



AGENDA

- 70th General Service Conference April 19-25, 2020 in Rye Brook, NY. Theme: *2020: A Clear Vision for You*
- 2020 Presentation/Discussion Topics: *Recovery – Who Is Missing in Our Rooms?*; *Unity – Practicing Our Principles*; and *Service – Keeping A.A. Relevant*
- 2020 Workshop Topic: *Attraction Through Action*
- Encouraged more pre-Conference communication with Delegates by Conference Committee Chairs

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)

- Remove text from pamphlet "Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community": PASSED
- Suggestions for AAWS LinkedIn page include non-affiliation disclaimer, better description of A.A., CPC events calendar, resource links & annual reporting

CORRECTIONS

- Make language of corrections literature more modern and inclusive: TOOK NO ACTION
- Create central database of Correctional facilities: TOOK NO ACTION
- Recommended revision of Conference committee Composition, Scope and Procedure: FAILED

FINANCE

- Raise Bequest Contribution Limit to \$10K: PASSED
- Reviewed \$5K individual limit: TOOK NO ACTION
- Reviewed area contributions for Delegate expenses: TOOK NO ACTION, and requested additional statistical background in the future
- Suggested changes to Self-Support packet include language on how to contribute, add contribution envelope, and revise back of Self-Support card

GRAPEVINE and LA VIÑA

- Remove "Alcoholism at Large": TOOK NO ACTION, but reaffirmed GV/LV editorial freedom and requested more prominent and visible disclaimer
- Forwarded 3 working titles for possible publication
- Reviewed workbook revision project & Fellowship Feedback Survey results & looks forward to reports of further actions taken by the Board & staff
- Discussed creation of Spanish audio version of *The Language of the Heart* and took no action, since the project already is on the list of future actions to be taken by GV/LV when it is financially prudent (Also see Floor Action #2 on page 3 for more info)

LITERATURE

- Develop a 5th edition of the Big Book: FAILED
- Add text regarding anonymity to the pamphlet "Questions & Answers on Sponsorship": PASSED
- Update pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated": PASSED - Sent to trustees' Literature Committee for draft language or progress report in 2020
- Revise Foreword to *Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions* to add language about the Twelve Concepts for World Service: FAILED
- Add "Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers" to the end of the Open Meeting side of the Primary Purpose (blue) Card: FAILED
- After reviewing matrix of A.A. recovery literature, the committee recommended updating pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated": PASSED
- Reviewed progress reports on pamphlets including for Spanish-speaking women, on A.A.'s Three Legacies, *The Twelve Traditions Illustrated* (with suggested language on anonymity & social media), *Too Young?*, *Young People and A.A.*, *Q&A on Sponsorship* (clarification about safety at the group level – also in *Living Sober*), and a comprehensive update to the video "Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure" & looks forward to more progress reports or draft language in 2020
- Develop a Literature Committee Workbook: Sent this suggestion to trustees' Literature Committee with a request for a progress report in 2020
- Add safety language to "The A.A. Group" pamphlet: TOOK NO ACTION
- Discussed draft of proposed revisions to AAWS "Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials," supported the proposed policy, expressed support for GSO's publishing professionals, and recognized the importance of maintaining the integrity of the Conference process to develop & update literature (See Floor Action #7 on page 3 for more info)
- Reviewed the matrix of A.A. recovery literature & suggested that the trustees' Literature committee consider updating the pamphlet "Is A.A. for Me?"

69th General Service Conference

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE - Major Actions



Don B., Panel 68, Area 29
delegate@marylandaa.org

POLICY / ADMISSIONS

- Revise “Process for polling the GSC between Conference meetings” to add a 7 day discussion period before voting opens: PASSED
- 2021 & 2022 Conferences will be in Brooklyn, NY; 71st GSC is 4/18-24/21 and 72nd GSC is 4/24-30/22
- Reviewed GSC site selection process and offered a range of dates in 2023 & 2024 to provide flexibility
- Requested that trustees’ committee on the GSC continue developing processes for Conference committee consideration of proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee, as well as developing a process for approving qualified observers from other A.A. service structures in advance of Conference week
- Develop a procedure to deal with special requests/agenda items: TOOK NO ACTION
- Discussed 1986 Advisory Action regarding a simple majority vote by the full Conference becoming a suggestion: TOOK NO ACTION, but asked that the 1986 Action be implemented and simple majority suggestions be duly noted in the Conference Report

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- Bring a plan to the 2020 GSC to produce video shorts based on current A.A. pamphlets: PASSED
- Discontinue the video PSA “My World”: PASSED
- Reaffirm policy on full-face actors: PASSED
- Develop 2 PSAs costing a max of \$50K each with “actor portrayal” disclaimers on screen: PASSED
- Add draft language on anonymity and safety to the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity”: PASSED
- Update language in flyer “A.A. at a Glance” PASSED
- 2020 report on AAWS YouTube Channel: PASSED
- Update PSA titles for search optimization: PASSED
- AAWS & AAGV apply for “LegitScript” certification to qualify for Google AdWords/Grants: PASSED
- AAWS apply for Google AdWords/Grants: PASSED
- AAWS implement Google AdWords & bring report to the 2020 Conference P.I. Committee: PASSED
- Other ideas include adding www.aa.org & possibly www.aagrapevine.org to pamphlet covers, exploring online platforms for PSAs, and updating “how to find A.A.” methods listed in existing PSAs

REPORT AND CHARTER

- Reviewed progress on redesign of Service Manual & forwarded comments to Publishing Department
- Requested alternative methods of accessing and distributing contact information in A.A. Directories
- Agreed with a need to protect personal information in the GSC Final Report beginning in 2019

TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES

- Add story from a deaf A.A. member to pamphlet “Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers” plus update video version: PASSED
- Update pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late”: PASSED
- Develop anonymity-protected audio interviews on aa.org with military professionals about their experience with A.A.: PASSED
- Agreed with idea of including corrections activities in Bridging the Gap pamphlet and requested that trustees meet to consolidate, eliminate, and combine materials and bring report back in 2020
- Proposed that a guideline or workbook be developed before a Remote Communities Kit be made available, and the kit include a list of digital resources rather than paper copies of pamphlets, *Box 459, About A.A.*, and Grapevine articles

TRUSTEES

- 21 GSB trustees, 7 GSB officers, 9 AAWS directors, and 9 AAGV directors were reviewed and approved
- New NE Regional Trustee is Francis G. from E. Mass.
- Reviewed draft procedure to reorganize GSB, AAWS & AAGV Boards, offered suggestions, & requested a revised plan from trustees’ Nominating committee

ARCHIVES

- Add 1940s home movie of AA co-founders and their wives to video “Markings on the Journey”: PASSED

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS

- Take anonymity-protected photo of flag ceremony at 2020 International Convention: PASSED
- Anonymity-protected internet broadcast of opening flag ceremony at 2020 IC: PASSED
- Anonymity-protected video highlights of 2020 IC for archival purposes and possible sharing: PASSED
- Suggested developing a Regional Forum app, micro-site, publish info about forums in GV/LV, and more

69th General Service Conference

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GSO Financial Report

- \$8.4 million in 7th Tradition Contributions in 2018, almost equal to 2017 record
- Cost of services provided to Fellowship was \$11.4 million, up 11.8% from 2017
- Shortfall between 7th Tradition and Cost of Services was \$3.0 million
- AAWS publishing profits were \$3.4 million, down 4%, used to cover Contributions shortfall, resulting in net GSO profit of \$400,000
- Grapevine subscription levels declined in 2018
- GV would have essentially broken even in 2018, were it not for severance payments to the departing Executive Editor/Publisher
- General Fund support of the La Viña service activity was \$148,000
- Reserve Fund is \$15.9 million, a ratio of 9.7 months
- \$6.7 million in group contributions by 28,314 groups
 - 41.3% of total groups
 - \$237.35 average group contribution
 - 61% of those 28,314 groups have contributed at least 5 of the past 6 years
- \$819,000 in contributions by 5,169 individuals
 - 63% were online contributions
 - \$158.50 average individual contribution
- \$11.4 million = Cost of Services provided by GSO
 - 25% for Outreach Activities
 - 19% for Service Leadership
 - 19% for Group Services
- 73.4% of Cost of Services were supported by 7th Tradition contributions
- 902,004 Big Books sold (48.4% of all AAWS literature sales), including 83% to A.A. entities (groups, members, districts, areas & intergroups)
- Online contributions continue to increase, to 12,330 contributions of \$880,311, or 10.59 % of total contributions in 2018
- Cost of GSO services per member in 2018 was \$8.06
- This year's grassroots self-support challenge is to contribute \$8.06 per person to GSO on 8/06/19
- The 2019 budget shows a combined operating profit of \$201,000. Prediction for 2020 is an overall profit of \$262,000, followed by a loss of \$97,000 in 2021

FLOOR ACTIONS

- #1 - Start work on a 4th edition Spanish Big Book: Sent to trustees' Literature committee
- #2 - Prioritize production of Spanish audio version of *The Language of the Heart*: FAILED
- #3 - Add "The God Word" pamphlet to the Corrections literature - DECLINED TO CONSIDER
- #4 - Update "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic": Sent to trustees' Literature committee
- #5 - Prominently include simple majority suggestions in the Conference Final Report: FAILED
- #6 - Remove "Alcoholism at Large" section from A.A. Grapevine: DECLINED TO CONSIDER
- #7 - Recommit AAWS "Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials" to the trustees' Literature committee with an updated policy to be brought back to the 70th GSC: PASSED

REPORT ON EQUITABLE WORKLOAD DISTRIBUTION

SERT Cathy B. gave a well-researched report on possible solutions to the increase in Conference agenda items over the past few years, especially for the Conference Literature and P.I. Committees. Discussions continue; more will be revealed. . .

MY ONE MINUTE FAREWELL TO THE CONFERENCE

*We've been confused from the start by our names
Was it Alan or Allen - or Alain?
We've got Don - one and two
Susan and Sue
Could we last through the week and stay sane?
Then there's Jeff G and Jeff B and Bob
Robin, Roger, Robert, and Rob
And the Patterson threes
Drive us all to our knees
As do Gene, Jon, Jan, Jean, Lucien Jean
And was that Colleen or Coleen?
Or a Trustee Tom pledge of ice cream?
With two Marges, two Jennys
Just one Jesus, one Kenney
Is it Kevin or Ken? We could scream!
Now I know I've left quite a few out
Can't miss Noni, who packs a big clout
And although we must part
We'll live on in our hearts
Like a Wyoming GSC shout: Yee-haw!*

NERAASA 2020 is Feb. 21-23 in Nashua, NH and
2020 Int'l Convention is July 2-5 in Detroit, MI



\$8.06 on 8/06

AREA 29 CHALLENGE

August 6th 2019

In 2018 our General Service Office provided services to 1,418,177 A.A. members in the U.S. and Canada at a cost of \$11,426,835. That works out to \$8.06 per A.A. member over the course of the whole year. If each member of A.A. makes a one-time contribution of \$8.06, together we could support all of our general services to all groups, for an entire year!

Here's how the Challenge works:

Groups pass a special basket, can or envelope before, on or around 8/06 in addition to their regular 7th Tradition collection. Each member of A.A. contributes \$8.06. This one-time contribution is in addition to what you put in the basket to support your meeting expenses. Groups or members also can send money to G.S.O. or contribute online at any time.

\$8.06 on 8/06 -- it's easy to remember!

On or after August 6th each group collects the contents of the basket, can or envelope and writes a check or money order to our General Service Office for the amount contributed. Cut on dotted line and be sure to enclose form with your payment to get credit for your members' contributions. Or you can contribute online at www.aa.org for maximum effectiveness!

Send your share. Meet the Challenge!

General Service Office
PO Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York NY 10163-0459

GROUP NAME/NUMBER _____
or
MEMBER NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

Amount \$ _____

2019 Contribution for Area 29's \$8.06 on 8/06 CHALLENGE