record presentations and make them available.
- Go virtual.
- There should be an app to have the schedule interactive.
- Make it fun so more young people will come.
- Have A.A. members of different races speak for 5 minutes each.
- Have interpretation in all workshops.

### 10. Would you likely come to another regional forum?

	English	Spanish
Yes	239 (98.0%)	49 (96.1%)
No	5 (2.0%)	2 (3.9%)

#### If Yes, why?

- The nuggets and flakes that bring value to the fellowship.
- I love seeing my friends, old and new.
- It makes me feel connected to carrying the message worldwide.
- It is a wonderful opportunity to meet and say thank you to our GSO.
- To acquire more knowledge of the program that has given me a life beyond my imagination.
- Important to tell my local A.A. we are a part of greater A.A. around the world.
- I like how I feel when I leave the forum.
- I enjoy hearing firsthand about what is going on at GSO
- It was my first Forum. I brought a new GSR, and we both learned a lot.
- We got to hang out face-to-face together.
- Informative and makes me a more effective servant.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

## Confidential: 75th General Service Conference Background

- I love to learn new information and various opinions.
- I stumbled upon this convention — is it odd, or was it God? I really didn't know what it was about. My experience was so positive and informative.
- I appreciate the access to information and the opportunity to hear Q&A.
- Helps me become more connected to how it works and bring the message back to my group.
- It has always been my best source for knowledge of the current health and status of our headquarters.
- The only place I really get to hear from our class A trustees and our Trustee-at-Large US.
- It provides plenty of time to have one-on-one conversations with staff and board members.
- Because it's my duty.
- This was so very different from PRAASA or any of my area assemblies. It was enlightening and personal.
- It's how I stay engaged with members from other areas and with the service structure-and where I do come to hear "straight from the horse's mouth."
- I got to witness a sober member in A.A. seamlessly chair a meeting. I was amazed to see that there were so many different points of view and so many different opinions, and none of them moved or even made the chair raise their tone of voice and I thought, "it is possible!" It filled my heart and my faith one million percent.
- I would like to attend a regional forum from a different area and see how/what other areas are going through.
- It gives me the opportunity to create relationships with others that I may never have met, and it unites us to the bottom of the triangle.
- Gives us opportunities to ask questions we may never get to as. Based on reading *Our Great Responsibility*, I know that Bill W. was concerned that the bigger the AA got, the more disconnected the General Service Office would be from the membership, and Forums are a great way to keep that from happening.
- To meet our newest trusted servants and special workers.
- I love all the clarification and 'learning experience' of the forum, especially when it comes to the misinformation that may be floating around.
- This is my fifth regional forum. I started going in 1980 when I was at GSR. I find personal engagement with our trustees and the board chair absolutely vital for my sobriety.
- I would attend again in order to pass along what I learned at the forum.
- It was wonderful to connect with "those New York people." To realize they are just recovering alcoholics who love A.A. as much as I do.
- So that the Spanish-speaking Fellowship in my area can get motivated and attend in order for information to flow better.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.



## Confidential: 75th General Service Conference Background

- There was a lot of information I did not know about A.A. I was impressed with everything related to REDELA.

### If No, why?

- The GSO staff talk down to the fellowship and act above reproach. New people are treated with slight disdain.
- It is too far.
- Did not like the venue or location.
- I've heard basically the same information twice.
- My district funded my trip. It was such a spiritual experience that I would love to attend, funds permitting.
- Repetitive info gets boring.
- There was no transparency. There were questions without answers. So much silence leaves you dissatisfied or makes you wonder.

###

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

**2024 EASTERN CANADA REGIONAL FORUM – (August 23-25, 2024)**

**Evaluation Questionnaire Summary**

A total of 135 (76 English/59 French) participants completed the Evaluation Questionnaire. Below is a summary of the responses.

**1. Please indicate whether this was your first Forum:**

	<b>English</b>	<b>French</b>
Yes	45 (63.4%)	30 (50.8%)
No	26 (36.6%)	29 (49.2%)

**2. How did you hear about the Forum?**

	<b>English</b>	<b>French</b>
Area	29 (42.0%)	40 (60.9%)
District	18 (26.1%)	14 (24.1%)
GSO Flyer	9 (13.0%)	6 (10.3%)
Local Intergroup/Central Office	3 (4.3%)	1 (1.7%)
Homegroup	14 (20.3%)	13 (22.4%)
www.aa.org	10 (14.5%)	2 (3.4%)
Friend	6 (8.7%)	3 (5.2%)
Other	3(4.3%)	2 (3.4%)

**Other:**

- Local Service Information Day
- Sponsor
- At an A.A. Meeting
- My GSR
- My husband
- My brother, who does service

**3. Did you pre-register online at: [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)?**

**English                      French**

**CONFIDENTIAL:** This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

**CONFIDENTIAL: 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Background**

Yes	59 (83.1%)	58 (98.3%)
No	12 (16.9%)	1 (1.7%)

**4. Please list any suggestions to improve the online pre-registration process**

- Make it simple and straightforward.
- It was easy nothing to change.
- I pre-registered but they did not have my tag when I got to the Forum.
- Add the ability to indicate one's Area and District on the Registration form.
- It was perfect, except that the confirmation email referred to a Western Canada Regional Forum.

**5. Please indicate your current service position:**

	<b>English</b>	<b>French</b>
GSR	10 (15.4%)	10 (20.4%)
DCM	11 (16.9%)	10 (20.4%)
Area Officer	6 (9.2%)	6 (12.2%)
District Officer		4 (8.2%)
Area Committee Chairperson	6 (9.2%)	
A.A. Member	16 (24.6%)	9 (18.4%)
Non-trustee Director	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Delegate	1 (1.5%)	1 (2.0%)
Past Delegate	1 (1.5%)	1 (2.0%)
Trustee	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Past Trustee	1 (1.5%)	0 (0.0%)
Friend of A.A.	1 (1.5%)	0 (0.0%)
Other	6 (9.2%)	8 (16.3%)

**Other:**

- Treasurer of my home group
- Chair of a committee in my home group
- Past GSR
- Alt. GSR
- Alt. DCM
- Alt. Delegate
- Past Intergroup Rep
- Intergroup Treasurer
- Telephone Answering Service Coordinator

**CONFIDENTIAL:** This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

## **CONFIDENTIAL: 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Background**

- Public Information Officer
- Area Registrar
- Area Archivist
- Area Web services Coordinator
- Newsletter Publishing District Committee
- CPC/ PI Chair for the District
- District Chairperson
- District Secretary
- Detention Centers Committee Coordinator
- Treatment Committee Chair
- Grapevine Literature Rep
- La Viña A.A. Webmaster
- Chairperson for the Eastern Ontario Conference 2024
- Al-Anon member

### **6. What improvements might be made to each of the following:**

#### **A. Presentations**

##### **Delegates**

- Delegates should be encouraged to use PowerPoint. Much more engaging.
- The presentation that was done in French and English would have been better if a French or English interpreter had been used.
- I would have loved to learn more and hear more about virtual areas.
- I am seriously visually impaired, so overheads could be improved and made available online.
- I think Delegates' presentations should be in the workshops. The full sessions should be reserved for GSO, AAWS and Grapevine personnel.
- Do the presentations in one language and afterward in the other language. Instead of going back and forth between the two languages.
- Presentations should be shorter.
- Presentations were too short.
- Would have preferred topics specific to Canada like: "How to deal with Problems of Members Changing Areas and not committing to the New Area ( aka the Area Guidelines).
- It was unfortunate that one of the Delegates had to rush due to translation issues.
- Many positive comments.

**CONFIDENTIAL:** This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

## **CONFIDENTIAL: 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Background**

### **AAWS Board and Your General Service Office**

- Having some personal anecdotes was nice as it brought the human part of the organization to light. A few more personal touches could work well.
- I think a good mindset for these kinds of presentations is aiming at the "I'm a brand new GSR and my group's first in a decade" kind of person.
- A bit more factual information and fewer pious wishes.
- AAWS was interesting but confusing.
- Have the presentations translated beforehand and have them read on-site by a translator; once the presentation is over, have it read in the other language.
- Many positive comments were made.

### **AA Grapevine Board and the Grapevine Office**

- Unfortunately, members would have liked to have been reassured that the problems encountered with customer service had been resolved (difficulty buying online, difficulty receiving the right merchandise).
- I'm getting mixed messages from La Vigne and La Viña and the fact that we DO have a border of countries, as friendly as it is.
- La Vigne is like Cinderella. What can be done? I do not know. Is there political and financial transparency that we need to know more about?
- Can this presentation be more interactive?

### **Trustee-at-Large, U.S.**

- I think more time should be allotted for this so that the fellowship can hear the stories of how other countries (regions) go to any lengths to keep their meetings going.
- I would've liked to hear from both Trustees.
- Talk a bit more about their role instead of the people they've met.

### **Treasurer**

- I would have liked him to discuss the impact of the La Viña losses assumed by AAWS and if this impacts the reserve fund.
- More specifics. It felt that the jokes were a distraction from the numbers, a diversion.
- More explanation on how we plan on replenishing the prudent reserve, which is now below 7 months.
- Perhaps have this forum earlier as there is a lot of information.

**CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.**

## **CONFIDENTIAL: 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Background**

- Please help us understand A.A.'s finances — income vs expenses. What would the organization want to spend money on if the funds were available? What money is available now and what do we spend it on?

### **It's "A" Class Act**

- We did not receive any improvement comments. This part of the program was loved unanimously.

### **Sharing from Past Trustees**

- Would have been great to have a few there who talked about their roles, experiences, and responsibilities.

### **First-time Attendees**

- There were many of them. Many came from the French-speaking regions of Quebec. Why couldn't English speakers follow our conversations via the interpreters? I really didn't understand this phenomenon! French translation devices were missing. Have Francophones lost ground that badly? At our next inter-regional meeting, we will discuss this subject. Our Quebecers, even if they're bilingual, should always speak French so that we don't regress on the road we've traveled, which has been very arduous for us to be respected for our differences (Inclusion wasn't at its best at this forum).
- Handle their interpretation needs when they need it but with real interpretation instead of the dysfunctional system we experienced over the weekend.
- Presentation of newcomers should be done without interpreters for Francophones; being constantly interrupted by an interpreter takes away from the genuineness of their sharing.

## **B. Workshops**

### **Topics**

- I do not believe that we should hold a separate workshop for Inclusivity. We are all just alcoholics and it is not important, nor should it be a main focus. We are only fanning the flames, which should be left to the media.

### **Format**

- I would prefer a short presentation by the facilitator to get things rolling.
- Have the facilitator present a few questions for the attendees to select from.

**CONFIDENTIAL:** This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

## **CONFIDENTIAL: 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Background**

- Have an open sharing session for the last few minutes.
- I would like to have seen a clear purpose and direction of the workshops.
- Moderators were sometimes too strict. A.A. is supposed to be fun.
- Have more workshops in French or with interpretation.
- Create smaller groups in workshops to have a more intimate space with members.

### **C. Sharing Sessions**

- These should not be so long.

### **7. Suggested future Presentation topics:**

- Sponsorship and involvement.
- Carrying the 12-Step message with passion and enthusiasm.
- French and Spanish language in A.A. in U.S./Canada structure.
- Use selected themes from the current Conference.
- Safety Guidelines for the A.A. group.
- How to attract members to service positions.
- How to inspire members to get more interested in the Traditions and Concepts.
- Non-binary and Non-violence in a violent world.
- The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated: The Treaty/Covenant of A.A. the Rainbow of the Six Warranties is not affiliated with the Rainbow Flag or outside issues.
- Connect a Concept to actual Board or GSO service.
- The Twelve Traditions Illustrated and the Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated are the Plain Language for our unity and service
- Plain language Big Book. Will it reach its intended audience? The international personal experiences?
- Where districts and central service offices are making it work and cooperating well to carry the message.
- How can the service bodies cooperate?
- A.A. in 2024 (or whatever year it is). How and why it has changed and evolved.
- How A.A. is working to be more cost-effective and reduce costs.
- A.A. and persons with disabilities (the whole spectrum).
- Safety — what authority do groups have?
- Group Autonomy — Tradition Four.
- How does service preserve Unity?
- How do we stay democratic in thought and action?

**CONFIDENTIAL:** This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

## CONFIDENTIAL: 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Background

### 8. Suggested future Workshop topics.

- How to give presentations — PowerPoint workshop.
- Detail the process that occurs when a member sends a question to GSO. Who receives it? Does that person respond individually, or does s/he/they consult with others? Does another person review the response before sending it to the member? Is the process different if the question is received by email, snail mail, or via the A.A. website?
- Illustrate the path of a proposed agenda item from the individual member to the General Service Conference.
- A.A. as a Community of Scapegoats.
- A Day (or week) in the Life of a Trustee at Large, GM, Chair, ECRT.
- An overview of A.A.'s administrative structure supported by a projected slide. Like a family tree diagrammed.
- Technology to carry the message.
- Website — system administration, roles, management.
- Distractions at A.A. Meetings — Cellphone/chatting etc.
- How to use the service structure to get issues on the table and create actions.
- Guidelines for the groups regarding security and safety.
- Need for implication in groups and services.
- How to attract members to these positions
- How to inspire members to get more interested in the traditions and concepts outside service positions what do trad
- Non-violence in a violent world
- Archives. What are some of the things that reflect our past? For example, virtual tours of Steppingstones, Dr. Bob's Home, and the original A.A. offices. information on carrying the message to remote communities, jails, etc. Pictures and stories from Past conventions, conferences, etc.
- How to create activity committees in your District/Area to organize unifying events.
- Thirteen stepping and possible solutions — keeping newcomers safe.
- Step and service sponsorship in groups.
- Traditions workshop.
- Demystify the Concepts.
- How to address mental health in groups.
- Presentation on initiatives taken to attract alcoholics from different communities (races, LGBTQ, agnostics, linguistic, cultural, young people, etc.)
- 36 principles 12-12-12. No such thing as 12 promises.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.



## **CONFIDENTIAL: 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Background**

- Simple and convenient tips for studying the Big Book.
- Simple and convenient tips for studying the Service Manual.
- Workshop in the beginning, for newcomers, to explain abbreviations and main positions, breaking the language barrier.
- Inclusivity, accessibility and the importance of Tradition Seven.
- Spirituality of A.A. as opposed to Religion.
- What is an outside issue?
- Understanding anonymity and confidentiality outside and inside the rooms.
- Young people, A.A. in the age of social media, anonymity in current projects (Instagram, podcast, Facebook, professional website, etc.).
- Safety in A.A. at on-line meetings.
- Plain language and its impact on persons in custody.
- Service sponsorship.
- Mental Health in A.A.
- Acceptance.
- GSRs — how to keep your group excited and informed.
- The importance of principles before personalities.
- I still like the topic of "Who's Not in the Room."
- Tradition Five — our primary purpose.
- Carrying the message to where the practicing alcoholic lives, i.e. street people and homeless people.

### **9. Suggestions to improve the overall Forum experience:**

- Always allow for translation in both languages... Equip participants accordingly providing adequate equipment for interpreters with two channels!
- Could have the skit be on stage so it's easier to see.
- Don't go until 9:30 pm. 12-hour days are not a thing I engage in.
- Having a little longer lunch and dinner break would foster additional Fellowship!
- I think it would have been nice for GSO to work with the local district(s) to provide more support for visitors to enjoy Ottawa.
- Offer three workshop slots on the agenda with nine options.
- Use technology to bring people in for presentations to cut costs and enhance services/delivery elsewhere.
- Perhaps fewer sessions/presentations followed by post-presentation breaks to allow informal discussion among participants.

**CONFIDENTIAL:** This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

## CONFIDENTIAL: 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Background

- Give everyone a challenge: Introduce yourself to (five?) people you don't know and exchange personal snapshots with them intermingle young and not so young people.
- Have more casual moments like dancing, a countdown.
- Better interpretation system for people asking questions.
- It was interesting to see our A.A. friends in person, but there would be more people if hybrid.
- Would it be possible to simplify how the GSO operates in a flyer with charts and drawings?
- The schedule is way too heavy. I know we can't have three full days but trying to end at 11 on Sunday if that means starting sooner on Friday.
- We should have better earbuds. For example, earbuds cover the ear.

### 10. Would you likely come to another Regional Forum?

	English	French
Yes	66 (95.7%)	56 (98.2%)
No	3 (4.3%)	1 (1.8%)

### Responses to If yes, why?

- It was very informative and helpful in understanding the structure of A.A. service positions.
- I know I have to keep learning if I want to keep growing, also the connections I have made from attending functions like this has been invaluable.
- These events are so important to the Fellowship to feel a real part of the bigger picture that is A.A.
- I enjoyed the scale of the Fellowship. So many people have a common purpose.
- A great opportunity to bring in new servants to develop a greater sense of belonging to the service structure.
- To complete my understanding of the healing process.
- I enjoy visiting the various regions and meeting the GSB members A.A. Staff and Directors.
- The Forum brings together all facets of the upside-down triangle...from the diamond drill of the bottom of the triangle to the top row of first timers and new some.
- To increase the opportunity to meet members to add to as a contact of my network to help fulfill my position.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

## CONFIDENTIAL: 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Background

- First and foremost, for me, it is a people event. This is the strength and attraction.
- Connecting with others in service. Education.
- It's good to get information directly from the source and the dedication of our staff and trusted servants is infectious.
- This Forum for me was a demonstration of Good Service Leadership. I left feeling excited to bring enthusiasm and positivity back to my District, to be a cheerleader for Service! I am thankful to all organizers, participants and attendees for an unforgettable first-time experience.
- Affirms my confidence in the commitment and dedication of staff to our concepts and principles.
- Highly engaging and electrifying.
- I learned so much, which created a thirst for more knowledge about A.A. as a whole and cemented for me the idea that I need to be "in service of A.A."!!
- Enhances actual information of Alcoholics Anonymous current affairs and changes.
- I like to meet new and old A.A. friends and friends of A.A. who serve the Fellowship to find out about new projects, etc.
- I love the fellowship. Being new at the GSR position, I was able to build new friendships, and it allowed me to witness firsthand how all levels of service are just one unit.
- It's normal to feel a bit lost when exploring new roles, especially if they're unfamiliar. Learning from delegates who share their experiences can truly enrich our understanding of these positions and their significance. It's wonderful that so many are open to gaining new insights; this curiosity will serve A.A. well as we continue to learn and grow.
- I love these gatherings, and I like to bring new people along to them. It was wonderful to see so many first-timers. Kudos to you all for a job well done.
- The spirit of service is inspiring to observe.
- There was a great, positive energy, as is usually the case at AA events. I volunteered as a greeter at this regional forum, and this gave me the opportunity to speak with people in the Ottawa area, as well as people from all over Canada and the United States. Yes, I would definitely like to attend another regional forum in the future, based on this experience.
- This gathering allows us to see how important A.A. is.
- Meeting with NY personnel (GSO, AAWS, Grapevine...) shows us that A.A. is a small organization (87 employees, budget of less than \$20 million per year). And we see that A.A. philosophy is embedded in its operation. It's not just marketing. Congratulations and thank you.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

## **CONFIDENTIAL: 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Background**

- Because it's unique, I can put faces to names of people working at the GSO.
- Always instructive to see you and hear you, to see members again and other Areas. Thank you, thank you.
- I found the answers I was looking for.
- I liked feeling the power of "Us" and I think better knowing and understanding the structure will help convey to members how we need the A.A. structure.
- Because the Forum is a place to share our experiences to improve our recovery environment.
- For the wonderful spiritual energy when human beings work together towards a common goal! For us alcoholics, our lives depend on that energy. Thank you so much for your commitment and practicing the A.A. way of life. You set an example for us all!
- Because it's relevant, it's a place to exchange ideas on the A.A. structure, a unique opportunity to have the trustees present and share their experiences.

### **Responses to if no, why?**

- Because I think I now understand how the GSO and the structure operate.
- Maybe the financial cost if it's too far.
- Not a lot of French.
- Didn't feel it was engaging or interactive.
- I gathered enough information to get a good idea of how things work. I have a Service Sponsor now and I feel that we may cover a lot of this with time.
- Cost...
- I have difficulty approaching other people and making new friends. This Forum favored attendees who came with a group or who were naturally extroverted.

###

**CONFIDENTIAL:** This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

**2024 SOUTHEAST REGIONAL FORUM – (December 6-8, 2024)**

**Evaluation Questionnaire Summary**

A total of 135 (134 English/1 Spanish) participants completed the Evaluation Questionnaire. Below is a summary of the responses.

**1. Please indicate whether this was your first Forum:**

	<b>English</b>	<b>Spanish</b>
Yes	67 (52%)	1 (100%)
No	62 (48%)	0 (0%)

**2. How did you hear about the Forum?**

	<b>English</b>	<b>Spanish</b>
Area	65 (54%)	1 (100%)
District	19 (16%)	0 (0%)
GSO Flyer	27 (22%)	0 (0%)
Local Intergroup/ Central Office	6 (5%)	0 (0%)
Homegroup	24 (20%)	0 (0%)
www.aa.org	22 (18%)	0 (0%)
Friend	24 (20%)	0 (0%)
Other	7 (6%)	0 (0%)

**Other:**

- District
- SEDGT
- Service Sponsor
- Meeting Guide App News
- My sponsor
- DCM
- Email
- Past delegate
- SERT
- SSAASA in '21

**3. Did you pre-register online at: [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)?**

	<b>English</b>	<b>Spanish</b>
Yes	115 (91%)	1 (100%)
No	12 (9%)	0 (0%)

**4. Please list any suggestions to improve the online pre-registration process**

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

**CONFIDENTIAL: 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Background**

- I pre-registered at the first opportunity but I did not have a name badge when I arrived.
- Many of our nametags had our full last names on them.
- Send more communications about Forums and online registration.
- It was hard to find the Regional Forums webpage.
- Make sure the hotel rate is correct on the flyer.
- It would be nice if the page could remember if you have already registered.
- Open registration earlier.

**5. Please indicate your current service position:**

	<b>English</b>	<b>Spanish</b>
G.S.R.	28 (25%)	0 (0%)
D.C.M.	13 (11%)	0 (0%)
Area Officer	10 (9%)	0 (0%)
Area Committee Chairperson	2 (2%)	0 (0%)
A.A. Member	26 (23%)	0 (0%)
Non-Trustee Director	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Delegate	12 (11%)	1 (100%)
Past Delegate	6 (5%)	0 (0%)
Trustee	2 (2%)	0 (0%)
Past Trustee	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Friend of A.A.	4 (4%)	0 (0%)
Other	11 (10%)	0 (0%)
G.S.R.	28 (25%)	0 (0%)

**Other:**

- Delegate elect
- Alternate Delegate
- Past Delegate
- Incoming GSR
- Alternate GSR
- Alternate Area Literature Committee Chair & District Secretary
- Incoming 2025 District Treasurer
- Web chair for district
- PI/CPC for home group
- District Literature Chair
- Incoming DCM
- District Alt Chair
- Alt DCM

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

- Area Committee Chair
- Area online coordinator
- Inter-group Rep
- chair of NOLAYPAA (New Orleans young people in AA)
- Grapevine Rep
- Group Treasurer; Area Communications Committee member
- Home group treasurer
- Treasurer of my home group
- Coffee Maker
- Supply Guy
- A.A. Member
- No service...I'm a newbie

**6. What improvements might be made to each of the following:**

**A. Presentations**

Instead of asking for questions after the presentations, I would prefer to have the opportunity to offer comments and/or questions.

**Delegates**

- Topics that inspire more interest.
- More visual aids.
- Fewer presentations with more time 5-10 minutes is not enough time. (5)
- Give all the Delegates the opportunity to present in the main ballroom.

**AAWS Board and Your General Service Office**

- I would like to hear more personal stories from the trustees.
- Be more interactive with the audience.
- It would be nice if each presenter had more time.
- Keep the "GSO" video, LOVED it!
- Leave time to answer all the questions. If a question isn't answered, the asker will assume their own answer.
- Don't shy away from the hard conversations.
- The AAWS Director's never-ending knowledge and diplomatic explanations were absolutely inspiring. "I wanna grow up to be exactly like that"
- Some of the information throughout the weekend is repetitive.
- The information was good but drawn out. I lost interest.
- I would like to eliminate the open sharing sessions.
- The staff presentation could be longer.

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

- Shorten and clarify the information.
- Additional sharing on future plans for A.A./GSO, as well as the current state of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) in North America and around the world. Some questions: How are we reaching and approaching remote areas? How do we convey our message to countries that do not even have our literature translated into their language, such as Serbia, where there is no official Alcoholics Anonymous book available?

### **AA Grapevine Board and the Grapevine Office**

- Be more interactive with the audience.
- Maybe a video of Grapevine Office and Staff?
- Great! But too much information.
- Excellent presentation by the Publisher and the Non-trustee Director. Fun, informative, inspiring.
- The sharing from the Non-trustee director on the AA Grapevine board, was wonderful! How nice that we have young people serving on our boards.
- Informative. Will look forward to more financial information on La Viña.

### **Trustee at Large, US**

- Add notes to the screen I found the info fascinating and wished I could share with my group.
- Be more interactive with the audience.
- A bit too long.
- I loved seeing the pictures and hearing stories of other GSOs that were visited.
- At times the presenter was difficult to understand.
- Because of my hearing problem, I had a great deal of difficulty understanding.
- I thought the report was a little bit too long and would've preferred more time for sharing from the audience.
- The presentation was fantastic. It was fascinating to learn about Alcoholics Anonymous (AAs) in other countries and how they have developed and grown over time.

### **Treasurer**

- I was much less concerned over our reserve fund going down after listening to the presentation. Also, the presenter was rather entertaining.
- It is hard to make this report interesting and it was good this year. The slides have small print.
- I would prefer less joking around.
- The Treasurer is an awesome trusted treasurer for our fellowship.

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



- Very good, only wish the numbers were more current.
- Please revise the PowerPoint.
- I didn't appreciate the discussion on "transparency". I do appreciate the hard work and dedication that our Treasurer puts in on our behalf. Many of us do understand Financials and have the business acumen to discuss; it was almost condescending in the way some material was presented. Maybe it was my hearing that was off.
- While the Treasurer is knowledgeable and certainly competent, his role is not easy, and he generously volunteers his time. I would have appreciated hearing more specific information about our current situation and the contingency plan in place if group contributions and book sales do not improve.

### **It's "A" Class Act**

- I had hoped for more participation by these individuals
- Please keep this a part of the agenda - great to hear from the Class A – nonalcoholic. It is amazing how willing they are to donate so much time to us!!!
- Very real and from the heart. Could have done without the profanity from the podium but I guess that is part of being real.
- Literally cried!! Perfection!

### **Sharing from Past Trustees**

- Controversial share.
- It was great and very relatable. I prefer to hear about their service journey instead of pointing out perceived issues with current state of affairs.
- This has gotten less useful. Maybe give them a topic to speak on so they don't ramble as one did.
- I prefer the shorter time allotted to these currently.
- Have this session after the First Time Attendees.

### **First Time Attendees**

- Maybe have a 'beginner's' class or workshop.
- Longer than one minute would be nice.
- I think more events should add this to their agenda.
- Maybe move them to speak before the Past Trustees instead of after.
- It's wonderful that members enjoy themselves and have a good time, but it's also essential to learn, grow, and attract new, younger audiences.

## **B. Workshops**

### **Topics**

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

- More education for GSR's about AA in general, and the essential functions of the GSR at the group and area levels.
- Provide more descriptions on the topics.
- I was especially impressed with the Friday presentation on Tradition 1 & Unity.
- Group contributions and getting new members into service.
- The La Viña presentation was fabulous. Thank you for providing interpretation equipment.
- More variety in topics.
- Omit topics already covered by a standing report.
- Dealing with personalities in a business meeting.
- How to make sure that the newcomer in your business meeting knows what's going on
- Concepts workshop.

### Format

- I would have liked more sharing from the presenter.
- Offer chance to opt into meeting online for a small fee. Or a group could set up watch parties.
- Have 3 workshop times with 3 options.
- Better info on flyer/online about each topic and suggested readings pre forum for members to look at so everyone's a little more informed and brings more detailed questions.
- I think this should not contain audience participation but rather more speaker experience.
- Allow more than two questions to be discussed if time permits.

### C. Sharing Sessions

- Have people only share once at open mics - seems like the same few people went over and over.
- Longer.
- Allow more time for general sharing.
- Perhaps an open sharing session workshop where attendees ask questions about struggles they are having, at any level, to receive experience from other attendees.
- Stick to the format.
- Too much past delegate and past trustee participation at times - others stay in their seats when these folks are at the mic
- Having a timer in place was such a fantastic idea!

### 7. Suggested future Presentation topics:

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

- Chairing regular open AA meetings.
- The Traditions.
- Digital world / social media and AA/ does it help or hurt?
- Taking advantage of current technology.
- "Elder Statesmen vs. Bleeding Deacon.
- Balancing the Three Legacies.
- Safety - in the rooms and on social media.
- Areas for growth in AA, where are we seeing changes?
- A Delegate's experience at the GSC.
- Where does the money from contributions go? (i.e. GSO services, etc.)
- How can GV be used in PI/CPC or any service committee?
- What is the best way to use the large group of pamphlets we have?
- The history of the GSC.
- The history of GSO.
- The history of the GSB.
- Deep dive into service structure.
- Finances at the Group, District and Area level.
- Service Sponsorship.
- Sobriety in the virtual age.
- A day in the life of a GSO staff person.
- The topics should include current practices, the state of AA, and more information about future plans.

#### **8. Suggested future Workshop topics.**

- Virtual meetings.
- Workshops for each service position.
- Workshops on Steps and Traditions.
- History of AA.
- How the Steps work in Service Work.
- How a good idea goes to conference.
- Elder statesman vs bleeding deacon.
- Service jargon - acronym and corporations. Is this the language of the heart?
- Meeting guide app
- aa.org
- Workshop involving a staff member on what exactly they do. (maybe explaining all that goes on staffing a desk). Could also include a past Area committee chair to share experience on how they use the desks, as well as the experience of a delegate having them for background/staff secretary, etc.
- Conflict resolution using our 3 legacies.

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

- Creative suggestions on how to more effectively reach those in treatment/accessibilities, language barriers, jails & institutions, etc.
- Navigating Area Assemblies using hybrid tools
- How to write a PAI.
- How the Conference process works, including how the path of a PAI and how delegates are selected for Conference committees.
- Best Practices for Conducting Workshops at the district or group level.
- World Services - making service appealing.

**9. Suggestions to improve the overall Forum experience:**

- I feel that the organizers missed the opportunity to bring in more young members from the community.
- Add a "fun segment" (skit, video, game).
- Maybe provide one of the meals, if possible.
- Presentations were not accessible by all.
- More workshops with better topics.
- I would suggest and plead for a hybrid component to the forum.
- Perhaps smaller venue. I did not have as many opportunities for hall conversations because we were all so spread out. It was nice being on the water though.
- I would prefer for the forum not to be at a casino. The smoke permeated the entire facility, and the environment of being in a casino was not my favorite. Have wheelchair accessible rooms in the room block.
- Offer longer breaks.
- It was a bit disorganized and repetitive this year. It felt like the same people talking, talking in circles, and not much realness coming from anyone other than the Treasurer.
- Please provide more rooms.
- Add closed captioning for those of us who are hard-of-hearing wearing hearing aides.
- Workshop rooms could have had more seating.
- A better website for the individual forum with hotel, registration, travel info, all in one place.
- The registration portal software was very buggy.
- Please find a place with a larger ballroom setting. The rows of chairs were way too close to each other.
- Attendance and interest might improve if outreach info was out earlier and broader.

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

- Have all ask-it-basket questions in the Forum Final Report, even those read from the mic.
- In addition to first-time attendee sharing, announce and encourage members above the Conference on the triangle to share from the mics in sharing sessions and what's on your mind.
- What's on your mind sessions later in the program.
- It would be great to have the program earlier so we could use it as an incentive to get others to attend the forum.
- More arranged social meetings with the GSO staff.
- I would suggest that the local community engage more groups, encourage volunteerism, and recruit younger members. Improvements should focus on increasing information sharing and transparency, as well as involving more members of the local community.
- The hotels where we have these forums should be more business-like, like airport hotels, and chains like Hilton.
- Again, the ideas of ice cream socials, or in this case, the king cake, are appreciated.

**10. Would you likely come to another Regional Forum?**

	English	Spanish
Yes	118 (95%)	1 (100%)
No	6 (5%)	0 (0%)

**Responses to If yes, why?**

- I would like to attend the other workshops.
- Learn more, and ability to interact with others with my disease and their wish to be of service in AA.
- To keep tabs on what the GSB is up to.
- As AA continues to evolve, so does the questions and the responses in the sharing sessions.
- They are awesome!!
- Sobriety is a Gift to me and staying connected and involved is my way of showing gratitude for the Gift
- The opportunity to ask questions and have conversations.
- Getting connected to service members from other areas & regions is invaluable to better serving the newly interested service members as well as to the newcomers.
- There is something about the Forum where I feel the love for AA unlike at any other event. I'm touched and moved by the experience each time.

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

## CONFIDENTIAL: 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Background

- I love hearing from the lower part of the triangle. Love the access to ask questions.
- The better I am informed, the better the chances of those around me having an opportunity to be better informed.
- In the 25 years of my sobriety, this AA event was the single greatest experience I've ever had. To be humbled by servitude and love is an experience I'm glad I was sober enough have during the weekendI cannot express how much this has completely transformed me. I will be forever indebted. It was an honor.
- To paraphrase our book, it's an experience you must not miss. The sharing from first time attendees speaks volumes - it opens the door to service and to AA around the world. For returning attendees you find out about new resources, new opportunities for service, meet new trusted servants, see old friends, and get reinvigorated.
- I enjoyed meeting some of the present and past trustees and the content was great. I was overly impressed with the GSO Staff and to see such dedication.
- To grow in AA.
- I enjoyed hearing from staff members. I am proud of the people who work for us.
- I enjoyed your professionalism and information passed on to us and some people I met from outside my normal travels. The most important thing I can say is that when I hear the comments.... Those people in NY. I can promptly respond with "they are us. We are them."

### Responses to if no, why?

- There needs to be available hotel rooms at the Group rate.
- Travel expense. Wish these had a hybrid view only version.
- I love my serenity and peace of mind.
- General Service seems to have more bullies than it used to. Sadly, this really turns me off from general service.
- DCM term ends before next SERF.
- Funded by my district. Want other members from my district to have this experience.
- It wasn't what I expected.
- The first forum was interesting because I was new and did not know what to expect. I liked it and returned for the second one. However, I feel I did not gain anything new by attending this time.
- They should have more informational things for new people who are trying to learn how to do service works.

###

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

## 2025 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

### ITEM E: Final Report from Subcommittee on RF Improvements

---

#### Background notes:

*Excerpt from the July 2023 Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums:*

The chair appointed a subcommittee to review the overall forum agenda and to explore options wherein the virtual format can be used as it relates to Regional Forums and/or Local and Special Forums.

*Excerpt from the January 2024 Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums:*

The subcommittee recommended that it be reformed at the next cycle to continue the work identified in the Scope.

*Excerpt from the July 2024 Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums:*

The committee agreed to reappoint a Subcommittee on Regional Forum Improvements.

*Excerpt from the November 2024 Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums:*

It was suggested that the Regional Forums (RF) Coordinator research the cost of a "live-stream broadcast only" option to be offered at RFs. The cost of this service was gathered from one of the more expensive AV vendors that we use to provide a benchmark. The quoted cost was \$4,887.76.

*Excerpt from the January 2025 Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums:*

The committee reviewed and accepted the final report of the Subcommittee on RF Improvements and **agreed to forward** the report to the 2025 Conference Committee on International Conventions and Regional Forums.

---

#### Background:

1. Final Report - Subcommittee on RF Improvements

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

**IC/RF Subcommittee on RF Improvements  
Final Report  
February 1, 2025**

At the **July 2023 Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums** the chair appointed a subcommittee to review the overall forum agenda and to explore options wherein the virtual format can be used as it relates to Regional Forums and/or Local and Special Forums. This subcommittee met 7 times.

At the **January 2024 Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums** the subcommittee recommended that it be reformed at the next cycle to continue the work identified in the Scope.

At the **July 2024 Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums** the committee agreed to reappoint a Subcommittee on Regional Forum Improvements. This subcommittee met 3 times.

Below is a summary of the work completed. It should be noted that at the December 11, 2024, meeting the subcommittee unanimously agreed that the work of the Subcommittee on Regional Forum Improvements is complete. It was decided that any work that may come out of the research investigating a "broadcast only" online option at Regional Forums be addressed by a new subcommittee.

The subcommittee considered the objective of a forum which is to bring the General Service Office, AA Grapevine and the Boards to the Fellowship to foster communication and trust.

The Scope included:

- 1) To refine and improve the agenda for forum weekends for greatest effectiveness.
- 2) To identify all opportunities for cost savings in terms of scheduling, participation, accessibility, and interpretation needs.
- 3) To explore opportunities to more effectively communicate with the fellowship who are outside the Regional Forum room through hybrid or virtual options.

The subcommittee had robust discussions on each Scope item.

- 1) To refine and improve the agenda for forum weekends for greatest effectiveness.

The grouping, placement and content of the Forum sessions were discussed at great length to provide a comprehensive session while eliminating duplication of content. The question "What do we want forum attendees to learn during this session?" was considered throughout the discussion.

A new item has been added to the Staff Member's Presentation – an amateur video – which has been received with great enthusiasm. The idea came from a Staff Member



## Confidential: 75th General Service Conference Background

who provided a “tour” of the office while participating in an assembly online just by using his phone. This was greeted with much enthusiasm and appreciation. The GSB is considering adding a similar type of video to the GSB Presentation.

The subcommittee agreed that a Q&A be made possible after each session and that the Treasurer’s Report be 90 minutes to ensure sufficient time. They also stated that it is imperative that the program schedule be honored. The RF coordinator will communicate to each presenter the need to honor the time limit. The presentation content will be reviewed for time and revised as necessary. A timer will be used with reminders.

2) To identify all opportunities for cost savings in terms of scheduling, participation, accessibility, and translation needs

The budget for Regional Forums is always a matter of great consideration. Some suggestions to reduce costs included:

- Decrease number of Board attendees and have each serve more than one function.
- Identify sessions that could be presented during the forum using a prerecorded video.
- The subcommittee also discussed an ICRF Committee Consideration from the 74<sup>th</sup> GSC to consider creating short current anonymity protected videos about Regional Forums that can be shared on our communication channels. The first project will be an amateur anonymity protected video of the GSB Chair inviting the Fellowship to Regional Forums. This video will be shared and posted on A.A.org. Additional ideas are underway.
- Consider alternative interpretation options.
- Ship only necessary materials from the office.
- Consider costs when planning travel.

3) To explore opportunities to more effectively communicate with the fellowship who are outside the Regional Forum room through hybrid or virtual options.

- The Subcommittee unanimously agreed that in person participation is desired for Regional Forums. However, they also agreed that given the interest expressed by the Fellowship for online access to a Regional Forum and the information being shared, that the Regional Forum Coordinator investigate the logistics and cost of a “broadcast only” online option. An initial report will be provided at the February 2025 Meeting.
- Have a full fellowship Virtual Forum in addition to Regional Forums. Consider what content, if any, would be better delivered virtually and ask the 75<sup>th</sup> GSC Committee on ICRF for consideration and feedback.

The Evaluation Questionnaire and Final Report were also discussed. It was suggested that the Evaluation Questionnaire might include the use of a Likert scale or a rating scale to gather and measure a range of views that can be compared to future Forums. It

## Confidential: 75th General Service Conference Background

was agreed that all sharing at the Forum will be reviewed for content and accuracy. Defamatory and false statements will no longer be tolerated or included in the Regional Forum Final Report.

###

## 2025 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

**ITEM F:** Review report from Subcommittee to Review Regional Forums Request for Information (RFI) Forms

---

### Background notes:

*Excerpt from the November 2024 Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums:*

The committee agreed to appoint a Subcommittee on Regional Forum Improvements.

*The purpose of the subcommittee was to collaborate between ICRF, METS and the Regional Forums Staff assignment to clarify roles, particularly related to site selection and contracting, between GSO Staff and the Area Committee. The attached documents include the revised RFI materials for your review and discussion.*

The two substantive changes were:

- 1) Language was added to both the RFI and the Bid Letter stating that the final decision for both date and venue will be made by the General Service Office.
  - 2) Reiterated the need to avoid using third party vendors when searching for venues
- 

### Background:

1. Minutes from Subcommittee to Review Regional Forums Request for Information (RFI) Forms.

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

**Report of the 2024 ICRF Subcommittee to Review Regional Forums Request for Information (RFI) Forms**

The subcommittee met once via videoconference on January 7, 2025.

The subcommittee had a robust discussion regarding the Request for Information (RFI) and Bid Letter sent to Regional Trustees and Area Delegates during the Regional Forum venue selection process.

The subcommittee made a unanimous decision to request that language be added to both documents stating that the final decision for the date and venue will be made by the General Service Office. The subcommittee also requested that communications about the process indicate that third-party vendors should be avoided when searching for venues, as the GSO cannot pay the associated commission fees.

The Manager of the Meeting, Travel, Events and Services Department (METS) shared some additional points to be considered during the venue selection process. These points were reiterated in the RFI and Bid Letter and included:

- 1) Costs are higher since Covid.
- 2) Consider the proximity between the airport and the venue. If an area is too remote it makes travel difficult and expensive.
- 3) Consider places that are inclusive and welcoming to all, as the GSO staff traveling to these events are very diverse and we want to ensure their safety.
- 4) Non-smoking venues are preferred and ones that set a sober tone for the event.

The Subcommittee discussed the roles and responsibilities of the GSB, GSO and the Area Contact and Volunteer Committees.

The Volunteer Committee roles and responsibilities was discussed at length. The Volunteer Committee is responsible for all snack and beverage options offered at the hotel during the Forum. It was suggested that the METS department be included on all communications between the Volunteer Committee and the hotel. Concerns were raised that this might cause confusion and that the METS department may get pulled into negotiations between the Volunteer Committee and the hotel.

As a solution, it was suggested that a clear explanation of the roles and responsibilities be provided at the initial meeting with the Volunteer Committee Chair. We will request that all communications come to the Regional Forums Coordinator as they are the initial point of contact. They will then forward any questions or concerns to the METS team, the General Manager or the ICRF trustees' committee as needed.

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

## CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background

The METS department will inform the hotel contact that there may be a local committee reaching out to arrange for snack or beverage service and that they are acting on their own. Invoicing is to be separated from the General Service Office.

The Subcommittee Chair suggests that the chair of the 2025-26 ICRF Committee consider appointing a subcommittee to continue RFI and bid process work to further refine the RFI documents as needed and to discuss additional changes to the site selection process that would shift responsibility from local Areas/Delegates to GSO and continue to provide collaboration throughout the planning process.

###

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