



Area 29

Panel 70

MARYLAND

71st General Service Conference

2021

A.A. In a Time of Change

Delegate Report-back May 15, 2021

**Presented by:
Cynthia T.
Area 29 Panel 70 Delegate**

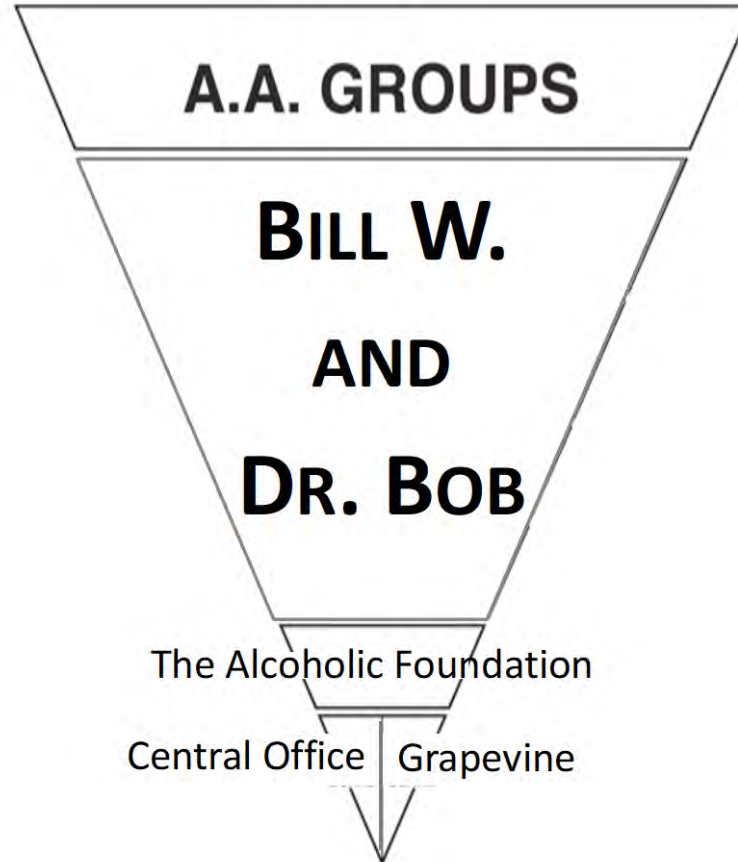
- ✧ Why ARE we here today?
- ✧ Why do we have a conference?
- ✧ And..... what does any of this have to do with me as an individual AA member anyway?

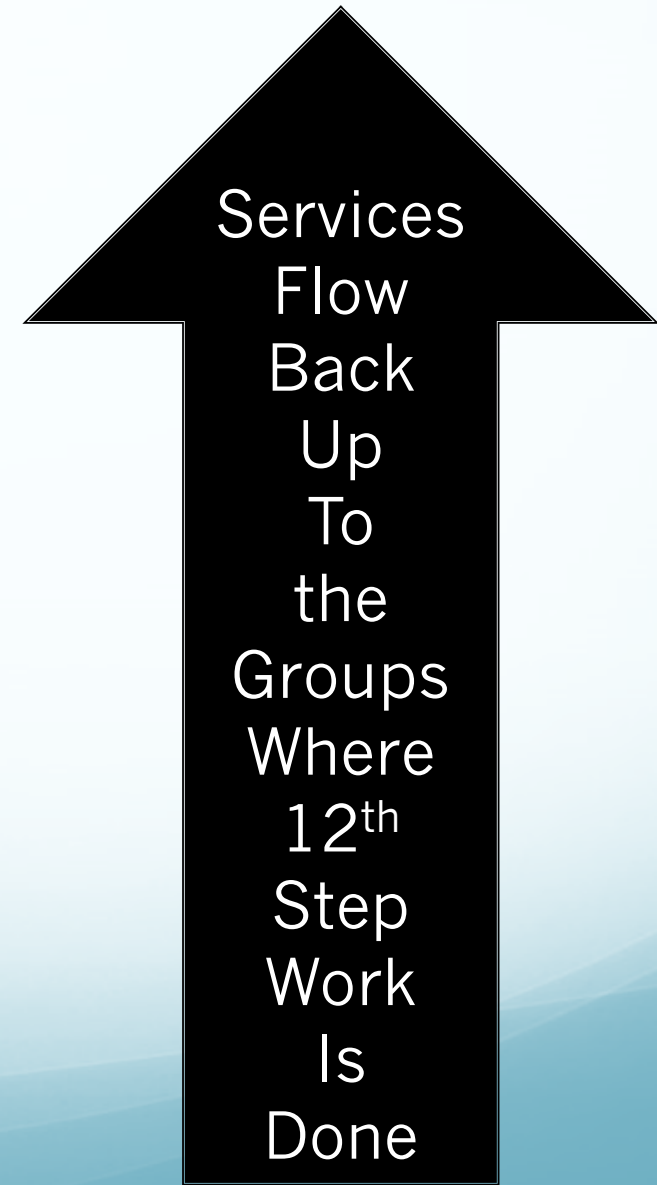
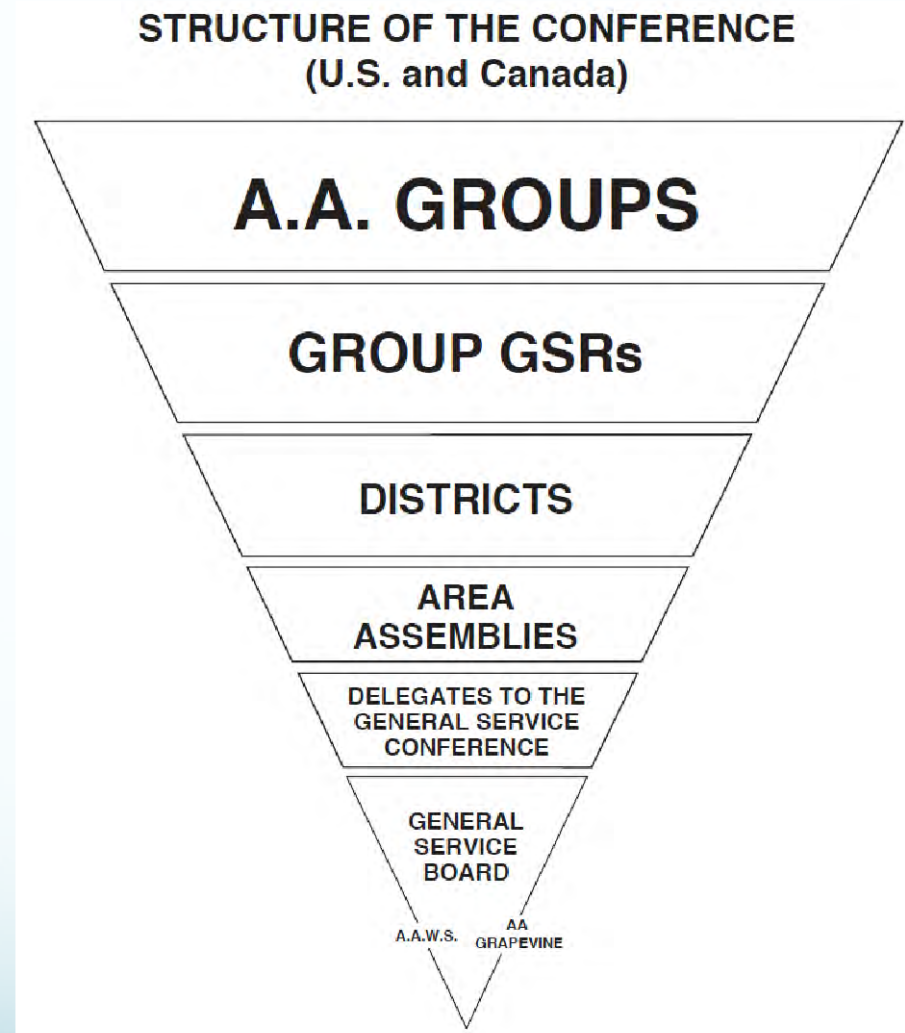
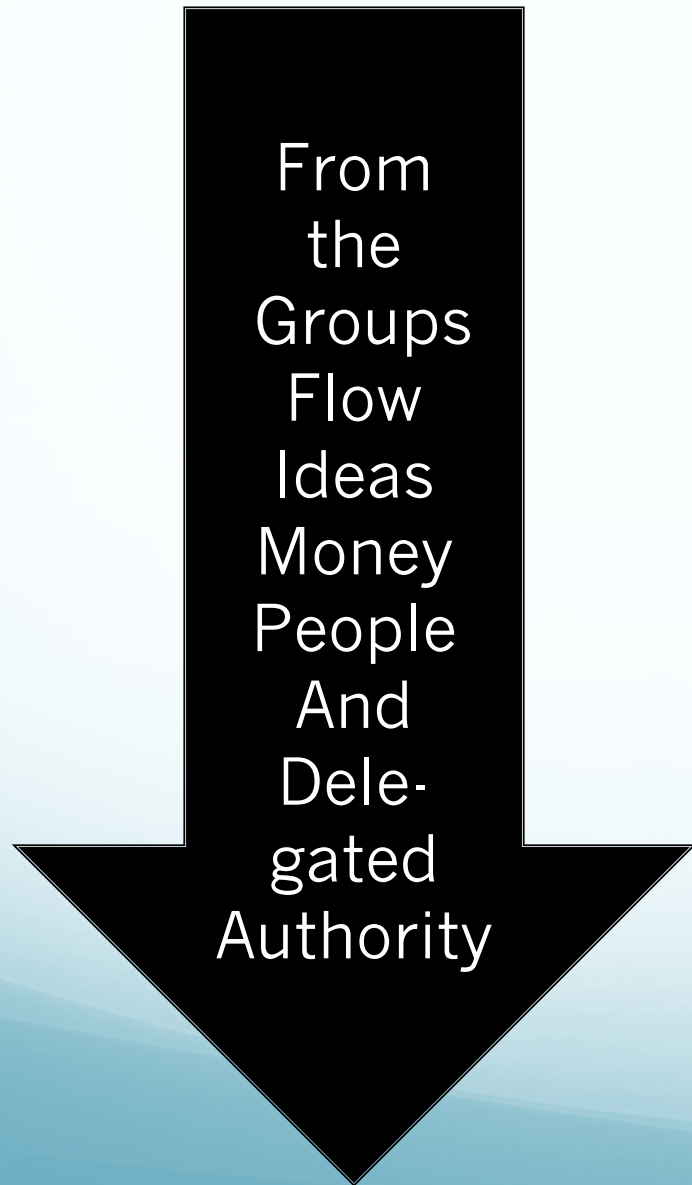
This is why we needed a conference

A.A.'s GENERAL SERVICE STRUCTURE

(U.S. and Canada)

Before 1950





The General Service Conference Structure (U.S. and Canada)



On Trust — The Spirit of the General Service Conference

“So, since 1951 we have been holding these yearly Conferences, to see whether this movement was interested enough, was responsible enough, felt those services were worthwhile enough, to maintain so long as God will need this society. And I think it’s the conclusion of every delegate who has been there that yes, we should take these things over. So, in 1955 we propose to hold an International Convention, at which time, on behalf of the old-timers, and of Smithy and me, we shall say to you, here is the remainder of your Third Legacy. This Conference shall become our successor. To you we hand the last torch. Carry on. Face your destiny with surety and courage, and God love you.” — Bill W., speaking at the 1954 Texas State Convention as the 1955 International Convention the General Service Conference was designated as the actual voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society.



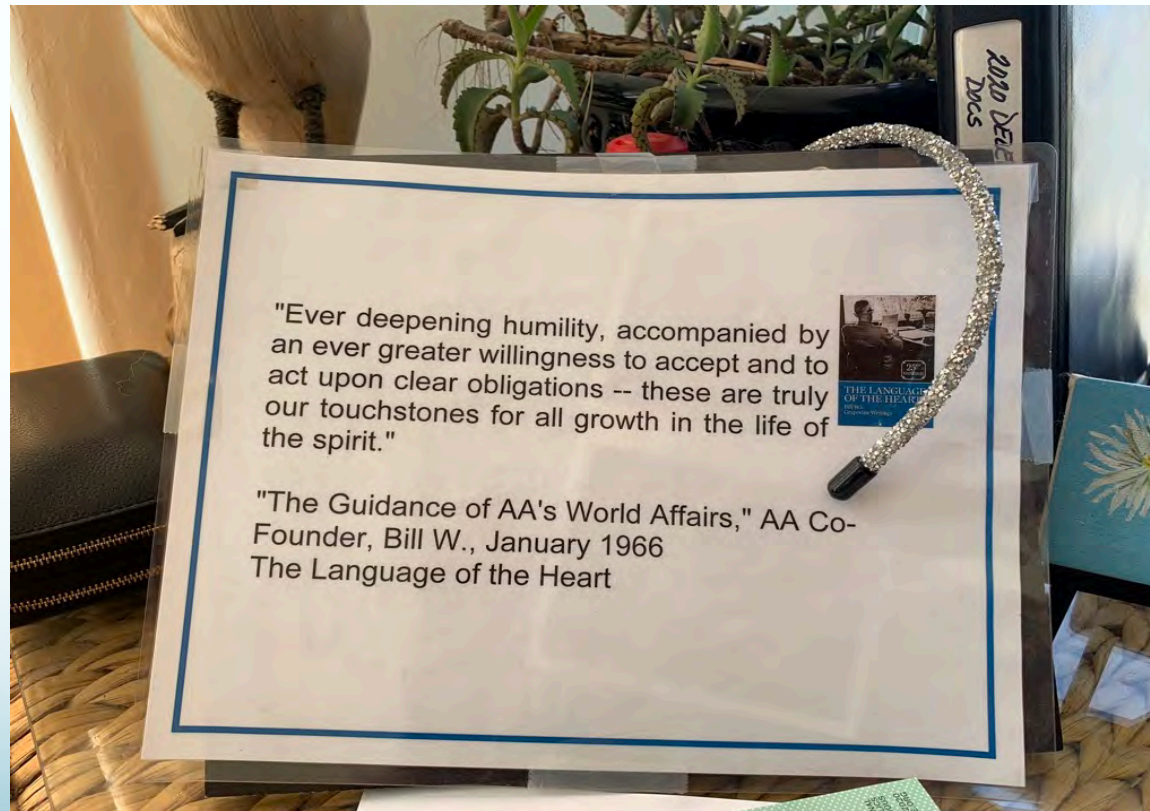
My view for the week....

No Dorothy -
this isn't Kansas!

It isn't Brooklyn either!

My responsibility today is report to you “what I saw and heard and felt” during the eight days of conference.

That responsibility and accountability doesn't end today. I have already begun to add reports to the reconvening CARCs and District meetings to the calendar.



Saturday began with the virtual hospitality meeting!

It was a great opportunity to interact with the other members of the 71st GSC.

A game of Kahoot started the day, followed by floating in and out of randomly selected breakout rooms.

The remote communities meeting was followed by a presentation by our AA Archivist Michelle Mirza. She gave us a preview of the “Pandemic Collection” that is in the process of being built that will Make sure that the happenings of this unprecedented time in our history Is documented for our fellowship.

The “**Remote Communities**” meeting was a highlight of the day with some interesting insights:

- ✧ Areas of the Hispanic AA Community are becoming remote communities as they are heavily impacted by technology challenges
- ✧ In some remote areas a longer period of rotation could help with sustaining connection to AA service entities
- ✧ AA Service is considered a remote community is an area because it appears to be exclusive and not inclusive (this was a VERY interesting discussion)

DIFFERENCES FROM IN PERSON CONFERENCE

- No Opening Banquet
- No meals together
- No book signing
- All materials distributed electronically and printed at home
- No hugs or handshakes
- No hallway conversations with new people

71st GSC CONFERENCE FORMAT/GUIDELINES

- ✧ Full Conference Time and Format – Same as In Person
- ✧ Rotating Chair Position

Michelle Grinberg – Chairperson GSB /Class A Trustee

Christine Carpenter – Class A Trustee

David N. - Class B Trustee

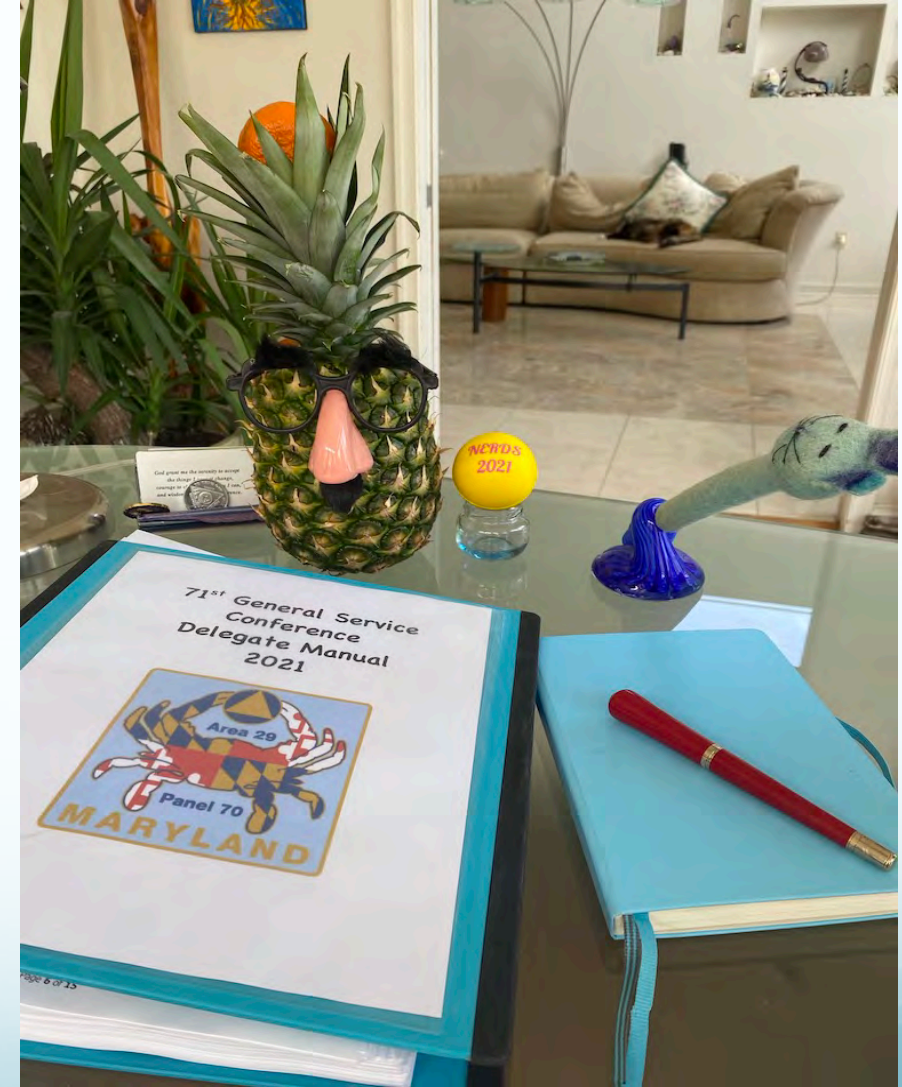
Zoom Conference Modifications

- ✧ Tech 12 Zoom Operators – All members of AA
- ✧ Designated people for motions, seconds, points of order, clarifications, points of information put in the chat to designated persons
- ✧ “Ushers” to staff Waiting Room and Assist as Needed
- ✧ Any non-voting attendees moved to breakout room during all voting
- ✧ All voting via anonymous polling



Thanks to my
friends in
Area 29
for the fruit basket!

Which quickly
became the source
of my
71st GSC mascot!





THE SERENITY GROUP

An open A.A. meeting held during the 71st General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous

Sunday, April 18, – Friday, April 23, 2021

10:30 a.m. EST Fellowship

10:45 – 11:45 a.m. EST Serenity Group

**The days began in gratitude for the gift of sobriety
We even got a bonus meeting on Saturday morning!**



And so it begins!

“Present!”

Conference Business Data Analysis

71st General Service Conference		
1	Agenda	10
2	CPC	4
3	Corrections	3
4	Finance	9
5	Grapvine and La Viña	6
6	Literature	37
7	Policy/Admissions	10
8	Public Information	10
9	Report and Charter	5
10	Treatment and Accessibilities	4
11	Trustees	8
12	Archives	2
13	ICRF	2
<u>Total Final Agenda Items</u>		<u>110</u>

71st General Service Conference		
1	Agenda	3
2	CPC	3
3	Corrections	1
4	Finance	2
5	Grapvine and La Viña	1
6	Literature	15
7	Policy/Admissions	5
8	Public Information	7
9	Report and Charter	4
10	Treatment and Accessibilities	1
11	Trustees	5
12	Archives	0
13	ICRF	0
<u>Total Committee Recommendations</u>		<u>47</u>

71st General Service Conference		
1	Floor Action	1
2	Floor Action	1
3	Floor Action	1
4	Floor Action	1
5	Floor Action	1
6	Floor Action	1
<u>Total Submitted Floor Actions</u>		<u>6</u>

71st General Service Conference		
Total pages of Conference Background		1487

71st General Service Conference		
1	Agenda	3
2	CPC	3
3	Corrections	1
4	Finance	2
5	Grapvine and La Viña	1
6	Literature	14
7	Policy/Admissions	5
8	Public Information	7
9	Report and Charter	4
10	Treatment and Accessibilities	1
11	Trustees	4
12	Archives	0
13	ICRF	0
14	Floor Actions	4
<u>Total Advisory Actions</u>		<u>49</u>

71st General Service Conference		
1	Agenda	6
2	CPC	1
3	Corrections	4
4	Finance	10
5	Grapvine and La Viña	6
6	Literature	26
7	Policy/Admissions	7
8	Public Information	9
9	Report and Charter	3
10	Treatment and Accessibilities	8
11	Trustees	5
12	Archives	2
13	ICRF	2
<u>Total Committee Considerations</u>		<u>89</u>

71st General Service Conference		
1	Agenda	0
2	CPC	0
3	Corrections	0
4	Finance	0
5	Grapvine and La Viña	0
6	Literature	1
7	Policy/Admissions	2
8	Public Information	0
9	Report and Charter	0
10	Treatment and Accessibilities	0
11	Trustees	1
12	Archives	0
13	ICRF	0
14	Floor Actions	2
<u>Total Recommendations and Floor Actions</u>		
<u>Not Resulting in Advisory Actions</u>		<u>6</u>

71st General Service Conference - Hours in Session

# Days	Day	Start Time	End Time	Planned Hours in Session - must remove 1 hour A.A. meeting a.	Add-On Hours To Get Work Completed	Total Hours in Session
1	Saturday	11 a.m.	8:30 p.m.	7.75		7.75
2	Sunday	Noon	9 p.m.	6.5		6.5
3	Monday	9:45 a.m.	10:30 p.m.	10.75		10.75
4	Tuesday	Noon	9:15 p.m.	7.25		7.25
5	Wednesday	1:30 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	6.75		6.75
6	Thursday	Noon	9:30 p.m.	6.75	0.5	7.25
7	Friday	Noon	11:10 p.m.	8.75	0.5	9.25
8	Saturday	11 a.m.	Midnite	7.5	4.5	12
9	Sunday	Midnite	2:15 a.m.	0	2.25	2.25
	Total			62	7.75	69.75

- a. *Daily work hours detailed on the 2021 Conference Week Schedule included the one hour A.A. Serenity Meeting - removed one hour here.*
- b. *Monday hour totals include the 4 hours of Regional Election Caucus Meetings.*
- c. *There are hours that Staff, Tech and the Dais Team and Conference members worked in addition to the "planned session" hours.*

71st General Service Conference - Break Time

Day	Planned Hours on Break	Ad-On Break Time	Total hours on Break
Saturday	1.75		1.75
Sunday	2.5		2.5
Monday	2		2
Tuesday	2		2
Wednesday	3		3
Thursday	2.25	1	3.25
Friday	1.75		1.75
Saturday	1	0.5	1.5
	16.25		17.75

2009-2021 Agenda Items per Conference Committee

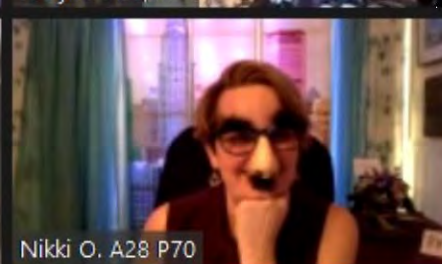
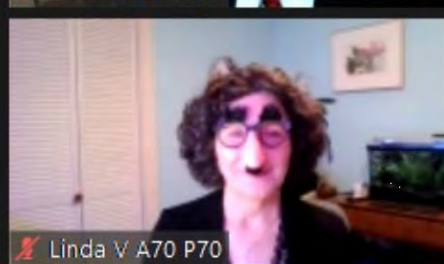
	Average	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Agenda	4.0	10	7	5	6	10	4	6	4	3	5	6	4	4
Archives	1.8	2	2	2	4	3	2	1	2	4	2	1	2	2
C.P.C.	3.1	4	4	3	5	7	5	1	3	4	4	7	1	3
Corrections	2.8	3	1	3	2	4	3	3	3	5	4	3	6	4
Finance	3.5	9	4	4	2	9	5	5	2	3	6	5	6	3
Grapevine and La Viña	4.7	6	8	4	7	11	3	9	8	4	5	7	4	3
I.C./Regional Forums	2.1	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	4	2	2	3	3
Literature	7.7	37	26	16	21	13	9	7	9	6	7	9	9	10
Policy/Admissions	5.1	10	7	7	7	13	5	4	6	7	4	9	5	6
Public Information	8.5	10	15	11	11	12	9	11	11	9	11	9	13	14
Report and Charter	7.9	5	5	3	9	8	9	11	9	11	10	10	12	14
Treatment/Acc	3.4	4	5	7	6	5	3	2	3	6	4	5	5	5
Trustees	5.4	8	6	7	8	10	7	7	5	7	6	6	6	8
<i>Average Items Per Committee</i>	4.61	8.46	7.15	5.77	7.00	8.31	5.08	5.31	5.23	5.62	5.38	6.08	5.85	6.08
Total Agenda Items*		110	93	75	91	108	66	69	68	73	70	79	76	79

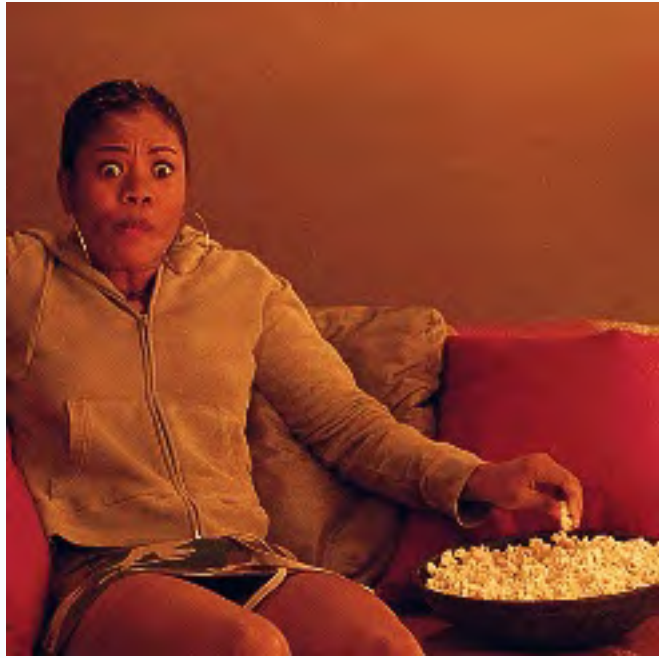


The North East Region (home of the NERDs) is comprised of 18 Areas in the US from New England to Washington DC .

1. Area 11/ Connecticut
2. Area 12 /Delaware
3. Area13/ Washington DC
4. Area 28/ Maine
5. Area 29/ Maryland
6. Area 30/ E. Massachusetts
7. Area 31/ W. Massachusetts
8. Area 43/ New Hampshire
9. Area 44/ N. New Jersey
10. Area 45/ S. New Jersey
11. Area 47/ Central New York
12. Area 48/ Hudson/Mohawk/Berkshire NY
13. Area 49/ SE New York
14. Area 50/ W. New York
15. Area 59/ E. Pennsylvania
16. Area 60/ W. Pennsylvania
17. Area 61/ Rhode Island
18. Area 70/ Vermont

NERDS! + NERT





And up next:
**THE
FINANCIALS**

AROUND THE PICNIC TABLE



Leslie Backus
Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustee
General Service Board Treasurer

2020 GSO FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ 7th Tradition of Self-Support – \$10.26 million set another record, up 15.80% from \$8.86 million in 2019
- ❖ Cost of Services - \$10.81 million down 14.9% from \$12.70 million in 2019
- ❖ Self-Support - covered 94.9% of cost of services compared to 69.8% in 2019
- ❖ AAWS publishing gross profits – \$6.58 million down 29.70% from \$9.36 million in 2019, used to cover \$550K shortfall between 7th Tradition Contributions and Cost of Services

2020 GRAPEVINE FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Grapevine paid print subscriptions decreased 4.5% in 2020. Subscriptions for the online and mobile app magazine increased 7.7%
- ❖ 2020 Grapevine results were a gross profit of \$1.231 M on the magazine and a gross profit of \$354,304 on other published items. Operating expenses of \$1.914 M resulted in an overall loss of \$298,699 compared to a loss of \$27,303 in 2019.
- ❖ General Fund support of La Viña service activity was \$385,771 in 2020 compared to \$297,392 in 2019.
- ❖ La Viña magazine circulation decreased by 36.6% in 2020 after several years of growth.

2021 GSO BUDGET

- ❖ Total revenue \$15,594,000 compared to \$16,926,318 in 2020.
 - ❖ Contributions \$9,725,000 compared to \$10,256,687 in 2020.
 - ❖ Gross literature profit \$5,639,400 compared to \$6,582,266 in 2020.
- ❖ Total operating expense \$15,652,814 compared to \$16,446,727 in 2020.
- ❖ Operating deficit of \$58,814 not including pension expenses compared to \$479,571 surplus in 2020.

2020 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Amounts in \$	2020 ACTUAL	2020 BUDGET	COMPARED TO 2020 BUDGET	2019 ACTUAL	COMPARED TO 2019 ACTUAL
GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE					
7 th Tradition Contributions	10.26 M	9.0 M	1.26 M (14.0%) increase	8.86 M	1.40 M (15.80%) increase
Literature Gross Profit	6.58 M	9.8 M	3.22 M (32.9%) decrease	9.36 M	2.78 M (29.70%) decrease
Net Income	(2.1) M	1.0 K	2.1 M decrease	(0.3) M	1.8 M decrease
GRAPEVINE & LA VIÑA					
Average Circulation	68,572	67,802	770 increase	71,182	2,610 (3.67%) decrease
Net Income (Loss)	(299 K)	4.6 K	303 K decrease	(27) K	3 K (6.81%) better
General Fund support of La Viña service activity	386 K	317 K	69 K increase	297 K	89 K (29.96%) increase
RESERVE FUND					
Coverage Ratio	7.9 months	9.4 months	Decrease of 1.5 months (16.0%)	9.3 Months	Decrease of 1.4 months (15.1%)
M – millions; K – thousands					

2020 Financial Results – What Happened?

- ❖ We are grateful to the fellowship for your generous response to our 7th tradition messages which increased contributions by \$1.4 M compared to 2019.
- ❖ The pandemic caused literature gross profit to decline by \$2.78M compared to 2019.
- ❖ \$1.2 M in VRIP severance payments
- ❖ \$3.6 M in pension related expenses.
 - ❖ \$5.1 M VRIP pension payments for participants who elected a lump sum payment instead of payments spread over their lifespan. (paid from pension fund not general fund)
 - ❖ Less \$1.5M savings in the amount needed to pay expected benefits over retiree lifetimes
- ❖ Travel, meals, and accommodations decreased by \$1.1 M due to the pandemic.

7TH TRADITION – 2020 – \$10.26 MILLION

**24,779
GROUPS -
\$5,970,304**

**INDIVIDUALS -
\$4,286,383**

**TOTAL 7TH
TRADITION
\$10,256,687**

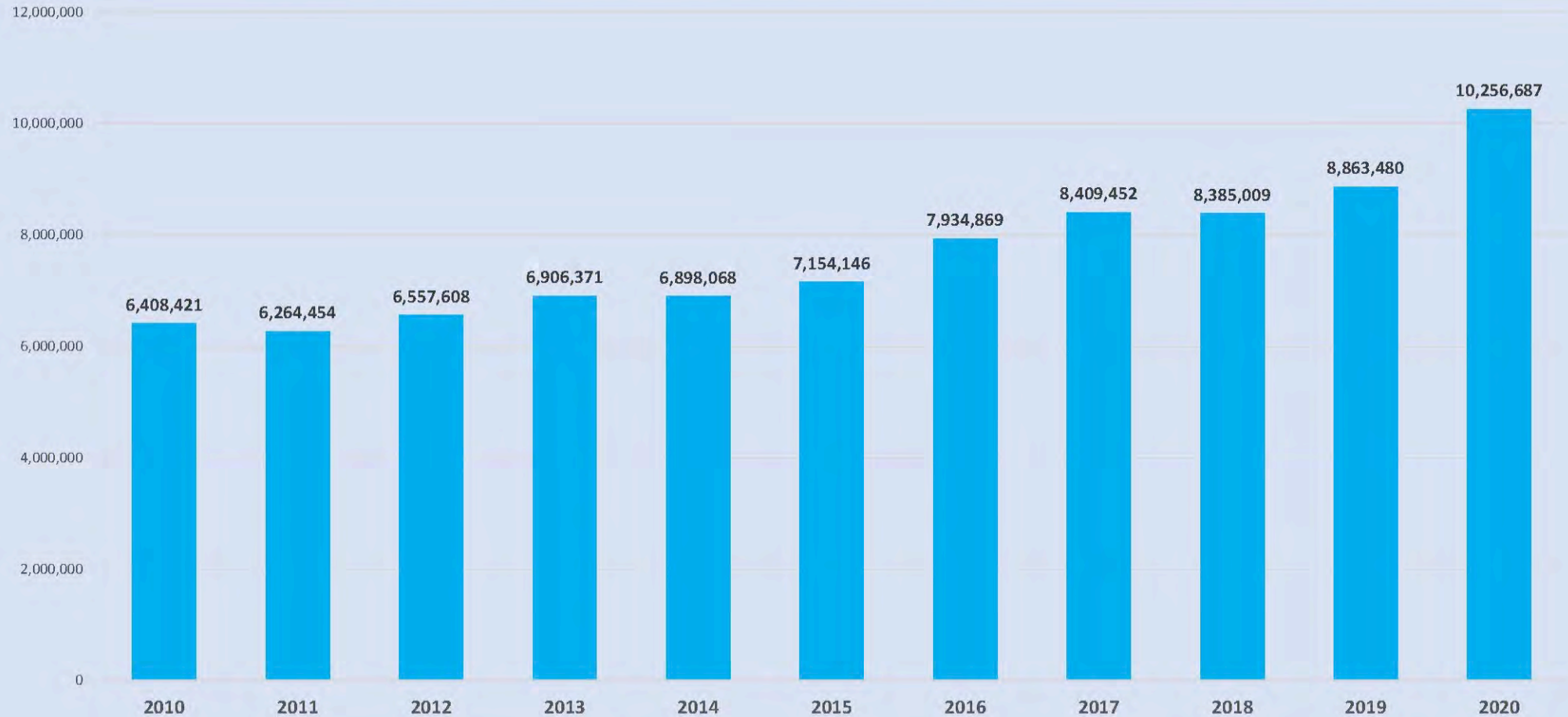
**2ND
CONSECUTIVE
RECORD 7TH
TRADITION**

IMPACT OF PANDEMIC ON 7TH TRADITION

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS	2020	2019
Amount contributed by groups	\$6.0 million	\$6.9 million
Number of groups contributing	24,779	28,180
Percent of groups contributing	34.8%	40.6%
Average group contribution	\$238.95	\$245.94

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	2020	2019
Amount contributed by individuals	\$4.3 million	\$1.9 million
Per capita contribution	\$6.81	\$6.09

7TH TRADITION SELF-SUPPORT – 2010 – 2020



GROWTH OF ON-LINE CONTRIBUTIONS 2010 – 2020



A DOLLAR IS NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE

1935: \$1.00



Remember inflation
when deciding upon
your

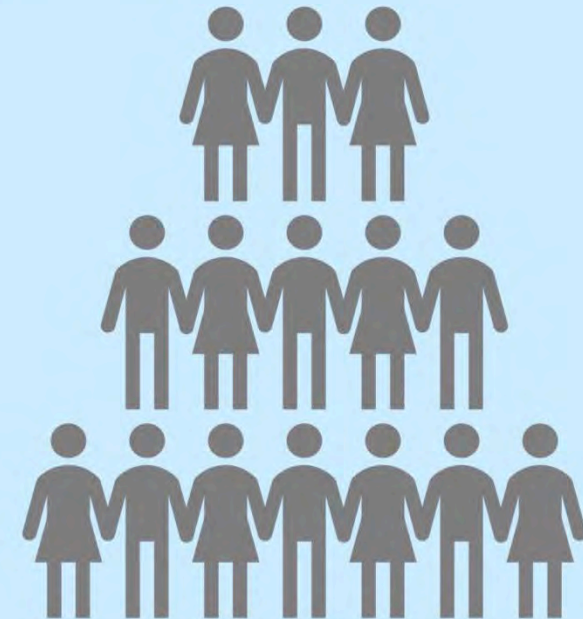
7th Tradition

Self-Support

Contributions for:

- Group Meetings
- Online Recurring Contributions
- Birthday Gifts
- November Gratitude Month

2020: \$19.18
3.54% annual inflation

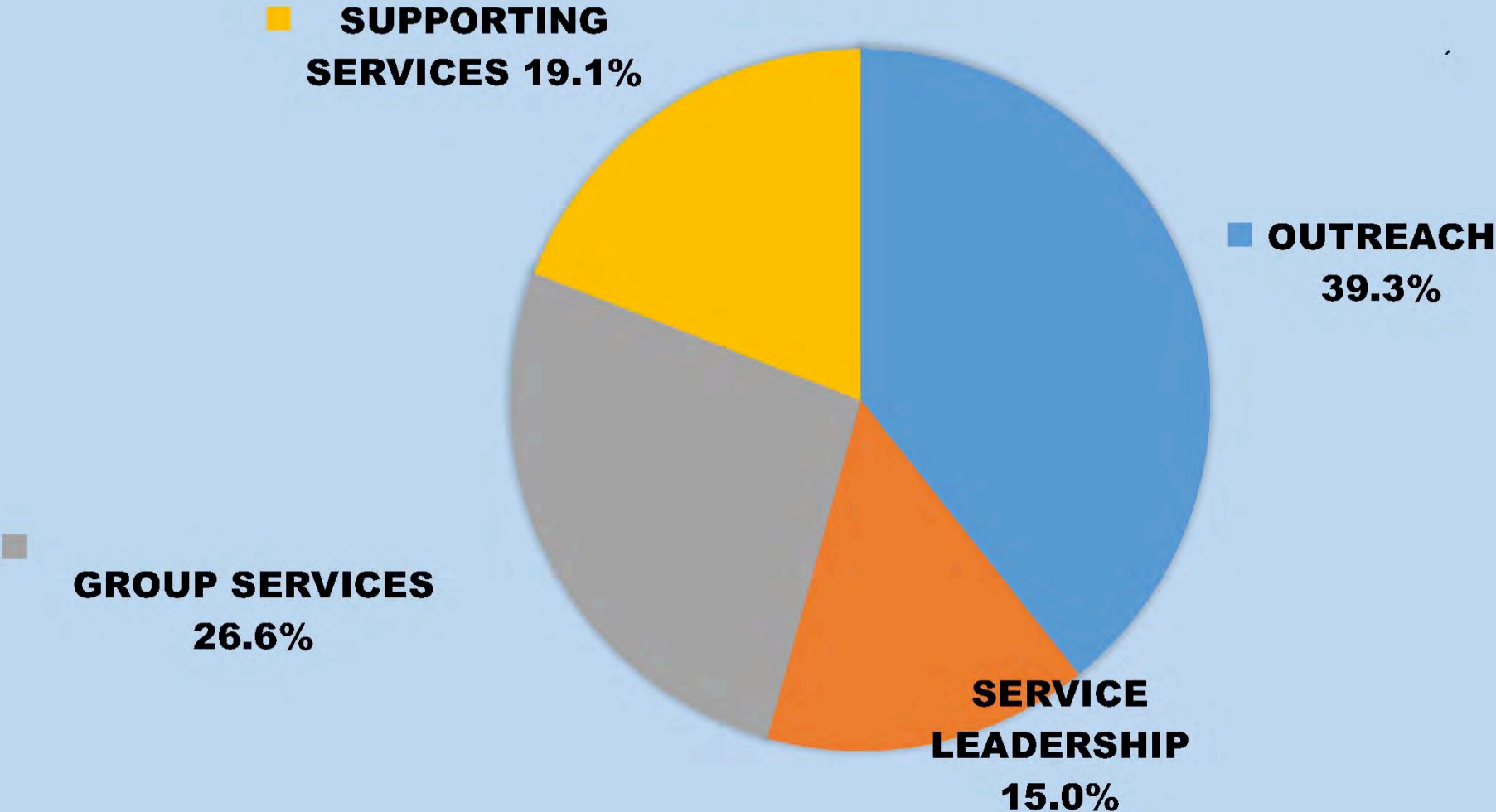


BIG BOOK – UNITS SOLD (thousands) – 2000– 2020



* Excludes 75th Anniversary Edition

**COST OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE FELLOWSHIP –
2020– \$10.8 M**



2020 PRUDENT RESERVE


Beginning Balance January 1, 2020	16,204,773
Investment Earnings	245,191
Drawdowns	4,000,000
Ending Balance December 31, 2020	12,449,964


Composition of Ending Balance	
Cash	1,063,149
Certificates of Deposit (CDARs)	12,610,224
Accrued Interest	250,091
Less Grapevine subscription liability	(1,473,500)
Ending Balance	12,449,964

2020 PRUDENT RESERVE

- Why did we need \$4 million from the Reserve Fund?
- The simplest answer is that we had many items which required cash and there was not enough cash on hand.
- The longer answer is that literature sales were down significantly at a time when there was a need for cash to meet our obligations.
- At year end gross profit from literature sales was \$6.58 M, 32.9% less than a budget of \$9.8 M and 29.7% less than 2019 gross profit of \$9.36 M.

2020 PRUDENT RESERVE

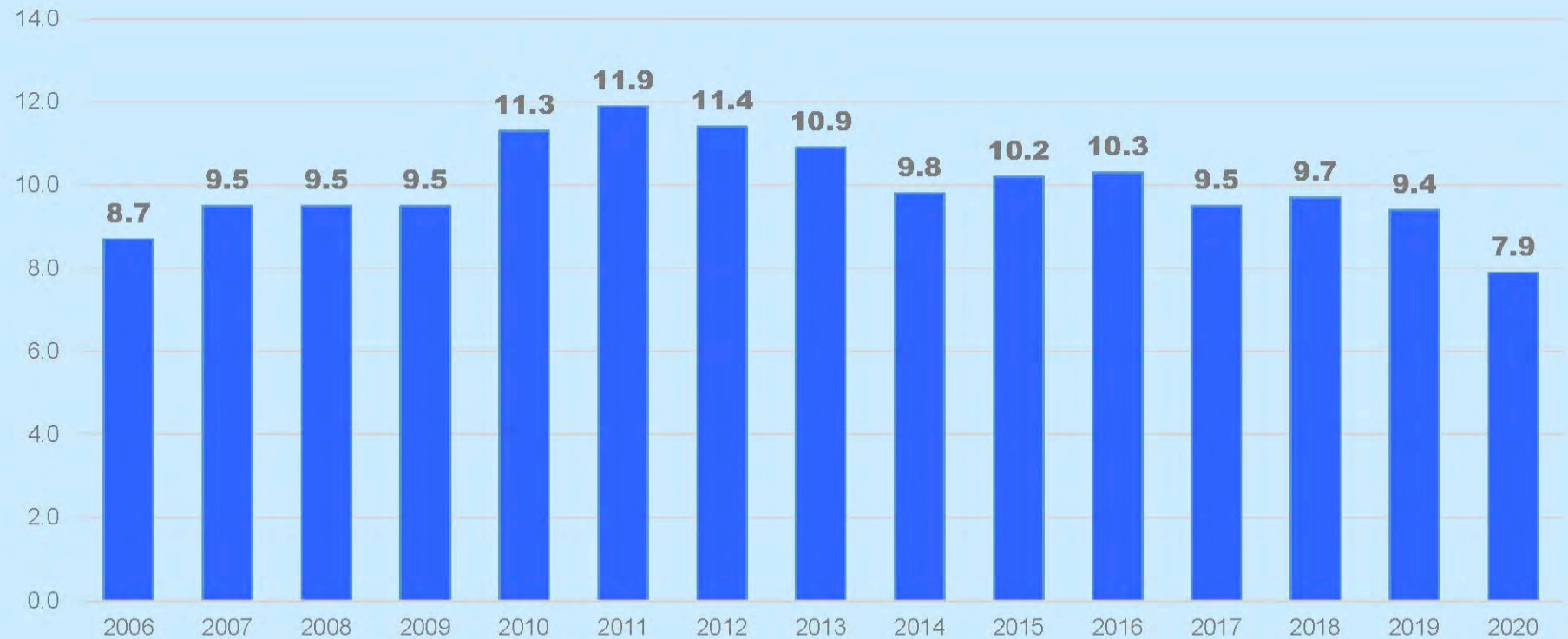
- 
- Several long term projects were moving toward completion, including the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program, the completion of the 8th floor, Netsuite Implementation and the work on the new website.

- 
- In addition we needed the cash to refund registration fees and pay vendors for the International Convention prior to receiving the insurance settlement.

USES OF GSB'S RESERVE FUND

- ❖ Concept of GSB's Prudent Reserve – not same as in your Home Group's reserve
- ❖ GSB's Reserve Fund covers much more
 - Operating shortfalls between revenues and expenses
 - Capital construction projects
 - Lease guarantees
 - Pension obligations
 - Retirement medical obligations
 - Litigations and legal liabilities
 - **Any other unknowns**

RESERVE FUND RATIO NUMBER OF MONTHS COVERAGE 2006– 2020



RESERVE FUND

Cut Costs

- In 2020 expenses were reduced by 1.5M in non personnel cost
- Find more innovative ways to keep costs down

Increase 7th Tradition Support

- Continue to let the fellowship know what is happening at GSO and show how the work to carry the message continues

Increase the Reserve

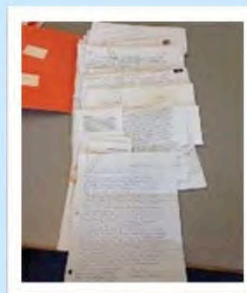
- Develop a plan to insure the reserve fund is adequately funded for future needs

2020 COVID-19 IMPACT

SERVICES CONTINUE AT AAWS AND GRAPEVINE



Over 125,000
Alcoholics provided with
digital Grapevine
subscriptions free of charge

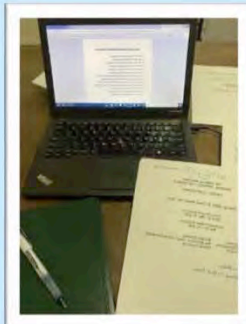


1,800
Pieces of inmate correspondence
1,200 members behind the
walls connected to members
outside

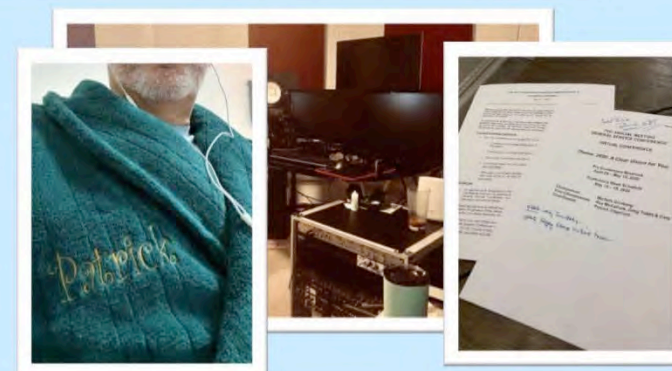
March 2020

December 2020

More than 90,000
emails/phone calls answered
requesting information or help
from GSO, since the office
physically closed on March 20.



One
Completely virtual General
Service Conference
designed from the
kitchens, living rooms and
home offices across the
US and Canada



IMPACT OF PANDEMIC ON REVENUE DISTRIBUTION



2020 UPDATE COVID-19 IMPACT

KEY TALKING POINTS FOR THE FELLOWSHIP

1

A.A. is still here! We actually thrive in uncertainty— hope remains, and the message continues to be carried

2

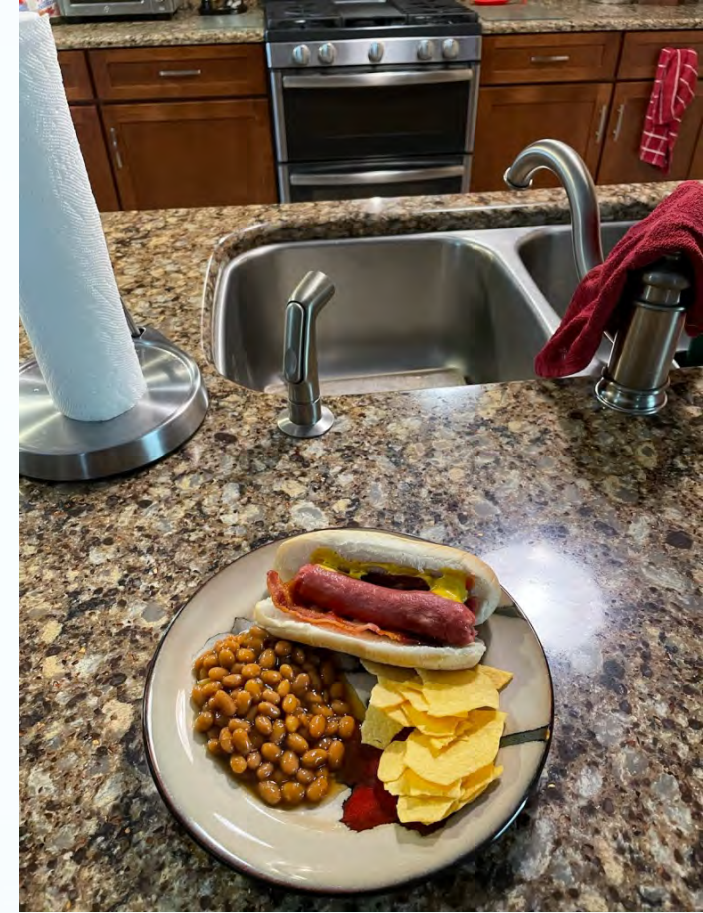
Our prudent reserve is designed precisely for this situation and will carry us through until the membership can get us back on our feet

3

This remains an unprecedented time in the world and a pivotal moment for A.A. Now is the time for our membership to continue to demonstrate what self-supporting really means

Questions?

"Are they hot-dogs or legs ??"



Take a Break

- ❖ **Get up**
- ❖ **Stretch**
- ❖ **Walk Around**

We will see you in 15 minutes

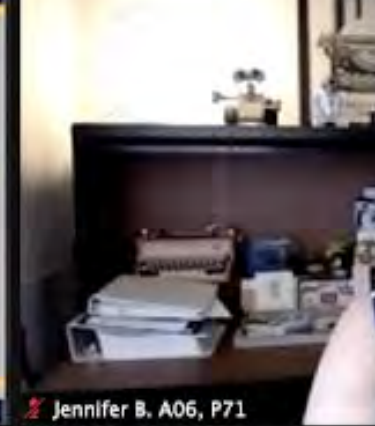
We have more to discover!



Todd D. A47 P71



Lead Tech - Matt Colonna



Jennifer B. A06, P71



Diana L - GSO Staff



Wayne H A65 P71



Carlos L. Panel 70/Area 77



Conference Committee on Trustees

The Conference Committee on Trustees met on three different occasions leading up to the Joint Meeting with the trustees' Nominating Committee on Monday, April 5, 2021.

We then met separately three times following the Joint meeting:

April 18, 2021 – 5:15 - 6:50 p.m.

April 19, 2021 – Noon - 4:15 p.m.

April 20, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. - 2:05 p.m. (this meeting began two hours early to assure time to finish critical business)

The committee agreed that the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most important treasure we have as a Fellowship. The committee also agreed that A.A.'s service structure is equally valuable.

The committee appreciated the extensive additional input provided by the interim general manager of G.S.O. and the chair of the A.A.W.S. Board. The committee noted that the General Service Board and A.A.W.S. board have a good understanding on finances and organizational strategy and expressed appreciation for the progress being made related to bringing modern communication formats and financial reporting to the General Service Office.

The committee also discussed the authority delegated to the General Service Board and legal responsibilities involving communication, financial prudence, and transparency. The committee noted that several major decisions previously made by the General Service Board and corporate affiliate, A.A.W.S. Inc., were not fully or promptly reported out to the Fellowship. The committee recognized that the lack of providing clear, comprehensible answers in a timely manner has caused many in the Fellowship to have strong feelings on all sides of this issue.

This recommendation passed on a simple majority vote but did not achieve the two thirds vote to become Conference Advisory Actions.

- The General Service Conference charge the General Service Board with the setup of quarterly virtual meetings of Conference Members, to begin following the October 2021 General Service Board Weekend. These meetings would follow several weeks after each Quarterly Board Meeting, to allow Conference Members the opportunity to request additional information, ask clarifying questions, and to secure a greater sense of transparency.

Committee considerations:

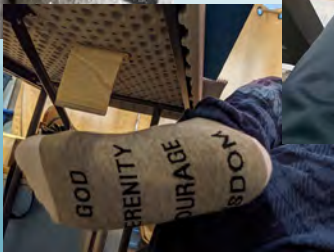
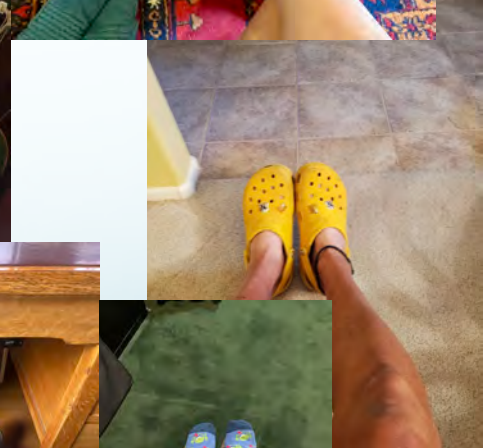
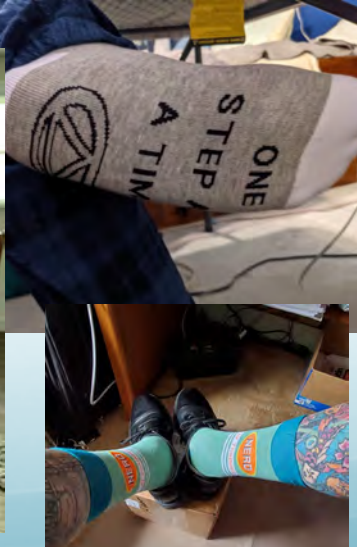
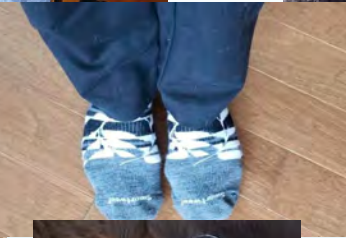
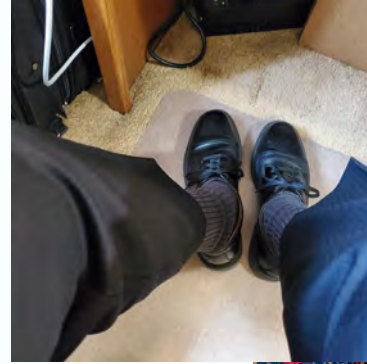
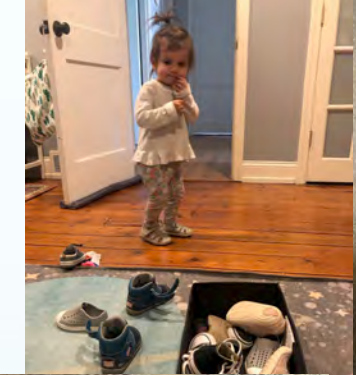
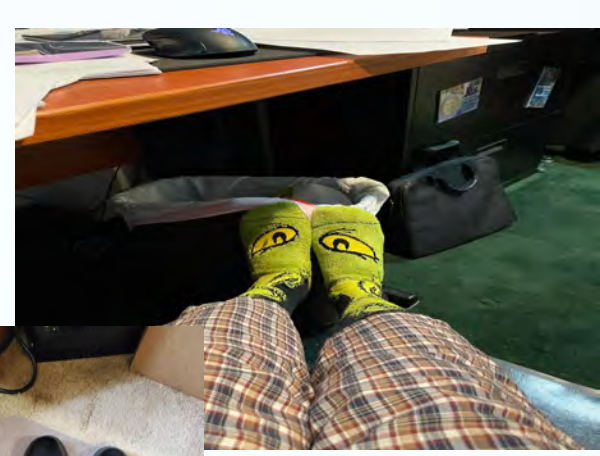
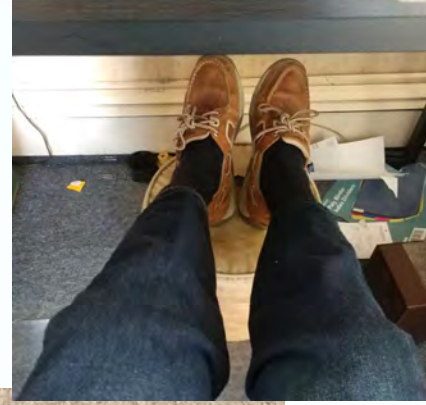
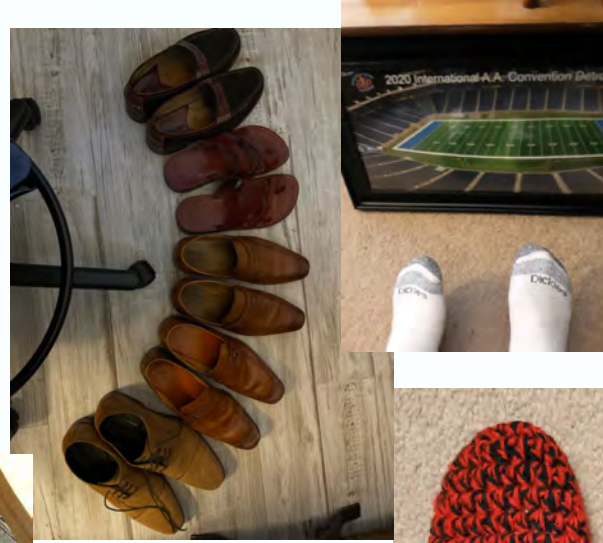
- ✧ The committee reviewed the resumes, and approved as eligible for election, all Class B trustee candidates for the East Central region, Southeast region, and trustee-at-Large/U.S.
- ✧ The committee encourages the General Service Board to actively pursue the exploration of thread-based forums and new communication models to improve communication between the General Service Board and the Fellowship.
- ✧ The committee reviewed the status report provided by the chair of the General Service Board in response to a committee consideration from the 2020 Conference Committee on Trustees regarding amending the Bylaws of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., Article III, Directors regarding proposed new member trustees. The committee noted the ideas from the author about changing the relationship of the three corporations to each other and to the Conference.

✧ The committee reviewed and discussed the revised “Procedures for a Partial or Complete Reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or AA Grapevine Boards,” and requested that the trustees’ Nominating Committee consider further review, with specific attention placed upon on the time frame and procedure for the selection of Regional Trustees. The committee appreciated the details and comprehensive work in the revised plan and made editorial suggestions to mirror the updated Conference Charter. The committee requested that a revised plan be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Trustees.

**71st GSC Conference
Approved Attire,
Comfortable Footwear**

N
E
R
D

Attire
and
Foot
wear



2021 Trustee Elections Results:

✧ East Central Region – Cathy C

✧ South East Region – Tom H

✧ Our New Trustee at Large US
Marita R.

Nevada - Area 42

(The TAL candidate from the NE Region
was Ken T E. Mass. Area 30)

And now the Committee recommendations!

**The rest of the work of the conference week
beginning during the evening session on Wednesday...**

Robert's Rules of Order was the star of the show

Heard often during the week:

Point of Order!

Call the Question!

Motion to Reconsider!

Motion to Recommit!



It was recommended that:

Agenda

- ✧ The following theme for the 2022 General Service Conference: “A.A. Comes of Age: Unified in Love and Service.”
- ✧ The following presentation/discussion topics for the 2022 General Service Conference:
 1. How do A.A.s go to any lengths to Recover, Unify, and Serve?
 2. Going Beyond Fear
 3. How to Reach Anyone, Anywhere
- ✧ The following workshop topic for the 2022 General Service Conference:
The Warranties – Our Promise to the Fellowship and the World.

It was recommended that:

Cooperation with the Professional Community

✧ The goals expressed in the 2018 Advisory Action establishing a dynamic A.A.W.S. LinkedIn page be implemented by G.S.O., to provide current and relevant content about A.A. to professionals in accordance with A.A. principles and Traditions; and that a progress report on the usefulness and effectiveness of implementing these updates on the A.A.W.S. LinkedIn page be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community.

✧ The trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee develop a pamphlet directed to mental health professionals. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2022 Conference Committee Cooperation with the Professional Community.

✧ That the updated draft pamphlet “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous” be approved with minor editorial changes and retitled “Faith Leaders Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous.”

It was recommended that:

Corrections

- ✧ Revisions be made to A.A.W.S. literature directed to members behind the walls and that the terms “inmate” and “offender” be replaced with “person in custody.”

This item had extensive discussion!

It was recommended that:

Finance

- ✧ A watermark with the word “SAMPLE” be added to the 2nd and 3rd pie charts on page 13 of the pamphlet, “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.”
- ✧ The following language to the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” be revised:
 - On page 7 after the bulleted section entitled “A.A.’s General Service Office”:

Please note that not all areas, districts, intergroups and central offices follow these divisions of service for institutions work, cooperation with the professional community, public information, etc. Therefore, prior to making contributions in your area, please find out which entity is providing these services and allocate your contributions accordingly.

- On page 13 after the pie chart examples and before the question, “Where should I send contributions?”:

Duties of the entities notated above are described on page 7 of this pamphlet. Performance of these service duties vary from area to area. Please be sure to inquire which services these entities provide in YOUR area and contribute accordingly.

It was recommended that:

Grapevine and La Viña

- ✧ The AA Grapevine Board implement an Instagram account and that a report on the Instagram account be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.

It was recommended that:

Literature

- ✧ The “A.A.W.S. Policy on Conversion of Written Conference-approved Literature and Service Material into Video Format,” approved by the A.A. World Services, Inc. Board of Directors in January 2020, be acknowledged and accepted by the General Service Conference.
- ✧ A Fifth Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action that: “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion,’ ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,’ and the Appendices remain as is,” and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.
- ✧ Pending its development, the draft Fifth Edition of the Big Book would include a new foreword, an updated preface and updates to expand on existing ideas in Appendices III and V.

It was recommended that:

Literature cont.

✧ A revision be made to page 117 in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, replacing the phrase “opposite sex” with the word “partner” as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context to the change as it relates to inclusivity:

The text on page 117 which currently reads:

"Nearly every sound human being, experiences at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way. ..."

Be revised to read:

"Nearly every sound human being, experiences at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a partner with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way..."



Rule #62
This rule governs the...

H.R.L.T.

NETD'S
2021

Play-Doh

71st General Service
Conference
Delegate Manual
2021



Handwritten notes in cursive:

Monday - General Session 4:30
Opening 5:00
Round table - 5:30
Plenary 6:00
2nd 7:00
3rd 8:00
4th 9:00
5th 10:00
6th 11:00
7th 12:00
8th 1:00
9th 2:00
10th 3:00
11th 4:00
12th 5:00
13th 6:00
14th 7:00
15th 8:00
16th 9:00
17th 10:00
18th 11:00
19th 12:00
20th 1:00
21st 2:00
22nd 3:00
23rd 4:00
24th 5:00
25th 6:00
26th 7:00
27th 8:00
28th 9:00
29th 10:00
30th 11:00
31st 12:00

It was recommended that:

Literature cont.

- ✧ The sentence which includes the phrase “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six” of the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, be revised to refer to the Seven Deadly Sins without specific mention of examples that are severe in nature as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context as to the basis for the change:

The text on page 66 which currently reads:

"No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health."

Be revised to read:

"No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony."

It was recommended that:

Literature cont.

- ✧ The pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic” be updated to include fresh stories and a new title that is respectful and inclusive and that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.
- ✧ The existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” not be retired.
- ✧ The draft update of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” be approved with the working title, “Experience Has Taught Us: Our Twelve Traditions Illustrated.
- ✧ The Long Form of each Tradition be included at the end of each essay for that Tradition in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, and that the complete set of Traditions at the back of the book be retained as is.
- ✧ A Fourth Edition of the book, Alcohólicos Anónimos, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership, and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

It was recommended that:

Literature cont.

- ✧ The pamphlet, “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.” be revised by omitting the text on page 17 “...including coffee, sandwiches, cakes or whatever else may be served,” as follows:

The line on page 17 currently reads:

“...to defray the cost of renting a meeting place and other meeting expenses, including coffee, sandwiches, cakes or whatever else may be served.”

Be revised to read:

“...to defray the cost of renting a meeting place and other meeting expenses.”

It was recommended that:

Literature cont.

- ✧ The paragraph containing the suggestion that sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex on page 12 in the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” be revised as follows:

The paragraph on page 12 currently reads:

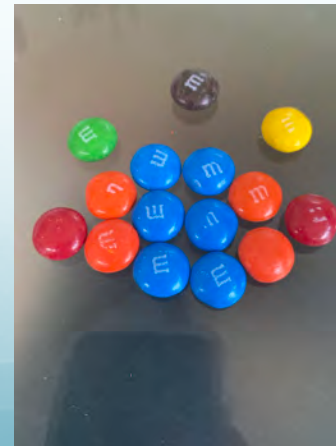
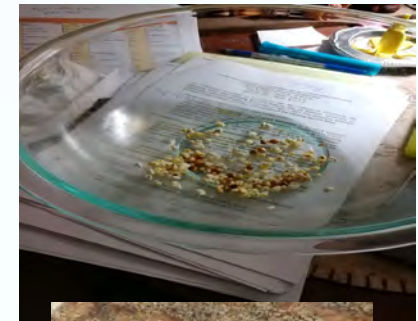
In most instances, A.A. custom does suggest one limitation, already noted on page 10: If the group is large enough to allow a choice, sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex. The reasons are the same from both viewpoints; we A.A. members, no matter how long we have been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from “our primary purpose.”

Be revised to read:

A.A. custom does suggest one limitation: sponsorship should be avoided whenever a romantic entanglement might arise between sponsor and sponsee. We A.A. members, no matter how long we have been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from “our primary purpose.”



Can you say SNACKS!



Take a Break

- ❖ **Get up**
- ❖ **Stretch**
- ❖ **Walk Around**
- ❖ **We have more committees to cover**

Our NERDs Thrive Bags



Yes there was lots of chocolate involved but alas none of it survived long enough to be pictured!

It was recommended that:

Literature cont.

- ✧ The draft pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women in A.A. be approved.
- ✧ A draft version of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition), be translated into plain and simple language and be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible and that a progress report or draft be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

And the literature committee was finished, however they had six items that were not addresses because there simple was not enough time. Those items can be found in the Committee Considerations document.

It was recommended that:

Policy/Admissions

- ✧ Krishna M.V., general secretary of the General Service Board of A.A. India, be admitted to the 71st General Service Conference as an observer.
(Note: This agenda item was approved using the Conference Polling process.)
- ✧ The trustees' General Service Conference Committee develop a process for polling the General Service Conference between annual meetings that makes use of virtual meeting technologies, in order to enable real-time discussion and debate, broad participation, and greater efficiency than the current process.
- ✧ The Equitable Distribution of Workload Process, as detailed in the Report from the 2020 Trustees' General Service Conference Committee, be implemented for the 72nd General Service Conference on a three-year trial basis, with a progress report to be brought to the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions after each year of the trial.

It was recommended that:

Policy/Admissions Cont.

- ✧ The U.S./Canada General Service Structure recognize online groups and encourage their participation, listing those groups who ask to be listed within the group's preferred district and area, with the default option being the location of the group's primary contact. This supersedes the 1997 Advisory Action that designated online groups as "International Correspondence Meetings."
- ✧ The General Service Board form a committee to explore future possibilities for the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada General Service structure.

It was recommended that:

Public Information

- ✧ In keeping with the “Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or Its Affiliates,” the video PSA utilizing full face actors “Party” (working title) *be approved with the following revisions:*
That the voiceover “scratch tracks” be replaced, and other minor editorial edits to be conducted in post-production.
- ✧ In keeping with the “Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or Its Affiliates,” the video PSA utilizing full face actors “Wall” (working title) *be approved with the following revisions:*
That the voiceover “scratch tracks” be replaced, and other minor editorial edits to be conducted in post-production.
- ✧ In addition to the work of local committees, one to two PSAs be centrally distributed to broadcast media, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$60,000, and that the information gathered from the process be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information.

It was recommended that:

Public Information Cont.

- ✧ A feasibility study on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms including, but not limited to, Netflix, Hulu and YouTube be conducted and that a report on the research be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- ✧ Podcasts providing sharing within the Fellowship and information about A.A. to the public be produced and distributed by G.S.O. in cooperation with the Grapevine Office. The committee requested that a progress report on the development and implementation of podcasts be forwarded to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information.

The committee noted that podcasts would serve as a new format to produce “service material” to communicate on topics with similar sharing that can be found in *Box 4-5-9*, *About AA*, aa.org, and sharing from AA Grapevine and La Viña.



It wasn't new York but we ate well!



It was recommended that:

Public Information Cont.

- ✧ The trustees' Public Information Committee revise the pamphlet "Speaking at Non- A.A. Meetings" to better reflect carrying the A.A. message to diverse public audiences in non-A.A. settings and include a section on media training/press interviews, and that a draft or progress report on the revision be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- ✧ The trustees' Public Information Committee revise the flyer "A Message to Teenagers" to better reflect carrying the A.A. message to young people. In addition to revisions to language in the twelve questions and updated graphics, the committee requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee provide suggestions on what the best format would be to present information contained in the flyer

It was recommended that:

Report and Charter

- ✧ The compilation and printing of the A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.) be discontinued.
- ✧ The revised manuscript distributed to all Conference members in April 2021 with the inclusion of the Original Conference Charter be approved as the 2021-2023 Edition of *The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service*.

- ✧ A revision be made to paragraph one, the Purpose statement of the Current Conference Charter, found in the Appendices of *The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service*,
which currently reads:

Purpose: The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of world services and of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Conference shall be a service body only; never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous.

Be amended to read:

Purpose: The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of world services and of the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions **and the Twelve Concepts** of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Conference shall be a service body only; never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous.

It was recommended that:

Report and Charter cont.

Be amended to read:

Purpose: The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of world services and of the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions **and the Twelve Concepts** of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Conference shall be a service body only; never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous.

- ✧ A new section be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled “Amendments,” and that it contain an updated version of the Concept XI essay that incorporates the information in the current footnotes and endnotes, along with comprehensive descriptions of the current General Service Board committees, and that a draft or progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

It was recommended that:

Treatment and Accessibilities

- ✧ The following audio interviews with A.A. members who are in the Armed Forces, developed by the trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee, be approved and posted on G.S.O.'s A.A. website:
 - Male – Navy Captain
 - Female – Air Force Pilot
 - Male – Army Combat Medic

Committees with No Recommendations for the 71st GSC

✧ **Archives**

✧ **International Conventions/Regional Forums**



“We live in an era of change. Our Twelve Steps probably won’t change; the Traditions, not at all likely. But our manner of communication, our manner of organizing ourselves for function, for service — let us hope that this goes on changing for the better, forever.” (Bill W., 1960 GSC talk)



On Thursday afternoon I was given a loving invitation to address the conference on:

“Recovery in a changing world”

I would like to share that with you now because I believe it speaks to what I have seen and felt during my AA experiences of 2020 and 2021 and my thoughts of our future as members of this Amazing fellowship.

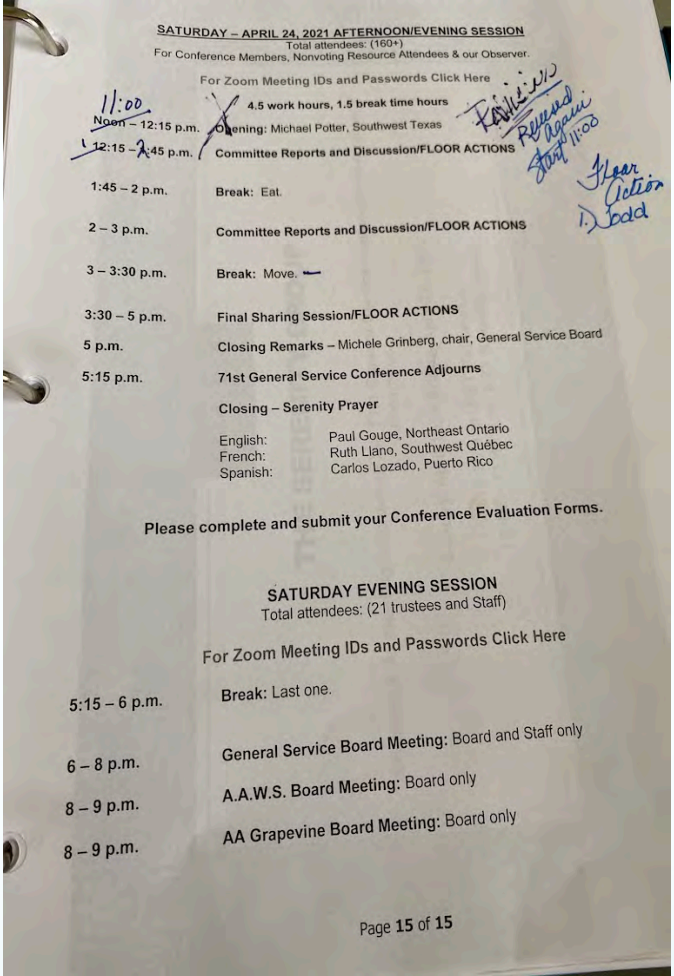
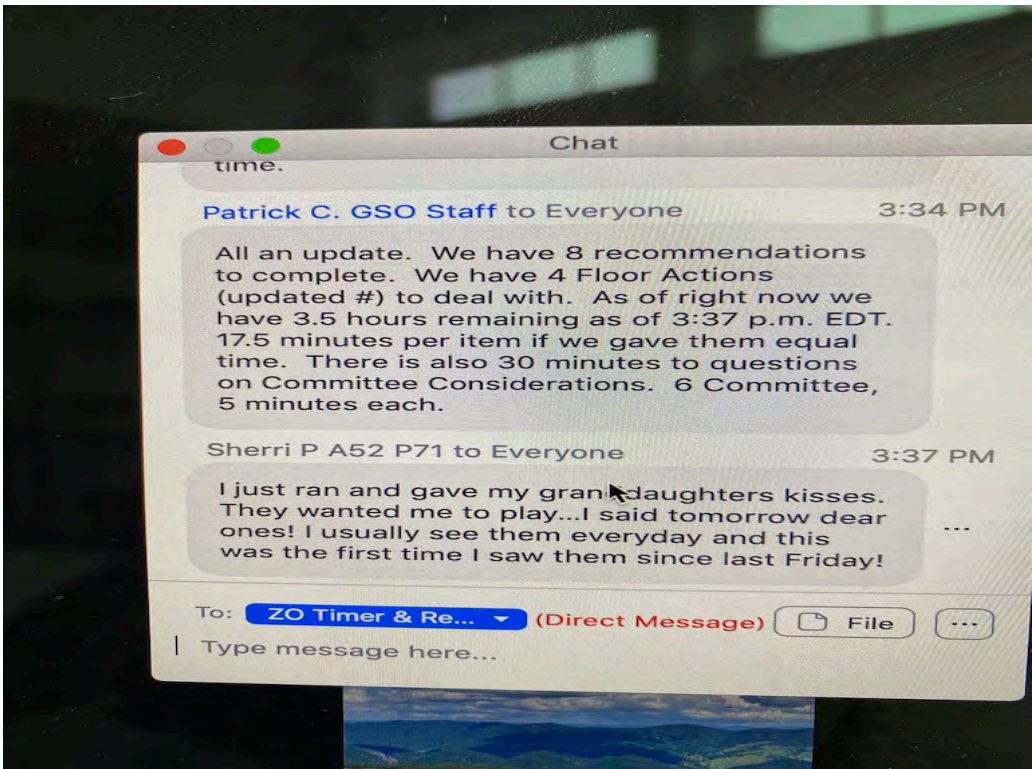
Take a Break

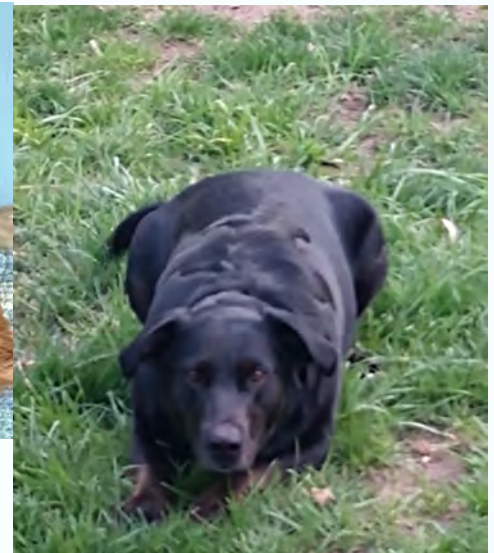
❖ **Get up**

❖ **Stretch**

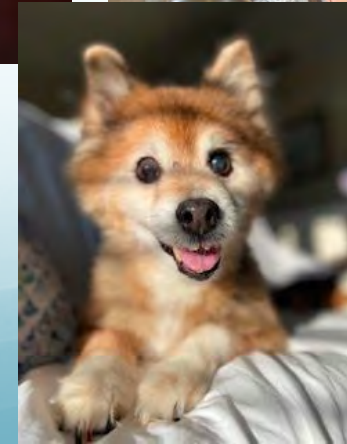
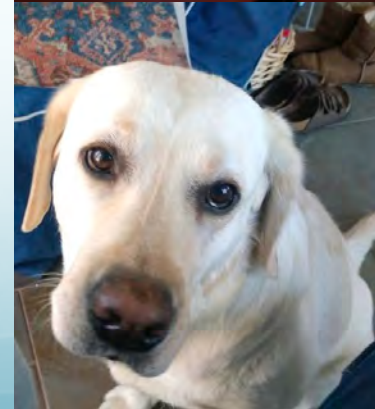
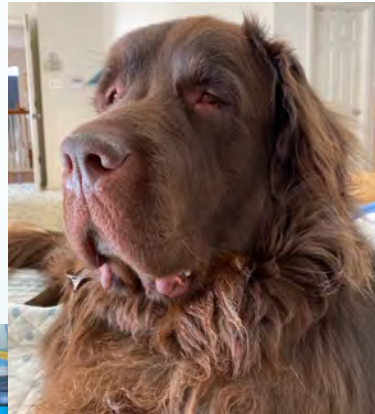
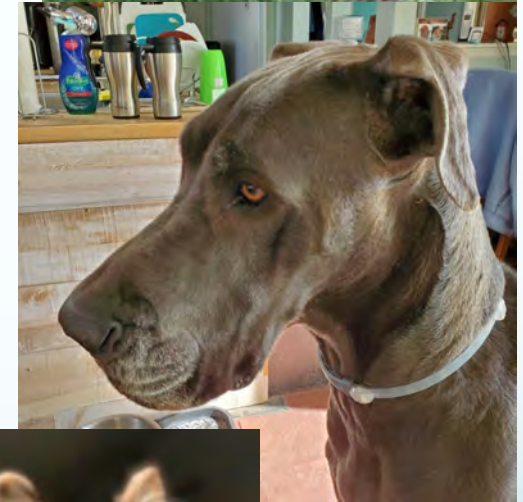
❖ **Walk Around**

We will see you in 10 minutes





**NERD ANIMAL
SUPPORT
TEAM**



Three Floor Actions and the “AA Preamble”

It was recommended that:

1. *The A.A. Preamble be changed from:*

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

To:

In Alcoholics Anonymous we share our experience, strength and hope with each other that we may solve our common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

2. The first sentence of the A.A. Preamble be revised with gender-neutral language by replacing the words “men and women” with the word “people” to read: “Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

4. The Preamble revision replacing the words “men and women” with the word “people” be presented to the General Service Board for approval as the new revised A.A. Preamble.

Where did that leave us (at 2:00 AM on Sunday morning?
It left the decision in the hands of the AA Grapevine BOD,
where the authority had always been....

The Outcome:

After a thorough discussion, the AA Grapevine Board will be debuting the new Preamble in the July 2021 issue of the Grapevine as well as the July/August issue of La Viña, as follows:

“Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.”

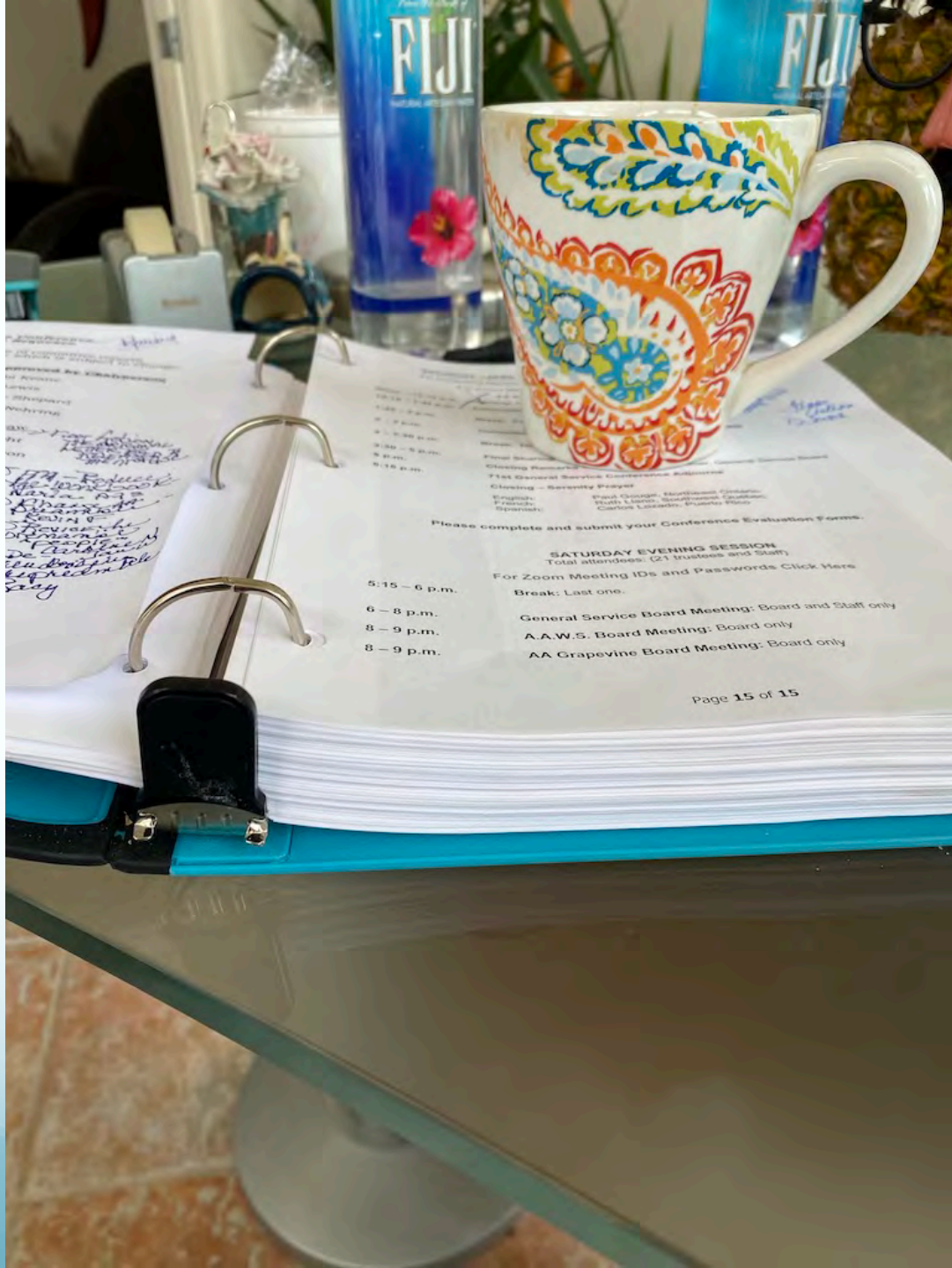


Oh yes there was plenty of coffee
Being consumed by your NERDs!



During the final moments of the 71st GSC a jeopardy wheel with all the names of the conference members was spun to determine who would be the guardian of the conference banner which would normally hang above the dais the week of conference.

I was thrilled that the wheel deemed me the lucky conference member!



And it's a wrap!

Thank you for the incredible gift you offered me by
placing your trust in me to carry YOUR voice
the TRUE voice of AA
to this historic gathering of AA members passionately
(and virtually) doing the work of AA.

I am sure without a shadow of a doubt that the late
Bernard Smith, non-alcoholic past chair of the Board of
Trustees, would approve of the 71st GSC's answer to
“Why do we need a conference?”
as it resonated his own thoughts as he addressed another
historical AA service meeting in 1954.

I would like to close with his words....