



Service Conference

April 14th-20th 2024

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Day 1 - Sunday, April 14th, 2024

Connecting with Love, Unity, & Service

- Roll Call
- Admissions
- Keynote Address
- Mechanics of the Conference
- Pacific Region highlights
- Presentation: “Responsibility in service, when & how to give”
- Regional lunch & Delegate orientation
- Co-Founders’ writing sharing session
- First Conference Committee meetings
- GSB Report summary
- Opening dinner

We approved the admissions request for two members of the UK General Service Board

Irma V, the chair of the Trustees’ Literature Committee & the Western Canada Regional Trustees, began with the keynote address. She talked about the Unity of Alcoholics Anonymous and that the Twelve Traditions are “the greatest force for unity that we know” (From AA Comes of Age). She stressed the importance of focusing on what is best for AA as a whole and being able to set aside our own views, when a clearer vision is apparent. She reminded us that there is no “us” & “them”, and to keep in our hearts a resolution to maintain unity, noting that all conference members are equal & that individually & collectively, our love for AA is pure in Spirit.



Responsibility in Service, when & how to give: (3 topics)

- Safety throughout the structure in our fellowship
- 1728 sponsorship
- Overcoming the barriers to participation

The Area 5 delegate spoke on the issue of safety & his experiences in AA & how his understanding of safety in AA has grown over time. He also talked about the most recent instances of safety concerns, including the threats made after the Board chair resignation, & the needs of the transgender community. He talked about the responsibility of members in taking actions to address safety needs, & also the safety card and other literature that has been developed.

The Area 17 Delegate spoke of our 3 legacies (1728), and how recovery taught him love, traditions taught him guidelines for him to live life with others, and how the concepts have given his life structure. He talked about how he met his service sponsor and how she taught him about the concepts. He began his journey as a service sponsor and now teaches others how to complete the circle of love of our steps, traditions, and concepts

The Area 88 delegate talked about barriers in terms of both intrinsic and extrinsic factors. She described how the steps and traditions can free us from the intrinsic barriers, such as learning the importance of unity, and the idea of moving in the same direction towards a unified goal. She also described some of the extrinsic barriers & that AA has adapted its publications to try & overcome these barriers. She has also seen those with limited reading skills understand and be understood through the power of the members in AA.

Founder's writings questions – Submitted by the TLC for Area sharing sessions.

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

Founder's writings sharing session

This was a continuation of the session which began virtually, on March 20th. I shared the summation of our Area's sharing session at the virtual session. Here is what I shared in my 2 minutes:

In my area we had a sharing session on this. Regarding question 1, there were concerns as to whether it was a leading question or how to even speculate on it. Most people said that the founders' probably would be in favor of some type of changes. For question 2, most people said that the Big Book is still very effective. However, many stated that they use either a sponsor, or some type of supplement like a workbook or the Big Book dictionary. Some think that for those reasons, it is not as effective as it could be. Some people pointed out that it is not as effective for certain groups of people, particularly women. Many people think that the PLBB can be an effective tool to use as a supplement, and not to change the original text, they are looking forward to the PLBB to help with these issues. For question 3, the main reasons would be accessibility & relatability. The sentiment is that if step 12 is the purpose, then why would we not be open to change? In terms of preserving the message but keeping current, some suggestions were: using the GV, new stories in new editions, not changing the BB but adding to it, & using the PLBB to meet that purpose. Most people in my area agreed on treating changes to these writings differently than other conference actions. Some thought changes can be handled better through footnotes. Most people thought a 2 year process was reasonable & better for AA unity. Some liked the super majority idea, & some would favor using both. For other ideas & comments, some people thought that minor changes (such as people instead of men & women) would be ok, as long as the fundamentals remained. Also that people can choose to use the PLBB (if approved) instead so there will be other options and we don't need to change the original text. Many people discussed the disunity this has caused within the fellowship & their groups felt they had not been given an adequate amount of time to talk about the changes made at the 71st, they would like more time if it comes up again. Also more direct input.



Founder's writings Sharing Session

Some points I wrote down:

- Many Areas could not reach a consensus on what a policy should be but agreed that changing the writings should require a higher threshold of some kind.
 - Some Areas were either split or mostly in favor of not changing the writings at all
 - There were concerns over the vagueness of what “Founder’s writings” even means
 - There were concerns over the questions and some delegates had a difficult time interpreting them and getting their Areas to understand the point of the sharing sessions
 - Some delegates wondered why the original questions offered by the Conference Finance Committee were not used
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GSB Report given by Mike L., interim chair of the GSB

At the 73rd General Service Conference, the General Service Board was tasked with the following Advisory Action:

“In an effort to improve communication, ensure Board policies are reflective of our principles, and reestablish a relationship of trust between the General Service Conference, the General Service Board and the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, the General Service Board is asked to undertake an inventory prior to the 74th General Service Conference. To assist the Board in this endeavor, the 73rd General Service Conference will establish a working group to aid the General Service Board in formulating possible inventory questions.”

This Advisory Action was given the highest priority of the actions coming out of the 73rd GSC, & the oversight of the implementation of this inventory was assigned to the Trustees' Committee on the GSC. A subcommittee was formed & a working group representative of the makeup of the 73rd General Service Conference members was selected. They started the process of developing questions for the inventory. There were two other Advisory Actions of the 73rd GSC that further aligned with the goals of the inventory. One regarding developing additional ways for financial reporting from the GSB, & one regarding the implementation of two additional virtual sharing sessions with all GSC members, to be held outside of the regular GSC in April.

There were 23 questions developed by the working group, which included trustees, staff, and delegates. 5 groups were established to hold sharing sessions on the questions & to come up with actionable solutions for any identified problems.

General Service Board Report, cont'd

The top 3 solutions included:

- Additional Board development such as strategic planning outside of Board weekends, & additional training and orientation
- Developing a cross functional group of conference members to determine communication needs and establish a plan including rules & timing.
- A zero tolerance for misconduct. Misconduct should be addressed early & some situations are serious and require immediate action.

Some actions have already been implemented, such as the virtual sharing sessions, but more actions, based on the conclusions of the inventory, are being developed now. These include:

- Holding a Board Retreat to conduct leadership training and strategic planning.
- Implement a workload management plan to relieve the oversaturated workload placed on the staff and Boards.

Conference is asked to help with creating “a cross-functional group of Conference members to identify improvements in our communication and reporting between the Boards and the Conference members.”

74th General Service Conference



Opening Dinner

Day 2 - Monday, April 15th

- My reading room session
- 2nd Conf. Committee meeting
- Southwest & West Central Regional highlights
- What's on your mind general sharing session
- Workshop: "Connecting Home Groups to the Conference throughout the Year to Better Inform the Group's Conscience."
- Finance Report
- Western Canada Regional highlights

We then had a "what's on your mind" session, some of the issues that were brought up included:

- Out of 117 submitted PAIs, only 10 made it onto the agenda (10 out of 83 total Agenda items)
- The workload is increasing and too much, at what point do we pause and look seriously at our limited resources
- We need better communication about the true costs to run the office and how to best get that message out to the Areas
- Is AA stagnant? What does that mean? Is that an accurate representation or are we ignoring the difficulty it is to accurately measure membership?
- Lack of communication is what is causing the misinformation & conspiracy theories

My assigned reading room session



My main goal was to get through as much of the text as possible, so that I could make the most informed decision I could if I would be voting on this item. I was not able to get through all of it although I did get through more than I thought I would. It was hard to evaluate what I was reading as I was stressed for time. I did not take a ton of notes as I knew that would significantly slow me down. While I paid a little less attention to those parts I had already read, I did skim them to see if I noticed any changes.

- I went over some of the definitions again as I noticed that many people had concerns over the wording of some of them.
- I looked for the changes in the location of the steps, and the expansion of the plain language version of the steps to be included as an “explanation” rather than a list of the steps in another form.
 - The steps in How It Works are added in boxes, side by side to the original text. It includes a disclaimer.
- Still reads like a direct translation in my opinion, except in certain parts such as changing “To the Wives” to “To the Partners”, & changing the subject of “The Family Afterward” to “Dad”
- Concepts & Traditions are in the back with a plain language explanation listed next to the original.

Finance Report – Kevin Prior, Treasurer of the GSB

We started using a new audit firm (BDO) in 2023, and we were given the results. The auditor was available for questions at the presentation of this report. The audit firm had 6 recommendations but had no concern with our liquidity and found our financial statements to be “fairly stated”. Some highlights from the treasurer’s report (GSO) for 2023:

- Contributions still record high, with a total of \$10.84 mil in 2023
- Operating expenses have risen 9.9% over last year
- Contributions cover 62% of operating expenses
- AAWS publishing gross profits are up 38.2% over 2022
- The “challenge number” per individual is \$6.43 (cost of services per member)
- Most common contribution by individual is \$50
- 31.64% of groups contribute to the GSB
- GSB ending balance in 2023 is 12.6 mil, 7.18 months of expenses, and projected to be 6.82 months based on 2024 budgeted expenses
- GSO expenses under budget in 2023 include payroll, professional fees, travel & meetings, and others.
- Expenses over budget include taxes and facility/equipment.
- 2024 GSO budget includes an increase in literature gross margin
- Operating surplus before depreciation is \$47,734

Finance Report cont'd, GV/LV

- GV Operating loss of \$888,465 for 2023
- LV loss of \$753,376 in 2023
- Purchasing a GV Complete subscription has the highest profit margin, & this is expected to increase in 2024

GV/LV Budgets

- GV net deficit projected to be \$582,572 in 2024, compared to \$888,465 in 2023
- LV deficit projected to be \$569,512 compared to \$753,376 in 2023
- GV app subscriptions budgeted 10,000 for 2024
- LV app subscriptions budgeted 900 for 2024

Financial Stats for Area 27

Challenge goal per group is \$157.28 per year. This is how much it costs for program services for groups, per year.

- 16.16% of our Area's groups contribute to the GSB
- That is compared to 31% of AA groups in the US & CA

Day 3 – Tuesday, April 16th

- Last Conf. Committee meetings
- Eastern CA Regional highlights
- AA International Presentation
- AAWS Board Report Summary
- What's on your mind general sharing session
- East Central Regional highlights
- Delegate's only meeting
- NE Region & SE Regional highlights
- International Conv. Report & Skit

AA International Presentation, Irene, Staff member on the International Services desk

AA is present in approximately 181 countries, with 65 GSOs around the world. We incorporate “country to country” sponsorship at our World Service Meetings, and REDELAs (meeting of the Americas). We share information and experience on our structure, GSO services, boards, literature distribution centers, etc, with AA groups and members in countries that request help. Not every country has a GSO or a comparable structure.

Irene shared a story about her experience going to Guantanamo City in Cuba, where the people live with limited food, but they have AA. She also shared her experience in Venezuela, where she was asked by a high-ranking military official, how it was that AA in America is not run by the military or the government. She offered them some information about the traditions and our principle of non-affiliation.



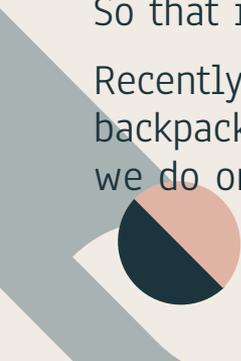
International Presentation

cont'd

Marita and the US Trustee at large also presented, and she discussed the World Service Meeting, held every two years, and the International Literature Fund. Finances of the 2 funds used for these purposes are monitored by the Trustees' International Committee. The International Literature Fund allows AAWS to translate and publish a variety of international-language literature. The new translation and licensing portal request system has been very efficient, and it helps other countries keep up to date on the status of their requests.

Marita reported on the current issue of getting literature into Cuba, as Cuba is not accepting mail from the US right now. There has also been problems getting literature into Haiti. One aspect of what the office and the Board does, is trying to get around these problems by contacting neighboring countries with established General Service Offices, and sending the literature to them instead. They are trying to get books onto Red Cross trucks that are crossing the border into Haiti. So that is just part of what our 7th tradition allows us to do.

Recently, our Regional Trustee, Tom H., traveled to Cuba and brought an entire suitcase and a full backpack of books to give to the local members who were requesting them. This is part of what we do on a global level, part of what your group contributions help support.



AAWS Board Report

Cathi Clark, Chairperson

There have been 8 AAWS Board meetings and 3 strategic planning sessions since the 2023 GSC. They have also had over 30 virtual interim meetings between all the committees, subcommittees, and ad hoc committees. These committees carry out the work on behalf of the Board. In 2023, your group's contributions made many things possible, including:

- GSO's member services dept. received and responded to over 13,000 phone calls & over 27,000 emails
- The CPC desk corresponds with 63 Areas and over a hundred district chairs
- The Corrections desk receives approximately 50 letters a week from inmates.
- The Language Services Dept. received over 1,500 translation requests in 2023.
- The GSO Archives desk responded to 1,450 research requests.
- Several departments collaborated to manage literature items which have stalled in the publishing process. As of Feb. 2024, the backlog of 85 literature items has been reduced to 12 items, which are active in the revision/reprint process and will be back in stock soon.

International Convention Report

Patrick C., International Convention Coordinator (staff member)

Early AA International Conventions became turning points in AA's history. Our first one, held in Cleveland in 1950, confirmed our Twelve Traditions. Our 2nd one, held in 1955 in St. Louis, was when we "Came of Age" and accepted our General Service Conference as "the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society".

The 2025 Convention will be our 90th anniversary. The theme is "Language of the Heart". It will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada on July 3rd-6th. Many people have been and will be involved in putting this on, including the 4,000 volunteers that we will need. Over 700 meetings will be taking place over the weekend, including the Oldtimers Stadium Meeting on Saturday night.

Registration and housing will open in September 2024. Rooms are first come first serve. Once you have registered, you will be able to book your housing accommodations.

GV Board Report – Paz P., Chair

The Grapevine staff is responsible for not only publishing 18 magazines a year, 12 GV and 6 LV, they manage 4 apps, 2 Instagram pages, 2 YouTube channels, The AA GV podcast, and recording and posting audio versions of every issue of GV & LV to publish on the apps and the website. The GV strategic planning meetings provide the Board with an opportunity to discuss objectives, with the current resolution to “continue evolving beyond print”, as outlined in the 5 year plan for the GV app. Building the “online community” of subscribers will take time and outreach efforts require a cost, but in the long run, the app is expected to achieve profitability. The app’s success requires investment, patience, commitment, and Fellowship engagement. The 2024 GV budget cuts expenses by almost \$300,000 and almost \$200,000 for LV. The price of a GV subscription has increased to \$36. LV subscription price will remain the same but is under review. All app prices will remain the same. GV is focusing on increasing subscription margins, the “complete” subscription has the highest profit margin by far. The Board is implementing strategies to encourage users to switch to more profitable subscriptions.

- In 2023, 57,000 people, and approx. 3.75% of AA members subscribe to the GV magazine (digital and print).
- LV had 6,392 subscribers in 2023

GV App, Podcast, & Other services

- As of April 14th, the GV Podcast has over 800,000 downloads and reached over 280,000 unique listeners. It is on track to have over 1 mil downloads this year.
- In February 2024, the GV Instagram has over 11,500 followers and LV has over 1500
- In February 2024, the GV Youtube Channel has over 12,500 subscribers and 253 videos.
- The original 2022 5 year app plan expected the GV app to be profitable by 2025, with the budget in that plan of 28,000 subscriptions in 2024. The most current budget expects a little over 10,000 subscribers in 2024, so there were questions about the 5 year plan's goal of being profitable by 2025.
 - Numbers will be monitored closely this year, and by the 3rd quarter, we should know how close we are to the 5 year goal.
 - Gv app has over 7,000 subscribers
 - The Grapevine expects financial losses from 2022 to 2024 due to decreasing print subscriptions and the ongoing attraction efforts for the mobile app. As the app reaches a significant user base, Grapevine, Inc. is projected to become profitable.

Location Plus – Final Report

The GSB met on April 8th and affirmed the decision to renew the lease at 475 Riverside dr. We will not be renewing the 8th floor lease. The 21 employees currently on the 8th floor will be moved to the 11th with the rest of the office. A renovation, estimated at 1.4 mil will be necessary, but is considerably less than the up-front cost estimate of over 7 mil to relocate the entire office. Also taking into account is the impact of losing an estimated 80% of the current staff. There are no strategic advantages to moving at this time, and this is the recommendation from the consulting team. They considered multiple options including the “base case” which is renewing lease, downtown NY, Jersey City, & long distance locations, with 3 finalists of Atlanta, Indianapolis, and Philadelphia. It was determined that the cost/benefit did not suit us at this time. Yes, we could save considerably over a period of 10 years of so, but we would need a large drawdown to accommodate the move, and could have up to an 84% rate of attrition. There was no clear benefit of relocating which would meet the goal of helping the office strategically or “meeting the mission” more effectively.

- We pay \$25.46 per sq. ft. for the Riverside dr. location, with an estimated 2% annual increase.
- Operating costs budgeted for 2024 are \$3.25 per sq foot.

Wednesday-Friday. April 17th-19th

Committee Reports - CPC

- No recommendations came out of committee.
- There were multiple considerations to send to the Trustees' CPC committee.
- Regarding the proposed pamphlet on the unhoused, the committee **took no action** and felt that a pamphlet was not an effective way to reach that community. They requested (as a consideration) that the Trustees' CPC committee research better methods to serve the unhoused community.
 - A question was asked to find out what the discussion was around different methods and the committee reported that the larger problem is actually getting out to the community and they did not have the information from local committees on how this was being done and whether a pamphlet would help.

Another **Consideration** regarded the 3 CPC videos for Professionals on the aa.org site.

- Videos have not been updated since 2009
- Committee is asking the Trustees' CPC Committee to consider repurposing the videos & using parts of them, adding stock footage or images, voice-overs for outdated language, etc.
- Purpose is to replace some footage that gets dated quickly (like faces), and put generic stock footage in instead so that they don't have to spend a lot or update so frequently
- It was also felt that the videos are too long.

Committee Reports

Corrections

The committee **recommended** that: “The video “Carrying the Message Behind the Walls” be discontinued.”

Recommendation passed with 121 in favor, 10 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 88)

- The committee felt that it is no longer effective in reaching its audience. Some outdated language it uses includes the old preamble, references to outdated pamphlets and literature, the wrong website & the wrong PO Box. While the committee likes the message, they found that the two other videos being used address the same audience and are more modern.

The committee **recommended** that:

“A pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in A.A. be developed. The committee requested that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Corrections.”

Recommendation passed with 86 in favor, 40 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 84)

- The committee did consider other forms of communication than a pamphlet but noted that there are 5 trans stories in the LGBT pamphlet but the problem of inclusivity for this specific community is still a problem.
- The AAWS publisher spoke the expenses, with the total costs of production, and content creation, with the total expenses being around \$12-15,000. These expenses are taken into account in the price of the pamphlet and it is estimated that by the end of a year, there would be no net loss. However this does not take into account the cost of the ongoing expenses in the future, like staff time and reviewing/updating, etc.
- The time and energy we are spending regarding the workload is the main concern with creating new pamphlets. Multiple delegates spoke to this concern as a reason to not approve the creation of this pamphlet.
- The idea of “othering” certain populations, who are already stigmatized was one argument made against the creation of the pamphlet, which was a concern brought to a delegate by a trans member.

Corrections Committee Report, cont'd

The Committee **recommended** that: "The Singleness of Purpose description in the pamphlet "A Message to Correctional Professionals," which currently reads:

"Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency." Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Nonalcoholics may attend open A.A. meetings as observers, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings." Be replaced with the following text:

"Some professionals refer to alcoholics and drug addicts as a single group when using professional terminology. Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Nonalcoholics may attend open A.A. meetings as observers, but attendance at closed meetings is limited to persons who have a desire to stop drinking."

Recommendation passed with 123 in favor, 6 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 86)

- Reasoning given is that current CPC literature already says different things than what is in the pamphlet. Also that the DSM has different language and keeps getting updated and this will prevent us from having to discuss every 10-15 years.

Committee Reports

Trustees

- We approved the slate for the trustees of the GSB.
 - There was an attempt to amend the slate, to go line by line, but it was determined that the vote to disapprove would have to move forward first. There was sub. unanimity to accept the slate, and therefore no disapproval so the amendment did not stand.
- We approved the slate of officers of the GSB
- We approved the slate of directors for both corporate boards
 - All three were **recommendations** by the conf. Trustees committee & subsequently approved by the conference by $\frac{2}{3}$ vote.

The Committee **recommended** to change their scope to include that they will review the resumés of all Class A & Class B trustees every year, instead of the current scope which asks them to review the resumés of only the newly nominated trustees.

Recommendation failed with 69 in favor, 55 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 83)

- The committee requested all of the resumés and were given them. They felt like they wanted more information to do their job as a conf. Committee. Also that the new incoming Delegates would benefit from having more info as they have not spent time with the trustees.
- Multiple delegates spoke to this being unnecessary & an extra burden upon trustees who are already overly-burdened. Also that the resumés are out of date as the trustees serve multiple years.
- It was brought up that there are other ways of evaluating a trustees' performance & activities, such as board reports.
- The purpose of reviewing resumés is to determine eligibility, not to evaluate performance, and eligibility will not change year to year.

Trustees cont'd

Consideration:

"The committee discussed the agenda item to consider guidelines and parameters regarding the deadline to submit Conference agenda items and **took no action**. The committee affirmed that Proposed Agenda Items (PAIs) received after the current year's deadline are processed in the following year."

- The committee did not mention censure in the ACC as it was mentioned nowhere in the agenda item. There was a significant difference between the background on this item & the actual wording of the PAI.
- The committee looked at other procedures for how to address this & came to the point that, considering what we did last year, the procedures are already in place. Delegates last year were informed & ready, they knew what was going on. As long as we have the information, we will be able to address issues that come up between submission deadlines.
- The committee discussion surrounded both whether PAIs regarding Board performance should be handled differently, & the way PAIs not forwarded to conf. should be handled. The ACC was worded this way to ensure that these items will be carried over for consideration by the next year's conf.
- Some of the discussion surrounded the process by which PAIs submitted, which are in regards to the Board's conduct, have to go through the Board to get put on the Conference agenda. The committee did not focus on this, as that is not what the agenda item said. The committee did not discuss what entity should evaluate any PAIs submitted that are about Board reorganization or censure.

Committee Reports – Grapevine/La Viña

The Committee **recommended** that “The AA Grapevine Board develop a 5-year financial plan for La Viña with the goal to reduce shortfalls and increase revenue to be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.”

Recommendation passed with 108 in favor, 18 against ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 84)

- A 5 year plan was created in 2022 regarding the GV and the apps, this would be specific to LV
- This would help evaluate the direction LV needs to go in, the Spanish community much prefers paper magazines to digital.
- Creating this 5 year plan would not incur any additional external costs

Consideration: “The committee requested that the Grapevine Board develop a plan for a more effective La Viña subscription procedure, fulfillment process and customer service experience and that a progress report be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.”

- There was a lot of discussion regarding the inefficiencies of getting orders fulfilled and fulfilled correctly, both from the GV but more so from LV. Multiple delegates expressed frustration in getting issues resolved regarding the fulfillment process. This is something that is already being addressed by the GV Board, but some additional work needs to be done specifically for LV subscriptions. The Spanish community tends to order differently than English speakers. They order in bulk, often collecting money for one large order on behalf of a district or groups ordering together. This suggests that the fulfillment process for LV should have some different options

Grapevine/La Viña cont'd

Consideration: “The committee explored the services provided by AA Grapevine and how they should be funded and took no action. The committee felt they needed feedback from the Fellowship and requested that the Grapevine Board conduct a survey to the membership to identify relevance, usefulness and financial viability of products and services provided by the AA Grapevine, such as Podcast, Instagram and YouTube, with a report to be brought back to the 2026 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.”

- The committee considered monetizing the podcast, adding it to app-only, increasing app cost.... Etc. They want a survey to be conducted to the Fellowship, asking them whether they want these items for free. They want more input directly from the Fellowship on how they want to fund these services and if they are useful.
- After the survey is conducted, the committee trusts the GV Board to address any potential solutions & options

Consideration: “The committee considered a request to develop a pamphlet on the Asian and Asian-American alcoholic in A.A. and **took no action**. Because of the anticipated cost and workload associated with developing a new pamphlet at this time, the committee suggested that the need expressed in this agenda item may be addressed in other AAWS and AA Grapevine publications instead.”

- Suggestions for where information might be added other than a pamphlet were GV articles, other pamphlets (Do you think you're different), etc.
- Vast cultural differences/languages in that population that the amount of work that would have to be done to address those issues is cost prohibitive.
- Did not feel that the need was great enough, the burden of pamphlets is too high, there are too many pamphlets & they are “othering” diverse populations.

Committee Reports - Finance



The Committee **recommended** that: “The maximum annual contribution from an individual A.A. member to the General Service Board be increased from \$5,000 to \$7,500”

The recommendation passed with 95 in favor, 28 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 82)

- Approx. 60 people contribute the max per year, last time the contribution limits were raised was in 2018 & inflation is much higher. This could bring in an estimated extra \$150,000 per year.
 - Minority spoke to the opinion that this should not be the answer to solve our financial problems, keeping in line with inflation makes sense, but increasing contribution amounts, directly to the Board, is not a spiritual way to resolve the issue.
- 

The Committee **recommended** that: A change to the language in the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” be implemented: (it’s very long & I don’t want to take up a whole slide, so refer to the list of Advisory Actions for the full recommendation). The Recommendation passed with 115 in favor, 4 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 80)

- This is regarding the Q&A section on the bottom of page 9 “Q: Who manages GSO’s share of your group contributions?” The changes added more specific language regarding what the Trustees’ B&F Committee reviews, & added that the reports are available on aa.org at any time (rather than just directly from the office).

Finance cont'd (recommendations that did not pass)

The Committee **recommended** that: "Being respectful of the General Service Board bylaws, and Concept 3 Right of decision of the General Service Board Chair the committee recommended that the GSB hold one quarterly Board weekend a year, virtually when possible."

The Recommendation **failed**, with 18 in favor, 106 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 83)

- The Committee felt that this was prudent, & that virtual meetings are effective. Potential of a \$200,000 savings.
 - Members spoke against the recommendation, citing reasons such as the GSB bylaws, which state that the Board Chair has the delegated authority to determine the location of the Board meetings. Also that the Board has already cut 3 of their previously 7 in-person meetings, to the 4 official Board weekends. Many special meetings are held virtually already.
 - Many Conference members spoke to the opinion that in person meetings are much more effective & cutting even one out could be detrimental to the relationships of Board members.
 - Minority spoke to the fact that Area Delegates have already had multiple meetings that have regularly been in-person events at Conference, be made virtual (such as the Sat. night Conference activities), the Board needs to consider doing the same.
-

The Committee **recommended** that: "The Trustees Emeriti be invited to Conference & Board weekends at their own expense."

The recommendation **failed**, with 23 in favor, 101 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 83)

- Cost of a trustee to attend the board weekend is about \$6,000 and we usually have 2 people per board weekend. It is a standing invitation. The Committee feels that communication is easier than ever before, and they can be contacted and their experience used all throughout the year.
- A Trustee spoke to their input being "invaluable", and that it is helpful to have "in the moment", so we need them in person. Their institutional knowledge is especially helpful when we have new Trustees rotating on (or specifically in the case where we have an interim chairperson)

Finance cont'd

Consideration: “The committee reviewed the progress report reflecting shared experience from the Fellowship on possible future changes to literature written by A.A.’s founders and took no action. After thorough consideration and mindful reflection of the comments received from Founders’ Writings sharing sessions, as well as the valuable input received from the Fellowship via Area Delegates, the committee agreed that current Conference procedures provide a process wherein future proposals for changes can be considered by the group conscience of each Conference, negating the need for a mandated policy.”

- The Committee was asked why they took no action, when the sharing from the Fellowship indicated that most Area’s wanted a policy with a higher threshold to pass, like a 2 year waiting period or a super-majority of $\frac{3}{4}$ votes to pass.
 - Committee felt that there was not a clear path forward to create a policy, they were given a lot of conflicting information & that they already came up with a set of questions that they wanted sent out, & another list was sent instead. There was never any clarity or consistency of what “Founders’ writings” even means. They felt that there was no clear consensus on what the policy should be and that they most clear sharing they got was that the writings shouldn’t be changed at all, which is not even about creating a policy. The Committee felt that making a policy would be too hasty of a decision right now, and that we should “pause when doubtful”
 - They also discussed the issue of handling all the PAIs that are coming in regarding the changes, & there was no clear consensus of how to offer solutions to the problems this influx is creating, lots of ideas but nothing that rose to the level of a recommendation

Committee Reports – Treatment & Accessibilities

It was **recommended** that: “The draft pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” (P-49) be approved with minor editorial revisions.” Recommendation passed with 116 in favor, 10 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 84)

- Largest revision was to take out “jail” from the pamphlet, so “Bridging the Gap” would refer to treatment facilities only. There is already the distinction between “Bridging the Gap” for treatment and “Contact Upon Release” for inmate facilities. The committee wants consistency & also to make clear the distinction as many Areas & districts do not include jails in their “Bridging the Gap” committees.
- People getting out of prison have very different requirements than people leaving treatment, so therefore the literature needs to reflect that.

It was **recommended** that: “The flyer “Where Do I Go from Here?” (F-4) be updated with current inclusive language and information on how to find A.A. both in person and online. The committee requested that a progress report or draft flyer be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.”

Recommendation passed with 121 in favor, 5 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 84)

- The Committee reviewed the pamphlet, & realized that it didn’t actually answer the question, so they wanted it to reflect AA’s mission statement to be an inclusive fellowship.

Committee Reports – Literature

The Committee **recommended** that: “The pamphlets “It Happened to Alice” & “What Happened to Joe” be retired.”

Recommendation passed with 114 in favor, 11 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 84)

- When the committee reviewed the Literature Matrix, these two pamphlets were some of oldest to have not been updated. The committee felt the graphics are no longer relevant to young people today & they much prefer different styles of graphics.

The Committee **recommended** that: “The draft of the revised pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic” (retitled “Black in A.A.: Experience, Strength and Hope”) be approved with the following minor editorial changes:

- Generalize terminology surrounding drug and addiction references.
- Removal of one story.
- The removal of the political commentary within two stories.”

The recommendation passed with 121 in favor, 3 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 84)

- The pamphlet includes & “Introduction” section which gives some background to the struggles of racism in AA and how far the Fellowship has come in overcoming them.
- There were a couple instances of “political” type language, the committee recommended to take some out of one story and to omit another story altogether that was problematic for the same reasons, but also needed to be cut as the pamphlet is fairly long.
- The pamphlet has not been updated since the 70s.

Literature cont'd

The Committee **recommended** that: "The "Too Young?" video adaptation project be permanently suspended."

The recommendation passed with 119 in favor

- The committee identified that the main reasoning for canceling the project is finances. The Advisory Action last year said "not to exceed \$70,000, & for the project to move forward, the cost was expected to be much higher
- Another factor was that the distribution channels for an item like this are not developed yet. If we are going to put something out with this price tag, we need to have a clear path forward for the implementation.

The Committee **recommended** that: "The word "donation" be utilized to state that A.A. does not accept donations from outside entities; & that the word "contributions" be utilized when referring to Seventh Tradition contributions from A.A. members, in AAWS literature as it comes up for reprint."

The recommendation passed with 115 in favor, 11 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 84)

- This is an expansion of a 2006 Ad. Action which stated that "contribution" should replace "donation" in literature as it comes up for reprint, but doesn't specify that contribution refers to money from members.
- This would change a sentence in the 12 Concepts Illustrated pamphlet under Warranty 1, but would not change the wording of the actual warranty. Also would not change the wording of the short form of Tradition 7. This is only meant to provide clarity when possible, and also consistency.

Literature - PLBB

The Committee **recommended** that: “The draft manuscript *Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous* be approved with minor editorial changes to include:

- ❖ Relocation of the “A.A. Steps Table” to constitute an Appendix (on the Twelve Steps) at the back of the new publication.
- ❖ Replace the references to “addiction” and “addicted” with language related to alcoholism.”

The recommendation passed with 91 in favor, 38 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 86)

- We spent approximately 6-7 hours over the course of 2 days debating this item. Multiple amendments & additional motions were made (which all failed) including:
 - An amendment to include Bill & Bob’s stories side by side with original & PL translation.
 - An amendment to remove the explanations of the Steps, Traditions, & Concepts.
 - A motion to require a $\frac{3}{4}$ unanimity for the book to pass.
 - A motion to recommit
 - We spend the most time debating whether to recommit, which would send it back to the TLC until next year, when conference would review it again. Some delegates felt that this would give them time to make the changes that we have suggested & conference would be able to evaluate whether the revised draft met the original goal. While others felt that taking another year would essentially kill the project and kick the issue down the road when we needed to take immediate action. Ultimately the motion failed with 35 in favor and 95 against.

Literature – PLBB cont’d

- We had very thorough discussion.
- There were many delegates who spoke to the disunity this has caused in our Fellowship and whether we needed to pause or postpone the project in order to get more unity
- There were many concerns that were brought up and the Committee reported that they had discussed many of those points, including:
 - The definitions/glossary, specifically the words craving, spiritual experiences, agnostic, atheist, Higher Power etc.
 - The wording of the Step 1 translation does not accurately represent what Step 1 actually means.
 - The difference between “phenomenon of craving” & “mental obsession” was not clear/consistent/accurate in the translation
- The Committee reported that they sent a very detailed and extensive memo to the Trustees’ Literature Committee, outlining further notes regarding some of these concerns. These are suggestions that they did not feel rose to the level of adding to the recommendation.
 - These suggestions may or may not be implemented in the final draft.
 - Traditionally, committee memos are not shared with conference members and are generally not something conference would ask for.
 - There was a Floor Action brought up at the end of conference to make “all memorandums” sent by conference committees available to all conference members, and the conference declined to consider it.

Literature – cont'd

Consideration: “The committee reviewed a progress report on revisions to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.” The committee noted that much of the work was outside of the scope of the committee consideration from the 2023 Conference Committee on Treatment/Accessibilities. The committee requested that the work going forward reflect the 2023 Treatment and Accessibilities suggestion to “consider updating the pamphlet ‘Questions and Answers on Sponsorship’ to add language on working with alcoholics with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities.” The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.”

- No information on why the extra language was added to the consideration from last year, but the committee thought that the TLC was handling it well.

Consideration: The committee reviewed a progress report on the video animation of the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated.” The committee requested that the project proceed with Phase II Option I to include translation of narration voiceover and visual text into French and Spanish.

Committee Reports – Agenda

It was **recommended** that: “The following theme for the 2025 General Service Conference: “Working Together, Increasing Trust.”
Recommendation passed with 120 in favor, 3 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 82)

It was **recommended** that: “The following presentation theme & topics for the 2025 General Service Conference:

- o “Delegating: It is okay to ask for help.”
- o “Closing the Gap: How do we make the voice of every Group count?”
- o “Our Financial Responsibility in carrying the message.”

Recommendation passed with 119 in favor, 5 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 83)

It was **recommended** that: The following workshop topic for the 2025 General Service Conference: “How do we address the new financial reality facing our spiritual movement?”

Recommendation passed with 113 in favor, 9 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 82)

It was **recommended** that: The General Service Conference Inventory Plan be approved and that an inventory summary (not to exceed eight pages), be included in the 2025 Final Conference Report.

Recommendation passed with 123 in favor, 4 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 85)

- A summary up to 8 pages could be added into the Final Conference Report at no additional cost

Agenda cont'd

It was **recommended** that: "A comprehensive summary of the 2025 General Service Conference Inventory be developed and distributed as an electronic version only.

Recommendation passed with 108 in favor, 16 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 82)

- This was due to cost. The estimate of a 32 page report was going to be around \$97,800.
- The full report will be available upon request.
- This recommendation leave it up to the 2025 conference committee to figure out what format they want to use for the report

Consideration: Part of the first consideration is "...The committee suggested that a plan to print and distribute the comprehensive summary of the 2025 General Service Conference Inventory be brought back to the 2026 Conference Committee on Agenda."

- This addresses the concerns about not having a full hard-copy report available right away.
- The Publisher spoke to a timeline, after the summary is completed for the Final Conference Report, based upon the last inventory, it will take about 6 weeks for the full report to be completed. After that, the printing would take additional time.

Agenda cont'd

There were multiple **Considerations** given regarding the change of scheduling this year.

- Conference accounts for a large portion of our yearly budget, In 2024, Conference expenses were cut by an estimated \$112,000.
 - Saturday activities were virtual instead of in person
 - Meal stipend for Wednesday instead of the buffet & less coffee stations
 - Saturday morning (last day) breakfast buffet
 - Visit to Stepping Stones asked for a voluntary contribution to offset costs
- The committee asked the Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference (TCGSC) to consider the impact of these changes, noting that they see value in multiple activities that have been cut or are being looked at to be cut out of the conference week. These include:
 - The Saturday activities (meet & greet, delegate's only meeting)
 - The Sunday night banquet

Another **Consideration** sent: "The committee discussed the number of videoconference meetings that occur within service areas, regions, and for Conference Members. The committee felt that some local events share misinformation, or inconsistent materials, which is troubling. The committee discussed ways that could help clarify and support accurate information and felt that the three Board chairpersons could explore aligning their efforts to share information within the Fellowship."

- This is in regards to the multiple sharing sessions, most of them on the PLBB, that members of the Board gave to different Areas and Regions. And the confusion that this caused.

Committee Reports – Report & Charter

The Committee **recommended** multiple editorial changes to the wording & format of the 2024-2026 Service Manual (please see the full list of Advisory Actions in the Final Conference Report for the exact wording of each of the recommendations, it is too long to list fully here).

These included changing the order of a couple of chapters, adding a footnote, simplifying language regarding the Board's delegated authority, and adjusting some colors to accommodate readability for colorblindness.

There were 4 total on this topic and all were recommended with substantial unanimity

- The 2024-2026 SM is estimated to be published in September.

The Committee **recommended** that: "The items that receive simple majority be included in the Final Conference Report under the heading "Recommendations that achieved Simple Majority – These items did not receive the two-thirds majority required to pass as a Conference Advisory Action."

Recommendation passed with 119 in favor, 3 opposed (2/3 is 82)

- They sent in a consideration regarding this and asked that if any policy implications are involved with this, that the question should be referred to Policy & Admissions

The committee sent in multiple **considerations** regarding the way the updates to the SM are handled, considering that the Conf. Committee does not have a corresponding Trustees' Committee.

They suggest creating a "liaison" between the Board & the Conf. Committee in order to prevent further delays in implementing revisions.

They also suggested that the Board consider creating a corresponding Trustees' Committee for accountability reasons.

They were unhappy with the draft of the new "Amendments" section that is being added into the SM to update Concept 11. They suggested that "a full reexamination is needed"

Committee Reports – Public Information

The Committee **Recommended** that: 3 PSAs be discontinued, “Since getting sober I have hope” in the 30 and 60 second versions, & the audio PSA, “We know how you feel”.

All of the recommendations passed with substantial unanimity

- All three have very low traffic when tracked (i.e. youtube, aa.org, etc)

The Committee **Recommended** that: “Two Public Service Announcements be distributed on broadcast media, tracked and evaluated at a cost of \$17,000 which would be in addition to the \$48,000 that is planned to be spent to track the Value of Donated airtime on PSAs in 2024 per the audit requirement. The total expenditure should not exceed \$65,000 and that the information gathered from the process be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Public Information.” Recommendation passed with 118 in favor, 8 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 84)

- The \$48,000 has to be spent, as per the recommendation from the audit. The additional \$17,000 buys us additional placement services, in which the value of the donated airtime far exceeds the extra \$17,000.

The Committee **Recommended** that: “The 18 interviews recorded to date as part of the Young People’s Video Project be approved, giving the General Service Office (GSO) the latitude to edit and distribute the videos in the style of “I Thought Drinking Made Me an Artist (working title)” and “The World Has Color Now (working title)” The videos can be produced in various formats and made available on our communication channel platforms. The committee requested that an update report be provided to the 2025 Conference Committee on Public Information.”

Recommendation passed with 122 in favor, 4 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 84)

- The videos (we got to see 2), were shot overhead, and record interviews by various members. They were recorded at ICYPAA. There was a concern about the faces being somewhat identifiable at certain frames, but the committee did not feel that it was enough of an issue to warrant any adjustment.

Public Information cont'd

The Committee **Recommended**: "The revised draft of the flyer "A.A. at a Glance" (F-1) be approved with minor edits." Recommendation passed with 121 in favor, 6 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 85)

The Committee **Recommended**: "The revised pamphlet "Speaking at Meetings Outside of A.A." (P-40) be approved." Recommendation passed with 121 in favor, 4 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 84)

- Title is being updated, updated the preamble, degenderized, added a section on singleness of purpose.

The Committee **Recommended**: "The flyer "A Message to Teenagers" be retired." Recommendation passed with 92 in favor, 33 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 84)

- The graphics are not current & not in a direction that is attractive to young people.
- The updated Young People in AA pamphlet has been very well received & useful so this is less needed.

The Committee **Recommended**: "That a social media policy be developed for all current & future social media channels and requested that a draft be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Public Information." The Recommendation **failed**, with 36 in favor, 90 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 84)

- The Committee's idea is to create an overarching policy/guidelines so that when new types of media arise, the office can implement a presence there without having to go to Conference.
- The Communication Services Dept. is already working on a similar type policy & this may be better addressed by staff vs. an Advisory Action. This department already guides the creation of social media content that we are putting out.
- Multiple people spoke to the inflexibility of an Advisory Action, one that has such specific language, and that a policy may work for one Board, but not the other.

Public Information cont'd

The Committee **Recommended**: “That to better provide equality in availability and messaging, starting with the July 2024 General Service Board Meeting, that unedited but anonymity-protected minutes, including trustees’ committee reports in English, Spanish, and French, be provided to all Conference members within three weeks following quarterly Board Weekends. Minutes should retain the current format & scope.”

The Recommendation **failed**, with 34 in favor, 90 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 93)

- Multiple delegates have expressed frustration with not getting Board reports in a timely manner, or not getting them at all. Some Delegates are getting different or less information than others and this is a problem. People expressed that they didn’t feel that we were all being treated equally for this reason
- Multiple delegates stated that they did not feel like they were able to do their job due to the lack of timely Board reports.
- There have been Area Delegates asking for more standard Board minutes for the last year, it has come up in many of our sharing sessions and Delegate’s only meetings.
- The Committee did not consult staff or Board members & some members of both groups thought that the language in the Advisory Action was too specific, too limiting, and not flexible enough to work with Board weekend timelines. Specific tasks get completed at each specific weekend, and this does not take this into account. For example, it would be very difficult to get this out after the January meeting, as that is when staff and translation services are extremely busy putting together the Conference Agenda & the background. There were also questions about what “current format & scope” meant.

Public Information cont'd

Consideration: “The committee reviewed and accepted the 2023 Report on the AAWS Meeting Guide app. The committee offered the following suggestions and looks forward to a report to be brought to the 2025 Conference Committee on Public Information:

- ❖ Consider a suggestion to add A.A. literature to the Meeting Guide app.
- ❖ Consider creating a mechanism for listing online meetings on the Meeting Guide app without tying them to particular locations.
- ❖ Consider adding a clarification to the location information on the Meeting Guide app to specify that locations (like churches) do not imply affiliation.
- ❖ Consider adding an option to make 7th tradition contributions possible in the Meeting Guide app”
 - The 7th tradition contributions refers to contributions directly to the GSB, not local entities

Consideration: “The committee suggested that the trustees’ Public Information Committee reimagine the overall strategy for Public Service Announcements (PSAs) and offered the following suggestions:

- Noting the challenge of balancing budget constraints and the need to update our PSAs, that the trustees’ PI Committee consider less expensive methods of creating and modifying content.
- That shorter PSAs are more useful (:60 is too long).
- The committee suggested that consideration be given to working with Australia’s service structure to use the Australian Public Service Announcements in the U.S. and Canada.”

Committee Reports – Policy & Admissions

The Committee **Recommended**: “The Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) process be adopted & implemented.”

Recommendation passed with 93 in favor, 35 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 86)

- There was a motion to recommit & it failed.

The Committee **Recommended** that: “The Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) submission date deadline for the 2025 General Service Conference be moved to a date no earlier than September 30, 2024.”

Recommendation passed with 114 in favor, 12 against ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 84)

- Worded this way so that if it becomes feasible to move the date later, it is possible.

The Committee forwarded several **considerations**, including one which asks the Board to create a proposal providing simpler methods of balancing conference workload. This could include adding or reimagining current conference committees, adjusting the Conference schedule to allow for more Committee work, rethinking how the Agenda items are assigned & possibly putting some literature items in Committees that correspond to the specific literature, etc.

Committee Reports – International Convention/Regional Forums

It was **recommended** to: “Provide six options for closing the Big Meetings at an International Convention: The Serenity Prayer, Responsibility Statement, Declaration of Unity, the Third Step Prayer, the Seventh Step Prayer, or a Moment of Silence.” Recommendation passed with 115 in favor, 11 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 84)

- 2 other suggestions were made to add additional options. One which tried to amend to add back in the Lord’s Prayer, which failed 43 to 83. The second amendment was to add the moment of silence option in, which passed

There were **multiple recommendations** regarding recordings & photographs to highlight the conference. Also a recommendation to create a stand-alone anonymity protected internet access video created for the 3 Big Meetings.

All recommendations passed by substantial unanimity

Consideration: “The committee discussed a report concerning virtual programming for the 2025 International Convention. The committee agrees with including a two-day 8 session virtual track in the program. The committee believes that the \$35.00 (USD) per attendee fee for the programmed virtual session track is prudent and provides a desired accessibility for members who may not be able to attend the Convention in person....”

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

Floor Actions that passed

A total of 15 Floor Actions were made & seconded throughout the week. Of those, 2 were declined & 2 were considered, the rest were recommitted as we ran out of time.

Floor Action #3 - It was **recommended** that: "A pamphlet on the Asian and Asian-American alcoholic in A.A. be developed."

Recommendation passed with 99 in favor, 27 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 84)

- A member felt strongly that even though the committee did not recommend it, that conference should consider creating it anyway. This was based on the fact that there are very few resources for Asian members, and that pamphlets usually recoup their costs to create within the first year & eventually make money.
- Discussion against creating was that there are so many different nationalities within that population.
- This is an appropriate use of our limited workload
- This population has not been addressed in AA & there have been multiple requests from the Fellowship, so there is a stated need.
- The CPC desk reported also getting requests from professionals.

Floor Actions that were declined

Floor Action #1 - It was **recommended** that: "A pamphlet for the unhoused person that specifically addresses alcoholism, what A.A. is and is not, who is welcome at A.A. meetings, and includes stories from A.A. members who have experienced homelessness be developed, and a draft or progress report be brought back to the appropriate 2025 Conference committee."

Motion to decline passed with 90 in favor, 39 against ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 86)

Floor Action #4 - It was **recommended** that: "All memorandums between Conference Committee and Trustees Committees or Boards be made available to all members of the Conference."

Motion to decline passed with 126 in favor, 7 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 84)

Floor Actions that were considered, but did not pass

Floor Action #2 - It was **recommended** that: "PAI's requesting censure and reorganization have no submission deadline and be forwarded directly to the Conference Committee on Trustees."

- A motion to amend this to add "approved by at least one Area" to the end.
 - If an item rises to the level of Area approval, it shouldn't be burdened by the submission deadline
 - Unclear about the wording, many Area's hold their assemblies differently & this wouldn't apply to them.
 - Motion to amend fails 69 in favor, 50 opposed ($\frac{2}{3}$ is 80)

Floor Actions 5-15 that were submitted, seconded, & will be considered for the 75th GSC

Floor Action #5 - It was **recommended** that: "The conference affirm that La Viña continue to be published by the AA Grapevine and supported by the General Service Board as a service to the Fellowship. La Viña continues to be published utilizing AA Grapevine resources in order to achieve efficient production and distribution."

Floor Action #6 - It was **recommended** that: "The Grapevine Board develop a plan for a more effective La Viña subscription procedure, fulfillment process and customer service experience, and that a progress report be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña."

Floor Action #7 - It was **recommended** that: "All non-offensive PAI's submitted for consideration of the 72nd, 73rd and 74th General Service Conferences regarding the change made to the AA Preamble by the 71st^t General Service Conference be grouped as one item, and forward to the appropriate 75th General Service Conference committee with the following suggestion: given the importance and interest of this issue, consider forwarding the item to the general service areas for wider discussion, looking toward a fair and reasonable solution to the division within the Fellowship by the use of different copyrighted Preambles."

Floor Action #8 - It was **recommended** that: "The additional feedback from the Conference Committee on Literature identified in their memo to the Publishing Department on sticking points for the Plain Language draft manuscript be implemented in the draft before printing."

Floor Action #10 - It was **recommended** that: "The AA Grapevine Board develop a 5-year financial plan for the Grapevine with the goal to reduce shortfalls and increase revenue to be brought back to 2025 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña."

Floor Actions 5–15 that were submitted, seconded, & will be considered for the 75th GSC

Floor Action #9 - It was **recommended** that: "Whenever any changes are brought to the Conference floor to the Founders' writings, considered by this motion to be:

1. The book *Alcoholics Anonymous* — specifically, the first 164 pages, the chapter "The Doctor's Opinion," Forewords to the first and second editions, the Appendices on Spiritual Awakening & the Traditions, & Dr. Bob's Nightmare
2. The book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*

the Conference must achieve a supermajority of 75% in order for the General Service Board to act upon it. However, the General Service Board shall not immediately act upon the Conference's directions, and instead, shall request all Area Delegates to conduct further discussions in their respective Areas. Area delegates' report backs will be conducted the second following General Service Conference at which the Conference may amend or change the previously approved change to the Founders' writings described above. For final action by the General Service Board, the Conference must achieve substantial unanimity."

Floor Action #11 - It was **recommended** that: "Reaffirming the 1975 Advisory Action that delegates, in reports to their areas, place more emphasis on group support. Delegates should emphasize to the groups the effect that inflation has had on the contribution dollar and the necessity for adjusting contributions accordingly to support services provided by the General Service Board."

Floor Action #12 - It was **recommended** that: "Delegates who require translation be provided with all documents, materials, reports, communications, etc., in their native language, with all necessary information to be able to fulfill their role as trusted servants, bearing in mind the traditional right of participation."

Floor Actions 5-15 that were submitted, seconded, & will be considered for the 75th GSC

Floor Action #13 - It was **recommended** that: "In the flyer "A.A. At a Glance" -- in the last paragraph on page one under the heading 'Who can attend A.A. meetings?' that the last sentence ""Closed" discussion meetings are for alcoholics only" be changed to: "Attendance at a "closed" meeting is limited to A.A. members and persons who have a desire to stop drinking."

Floor Action #14 - It was **recommended** that: "The explanations of the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts be removed from the Plain Language Big Book."

Floor Action #15 - It was **recommended** to: "Retitle the Plain Language Big Book to: "The Plain Language guide to A.A.'s 12 Steps of Recovery"

Conference ended around midnight on Friday 🎉🎉



74th ANNUAL General Service Conference

The amazing friends I made along the way. Here are the Southeast Regional Delegates!



Area 1 AL
Area 14 North
FL
Area 15 South
FL & the US
Virgin
Islands, & The
Bahamas
Area 16 GA
Area 26 KY
Area 27 LA
Area 37 MS
Area 51 NC
Area 62 SC
Area 64 TN
Area 71 VA
Area 73 West
VA
Area 77 Puerto
Rico

Patrick C., Staff member who served as a Panel 63 with my Sponsor & Ken T., The NE Regional Trustee, both served as Panel 63s with my sponsor. Racy J. Staff member who not only was my committee secretary, she was on the CPC desk when I was the Area CPC chair. So she & I have been working in service together on & off since 2015. AA's Legacy of Service is strong in Area 27!

