



### **XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums: Wednesday**

General Service Conference - Conférence des Services généraux -  
Conferencia de Servicios Generales

Apr 17, 2024 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM EDT

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## 2024 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

**ITEM A:** Discuss an anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony to be taken at the 2025 International Convention.

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### **Background notes:**

An anonymity protected photo has been taken at each International Convention since the first one in 1950. Since 1994, the General Service Conference has approved the taking of this photograph at the Convention.

Note: there were no Advisory Actions regarding the photo before the 1994 Action.

In the year prior to the International Convention, the process has been for the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums (IC/RF) to discuss and agree to forward to the Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums this agenda item.

From the report of the January 27, 2024, trustees' IC/RF Committee meeting:

"The committee agreed to forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums the discussion of an anonymity-protected photo of the flag ceremony to be taken at the 2025 International Convention."

Prior recommendation of the 2014 Conference IC/RF Committee for the 2015 International Convention that resulted in an Advisory Action:

"It was recommended that: 'An anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2015 International Convention.'"

###

## 2024 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

**ITEM B:** Discuss an encrypted, anonymity-protected, delayed Internet broadcast of the Convention Flag Ceremony for the 2025 International Convention.

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### **Background notes:**

One of the major highlights of each International Convention is the parade of flags at the Opening Meeting on Friday evening. The Flag Ceremony sets the celebratory and international tone for the Convention weekend with a display of 90+ flags representing countries whose members are attending the Convention.

Starting with the 2005 International Convention in Toronto and approved by the General Service Board and General Service Conference, a *limited* broadcast of this event was shared with General Service Conference areas in the U.S./Canada and with General Service Offices overseas. It required a unique password along with technical requirements to access the Flag Ceremony on the Internet. Access was available approximately 9 hours after the end of the Flag Ceremony, which allowed time for editing to ensure anonymity and to launch the broadcast. Each area was given the opportunity to broadcast the Flag Ceremony up to six times, and each foreign G.S.O. could show it once. The broadcast spanned over 48 hours. In 2005, the broadcast was accessed 1,760 times.

In 2009, the General Service Board agreed that over the 2010 International Convention weekend, unlimited access to an encrypted, anonymity-protected Internet broadcast of the 2010 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony would be available through G.S.O.'s A.A. website (this meant that passwords would no longer be required). This was followed by approval from the 2009 General Service Conference. The broadcast of the 2010 International Convention Flag Ceremony began early Saturday morning (July 3) and ended on Monday morning (July 5) at midnight EST. The broadcast was available in English, French and Spanish and was accessed 13,790 times through G.S.O.'s A.A. website.

In 2014 the General Service Conference approved a recommendation for an anonymity protected internet broadcast of the 2015 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony. The broadcast began on Saturday morning, July 4 through G.S.O.'s A.A. website and was extended until Friday, July 17, 2015. No password or access code was required. The ceremony was viewed a total of 448,165 times during that period.

**Lesson learned in 2015:** Following the closing of the Big Meeting, you will be required to meet with the producer to edit the video for anonymity protection. This is a long process and may require several hours (2-3 hours). We would encourage rethinking this process,

as the editing process can be very long and intense. In 2015, after the Friday night ceremony, we did not finish the editing until 5:00 a.m. We suggest announcing the broadcast for Monday morning, as opposed to Saturday morning for the 2025 International Convention.

From the Minutes of the January 27, 2024, trustees' IC/RF Committee meeting:

“The committee agreed to forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums the discussion of an anonymity-protected, delayed Internet broadcast of the Convention Flag Ceremony for the 2025 International Convention.”

Prior recommendation of the 2014 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums for the 2015 International Convention that resulted in an Advisory Action:

“It was recommended that: ‘an encrypted, anonymity-protected Internet broadcast of the 2015 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved.’”

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## 2024 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

**ITEM C:** Discuss a report concerning virtual programming for the 2025 International Convention.

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### **Background notes:**

The following background notes and attached background documents detail the information that make up a reporting of the trustees' IC-RF Committee's discussion of adding a virtual program track offering at the 2025 International Convention for the first time in our history.

At the January 27, 2024, meeting of the trustees' IC-RF Committee the question was posed for further information to be gathered for consideration of the following idea:

- 1. Adding a participatory virtual program session like "A.A. Around the World" as part of the purchase of a three Big Meetings product.**

On February 9, 2024, at an interim meeting of the trustees' IC-RF Committee the members confirmed that the two ideas needed to be separated.

One idea is a product offering of the three Big meetings.

The other concept was a true virtual session track that people could register for if unable to attend the 2025 International Convention in person allowing for broader participation across the Fellowship in this anniversary event.

With the help of one of your trustees' Committee members, Talley Management and the 2025 International Convention Coordinator researched the concept and took the following into consideration:

- 1) Full hybrid and do the two A.A. Around the World sessions only.

OR

- 2) Set up one-way virtual, no hybrid (no sharing from those online) and consider doing it for all sessions in that room. i.e.: the 2 A.A. Around the World sessions and all others that are scheduled in the same space or all of Saturday only if easier/significant cost difference.

**Rationale:** This is an international convention and international travel always has difficulties, more so today with communicable disease concerns and political unrest. The international A.A. community has especially embraced virtual meeting technology and the GSB has previously engaged in several ways, continuing to do so – it is very incongruent

to say it is not possible or an anonymity break for this event when the GSB itself has used virtual meeting technology for several different events.

**Opportunities:** Focus on the international element, basing the plan around the A.A. Around the World sessions, either only or as an anchor point – allowing us to meet the needs of A.A. members around the world who cannot attend as well as offer a true “international” convention experience for those in the US and Canada who are opting for the Big meeting recordings, and seeking virtual engagement. This offers a limited and contained option and provides some basis for why we picked some meetings and not others.

**Considerations:** Full faces – we have done with WSM, Redela, North/South Connection, Regional Forums, and the General Service Conference. Other A.A. events not hosted by us, including very large ones like the International Women’s Conference manage this hybrid.

Our members have come to expect this, it is normal now. Notification in the room that this is a hybrid meeting with both video and audio, those who do not wish to participate in that format should decline if called, refrain from capturing or recording as you would in an in person meeting etc. For the folks online there are notifications and protocols that have been developed, tested and evolved by supports such as Tech 12, the protocols we had for north south connection should work here.

**Interpretation:** In considering interpretation, we typically have the sessions in-person at International Conventions in English. There are other live sessions for additional languages. What we can propose is that with a virtual session we would ensure that we offered interpretation into our primary languages, French and Spanish for participants as well as other languages of registrants via an interpretation product, such as Wordly, for example.

**Capacity** – we would need to know what our capability is, consider how to address that. Limit registration to what we can handle. We can accompany that with info that this is the first time at an international, what we experience and learn will inform future events, that in person attendees also experience the challenge of rooms’ meeting capacity etc.

**Methods of registration** – Initially we thought that this “product” would be available as part of a package with the 3-Big-meeting product but now don’t think it will be the same audience/participants and needs to be a stand-alone option.

**Registration fee** – through the main registration process. If registration is limited by capacity, and costs are known, it would be easy to set a break-even price. As this has turned into a virtual session track the final registration prices will ultimately be the decision of trustees’ IC-RF Committee to determine. The budget for the 2025 International Convention will need to be revised to include new expenses that would be supported by the attendees of the event as normal.

The committee was provided two vendor estimates which include a scaled down and scaled up version of the event.

The scaled-down version would be one 90-minute session on Friday and another on Saturday.

The scaled-up version would be four 90-minute sessions on Friday and Saturday, or twelve hours of content that virtual attendees could enjoy.

Also reviewed was an estimated concept explaining the different options which provide technical information regarding the potential hybrid portion of this event.

**Committee discussed:**

1. Is the committee on board with the concept of having a two-day 8 session virtual track for people who are unable to attend the 2025 International Convention in person?

a. Yes.

The discussion estimated the virtual sessions to cost an estimated \$85,000 to complete. The cost would be self-supported via the members who registered to participate in the virtual session track.

A final registration fee will be determined to cover the cost of production.

The trustees' IC-RF Committee will also be reaching out via our trustees-at-large to ask about this offering and what international members think of this new concept. This sharing will be received and documented by the Staff Secretary to the Committee.

As this is a new virtual session track offering for an International Convention, the trustees' IC-RF Committee shared this information with the Conference Committee on IC-RF for review and consideration. In the past similar products, such as the anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony, have been forwarded in this way for committee review.

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**Background:**

1. Tech 12 International Convention Hybrid Review



**2025 International Convention in Vancouver  
Preliminary Hybrid Review  
February 7, 2024**

**IC-RF  
Item C  
Doc.1**

A vendor is looking forward to potentially partnering with you on this endeavor. Please note that the two attached proposals are preliminary pricing and further definition of scope and scale will be required to develop detailed plans for the event. These quotes should be seen as starting points for discussion rather than final numbers.

After reading the background material and researching options, we see two ways to proceed: a scaled-back hybrid version with a smaller budget and reduced capability, and a full hybrid version that will necessarily be more expensive but have more opportunities for interaction and branding. Based upon needs, scale and scope options could be explored to fit budgetary needs and project vision.

**Platform**

Due to the scale of the event, streaming platform requirements need to be considered.

Zoom is a familiar option for many A.A. members. Zoom webinar is a specialized platform on Zoom video conferencing software designed for hosting webinars, online seminars, virtual workshops, and large-scale events. It offers a comprehensive set of tools tailored to the specific needs of organizing and conducting large scale online events.

**Here are some key benefits of using Zoom webinar:**

**Scalability:** Zoom Webinar is able to accommodate large audiences. We have pricing below for up to 50,000 attendees. Our Zoom Representative mentioned that they could easily accommodate larger audiences, but they required event details beyond what we were prepared to share at the time.

**Ease of use:** Many of the conference attendees are familiar and comfortable participating in online meetings via Zoom and the barrier to entry will be minimized by not introducing new platforms & tools.

**Accessibility:** For accessibility purposes, language and ASL interpretation would take place within the same Zoom Webinar. Participants may also dial in via phone to listen in areas of limited internet availability.

**Zoom Webinar Pricing:**

- 10k attendees \$6490

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- 20k attendees \$7650
- 30k attendees \$9754
- 50k attendees \$14631

### **Here are some key benefits of Vimeo:**

Vimeo allows for an embedded stream on AA.org or other designated sites, with paywall/password protection available. Chat and Q&A features are available as well. Vimeo allows for higher resolution streaming than Zoom, which increases the attendee experience.

Vimeo streaming would not allow for phone-in attendees, and interpretation would need to take place on separate streams/links due to the platform capabilities. As each language will need a separate livestream, additional equipment will be required when choosing Vimeo.

We are continuing to research Vimeo pricing and features. We will follow up with more information as available.

There are also other alternative streaming options beyond Vimeo and Zoom, including but not limited to Whova, Introvoke, QUMU Cloud, Kaltura, etc... Once the scope of the project is more clearly determined, we can research options that may better fit the needs of the event.

### **Scaled back version.**

The scaled back version of a panel will include in-person and virtual panelists and allow for some two-way communication between attendees in the room and online. These would be the limitations:

- Limited number of virtual panelists.
- 2-way communication for panelists only—attendees cannot interact with each other or in-person attendees.
- 3 Language interpretation (English, Spanish, French), plus ASL.
- Virtual Attendees will be able to 'View Only' a Zoom Webinar or Live Stream.

### **Full Hybrid version**

To create a broader hybrid option, we can explore many services not included in the scaled-back proposal such as custom-created content and methods for developing an engaging virtual experience for attendees. This would bring an enjoyable, engaging viewing experience to the attendees. This full-hybrid version will include the following:

- 2-way communication between attendees and panelists, method TBD—chat or voice pending further discussion.
- Potential for discussion and sharing from a wider variety of convention attendees.
- Custom built video and graphics content to further the experience of virtual attendees.
- Additional language interpretation beyond English, Spanish, French, and ASL if desired (additional costs will apply).

### **Equipment and Staffing needs**

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We will need the following equipment provided by local AV vendors. This list is a starting point of equipment categories and not an exhaustive list. This list should be viewed as minimum requirements:

- Video Wall or Large Screens and Projectors
- 4 Robotic PTZ Cameras with controllers
- Tricaster TC2 - Elite video switcher
- LU-800 Bonded Cellular Internet backup device
- Large sound system appropriate for the space
- Lighting equipment sufficient for video
- Pipe and Drape and room decor
- High Speed Internet Access - Minimum 40 Mbps Up/Down - All services will be contingent on internet access.

The following technical positions will need to be hired locally:

- Audio crew
- Projections or LED Wall Technicians/ Operators
- Lighting crew
- Camera operators
- General Audio-Visual Technicians
- All other necessary labor

## 2024 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

**ITEM D:** Discuss updated report on methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention.

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### Background Notes:

*From the Trustees' IC/RF Committee — July 29, 2023, meeting report excerpt:*

Discuss options for closing the Big Meeting at the International Convention: The committee discussed the background, notably the following:

- Committee Consideration from the 2023 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums stated in part “the consensus of the committee was that we should keep with the current practice of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention wherein the chair has the choice of closing the meeting with either the Lord’s Prayer, the Serenity Prayer or the Responsibility Statement.”
- After the Conference Committee’s report out to the Conference, a floor action was brought forward stating: “The options for closing the Big Meeting at the International Convention be the Serenity Prayer or the Responsibility Statement.”
- Because the Conference ran out of time for substantive discussion on the floor action, a motion passed to recommit this item to the Trustees’ Committee on International Convention/Regional Forums.

Considering the foregoing, the committee **agreed to forward** the item to the 2024 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums for further discussion. The committee requested that in addition to the background provided to the 2023 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums (see attached), the staff secretary provide in the notes from the actions taken by the General Service Conference body (see bullets above).

*From the Trustees' IC/RF Committee – December 14, 2022, meeting report excerpt:*

The committee reviewed and discussed the survey results and agreed that the data did not reflect an overwhelming desire by the respondents to change the current practice (i.e., the chairs of the Big meetings at the International Conventions have been invited to close in the manner of their choice, with some closing with the Lord’s Prayer, some closing with the Serenity Prayer and some closing with the Responsibility Statement). Calculating the English, French and Spanish responses in total, the committee noted over 50% responded favorably to keeping with the current practice.

The committee also agreed that dispatching the survey and providing the results and summary to the Conference satisfied the 2021 ICRF Conference committee consideration requesting that the Trustees' Committee on ICRF explore the preference of the Fellowship regarding methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention. The committee requested that the documentation and summary be provided as background for the meeting of the 2023 Conference Committee on IC/RF.

*2022 Conference Committee on IC/RF Committee Consideration:*

The committee reviewed the updated report submitted by the Trustees' Committee regarding surveying the Fellowship on methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention. The committee understands that a survey has been developed designed to gather information from the Fellowship regarding aspects of the 2025 International Convention; and that a question(s) regarding use of the Lord's Prayer and options to the use of the Lord's Prayer (e.g., the Third Step Prayer, the Seventh Step Prayer and A.A.'s Declaration of Unity) will be added to the survey. It is anticipated that the survey will be dispatched in May 2022 via mail and through multiple communication platforms (e.g., Box 4-5-9, A.A. Grapevine/La Viña, etc.); and that a progress report be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums.

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**Background:**

1. Response report (English-speaking members)
2. Response report (French-speaking members)
3. Response report (Spanish-speaking members)



Feedback for Closing Big Meetings - 2025 IC

6908

Total Responses

6908 Completed Responses

0 Partial Responses

19354

Survey Visits

Feedback on Closing Big Meetings at the International Convention

*"The 2021 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums had a thoughtful and wide-ranging discussion regarding methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention, particularly the use of the Lord's Prayer and the understanding that although the prayer is part of the history of A.A. and is widely used and supported in some A.A. communities, it is not used in meetings in other A.A. communities and some feel that it could make some members feel excluded and support the perception of A.A. as a religious organization.*

*Agreeing that it would be beneficial to gather shared experience from the Fellowship to make an informed decision, the committee requested that the trustees' International Conventions/ Regional Forums Committee explore the preference of the Fellowship regarding methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention.*

*It may be helpful to note that for several International Conventions the chairs of all 200+ meetings at the convention have been invited to close in the manner of their choice. Some close with the Lord's Prayer, some close with the Serenity Prayer, some close with the Responsibility statement, while some close with a moment of silence. There has not previously been a policy or requirement as to which prayer or method of closing the meetings would be used."*

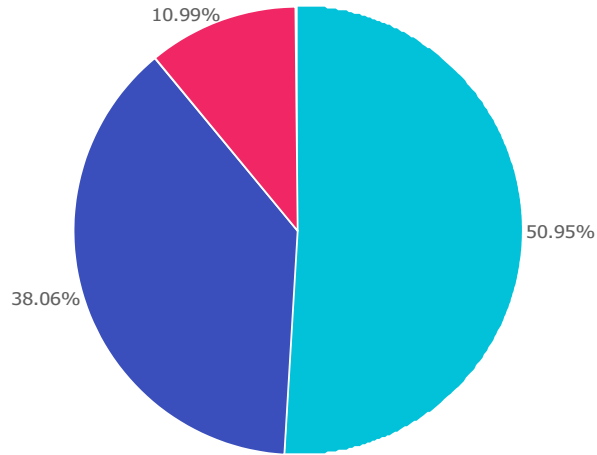
For the last four International Conventions, at the choice of the respective chair, one of the Big Meetings closed with the Lord's Prayer, one closed with the Serenity Prayer and one closed with the Responsibility Statement.

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Q1

Would you prefer that we continue with this practice, including the Lord's Prayer?

Answered: 6836 Skipped: 72



● Yes

● No

● No preference

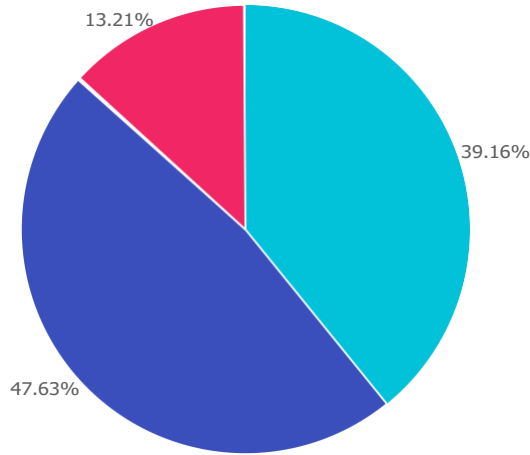
Choices	Response percent	Response count
Yes	50.95%	3483
No	38.06%	2602
No preference	10.99%	751



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Would you prefer that we continue with this practice but substitute another option for the Lord's Prayer?

Answered: 6760 Skipped: 148



● Yes

● No

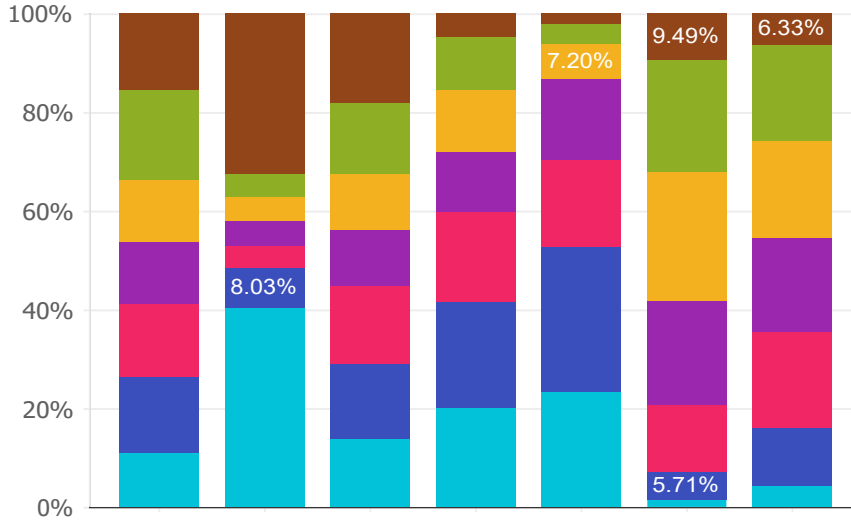
● No preference

Choices	Response percent	Response count
Yes	39.16%	2647
No	47.63%	3220
No preference	13.21%	893

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Which options would you like to see included for closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention? Please rank the options below in order of preference (1 – 7)

Answered: 6677 Skipped: 231



Choices	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	Rank	Response count
A.A.'s Declaration of Unity	11.08 % (631)	15.21 % (866)	14.84 % (845)	12.59 % (717)	12.64 % (720)	18.16 % (1034)	15.47% (881)	3.83	5	5694
Lord's Prayer	40.43 % (2336)	8.03% (464)	4.40% (254)	5.02% (290)	5.00% (289)	4.64% (268)	32.49% (1877)	4.30	3	5778
Moment of silence	13.85 % (805)	15.05 % (875)	15.98 % (929)	11.22 % (652)	11.46 % (666)	14.33 % (833)	18.11% (1053)	3.93	4	5813
Responsibility Statement	19.98 % (1192)	21.61 % (1289)	18.17 % (1084)	12.24 % (730)	12.51 % (746)	10.61 % (633)	4.88% (291)	4.73	2	5965
Serenity Prayer	23.31 % (1402)	29.33 % (1764)	17.77 % (1069)	16.26 % (978)	7.20% (433)	3.97% (239)	2.16% (130)	5.25	1	6015
Seventh Step Prayer	1.47% (80)	5.71% (311)	13.53 % (737)	21.07 % (1148)	26.21 % (1428)	22.54 % (1228)	9.49% (517)	3.30	7	5449

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Third Step Prayer	4.17% (231)	11.87% (658)	19.46% (1079)	19.05% (1056)	19.68% (1091)	19.44% (1078)	6.33% (351)	3.78	6	5544
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### Do you have a different suggestion for closing the Big Meetings?

Answered: 2539 Skipped: 4369

1. I don't care for the moment of silence option at all. My home group closes with the "we" version of the serenity prayer. I would like to see that included in the options.
2. No
3. My preference is the moments silence instead of any prayer spoken with a card containing all prayers except The Lord's Prayer and only voice The Serenity Prayer in the First Person Plural as suggested in Step 12 of the 12 & 12. We are Anonymous and seeking no religious affiliation or hierarchy!
4. Prayer of St Francis of Assisi.
5. The reason I would prefer not to do the Lord's prayer is that the religious connection may be a reason for a newcomer to turn away from A.A. and recovery because of their personal reaction to a religious prayer associated with A.A.
6. Yesterday, today, tomorrow
7. No
8. I would ask that the ICRF committee also have a discussion around the cultish chanting that occurs in many parts of A.A. and see what might be done to send a message to attendees on how that crowd sourced in AA via treatment centers and other non-A.A. outlets. From a professional or public perspective, I am much more concerned with a society of chanters who claim membership in a spiritual organization than I am with a prayer that has been employed by thousands of various groups throughout the millennia.
9. St Francis prayer
10. no
11. No
12. We could read 'A.A. Comes of Age' so all these smarmy PC wimps could learn about our history's roots from Akron.
13. Possibly a little disclaimer before the prayer- example- in closing this meeting and including all spiritual power's, the chairs of this international convention have chosen the ..... prayer.
14. I think it would be really awesome to discontinue the use of the Lord's Prayer. It is totally inappropriate for a worldwide organization like ours.
15. Any prayer from the big book or the Serenity Prayer would be great.
16. Respecting the history and traditions of A.A. and the community from which it arose suggests that the use of the Lord's Prayer at least one of the meetings is an important action to take.
17. No
18. Since we have A.A. members from different (or none) religious backgrounds, I think sticking to the common prayers (Serenity Prayer, Third Step prayer and Seventh Step prayer ) would be more inclusive.
19. No.
20. Keep it simple as our cofounder had it. The Lord's Prayer is a simple and uncomplicated prayer.
21. The Lord's Prayer should be paramount.
22. Sing Kumbaya Just kidding ☺
23. A count down from oldest to newest
24. No
25. If we continue to use the Lord's prayer, we should rotate in prayers from other faiths e.g. Islam, Judaism, atheist, etc.
26. No

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27. Nope
28. A Vision for You I would rank all the prayers at a 7 (with the exception of the Serenity Prayer). We are supposed to be non-Christian. The Lord's Prayer, 3rd Step & 7th Step prayers are Christian prayers.
29. Keep coming back. It works if you work it. So work it, you are worth it.
30. No
31. Contest to create a statement all can relate to.
32. Read the Promises section of the Big Book.
33. Each Big Meeting should be closed with a prayer of choice of that particular chairperson.
34. no
35. If we don't acknowledge our Higher Power and the Grace we have received for personal sobriety and for the sustaining of our beloved Fellowship, we won't survive long. We are not sober on our own power. A.A. should not change to suit anyone. Everyone is welcome in A.A.. No one is obliged or forced to do anything. There are already many "generic" addiction programs that do not rely on a Higher Power. They come and go - usually depending on the funding! I hope Alcoholics Anonymous does not become one of them.
36. No
37. no
38. No, but thank you for asking.
39. No.
40. You have enough options as it is.
41. These arguments with the preamble and closings are getting out of hand.
42. Page 164
43. No
44. Not at this time.
45. Quote the closing statement on page 164.
46. No
47. No
48. no
49. Someone reading page 164.
50. Anything but the Lord's prayer.
51. After a moment of silence for the still suffering alcoholic both inside and outside our rooms, we could end the meeting by just saying "Thank You" in unison (It's the shortest prayer I know and always reminds me to be grateful for everything and everyone in my life - whether good, bad or indifferent).
52. Tradition 12: Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.
53. A pause, moment of silence, and I mean a moment of silence, 30 seconds at least. Then the Responsibility Statement
54. I think the Lord's Prayer has no place in the closing of an AA meeting. Therefore, I did not rank it.
55. I feel excluded when the meeting is not closed with the Lord's Prayer. Close all the meetings with the Lord's Prayer.
56. none
57. no
58. In question three, I chose not to rank the Lord's Prayer or the 3rd or 7th Step Prayers. I believe we should not use any of those prayers to close meetings. I am not in favor of using the Lord's

## CONFIDENTIAL: 74th General Service Conference Background

Prayer because it is affiliated with a specific religion, and we are not. I am not in favor of group recitations of the 3rd and 7th Step prayers because it undermines the text's promise that the wording is optional for both of these prayers.

59. Whatever happens use a different marketing company that coordinates the events. They are tragic and horrible experience with registration last 3 conferences
60. I do not.
61. Ninth Step Promises; A Vision For You, page 164, last two paragraphs or last three paragraphs
62. No
63. I do not
64. It's the International so maybe a prayer of choice of an attendee from a randomly selected country, preferably delivered over the sound system, in their native tongue, with the text of the prayer displayed in both that language, English, Spanish, and French. Invite everyone to join if they wish, in whatever language they prefer. It'll be pure cacophony, much like the closing of many, many Zoom meetings I've attended.
65. I do not.
66. We version of the serenity prayer
67. Close them all with the Lord's Prayer
68. I love the responsibility and the unity prayer. Otherwise, I really have no preference.
69. No
70. No
71. No
72. Acceptance is the Answer. Pg. 417
73. No
74. No
75. A moment of silence allows all to close in their own way silently and it would be very impactful having 50,000 people in a silent moment together. Many of us are not Christian and it is time for us to be inclusive at our international convention.
76. I believe a prayer that is consistent with the presence of God in the Twelve Steps is very appropriate. To exclude the spirituality of the 12 steps does not make sense. There are ways to have prayer with respect for various denominations but acknowledgement of God within the essence is imperative.
77. Only that if we do the declaration of Unity, 3rd or 7th step prayers - they should be on a screen somewhere as many newcomers do not know them.
78. Anything secular. No mention of God. Thanks for asking!
79. no
80. No
81. No, but thank you for conducting this survey. For those of us who choose not to end with the Lord's Prayer, this is an opportunity for greater unity within AA.
82. Only the Lord's Prayer.....
83. no
84. An alternative is to close each meeting with a moment of silence, no had holding.
85. No, thanks!! Keep up the good work!!
86. No, I love the Lord's Prayer
87. Close all meetings with the Lord's Prayer
88. A non-religious prayer would be best or a moment of silence and leave it at that.
89. No
90. Dr. Bob's Farewell Address

**CONFIDENTIAL: 74th General Service Conference Background**

91. No
92. No
93. No
94. For God's sake, please don't close with the alleged Third Step Prayer or the alleged Seventh Step Prayer. For the Third Step, the Big Book notes, "The wording was, of course, quite optional so long as we expressed the idea, voicing it without reservation." p. 63 These things should not be codified. Sheesh! Annoyingly yours, an A.A. member
95. Let's all recite, from memory and in unison, the first chapter of the Tao Te Ching.
96. no
97. I would suggest using the Serenity Prayer for each— it is the most universally known, is short, and the rhythm of it easiest to match when said simultaneously in many languages.
98. Close with the serenity pray so no one feels excluded.
99. No.
100. Not at this time.



Feedback for Closing Big Meetings - 2025 IC (French)

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185 Réponses complètes

0 Réponses partielles





Commentaires concernant la clôture des grandes réunions lors du Congrès international

*"En réponse à un point de l'ordre du jour demandant d'examiner l'utilisation du Notre Père pour la clôture des Grandes Réunions aux Congrès internationaux des AA, le Comité des Congrès internationaux/Forums territoriaux de la Conférence de 2021 a eu une discussion réfléchie et étendue sur les méthodes de clôture des Grandes Réunions au Congrès international, en particulier l'utilisation du Notre Père et la compréhension que, bien que la prière fasse partie de l'histoire des AA et qu'elle soit largement utilisée et soutenue dans certaines communautés des AA, elle n'est pas utilisée dans les réunions d'autres communautés des AA et certains pensent qu'elle pourrait faire en sorte que certains membres se sentent exclus et soutenir la perception des AA comme une organisation religieuse.*

*Reconnaissant qu'il serait bénéfique de recueillir l'expérience du Mouvement pour prendre une décision éclairée, le comité a demandé au Comité du Conseil pour les Congrès Internationaux/Forums territoriaux d'étudier les préférences du Mouvement concernant les méthodes de clôture des Grandes Réunions lors du Congrès international.*

*Il peut être utile de noter que, depuis plusieurs Congrès internationaux, les présidents des plus de 200 réunions du congrès ont été invités à clôturer de la manière de leur choix. Certains clôturent avec le Notre Père, d'autres avec la Prière de la Sérénité, d'autres encore avec la Déclaration de Responsabilité, tandis que d'autres clôturent avec un moment de silence. Il n'y avait pas auparavant de politique concernant la prière ou la méthode de clôture des réunions qui était requise."*

Lors des quatre derniers congrès internationaux, au choix du président respectif, une des Grandes Réunions s'est terminée par le Notre Père, une autre par la Prière de la Sérénité et une dernière par la Déclaration de Responsabilité.

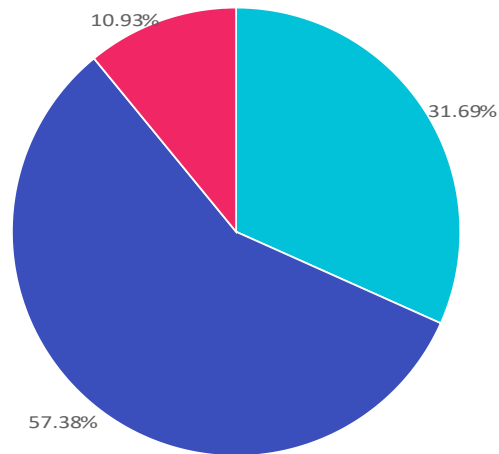
Aucune réponse

Q1

Préférez-vous que nous continuions cette façon de faire, y compris le Notre Père ?

Répondu : 183

Ignoré : 2



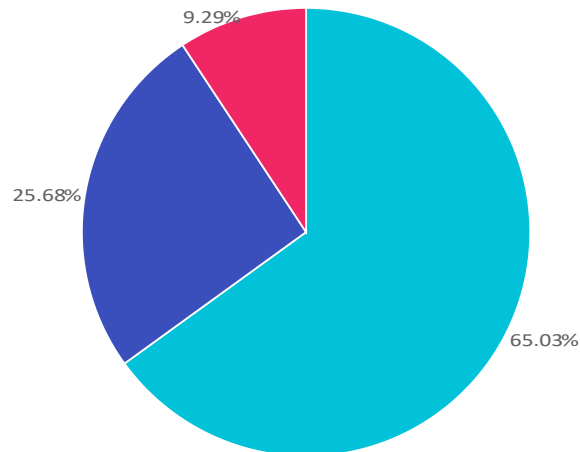
● Oui
 ● Non
 ● Pas de préférence

Choix	Pourcentage de réponses	Nombre de réponses
Oui	31.69%	58
Non	57.38%	105
Pas de préférence	10.93%	20

Q2

Préférez-vous que nous continuions cette pratique mais que nous remplacions le Notre Père par une autre option ?

Répondu : 183 Ignoré : 2





Choix	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	Rang	Nombre de réponses
Déclaration d'Unité des AA	17.50 % (28)	33.75 % (54)	23.13 % (37)	10.00 % (16)	8.13% (13)	3.13% (5)	4.38% (7)	5.16	3	160
Notre Père	18.31 % (26)	7.75% (11)	3.52% (5)	9.15% (13)	4.93% (7)	5.63% (8)	50.70% (72)	3.06	6	142
Moment de silence	11.61 % (18)	13.55 % (21)	18.06 % (28)	19.35 % (30)	9.03% (14)	16.77 % (26)	11.61% (18)	4.03	4	155
Déclaration de Responsabilité	27.16 % (44)	24.07 % (39)	17.90 % (29)	13.58 % (22)	8.02% (13)	8.02% (13)	1.23% (2)	5.20	2	162
Prière de la Sérénité	36.20 % (59)	20.25 % (33)	18.40 % (30)	15.34 % (25)	4.29% (7)	2.45% (4)	3.07% (5)	5.49	1	163
Prière de la Septième Étape	1.43% (2)	1.43% (2)	8.57% (12)	15.71 % (22)	36.43 % (51)	25.00 % (35)	11.43% (16)	2.95	7	140
Prière de la Troisième Étape	1.41% (2)	5.63% (8)	11.97 % (17)	14.79 % (21)	24.65 % (35)	33.10 % (47)	8.45% (12)	3.11	5	142

Q4

Avez-vous une autre suggestion pour clore les Grandes Réunions?

Répondu : 58 Ignoré : 127

- 1 Either the Lords prayer or the Serenity prayer.
- 2 The responsibility statement.

The Lords prayer is great. It has existed for 2000 years and it suits alcoholics well. Agnostics and

- 3 atheists are presents in AA since 1935 so I don't see what's different today. Re-read your history. I'm not teaching you anything. Have a good day.
- 4 Serenity prayer followed by the responsibility statement.
- 5 Invite 3 members to say the Serenity prayer, one in English, one in French, one in Spanish...
- 6 None
- 7 With a smile, a handshake, and at least 5 people around us... I Hope to be able to make it in 2025!!

No.

- 8 The declaration of Unity of AA seems to be the most appropriate way to end a convention of this scale. Since it is an International convention, we have to stay neutral and not give the impression that we are associated to a church or a religion.
- 9 The declaration or Unity and the responsibility statement. This app won't let me pick more than one.
- 10 Thank you for this question. May His Will be.

11 thank their Higher Power. A moment of silence and suggestion to the members to say in silence whatever prayer they want to 12 No prayer coming from any religion at all.

13 Just before the moment of silence (option 2 above), thank the partmeeting, and then say : THANK YOU AND LET'S STAY UNITED. Participants for their presence at this

14 No

15 The Lords prayer IS NOT inclusive and SHOULD NOT BE suggested in any circumstance.

When I first joined the fellowship and for a few decades, I tried to ban the Lords Prayer and God related things from our meetings. Until an old timer ended a meeting by saying : FOR THOSE WHO WISH, let's end the meeting with the Lords Prayer.

16

These words from an « old wise man » ended my fight and the one of others.

Richard B

17 No but everyone at the end holding hands saying the Lords prayer is something that gives you chills or goosebumps it's just awesome

The Serenity prayer by replacing « God » by « Friends », God being a friend for the believing Christian 18 or Muslim. And that way other beliefs are also respected.

This makes the Serenity prayer/thinking more universal on a philosophical level.

- 19 The 12 promises.  
20 Meditate.  
21 AA works since 1935, it works for me since May 15 2008. I trust and I let myself being carried by the Vancouver friends.

22 Benoît

- 23 Nothing to say.  
24 No other suggestion.

According to me, Vincent, alcoholic, the Serenity prayer is the best way to end a meeting. The declaration of confidentiality could be an alternative. The other prayers, like explained, could make some friends who need help believe that it is a religious fellowship.

- 25 It is difficult to explain that the Lords Prayer is an ancestral AA tradition since AA is not a religious organization.

In fellowship.

- 26 Transmitted live on the internet.  
27 No  
28 A song of hope  
29 Formulate a prayer that would feel like the Lords Prayer but specific to AA that would include the large scope of AA and of spirituality.  
30 The San Francis prayer.  
31 Remind that if we are not responsible for our illness we are responsible for our recovery.  
No, I don't have other suggestions.  
I can't wait to be at the International convention. This will be my first International convention.  
Many members say that this event is not to be missed ! So  
I will be there with joy !  
32 Thank you for taking the time to ask questions to members because the base is important in the Where does the theme of the Convention comes from, what country, what area, what district ?

Fellowship of Alcoholics anonymous.

For the Love of AA and the Love of Service.

Danielle S. Chair of District 03 in Joliette in Area 90 in Québec, Canada.

- 33 The 10 step promises from the BB p 95-96 34 The chain of love.

35 No but the Serenity prayer is essential in AA.

36 For the Serenity prayer, I would prefer that we call it Serenity thinking (note from translator : this does not translate well, the idea is to not call it a « prayer »), and that we don't start with « God » and just start with « Grant me the...”

37 no

Simply say

38 « See you later » or « See you next time » (for a simple meeting)  
“Bye and see you next time” (for a big closing meeting) No,  
I do not have other suggestions.

39

Jean-Jacques, Belgium

7 of 8

40 Continue the great work that you do, 24 hours at a time.

41 no

In France, we let the groups choose words in our literature to close meetings as see fit, but we are attached to the Serenity prayer. But the Lords Prayer is too catholic for the secular oriented members.

42

I hope to come to Vancouver.

I want to specify that I believe in God and that I say the Lords Prayer every day. It is a Christian prayer  
43 and it does not seem appropriate to use it in AA. I was indeed chocked when I heard it at the end of a meeting during the Convention in Toronto.

44 -

45 Thank you.

46 End by inviting people to meditate for 1 minute on what they where looking for in coming here, how to carry it and how to apply it in their lives. Then we can invite people to wish a good 24 hours to the people around them.

47 A moment of gratitude, thank you to ourselves, to others, to the Convention of the 90 years, to God (to bigger than ourselves).

48 Second, is this coming from a NEED ? NO, I don't think so. Good 24 hours. First of all, STOP trying to change what exists in our approved literature of alcoholics anonymous.

49 No

50 Reminder of the preamble

51 No 52 No

53 Thank you for the suggestions. I prefer the Lords Prayer.

54 I trust the decisions that will be made for the good of our Fellowship. Thank you

55 no

56 No thank you

Hello, my name is Michel Vigneault, I live in the suburbs of Montreal in Quebec, I have been going to AA meetings for 40 years, I know there are people from other cultures and there are also atheists that join our beautiful fellowship of AA. There are always been controversies in AA, but I have never ever heard

57 anyone complain about the Lords Prayer! ... In « How it works » it says that our saving needs to come from a higher power as we understand it, we can call it whatever we want, we can belong to the religion of our choice, we always need to rely on a power greater than ourselves, no matter what prayer we use to close the meetings, there will always be members who disagree, and as far as I'm concerned, I want us to continue using the Lords Prayer! I wish you a great 24 hours.

58 Respect what Bill and Bob taught us. If everyone starts giving their opinions it will be chaos.





Feedback on Closing Big Meetings - 2025 IC (Spanish)



69 Respuestas completadas

0 Respuestas parciales



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Comentarios y Sugerencias sobre cómo cerrar las Reuniones Grandes en la Convención Internacional

*"En respuesta a un punto de agenda que solicitó que se llevara a consideración el uso del padrenuestro para cerrar las reuniones grandes en las Convenciones Internacionales de AA, el Comité de Convenciones Internacionales y Foros Regionales de la Conferencia de 2021 tuvo una discusión amplia y concienzuda sobre los métodos para cerrar las reuniones grandes en la Convención Internacional, particularmente el uso del padrenuestro y la comprensión de que si bien la oración es parte de la historia de AA y se la utiliza y defiende con bastante frecuencia en algunas comunidades de AA, no se usa en las reuniones de otras comunidades de AA y algunos piensan que podría hacer que algunos miembros se sintieran excluidos y que reforzaría la percepción de que AA es una organización religiosa.*

*El comité concordó en que sería beneficioso recopilar información compartida de la Comunidad para tomar una decisión informada, y por ello solicitó que el Comité de Convenciones Internacionales y Foros Regionales de los custodios explorara la preferencia de la Comunidad en relación con los métodos para cerrar las reuniones grandes en la Convención Internacional.*

*Es conveniente señalar que, desde hace varias Convenciones Internacionales, los coordinadores de las más de doscientas reuniones en la convención han sido invitados a cerrar las reuniones de la manera que ellos elijan. Algunos cierran con el padrenuestro; otros con la Oración de la Serenidad; algunos usan la Declaración de responsabilidad, mientras que otros cierran con un momento de silencio. Anteriormente no ha habido ninguna política sobre qué oración o método se requiere utilizar para cerrar las reuniones."*

En las cuatro últimas Convenciones Internacionales, según la elección del coordinador o coordinadora respectivos, una de las

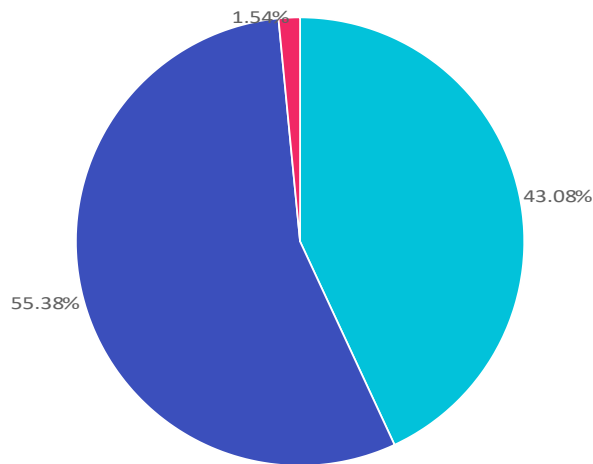
reuniones grandes se cerró con el padrenuestro, una con la Oración de la Serenidad y una con la Declaración de responsabilidad.

No hay respuestas

R1

¿Preferiría que continuáramos con esta práctica, incluyendo el padrenuestro?

Respondida: 65 Omitida: 4



● Sí ● No ● Sin preferencia

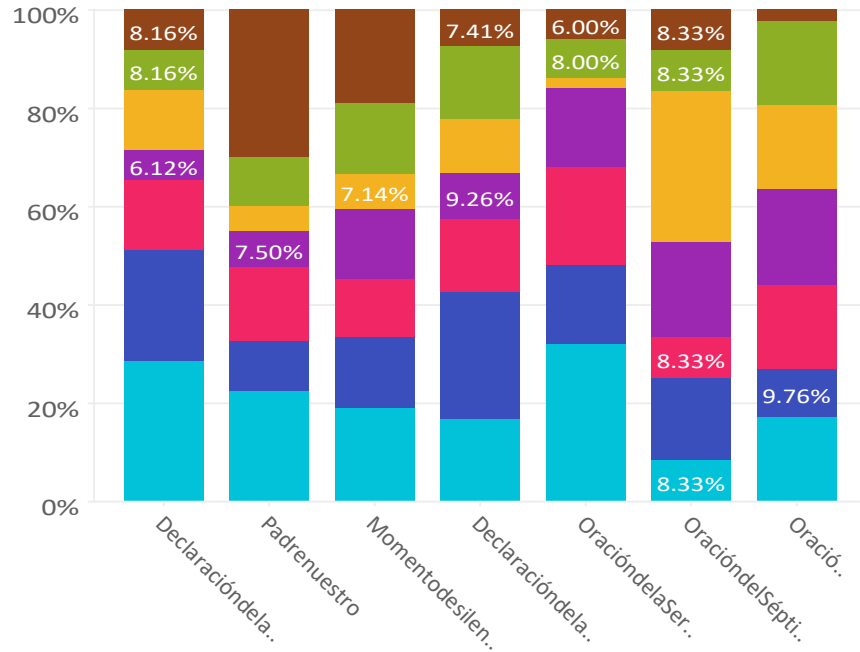
Opciones	Porcentaje de respuesta	Conteo de respuesta
Sí	43.08%	28
No	55.38%	36
Sin preferencia	1.54%	1

R2

¿Preferiría que continuáramos con esta práctica, pero que pongamos otra opción en vez del padrenuestro?

Respondida: 65 Omitida: 4





- 1 ●
- 2 ●
- 3 ●
- 4 ●
- 5 ●
- 6 ●
- 7 ●

Opciones	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Puntuación	Clasificación	Conteo de respuesta
Declaración de la unidad de AA	28.57% (14)	22.45% (11)	14.29% (7)	6.12% (3)	12.24% (6)	8.16% (4)	8.16% (4)	4.92	2	49
Padrenuestro	22.50% (9)	10.00% (4)	15.00% (6)	7.50% (3)	5.00% (2)	10.00% (4)	30.00% (12)	3.88	7	40
Momento de silencio	19.05% (8)	14.29% (6)	11.90% (5)	14.29% (6)	7.14% (3)	14.29% (6)	19.05% (8)	4.05	5	42
Declaración de la responsabilidad	16.67% (9)	25.93% (14)	14.81% (8)	9.26% (5)	11.11% (6)	14.81% (8)	7.41% (4)	4.54	3	54
Oración de la Serenidad	32.00% (16)	16.00% (8)	20.00% (10)	16.00% (8)	2.00% (1)	8.00% (4)	6.00% (3)	5.12	1	50
Oración del Séptimo Paso	8.33% (3)	16.67% (6)	8.33% (3)	19.44% (7)	30.56% (11)	8.33% (3)	8.33% (3)	3.94	6	36
Oración del Tercer Paso	17.07% (7)	9.76% (4)	17.07% (7)	19.51% (8)	17.07% (7)	17.07% (7)	2.44% (1)	4.29	4	41

	(7)		(7)		(7)					
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R4

¿Tiene alguna sugerencia diferente para el cierre de las reuniones grandes?

Respondida: 40

- 1 Continue closing them as we traditionally do, with the Serenity Prayer or the Declaration of Unity.
- 2 No
- 3 I think it's just that the Lord's Prayer may cause problems. It should not be used.
- 4 No
- 5 Have it close with something related to Alcoholics Anonymous.
- 6 The St. Francis Prayer: Make an instrument of your peace...  
The Lord's Prayer is the essence of our spirituality... we should always keep what helped
- 7 people recover back in the day, and continues to help many AAs recover. The program is being devalued with illogical changes. Let's keep it simple. May God protect us from tyranny.
- 8 The Eleventh Step prayer followed by a minute of silence/meditation. Together with the Step 3 prayer.
- 9 Let's keep it simple. One minute of silence and the responsibility statement.  
The Lord's Prayer will only cause conflict with people who thrive on resentment or atheism, as has already happened once. Also, it is a 2000-year-old prayer and Alcoholics Anonymous is
- 10 only 87 years old. Does this mean we can add religious sections to our literature? Let's keep it simple. Everyone has their own Higher Power already, Steps 2 and 3 tell us to go look for it, not impose it upon others.

11 No. Thank you for sharing.

I don't think it's such a bad idea for the decision to be left to the event chairs, but I'm also not

12 against using the Lord's Prayer as just another prayer, with a meaning beyond what it signifies for the Catholic religion, etc. I hope my opinion will be useful. Thank you, dear AA friends, for your service and happy 24 hours!

13 No. I would like it to be the Responsibility Statement, or the Declaration of Unity.

Dr. Bob described our Fellowship with the words Love and Service. The St. Francis Prayer suggested for the practice of Step Eleven covers both proposals. It asks that I become an instrument and carry the message of love, forgiveness, unity, truth, hope, light, joy, consolation and understanding which are a part of our recovery program.

14 Thus, I would suggest that we close with the St. Francis' Prayer. Sincerely, Luis Q.

Grupo Los Angeles  
Cartagena-Colombia

I like the Declaration of Unity a lot. Since this is an International Convention, which will gather 15 many AAs from around the world, I think the Declaration of Unity would make more sense.

Thank you. It's the opinion of Luis Noé R., AA member from Mexico.

16 It could be the Lord's Prayer and the Responsibility Statement.

17 Traditionally they always close with the Responsibility Statement, remembering always that group and convention autonomy ought to be respected.

18 Only with the Responsibility Statement.

19 Not for the time being.

20 With the Lord's Prayer and a few seconds of silence.

- 21 In my group we end the meeting by hugging each other in brotherly love.  
Many AA members at conventions do this spontaneously and some with tears in their eyes as they are overtaken by emotion.
- 22 No
- 23 I think it's necessary to have the Lord's Prayer at the closing of the meeting.
- 24 Foster the inclusion and relevance of young people for AA as a whole.
- 25 No, I am OK with my suggestions.
- 26 We could include the Responsibility Statement in French, Spanish and English and close the big AA meeting this way.
- 27 Serenity Prayer and Declaration of Unity.
- I think that most groups are in agreement and fully convinced that when the bell rings, it is God whom we call upon, in silence, which unites us all. Followed by our Serenity Prayer, 28 which stands for daily work through the Steps, ending with commitment to AA and as a Fellowship with the two statements. And everything [applies to] atheists, agnostics, believers and any member of any faith, this being AA. IT INVOLVES US. 29 The Declaration of Unity and Responsibility Statement.
- Some people from other religions might feel left out if we use the Lord's Prayer.
- 30 I like the Responsibility Statement.  
If we sense a lot of conflict because of closing with the Lord's Prayer, it think it would be best
- 31 to close with the Responsibility Statement, although we know that the Lord's Prayer was a much-used tool in the early days of our Fellowship. Thank you for taking our opinion into account.
1. Declaration of Unity
  2. I am responsible
  3. The Lord's Prayer
- 32 My personal reasons: We need unity  
I am responsible for practicing this.  
HE is our hope to free us from any evil that could break us apart.
- 33 Only three moments: 1. Lord's Prayer; 2. Serenity Prayer and 3. Responsibility Statement
- 34 NO
- 35 Replace the Lord's Prayer with the St. Francis Prayer.
- 36 NOT for now.
- 37 None
- 38 FIRST THE DECLARATION OF UNITY, FOLLOWED BY THE RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT.



- 39 AA is not allied with any sect, DENOMINATION, politics, organization or institution.
- 40 The St. Francis Prayer.

7 of 7

## 2024 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

**ITEM E:** Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.

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### **Background:**

1. Summary Suggestions 2017 to 2023
2. 2023 Northeast Regional Forum Questionnaire Summary
3. 2023 West Central Regional Forum Questionnaire Summary
4. 2023 Southwest Regional Forum Questionnaire Summary
5. 2023 East Central Regional Forum Questionnaire Summary

**Summary of Suggestions on Ways to Encourage Interest in Forums from  
Conference Committees on International Conventions/Regional Forums  
(2017–2023)**

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

**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 Viña, 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.

**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 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**

## Confidential: 74th General Service Conference Background

- Provide options for remote attendance.
- Provide digital access to Regional Forum materials and presentations (including use of the Meeting Guide App or mobile app).
- Develop service material for host committees providing shared experience on hosting a Regional Forum and stimulating participation.
- Develop a “video invitation” from the G.S.B. 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.
- Consider developing a Regional Forum app.
- Consider developing a micro-site 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 A.A.W.S./A.A. Grapevine directors to “non-service” A.A. events to increase awareness of Regional Forums.
- Place information about Regional Forums in the A.A. 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.

## Confidential: 74th General Service Conference Background

- Consider providing “meet and mingle” opportunities for Forum attendees to meet with trustees and G.S.O. staff in informal settings (for example, 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 G.S.O. staff could lead more workshops to foster more interaction with Forum attendees.
- Add workshops that would specifically address the topic of our Primary Purpose.
- Provide additional Spanish workshops.

### 2017

- Communicate information to groups that are a car ride or day trip away from the Forum site.
- Look for attractive sites for Forums.
- Forward any and all announcements from G.S.O., including when pre-registration opens.
- Forward announcements to states that are in other regions when Forum sites are nearby.
- Utilize 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.

## 2023 NORTHEAST REGIONAL FORUM — (June 3–5, 2023) Questionnaire Summary

Seventy (70) participants/members of the 2023 NORTHEAST REGIONAL FORUM completed their evaluation questionnaires. A summary of their responses follows.

### 1. How did you hear about this Forum?

Area	39 (58.2%)
District	14 (20.9%)
G.S.O. Flyer	6 (9.0%)
Local Intergroup/Central Office	4 (6.0%)
Home Group	3 (4.5%)
<a href="http://www.aa.org">www.aa.org</a>	10 (14.9%)
Friend	7 (10.4%)
Other	10 (14.9%)

### Responses to other:

- I have been before and know it happens every two years in June, I go to A.A.org.
- Invitation to past trustee panel on Sunday
- GSO Employee
- I have been waiting for four years!
- I just know- been in service a long time.
- NERT. Been waiting for it!
- Service Sponsor
- Past forums

### 2. Please list any suggestions for future Workshop or Presentation topics:

*The following suggestions/comments were provided by the members for future workshop and presentation topics:*

- The program item "Who is not in the Room" is probably reductant as the topic of marginalized groups is covered in many other AA events NERRASA, the Conference, State Conventions, etc.
- What can we be doing differently to attract young people, BIPOC members and others not in the room?
- Please continue "Who's not in the room?"
- Common Welfare and disruptive behavior.
- Safety.
- Accessibility.
- Attracting young people and corresponding with loners.
- How do we reach those members who are not in the room?

## Confidential: 74th General Service Conference Background

- What defines an “outside issue”?
- Motivating AAs to Service; Fostering participation in service.
- Making General Service Attractive
- More on the Concepts, Traditions and Steps
- GSR is the lifeline - What do they do?
- Workshop - DCM, Treasurer, Corrections, Treatment. To exchange best practices with others.
- Self-support.
- The role of a delegate.
- Conference agenda item selection process.
- New agenda item submission process using a concrete example.
- The concrete changes from year to year.
- Our Spiritual Heritage (as in, "nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.")
- Online Groups/Online Area.
- Singleness of Purpose and AA Unity
- How do you include the home group?
- Service positions and servant leadership

### Comments:

- What I would like to see on the program is more attention and/or focus on the other triad of the English, Spanish, and French which is the French AA community. Saturday afternoon we heard the 12th step effort by two excellent Latinos; can we have the same 12th effort by French AAs.
- There was talk regarding lighting a fire to get more attendees at NERF. Isn't one of the problems getting more actual meetings/groups to have a GSR, or if they do, a GSR who connects and participates with NERAASA and NERF as well as the district and area they belong to? This may be better sent out as a challenge, followed by a workshop.

### 3. At future Forums would you like to see:

	More	Less	Just Right
Presentations	20 (34.5%)	4 (6.9%)	34 (58.6%)
Workshops	27 (46.6%)	3 (5.2%)	28 (48.3%)
Sharing Sessions	16 (29.6%)	6 (11.1%)	32 (59.3%)

### 4. What was effective and what improvements might be made to Presentations, Workshops and Sharing Sessions:

#### Comments:

#### Presentations

## Confidential: 74th General Service Conference Background

- Hearing the GSB Treasurer was helpful. He did a great job of making financial information simple and understandable, better presentation than at conference.
- It would be good to have all the presentations available, some seemed to just be written. Not sure, if when requested, oral presentations will be available.
- Sticking to the schedule was good and important to the attendees.
- The 'Who's Missing from the Rooms?' topic/session may be nearing its end/effectiveness as a feature session. However, important topics like inclusion need to remain as the feature session instead of a workshop. Suggested variation could be 'Inclusion vs Exclusion' or Tradition Three.
- More Class A Trustee presentations.
- Really enjoyed the 5-minute presentation from the Fellowship.
- Martia's presentation was excellent, so heartfelt.
- Encourage presenters to practice both their talks and technology, some would have benefited from being tighter.
- PowerPoint was used which was very effective.
- The presentation screens could be higher up for everyone to see what was on the bottom part of the slides.
- The presentations were very informative.
- Please diversify the presenters (perhaps by diversifying the bottom of the triangle). Too many white men.
- Grapevine
- Delegates did an excellent job with the presentations. The Trustees and AA Grapevine Publisher were also very informative and relatable. I appreciated hearing from the staff member.
- I liked the fact that the delegates gave the presentations and workshops.
- I think the best thing about the Forum is hearing from the folks at GSO, AAWS and Grapevine. I can hear about workshop type things at any number of AA functions, but only at NERF can you hear directly from those people involved with those entities.
- Because this was my first in-person forum, I do not have another to compare it with. However, I can say that the presenters and speakers were impressive, effective, and clear with the information they provided -- and their recovery message. They were also open and willing to speak privately to those with any questions, which I greatly appreciated.
- I loved hearing from GSO staff about what they are doing.
- Since we're already paying for it, please encourage better utilization of the AV equipment (i.e., PowerPoint, audio recording, and the like).
- The presentations were generally very well prepared and delivered. It might be helpful to have hard copies of some of the slides available during the weekend.
- I enjoyed hearing all the presentations as a first timer to the regional forum. It was especially good for me to hear the delegates present since it gave a sense of how different AAs approach that work and what they are doing.
- Please have someone proofread the slides, as some were outdated, and then some were not visibly functional for a large auditorium setting.



## Confidential: 74th General Service Conference Background

- Let us be able to pull up the slides ahead of time and alert people to bring a laptop or tablet to see them.
- Connections with home groups through the Area and GSO

### Workshops

- Our workshop on Service – did not provide any take away tools to help with motivating and getting others excited for service.
- Need for more interaction with other Area's committees - CPC, PI, etc.
- If possible, maybe more time for individual workshops
- Some great enthusiasm and ideas were suggested. I would like to see a formal recording and plan for funneling the ideas forward with a subsequent report back at future NERF.
- I went to the GV workshop and the workshop on communication from the home group to the conference. At that session the facilitator wrote on the flip chart - "What pisses you off?" as the first question for discussion. Starting off any workshop with a negative question like that is not productive.
- The Warranty Workshop was great.
- I only made it to one but really enjoyed it - The Warranties. Some of the sharing from participants got long-winded and off topic. I'd encourage the facilitator to take more of a lead in the future.
- Signage for the indigenous alcoholic pamphlet mtg should have been updated to reflect the new room.
- The workshop topics were great! I wish I could've gone to all of them!
- The workshops were all interactive and engaging.
- The workshops are a nice way to break the attendees into smaller groups, and to break up the "sitting and listening" parts of the weekend.
- In order to facilitate follow-up self-study, encourage handouts with references (i.e., virtual workshops, website addresses, literature, pamphlets, and the like).
- Wish there had been more. The one workshop that I went to (online AA) was great.
- The workshops I attended were well done, but in smaller rooms, so I am not sure how the ones in larger rooms functioned.

### Sharing Sessions

- They were informative.
- These were interesting and certainly varied. Not sure if it would make sense to list the sharing sessions to pertain to what was presented immediately before, so they are on topic.
- I hosted an evening AA meeting after the formal presentations were over. I was genuinely touched that a few board members came.
- During the what's on your mind sessions, board and staff members made sure every question and comment was listened to and responded to. Great job! That spirit of

## Confidential: 74th General Service Conference Background

anonymity-that we are all on the same level as members of AA made me feel part of. Please keep that up.

- The Q&A periods are so helpful to first timers and allow those that are angry to vent and perhaps gain a different perspective.
- The change of heart witnessed at these events from the angry ones is always beautiful.
- Sharing sessions were helpful.
- I think we had more than enough time for sharing.
- All good but felt rushed. Would love to see more time for sharing in the future.
- Plenty of time was provided for Q&A.
- I thought sharing sessions were very effective.
- People were engaged and will give input and feedback. We learned from each other.
- I am grateful for the trusted servants (Trustees, Staff, etc.) who attended even if they were not giving a presentation, but they were there to answer questions that might come up.
- Great that these exist! I thought the questions/comments coming from the floor were very helpful and interesting.

### 5. Please indicate whether this was your first Forum:

Yes 34 (50.0%) No 34 (50.0%)

### 6. Please select your current service position:

G.S.R.	6 (9.7%)
D.C.M.	12 (19.4%)
Area Officer	6 (9.7%)
Area Committee Chairperson	6 (9.7%)
A.A. Group Member	8 (12.9%)
Non-Trustee Director	0 (0.0%)
Delegate	5 (8.1%)
Past Delegate	5 (8.1%)
Trustee	3 (4.8%)
Past Trustee	2 (3.2%)
Friend of A.A.	0 (0.0%)
Other	9 (14.5%)

### **Responses to Other:**

- District Grapevine, literature chair
- Archivist

## Confidential: 74th General Service Conference Background

- Alternate Delegate
- Alternate DCM
- Past Delegate/Past Trustee
- Area Committee member
- Alternate Delegate
- district chairperson
- GSO Employee
- District officer
- Intergroup
- Area Committee Chair (Newsletter)
- District Treasurer
- Registrar
- Tech Servant
- Intergroup Chair
- Assistant group treasurer
- long-time AA member and servant at broad levels of participation

### 7. Did you pre-register online?

Yes 64 (91.4%)                      No 6 (8.6%)

### 8. Please list any suggestions to improve the online registration process.

- Please provide an agenda in advance of the meeting.
- Handout of who's who - GSO folks and titles of all GSO presenters with contact info.
- Was difficult to find. Should have a link on the home page for registration.
- I was uncertain if there were any meals included in the weekend. I wish that it had been more explicit as to what I could plan for.
- As someone who pre-registered, outside of the registration confirmation email, I did not receive any further communications.
- I would have liked to have seen the hotel information and program sooner.
- Send a confirmation email which includes the address of the hotel and clarify that food options on site are very limited.

## 2023 WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL FORUM — (August 25–27, 2023)

### Questionnaire Summary

Ninety (90) participants/members of the 2023 WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL FORUM completed their evaluation questionnaires. A summary of their responses follows.

#### 1. How did you hear about this Forum?

Area	38 (44.7%)
District	17 (20.0%)
G.S.O. Flyer	6 (7.1%)
Local Intergroup/Central Office	1 (1.2%)
Home Group	19 (22.4%)
<a href="http://www.aa.org">www.aa.org</a>	3 (3.5%)
Friend	9 (10.6%)
Other	8 (9.4%)

#### Responses to Other:

- From a family member
- My Sponsor
- Email from our Delegate
- Presentation Materials
- My DCM (I am the Alternate DCM)
- Area 52 Handbook
- At a meeting
- WCR Trustee

#### 2. Please list any suggestions for future Workshop or Presentation topics:

- What are the differences in governance between the service entities of AA Grapevine, GSO, GSB and AAWS?
- How do we get more people involved in district service?
- Our "one ultimate authority" how do we make sure we are getting an informed group conscience?
- Archive workshop.

## Confidential: 74th General Service Conference Background

- The value of service work in helping stay and enjoy sobriety by GSO members. Show members that alcoholic staff are like the rest of us.
- How an idea goes from a proposed agenda item (PAI) to an advisory action by the General Service Conference.
- Understanding the General Service Conference as the group conscience of the Fellowship.
- District and Area Committees.... Brainstorming ideas.
- District and Area Committees... How to develop a real committee.
- Regional Forums – effective?
- Concepts

### 3. At future Forums would you like to see:

	More	Less	Just right
Presentations	10 (15.2%)	11 (16.7%)	45 (68.2%)
Workshops	38 (49.4%)	5 (6.5%)	34 (44.2%)
Sharing sessions	27 (38.6%)	5 (7.1%)	38 (54.3%)

### 4. What was effective and what improvements might be made to Presentations, Workshops and Sharing Sessions?

#### Comments:

#### Presentations

- The presentations were fascinating.
- Improving low group/GSR participation at the district level.
- QR codes for presentations.
- Ask the local delegates the hot button issues that they believe their area might want to talk about and address some of those in the presentations.
- One thing I found particularly interesting was to hear the schedule of our GSO general manager. That helped me to see how much focus and emphasis you place on communicating and networking with areas, districts, and groups. It's impossible for me now to think of the GSO as disinterested, detached, or anything less than wanting to be engaged with us now that I've been to forum.
- Very informative and highly engaging.
- The Grapevine and financial presentations were really spot on.
- Slides need to be able to be read from further away.
- Updated PowerPoints/ fewer typed words.
- The length of all was very effective, not too long and a nice mix of activities.
- This being my first forum, I wasn't sure what to expect. I learned a great deal out who we are. I think the presentations were spot on.

## Confidential: 74th General Service Conference Background

- Have smaller group activities so more can participate and may even make some feel more comfortable sharing.
- Presentations were excellent, including the Q&A sessions afterwards.
- I really enjoyed the way the Class A trustee presented the finance report. He got on the same level.
- Q&A is my favorite, but I appreciated information about literature, Grapevine, etc. I would have liked more detail about the Corrections Tablet.
- Lines got too long at the mike to get a question in.
- Mostly business, very little spiritual. This was discouraging, as a spiritual program I would like to see and hear more of the spiritual impact on the leadership part of our fellowship. What I heard that was close to spiritual was the hope that there would be funding for the rent that is trending towards being late and even that was based on business analysis.
- GV presentation was good. Perhaps a presentation on writing for the Grapevine
- Finance report seemed rushed, maybe have handouts instead of just the screen.
- Perhaps have a sound person check the meeting rooms. It was difficult for me to hear a lot of times.
- What I enjoyed was hearing the human side of each of you. How you got to where you are today. Realizing that you all (except A Trustees) are alcoholics.
- It is so easy to blame those in charge when things appear to not be going well. Important for me and others to remember that you are put in these positions temporarily. We all need to put through the best person possible to fill those chairs. I was around when the thoughts of a plain and simple language book were started and why. It all makes sense to me, and I am excited to finally get to read it and use it as needed. It is so hard to explain to others that it is nothing to be afraid of. That no one is trying to put something over on us, that is not good.
- Staff presentations, especially updates.
- Trustee presentations to explain such things as budget/expenditures; progress on literature and answering questions about each. Fewer delegate presentations.
- I enjoyed hearing from the delegates on various topics, but personally did not find the workshop super helpful.
- Have high energy presentations at each session. Got long without a break.
- Please have printed copies of the presentations.
- I'd like to see other trusted servants present and lead workshops along with the Delegates including Area Officers, Committee Chairs, DCMS etc.
- Have a panel that discusses hot topics and allows people to listen to multiple sides of an issue presented in a respectful manner.

### Workshops

## Confidential: 74th General Service Conference Background

- I got to the grapevine workshop, and it was fantastic. Lots of information shared, and lots of new ideas for me. I would've liked the opportunity to go to more workshops.
- Remind attendees to share only once so everyone has a chance to share.
- More description about the workshop.
- Amazing presentation and good interaction
- Liked having the Delegates chair the workshops.
- Smaller sessions were better venues for asking questions.
- There were all good workshops all at the same time. It would have been good to stagger some of them.
- I think the topics were great. Only wish I we had time to go to others.
- Quality tended to be directly related to delegate or workshop leader presentation skills.
- Fortunately, our delegate had an excellent and very engaging style beneficial to all participants.
- The workshop was not long enough and the topic that I attended was very bland. Another good workshop could be "Problems in your home group."
- Corrections
- More applicable takeaways
- I was surprised when the workshops were participatory. AA workshops for me have always meant a presentation rather than interactive though always with a Q&A.
- More time for discussions.
- How to apply the Concepts.
- If you decide to do workshops, please make sure the individual is knowledgeable and a good presenter.
- Was my least favorite part.
- How to get more group members to serve the group.
- The workshop could be a little more structured. Felt more like a sharing session than a workshop. Good advice from other A.A. members but little real guidance from the organizers.
- Gerry R. great workshop.
- I did not think the Financial Report informative. It lacked detail.

### Sharing Sessions

- Good amount of time.
- Overall excellent experience.
- Only truly seasoned service folks dared approach the mike.
- Allow follow-up questions.

## Confidential: 74th General Service Conference Background

- I learned a few things, but it wasn't the best format to hear about the concerns my group wanted me to report.
- Complicated questions need to be answered later so the sharing session isn't held up in lengthy explanations or back-and-forth exchanges.
- Having time for serious sharing.
- No clapping.
- Never an easy topic. I think the time we had was about right. Good work on keeping the time held for each person.
- There obviously was not enough time for sharing as people had to wait for the next sharing session.
- Poor to average in general and dependent on the individuals' questions.
- The loudest voices tended to be an emotional strongly opinionated very small minority.
- Respecting the minority opinion is important. However, we sometimes carry this consideration too far neglecting the majority.
- I thought that the people doing the sharing sessions did very well. I would have liked to see Bob W. answer more questions directly rather than calling on others to answer some of them. I understand that he was trying to get the "right" information, however, some of the time it seemed like he was "dodging" a little.
- I wish the ask it basket was ONLY for those questions and no extra sharing. Of the 34 questions in the basket, not many were addressed in person.
- More of these, fun to see and hear what topics people have questions.
- More Q&A with NY staff, trustees, etc.
- I wonder if in the announcement before sharing sessions regarding guidelines for sharing it would be effective to say, "Please do not re-state what has already been shared or said."
- Staff, trustees did a great job of modeling professional behaviors in the face of conflict/contentious questioners.
- Fine but could be shorter and a bit more streamlined first time.

### 5. Please indicate whether this was your first Forum:

Yes 43 (49.4%)      No 44 (50.6%)

### 6. Please select your current service position:

G.S.R.	11 (13.9%)
D.C.M.	8 (10.1%)
Area Officer	11 (13.9%)
Area Committee Chairperson	4 (5.1%)



## Confidential: 74th General Service Conference Background

A.A. Member	18 (22.8%)
Non-Trustee Director	0 (0.0%)
Delegate	6 (7.6%)
Past Delegate	4 (5.1%)
Trustee	1 (1.3%)
Past Trustee	1 (1.3%)
Friend of A.A.	1 (1.3%)
Other	14 (17.7%)

### Responses to Other:

- District grapevine chair
- Member of Al-Anon
- Alt DCM
- DCM
- Hotline chair. Grapevine Editorial Advisory Board
- Group member
- Archives
- Area Archivist
- NAG Non-Rotating Advisor to the home group. ( I remind officers and others when events/tasks are coming up.)
- AA Member
- Staff Member
- Grapevine committee chair
- District CFC
- District Literature Chair
- District Secretary

### 7. Did you pre-register online?

Yes 71 (80.7%)      No 17 (19.3%)

### 8. Please list any suggestions to improve the online pre-registration process.

- You may want to consider other questions to ask during pre-registration that might be useful to the delegates. Example: is this your first forum?
- More rooms in the room block.
- Firmer printable confirmation of registration in separate email.

## Confidential: 74th General Service Conference Background

- We had to do some digging to get registered. Making that process easier would be helpful.
- Earlier distribution of the program.
- Was smooth and easy. Took five minutes.
- I thought it was very easy to navigate with no problems.
- The final Ask it Basket should include only the questions from the basket.
- Print and distribute Flyers.

**2023 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL FORUM – (September 29 – October 1, 2023)**

**Questionnaire Summary**

90 participants at the 2023 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL FORUM completed evaluation questionnaires. A summary of responses follows:

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

Area	38 (44.7%)
District	17 (20.0%)
GSO Flyer	6 (7.1%)
Local Intergroup/ Central Office	1 (1.2%)
Homegroup	19 (22.4%)
www.aa.org	3 (3.5%)
Friend	9 (10.6%)
Other	8 (9.4%)

**Responses to other:**

- Common knowledge in service
- Class A Trustee
- My spouse presented a workshop
- Attended previous forums
- Invited by DCM
- My home group
- SWRAASA
- GSO Calendar

**2. Responses to please list any suggestions for future Workshop or Presentation topics:**

- Workshop on explaining plain language translation to our groups.
- Workshop on finances/financial situation of AAWS and GV and LV - 10-20 years past, present, and predictions moving forward
- How to effectively communicate up and down the triangle
- Application of the principles of the 12 Concepts in board operations
- Delegated authority and responsibility
- Trust and rebuilding trust

## Confidential: 74th General Service Conference Background

- Direct application of our Concepts and Traditions to our roles within the service structure
- The importance of recovery when serving within our general service structure
- Archives
- Anything related to current topics circulating in the Fellowship
- How to use the new Grapevine and La Viña apps.
- The Home Group
- A.A. acronym and phraseology workshop
- Sharing best practices for Area and District communication
- Using A.A. literature in meetings
- Reaching underserved populations of alcoholics
- Service Sponsorship
- What can we do to better link the Home Group to GSO Staff?
- Discuss matters affecting the Fellowship (Box 459 for example)
- What does the A.A. landscape look like in 20xx? Getting a real picture of our membership
- What are the responsibilities of various service positions?
- How the area and the delegate ensure your voice and ideas are heard?
- Keeping up with changes, updates, new literature
- Reporting to groups, seeking the Informed Group Conscience
- Attracting others to general service

### 3. At future Forums would you like to see:

	More	Less	Just right	No answer
Presentations	10 (15.2%)	11 (16.7%)	45 (68.2%)	
Workshops	38 (49.4%)	5 (6.5%)	34 (44.2%)	
Sharing sessions	27 (38.6%)	5 (7.1%)	38 (54.3%)	

### 4. What was effective and what improvements might be made to Presentations, Workshops and Sharing Sessions

#### Comments:

#### Presentations

- Let people know there will be no printed material provided
- Some of the presentations were redundant
- Consider extending the time for presentations that are being interpreted

## Confidential: 74th General Service Conference Background

- Presentations covered a variety of complex, sometimes technical issues, and overall, the presenters did an extraordinary job of explaining the material clearly and with as much brevity as possible
- Less reading of material
- The past Trustees sharing was wonderful
- I learned a lot about how "New York" operates
- I really enjoyed the trustee-at-large presentation. To see the work done at the international level shows that this program is not just about me, or my home group, or even just my district or area. Being of service to anyone, anywhere truly means anyone and anywhere. It was great to see the work being done to help other countries
- Presentations from GSO staff could have provided more specific information or given examples about day-to-day tasks. There were so many committees mentioned. I just got bogged down with all that info and still unclear about how stuff gets done
- Longer time for presentations, especially finance and Q&A sessions
- I believe more information is better
- Presentation topics were timely and in keeping with current interests and concerns
- Presentation on 100 frequently asked questions from website
- Provide hard copies of the financial presentation
- Too much time devoted to GSO providing information from the Service Manual and not enough time devoted to listening to the comments from the Areas
- While I appreciated having the La Viña presentation in Spanish, having 2 of the 3 sessions related to Grapevine translated from Spanish to English was challenging. In addition, 3 sessions on Grapevine/La Vina seemed to be too much
- I think it is vital for people to hear how much enthusiasm some of our Board and Staff bring to their respective roles
- Sharing sessions should be longer

### Workshops

- More workshops and more time allotted for them; more one-on-one with Trustees conducting some workshops
- More focus on application of our principles to the roles we serve in
- The old-timers were wonderful
- I definitely appreciated the 2 presentations in Spanish with interpretation into English, because it should not only be English to Spanish
- I'd like more personal stories
- Workshops on internet guidelines for social media, virtual groups
- A workshop explaining the changes made to our literature would be helpful
- Provide more structure to the workshops

## Confidential: 74th General Service Conference Background

### Sharing Sessions

- Everyone should have a chance to be heard and not stand in line only to be sent away from the mic
- Whew! As an AA member who'd heard vague, alarming rumblings of discontent and anger, the sharing sessions were a real eye-opener. The presenters did an excellent job of listening and having available the staff and others most knowledgeable about the question at hand, which seemed to me crucial. It saddened me to hear so much hostility from some members of A.A., but I deeply hope that making it possible for them to express their frustrations helped them feel that their opinions were heard and valued
- Too unfocused. Open mic becomes an airing of grievances even during Q&A time. Cut folks off if they don't have a question
- During Ask it Basket time, don't open up to questions and comments from the floor! Focus instead on answering all the written questions that were submitted
- I thought the sharing sessions were quite informative and generally well run. I felt the questions were often redundant
- Would it be possible to submit questions ahead of time to be able to provide more specific answers by being able to research/find answers and bring them to the Regional Forum?
- As a new GSR, just learning the service structure, I decided that my purpose at this Southwest Regional Forum was to get to know the people who are GSO. There is often a mystique around GSO; what they do, how it benefits the groups and who they are. The sharing sessions helped me dispel the mystery
- The 9pm Sharing Session to close the evening is not effective and has the possibility of ending on a very sour note after a long day. I'd rather see the forum close after the Class A shares
- I found the sharing sessions interesting and entertaining. Unfortunately, it appeared the tone pointed at a lot of disunity between groups, districts, areas in the southwest region and the General Service Office. Hopefully people heard what they needed to hear and some of the disunity can be amended
- Sharing sessions were good. These Forums are meant to be communications up and down the triangle and there could have been much more from the top of the triangle if time allowed
- The sharing sessions were a mixed bag. More fluid communication on an ongoing basis would eliminate some of the gotcha questions and more serious concerns and frustrations, allowing us to focus on more critical items, as well as more first-timers and positive sharing

### Please indicate if this was your first forum:

Yes 43 (49.4%)      No 44 (50.6%)

### Please select your service position:

## Confidential: 74th General Service Conference Background

GSR	11 (13.9%)
DCM	8 (10.1%)
Area Officer	11 (13.9%)
Area Committee Chairperson	4 (5.1%)
A.A. Member	18 (22.8%)
Nontrustee Director	0 (0.0%)
Delegate	6 (7.6%)
Past Delegate	4 (5.1%)
Trustee	1 (1.3%)
Past Trustee	1 (1.3%)
Friend of A.A.	1 (1.3%)
Other	14 (17.7%)

### Responses to Other:

- District officer
- District Corrections Chair
- Alternate Delegate
- District Treasurer
- Alt DCM
- SWRAASA 2024 Hospitality Chair
- Correspondence Secretary for Central Office
- Chair of Local Central Office Steering Committee
- GSR alternate and Intergroup Vice-Chairperson
- Member
- Alt DCM of District 12 Area 38 Eastern Area Missouri
- District secretary
- Area committee treasurer
- Delegate Elect (Current Alt Delegate)
- Past DCM
- Alt DCM

### 7. Did you pre-register online?

Yes 71 (80.7%) No 17 (19.3%)

## Confidential: 74th General Service Conference Background

### 8. Please list any suggestions to improve the online pre-registration process.

- I would love to have had the registration open sooner and the agenda finalized and posted sooner
- Send a registration link to past attendees for the next forum
- Provide more meaningful responses and then send confirm email
- Provide a more direct link on the front page
- The pre-registration needs to be earlier so that areas and districts can make the announcement about the upcoming Forum and attendees can register right then on their phones, laptops, devices
- Send out more email announcements to get better attendance
- I wasn't sure I'd get to go this time and I LOVED that you could print out regular name tags at the Forum!! I felt just as though we had pre-registered



**2023 EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL FORUM – (September 29 – October 1, 2023)**

**Questionnaire Summary**

164 (404 total) participants at the 2023 EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL FORUM completed evaluation questionnaires. A summary of responses follows:

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

Area	86 (54.4%)
District	19 (12.0%)
GSO Flyer	24 (7.1%)
Local Intergroup/ Central Office	10 (6.3%)
Homegroup	21 (13.3%)
www.aa.org	23 (14.6%)
Friend	24 (15.2%)
Other	9 (5.7%)

**Responses to other:**

- Local (Cleveland) archivist
- Past GSR from my home group
- Delegate
- ECR email communication
- Regional events schedule
- Past attendees who said great things about past forums

**2. Suggestions for future Workshop or Presentation topics:**

- GSR - How to register a group, how to register as a GSR and how to get communications from GSO.
- GSR - How and what forum information to report back to my homegroup.
- Roles of District and Area Officers.
- The importance of the steps and the promises working in your life.
- How to pick a sponsor and how to be an effective sponsor.
- The role of sponsorship in cultivating servant leaders.
- How to improve communication throughout the fellowship.
- How to submit General Service Conference agenda items.

- Additional GSO Staff presentations e.g. CPC, or Corrections covering how they handle day-to-day work and duties.
- Discuss how changing the literature would be beneficial to current and potential members for inclusivity.
- How an Area committee can address confusion and/or backlash from fellowship.
- The process/flow of how Delegates provide agenda items and background to DCMs and GSRs so they can get a group conscience.
- Panels of members in specific service positions to share experience in those positions. To share pro and cons and benefits of their experience in the role.
- Concepts - who wrote them, what they say, how they apply to the Fellowship.
- Concept 9 and 11.
- Self-Support - how contributions put in the basket are used to reach the alcoholic.
- Anonymity.
- General Service Conference – an overview of the event or a mock conference.
- First time attendees' "school" - Content to include definitions and descriptions of General Service.
- Minority opinion.
- Unity in action.
- The Service Manual - how it came about how its laid out. Go over the concepts.
- Updates and news about literature, pamphlets, and books.
- Cooperation with professional committees (CPC) - how to effectively reach professionals.
- Public information (PI) - best practices for spending 7th traditions wisely to make aware our presence in your community.
- Increasing membership participation in the Service Structure.
- Three Legacy Sponsorship.
- How the A.A. Group is part of personal recovery and spiritual growth and service beyond the group enlarges our personal recovery and spiritual growth.
- I recommend that a session on how the Conference Works be presented by Delegates fresh from that year's Conference.
- Help make "dark" service areas active.
- The participation of online groups in the A.A. service structure.
- increase the number of breakout sessions for new GSR's.
- Grapevine Representative role.
- Trust and Unity.
- Group safety.
- Workshop on Tradition 4.
- Workshop on Tradition 12.
- Communication and Technology.

- A workshop on Atheists/Agnostics and how well they are accepted or tolerated in the fellowship.
- Presentation on what AA meetings are like around the world, differences, and similarities.
- Always need to talk about the money - explain how it is spent, etc.
- Traditions and concepts.
- Service Committee Workshops to increase attendee participation.
- Grapevine (How to navigate the GV online) & write an article for submission.
- Archives (how to write personal and group histories and other historical material)

### **3. What was effective and what improvements might be made to Presentations, Workshops and Sharing Sessions**

#### **Presentations**

- More presentations and Q & A with board, trustees, and staff.
- Less presentations by Area representatives.
- Provide explicit directions on how to use microphones.
- Longer time for Q&A.
- More detail.
- Have audio checked.
- Archives table from the Area.
- Have presenters practice using the microphone.
- Liked the inclusion of Alt Delegates
- The presentation slides were impossible to read
- I liked the fact that there were three mics in the front of the room.
- Provide hard copies of the handouts especially the Treasurer's Report.
- OneDrive for QR code was easy to use.
- As a presenter will always read versus ad lib the info into the future. I was not satisfied with the quality of my presentation.
- One presentation at a time. 15 minutes of presentation/ 15 minutes of after presentation chit chat informally while some could choose to leave for bathroom/food/cigarette break.
- Comedy!
- Topics about current A.A. topics.
- Combine the Staff and Board Reports for AAWS and AAGV.
- Better Accessibility for the presentations.
- Making them more personal.
- More information on literature provide information on the time and money we are putting into our literature projects.

#### **Workshops**

- Have moderators be more engaging.

- Elimination side conversations and allow one person to speak at a time. Give everyone a chance to speak before someone speaks twice.
- More workshops.
- Confused by the use of the term workshop, which would indicate more active participation by the attendees.
- DCM workshop to explain the role.
- Panel on specific service roles GSR, DCM, Delegate, to get a different perspective.
- Suggest presenters review their material making sure it is up to date.
- Provide a list of relevant resources that attendees at each workshop could either take with them or learn about that pertain to the topic.
- Better organizing and signs.
- Increase the number of breakout sessions for new GSR's.

### **Sharing Sessions**

- Great!
- Really not enough time, but interesting topics brought up.
- Ask people who have already been to the microphone to give others a chance.
- More time for Q and A and Ask It Basket.
- Very thought-provoking.
- Very necessary and amazing.
- So pleased regarding frequency and participation. Created a "safe" environment to express and respond.
- I found the sharing sessions very moving and informative.
- Limit the time each person gets to speak.
- So sad - continued to either cause me concern, break my heart, or make me fussy.
- I could have done without an hour of all the newcomers saying thank you. If you feel that is necessary, then put it last.
- The sharing from the past trustees was beautiful. We seem to be losing folks because things were running late maybe starting Sunday a little earlier. I would've put the trustees earlier on Sunday perhaps leaving the first time of sharing towards the last part.
- It was good to see the input from various members.
- Need to allow more time for people who did not have the opportunity to speak.

### **Please indicate if this was your first forum:**

Yes 83 (51.9%)      No 77 (48.1%)

### **Please select your service position:**

GSR 27 (17.4%)

DCM	12 (7.7%)
Area Officer	29 (18.7%)
Area Committee Chairperson	10 (6.5%)
A.A. Member	24 (15.5%)
Nontrustee Director	0 (0.0%)
Delegate	9 (5.8%)
Past Delegate	21 (13.5%)
Trustee	3 (1.9%)
Past Trustee	2 (1.3%)
Friend of A.A.	1 (0.6%)
Other	17 (11.0%)

#### **Responses to Other:**

- Pass Delegate
- Group Secretary.
- Grapevine Rep for home group.
- Former GSR
- Dist. treasurer
- Area committee chair
- Event committee for my home group
- Alt DCM
- Intergroup Member at Large and member of the Intergroup Executive Board, Chairperson of the Treatment Committee
- Outreach Coordinator for Cleveland District
- GSR & also our districts secretary/treasurer
- District Committee Chairperson (DCM)
- District Committee Chair
- Intergroup Rep
- Area Chair DCM
- Alternate Delegate
- Treasure secretary
- District Treasurer
- District archives committee chair
- Area Registrar and District Corrections Chair

## 7. Did you pre-register online?

Yes 143 (89.9%) No 17 (10.1%)

## 8. Please list any suggestions to improve the online pre-registration process.

- I took a while to find it. Going to [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org), I couldn't find [aa.org/regional-and-local-forums](http://aa.org/regional-and-local-forums). Something that stands out would help.
- Maybe make it one of the selections on the home page.
- The website didn't always work.
- I pre-registered yet on arrival could not be found.
- Make the Forum page easier to find on the website.

## 9. Please list any suggestions to improve the Forum experience.

- Be stricter with the schedule. Set time limits. Start and end sessions on time.
- More time for Q&A.
- Less speeches from the podium. More smaller groups.
- Topics for the sharing sessions e.g. service committees.
- AA Literature Accessible.
- I would have liked to have gotten an emailed invitation from you about the forum.
- Time the past trustees talk and make them stick to time limit.
- A map of nearby restaurants and potential limitations.
- Put out literature to take Saturday when most attendees are present.
- Add an AA lead meeting.
- You guys knocked it out of the park!
- Start ALL meetings On Time!!
- Clear instructions regarding the literature and what is free to take.
- Better mic'ing for the speakers.
- More coffee.
- Smaller breakout sessions covering topics such as Finance or help getting the international convention if you had a criminal record.
- Larger room with comfortable chairs.
- Invite one delegate to share his experience in service.
- The location of the forum was remote.
- Cheat sheet of all service positions for the first timer.
- Perhaps a meet and greet on Saturday too.
- Extend an additional day to have more workshops.
- Copies of the financial report.
- Fitting more content into the program and more time for sharing.
- MORE TIME TO CHAT WITH THE STAFF.
- Ice cream social on Friday or Saturday night.

## **10. How did you like the “What to Expect/Meet and Greet” session?**

- Great intro to the weekend
- It was a good experience.
- Nice touch.
- I liked the video introduction, although it might be a bit "dated" and need updating.
- I loved it! I was so excited when I came home that night that I didn't sleep a wink. The session had good content and was well done.
- I don't think the first-time attendees expected to walk away feeling so energized and connected. Speak more about the connection one member to another through these events and through ongoing participation and communication.
- I liked the session very much, you got to know who the presenters were and how they got their positions. Also, their backgrounds. Very informative.
- It would have been nice to have the people sitting at the tables outside of the room available to actually meet them. I could not get close to anyone to even introduce myself.
- I enjoyed it as it gave me an overview of the weekend and what was to come.
- The whole event should be this format.
- Some information was redundant and the opening meet and greet just felt like the beginning of the program.
- Nothing special
- I didn't love using time to go over the basics as mentioned above.
- Not enough of "this is the basics" ground rule setting.
- Perhaps a meet and greet on Saturday too.

## **8. Do you have any further thoughts or comments?**

- Was well run hotel was great place.
- I would have liked to have seen a Trustee in every workshop.
- Good program. I enjoyed what I was able to attend. Good topics for the sessions.
- Thank you. I am motivated to get to NYC to visit.
- Really missed the printed documents.
- Enjoyed seeing our New York servants and trustees.
- Bob, our GM, was a wonderful speaker with a great personality.
- Thoroughly enjoyed our class A trustees, Sister Judith & Kevin P very grateful for their service to AA!
- Cathi C was very welcoming and a great moderator.
- Wonderful speakers on all panels! "
- The number of people who attended and number of first-time attendees was very encouraging. GREAT JOB!!!!!!
- Outstanding opportunity to learn more about service. Have multiple pages of notes with so much to review, internalize and put into action.

- Love how everyone is so willing to offer help, answer questions.
- So much more to learn.
- I was really moved by all the people's sincerity and really coming together and always looking for the best solutions in the best ways to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.
- I will attend future forums.
- Making the event free was fantastic.
- Please consider a zippy tagline that follows "2023 East Central Regional Forum." The name of the event is a snoozer.
- You set the perfect tone for the weekend. There was a real feeling of love and trust in that room all three days. And your professionalism showed through all weekend, from the way you dressed to the way you admitted several times that you could have done certain things better. I also appreciate the time you took to explain how and why you work with consultants, the thought process that goes into your decisions, etc. You are a class act!!!
- One of the first things I'm going to share with my group tonight is that I have 100 percent confidence that the GSO is doing its very best to spend our money wisely and help us carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic.
- Print QR codes on stickers and put them on the back of the name badges.
- I have been to forums before that had a much more preparedness quality to them.
- More explanation on the QR code would have been helpful.
- Kindness, love, learning, and sobriety were at the forefront! My heart & soul is so full!
- I have a better appreciation for the dedication of GSO Staff and Class A Trustees in both their job descriptions and dedication to carrying the message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic. Thank you!
- GSO Leaders and GSB antics have broken my heart. I've been sobering a long time and will likely be around for several more decades. Please do better.
- An ice cream social or greeting event would have been great. It was hard to find time to meet and talk with folks before/between/after programming.
- From a financial standpoint it would be prudent to take a hard look at who from the GSB needs to attend.
- There were a lot of foibles involving the GSB this year. They have not been forgotten, yet folks received a hard sell for money in the middle of the forum. I would suggest that a good in person heartfelt apology would have gone a long way.
- This was truly a life-changing, spiritually energizing opportunity.
- Sitting in hospitality with a whole bunch of AA service nerds was awesome.
- Provide food, lunch, snacks etc.
- If you could keep it to one day, maybe more people could afford to go.



- Seems like different staff members from the top down could be greeters, at each session, so we would get to meet more of them.
- As a Representative for the Hispanic Community, I was very impressed with interpreters' linguistic level of simultaneous translation from English to Spanish and vice versa. As a matter of fact, the Spanish speaking audience was at awe with them, and they for the first time had the opportunity to know our structure. ¡Gracias por todo!
- Better hospitality room.
- All sessions must start on time.
- I know I had some complaints, but overall, I came away proud and grateful that I am a member of AA. A former Sponsor used to tell me that the biggest room is the one for improvement. I was glad I was part of it. Thanks for all the work you put into the Forum.
- It would have been nice if the forum had been hybrid.
- First, I am grateful for your service and commitment. The Forum was informative. I have back issues and the plastic folding chairs were extremely uncomfortable.
- I am the current District Corrections Chair I was very surprised that we could not get an answer to the question: How does the facility program director access the information and how do I as a Corrections Chair explain this to the person in custody and facility directors?

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## 2024 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

**ITEM F:** Discuss the production of anonymity-protected videos of other highlights of the Convention as a way of sharing the spirit and enthusiasm of the 2025 International Convention with A.A. members.

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### **Background notes:**

*From the report of the January 26, 2019, trustees' IC/RF Committee meeting:*

“The committee agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums the discussion of an anonymity-protected, delayed Internet broadcast of the Convention Flag Ceremony for the 2020 International Convention. The committee also suggested the Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums consider the production of anonymity-protected videos of other highlights of the convention as a way of sharing the spirit and enthusiasm of the 2020 International Convention with A.A. members.”

*Recommendation of the 2019 Conference IC/RF Committee for the 2020 International Convention that resulted in an Advisory Action:*

“Anonymity-protected video footage with highlights of the 2020 International Convention be produced for maintaining archival footage of the Convention, as well as for sharing the spirit and enthusiasm of the 2020 International Convention.”

*From the report of the July 27, 2019, trustees' IC/RF Committee meeting:*

Video project of past International Convention flag ceremonies: The committee viewed a one-minute draft video providing a glimpse of past international convention flag ceremonies and agreed to proceed with the project. The purpose of the video is to share the enthusiasm and spirit of International Conventions. Once final edits are completed, the video will be made available for download on aa.org and other available platforms.

Note: A video was made but never used due to the cancellation of the 2020 International Convention. The cost of the video was estimated to be around \$4,700.00.

What does the Conference Committee think about producing this type of short video? What could be filmed in addition to the flag ceremonies to share the enthusiasm and spirit of the International Conventions.

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## 2024 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

**ITEM G:** Discuss the production of a delayed, anonymity protected, digital access video product offering of the three Big meetings at the 2025 International Convention.

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### Background Notes:

The trustees' IC-RF Committee met several times from October 2023 to February 2024 to discuss the idea of developing a delayed, anonymity protected, digital access video product offering of the three big meetings at the 2025 International Convention.

*From the October 28, 2023, Meeting of the Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums:*

The committee discussed the virtual component for the 2025 International Convention. It is necessary for the program to be engaging; and further discussion will take place at the January 2024 meeting about the program component ideas. The committee agreed that a percentage of the registration cost should reflect the cost of the virtual component. It was discussed that this could land somewhere between 40-50% of the in-person registration fee.

*From the December 12, 2023, Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums Interim Meeting – 2025IC Virtual Program/Product*

### Discussion conclusion:

The IC Coordinator confirmed the need to come back to the January 2024 meeting with options for further discussion based on tonight's meeting report and further background information that will be provided by Talley Management.

The IC Coordinator shares again, it is true that the following recommendation was approved by the GSB:

- *The committee discussed and weighed the feasible options for a virtual component, including estimated costs. The committee recommended to the General Service Board that a digital option be added to the 2025 International Convention, providing anonymity-protected, encrypted, digital access to the Friday night meeting (including the flag ceremony), and the Saturday and Sunday Big meetings, at a fee to be determined.*

However, with all the new information the Committee has discussed, we are now at the place of defining what that "digital option" can be in real life with the information we are gathering now.

*From the January 27, 2024, Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums Meeting – 2025IC 3 Big Meeting Product*

## CONFIDENTIAL: 74th General Service Conference Background

Review Talley Management Group (TMG) report on a digital option, providing anonymity-protected, encrypted, digital access to the three Big Meetings: TMG provided a report on the development of a video product, anonymity-protected, encrypted, digital access of the three Big Meetings. The product is planned to initially be available to purchase by members through the Convention registration process.

The total cost of production is \$58,000 including the anonymity protection editing and the hosting on A.A.'s Vimeo Channel at \$2.00 per viewing and a \$6,000 cost of converting the sale of the product to the A.A. Web Store at some point post-Convention.

The committee requested the staff secretary to set up an interim meeting by February 7, 2024, to continue the discussion of these ideas.

The committee is requesting information regarding sales and projections of the options and how these ideas can be completed for the interim meeting.

**SECRETARY'S NOTE:** *At the interim trustees' IC-RF Committee meeting on February 9, 2024, Talley Management and the 2025 International Convention Coordinator shared the fact that we have the three Big Meeting Products to be considered separately from idea of the concept of Virtual Session tracks.*

*To that end, the following information is still valid for the committee's consideration of a proposed product offering and the cost for this product for an "Anonymity protected video product of the three Big Meetings."*

*As this has turned into a product, the final price will ultimately be the decision of the A.A. World Services, Inc. Board to determine.*

### Product information:

## 2025 International Convention Big Meeting Video Product

The total cost of production is estimated at \$58,000 including the anonymity protection editing and the hosting on A.A.'s Vimeo Channel at \$2.00 per viewing and including a \$6,000 cost of converting the sale of the product to the A.A. Web Store at some point post-Convention.

### Description

Delayed, anonymity protected (where necessary) digital access to the three Big Meetings as a stand-alone product offering after the convention (suggest Wednesday/Thursday following). No Add Ons - no additional inserts, info, or moderators, etc.

Initially available to purchase by members through convention registration process.

## CONFIDENTIAL: 74th General Service Conference Background

Then for sale in the A.A.W.S. store post-Convention.

### Cost

- Production/editing \$50K - This base price for production and editing did not change and includes the anonymity protection editing cost.
- Platform: Hosted on AA's Vimeo Channel: Cost: ~ \$2.00 per viewing.
- Convert sale of the product to the AA Web Store at some point post-convention. Cost: \$6,000 total

### Price

Discussion has leaned towards \$60.00 for the product.

*Note: The final product pricing is an A.A. World Services Board, Inc. responsibility. The 2025 IC Coordinator will request this item to be on the next A.A.W.S. Board meeting agenda.*

### Breakeven

If 1000 products sold at \$60 = \$58,000

### Risks

Minimized given editing and delayed access. 1000 sold represents .0023% of free Friday Flag Ceremony "views" from 2015.

*From the February 9, 2024, trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums interim meeting:*

The trustees' IC-RF Committee **agreed to forward** to the 2024 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums discussion of a delayed, anonymity protected, digital access stand-alone product offering of the 3 Big Meetings, initially available for purchase by members through convention registration process, then for sale in the A.A.W.S. store post-Convention for their consideration.

As this is a new product offering the trustees' IC-RF Committee shared this information with the Conference Committee on IC-RF for review and consideration. In the past similar products, such as the anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony, have been forwarded in this way for committee review.