

2023 General Service Conference

Agenda Topic Summaries

Western Washington Area 72

Disclosures:

The materials in this document are only summaries of the background. Information presented in the summaries is carefully distilled or extracted to be concise and provide enough information so that all GSRs and members can fully participate. For more information on any particular item(s), please go to area72aa.org.

This is **not** the Pre-Conference packet I will be producing and posting to the Google Drive after I get back from PRAASA.

This includes background for the 73rd General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document; Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Websites (including social media pages) available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members.

A Message from the Delegate: How to Use These Summaries

This document contains the **Agenda Topic Summaries** of the background information for all of the items to be considered by the thirteen Conference committees of the 73rd General Service Conference (GSC). The topics will be discussed by their respective committees, and the committees **may** or **may not** send recommendations to the whole Conference for consideration and vote.

The **purpose** of these summaries is so that they may be used as a tool by General Service Representatives (GSRs) to provide their group with pertinent information to facilitate an informed group conscience and then to convey that group conscience to the Area 72 Delegate. In many cases, the summaries serve as an appetizer and those GSRs and groups with an interest in more information

can obtain the complete background Google Drive, available on our Area website or through your District Committee Member (DCM).

Please pay special attention in these summaries to the section at the end of each topic: “What does the Delegate need to know?” Not all topics make for fruitful discussion at group level, and this is intended to help you narrow that down. Many of the agenda topics are only for that specific committee (such as reviewing a draft or progress report on the development of a piece of literature) and do not require a group conscience, but they still may be of great interest to read and share. Other topics appear every year, such as reviewing workbooks and kits used by Public Information, Corrections, etc. Local committees may wish to share their experience. These summaries may also be used by other members of our Fellowship to communicate valuable information about the agenda topics and, where appropriate, to convey opinions to the Delegate. The questions in this section, if any, are intended to be a guide, not a limit, for your sharing sessions. Feel free to interpret them broadly.

You can share your group consciences with me at Pre-Conference Assemblies (please see area calendar for full list) or email me at delegate@area72aa.org.

As your Delegate this year, I serve on the **Literature Committee** and a secondary committee **International Conventions/Regional Forums**. Please bear in mind that I will have the opportunity to discuss the agenda topics in that section in depth during my committee meetings at the Conference, and your input on those items would be especially helpful.

Thank you for participating in the Conference process!

Crystal S., Area 72 Delegate

I want to thank our good friends in Area 06 for compiling this document and sharing it with the other Pacific Region Delegates.

Conference Theme, Presentation and Workshop Topics

The theme of the 73rd General Service Conference is:

“A.A.’s Three Legacies – Our Common Solution”

The Presentation/Discussion topics will include:

General Service – Our Mighty Purpose and Rhythm

Our Common Perils and Common Solution

Using A.A.'s Literature in Carrying the Message

Fostering a Thriving Three Legacy Culture

The Workshop Topic will be:

Practicing Our Twelve Traditions Across All Group Settings

These are wonderful A.A. topics that can be talked about and discussed throughout the Fellowship, at our Area assembly, districts, intergroup/central office gatherings, and in groups. While we don't hear “group consciences” on these, please consider using them for your A.A. events.

Conference Committee: Agenda — Item A

Agenda Topic	Review suggestions for the theme of the 2024 General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The theme of the Conference and the presentation topics revolve around the basic principles of A.A.; these suggestions can provoke a stimulating discussion at Area and District meetings as well. Regions, areas, and districts often incorporate the theme of the Conference in discussions, giving members of A.A. an opportunity to participate and be more informed about A.A. The background includes a list of 46 suggestions for the theme of next year's Conference. The background also has a list with the themes of every Conference between 1951 and 2023. The Agenda committee will review and discuss all the ideas submitted and present a recommendation to the full Conference for approval.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: Agenda— Item B

Agenda Topic	Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2024 General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The 57 presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2024 General Service Conference are listed in the background material. In the background, one can also find a list with the presentation and discussion topics of every Conference between 1985 and 2023. The Agenda committee will review and discuss all the ideas submitted and present a recommendation to the full Conference for approval.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: Agenda — Item C

Agenda Topic	Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2024 General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The 74 workshop topic ideas for the 2024 General Service Conference are listed in the background material. In the background, one can also find a list with the workshop topics of every Conference between 1985 and 2024. The Agenda committee will review and discuss all the ideas submitted and present a recommendation to the full Conference for approval.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: Agenda — Item D

Agenda Topic	Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, distribution process and 2022 Evaluation Summary.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The committee reviewed a final progress report of the 2022-23 Subcommittee on Conference Improvements. The subcommittee chair noted their activities focused on: 2022 Evaluations from the 72nd GSC, developing a backup plan to support participation of Conference Members at the 73rd GSC, Joint Committee meetings, the Conference Week Schedule, and evaluation questionnaires for the 2023 GSC. The committee agreed to forward the SCI progress report including the backup plan, weekly schedule, and evaluation forms to the 2023 Conference Committee on Agenda. The background includes a copy of this year's evaluation form. A summary of results from the 2022 evaluation form is also in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: Agenda — Item E

Agenda Topic	Discuss progress report on Conference improvement.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Committee reviewed the 72nd G.S.C. Evaluations, Post Conference Sharing Session notes, a summary evaluation from the Conference Coordinator to GSO's Conference Management Team, (see items D3 and D4) and two letters of evaluation from area

	delegates who attended the Conference. They developed an approach to accommodate Conference member participation in light of circumstances of a Covid breakout and other situations that may result in a member not being present in meeting rooms during Conference week. They also did a review of the Joint Committee meetings at Conference.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Review feedback from Delegate Chairs on quarterly communications.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Two types of ongoing communications between our Trustee Committees and Conference Committees occur: <i>Type 1:</i> Regular Communication with Delegate and Trustee Committee Chairperson Approved at the Third Quarter Meeting of the GSB (August 1, 2016): “That there be regular communication between the chairs of each trustees’ Committee and their corresponding Conference committee chair and between the AAGV board and the chair of the Conference Committee on the Grapevine. The 2017 Conference Committee on Agenda reviewed the 2016 survey results and requested that this sharing be gathered from the Conference committee chairs annually and provided to the Conference Committee on Agenda. <i>Type 2:</i> Feedback Call on Proposed Agenda Items 2018 request by the General Service Board chairperson: “Before the January [General Service Board] meeting, the entire Conference committee have a conference call with the corresponding trustees’ committee chair and staff secretary to review items submitted as agenda items and to talk about items still being considered by the trustees’ committee.” These conference calls have taken place annually since 2019. Note: The annual call took place in October 2022 to align with the Equitable Distribution of Workload pilot.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Review a report and draft plan for a future Conference Inventory.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The committee continued their review and discussion of an expanded and amplified draft report by the committee’s vice-chairperson that summarized the selected outcomes from the 2013-2015 Conference Inventory. The committee agreed that the previous 2013-2015 plan received extensive time and preparation and did not receive any reports of procedural flaws. The committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Committee on Agenda a report and draft plan for a potential Conference Inventory with considerations of its value, timeline, and approach.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on A.A.W.S. LinkedIn page.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2017, the Conference C.P.C. committee began discussing the potential development of a LinkedIn page for Cooperation with the Professional Community committees and requested that the trustees draft a report exploring all aspects of this social media tool, whether it was feasible within the Traditions, and develop a potential implementation plan. A report from the Trustees was presented in 2018, at which point the Conference C.P.C. committee recommended the development of an A.A.W.S. page on LinkedIn that could help professionals find information about A.A., broaden the reach of the <i>About</i>

	<p>A.A. newsletter for professionals, and potentially deepen the pool of Class A Trustee candidates.</p> <p>The 2019 C.P.C. committee reinforced the 2018 request, asking for a disclaimer that “promoted” content on the LinkedIn page was not affiliated with A.A., adding links and content referencing how A.A. cooperated with professionals, and requesting an annual report tracking how the LinkedIn page was used. As of September 2022, Total page views: 2031 Unique visitors: 763</p> <p>Current priorities for the LinkedIn page include posting a range of content directed to professionals (including newsletters, videos directed to professionals, and employment opportunities) and expanding the use and visibility of A.A. on LinkedIn.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item B

Agenda Topic	Review suggested revisions for the draft pamphlet “A.A. in Your Community.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2020, the Conference C.P.C. committee requested possible updates to the pamphlet “A.A. in Your Community” that focused on currency and inclusion of modern professionals, and to also create samples that communicate the content of the pamphlet visually. Suggested edits to the text of the pamphlet are included in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item C

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on the development of outward facing pamphlets for mental health professionals.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2021, the Conference C.P.C. committee recommended the development of a pamphlet directed to mental health professionals. The Trustees met and determined that to help develop this pamphlet, they would first assemble a focus group of Class A (non-alcoholic) trustees and other mental health professionals that are members of the fellowship to find out what they need when addressing the suffering alcoholic.</p> <p>The focus group met and discussed barriers to referring or providing information to clients about A.A. The entire focus group report is in the background. Barriers included confusion about spirituality vs. religion, that professionals don’t know how to “refer” people to A.A. since A.A. has no intake process, confusion about anonymity, confusion about A.A.’s policy on medication (there is none), understanding who is an alcoholic, knowing the types of meetings that exist, confusion about A.A.’s singleness of purpose, and sometimes non-existent relationships with local A.A. resources. The focus group hoped that A.A. could clearly communicate that recovery is an evidence-based service, that it is accessible, and that it is inclusive.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item D

Agenda Topic	Consider retiring the pamphlet “A Member’s-Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2022 the committee discussed the pamphlet “A Member's-Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous” and noted some concerns on the relevancy and usefulness of this pamphlet as a C.P.C. tool to communicate to professionals about A.A. The committee noted that some of the text could be offensive to those of varying abilities and may lead to an appearance of A.A. aligning with a specific religious doctrine. The committee agreed to forward a suggestion to the 2023 Conference committee on C.P.C. to discuss retiring this pamphlet. Background material includes listed excerpts from the pamphlet.

What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about this pamphlet? Does your group think the pamphlet should be retired? Why or why not?
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Conference Committee: **Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Review content and format of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In January 2022, the trustees' committee reviewed the shared experience from local C.P.C. committees and other trusted servants for updated content to be included in the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook. In the October 2022 trustee's committee meeting the new secretary reported he sent to continue to review the Kit and Workbook and update the committee at the January 2023 meeting. Minor editorial changes were forwarded to publishing in the last November 2022.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Corrections — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to include content in existing A.A. literature on sponsorship of persons in custody by outside members of the Fellowship.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The International Corrections Meeting in Alcoholics Anonymous made a proposal (which is in the background) that content regarding sponsorship of persons in custody by outside members of the Fellowship be added to existing A.A. literature. The proposal notes that there is a lack of information in AA literature regarding sponsorship of persons in custody by A.A. members not in custody (on the “outside”). They note that persons in custody and corrections professionals have requested outside sponsors.</p> <p>There are many factors that impact sponsorship of members in custody, and different communities have responded to those factors in different ways. Some committees have developed sponsorship programs that allow persons in custody to place their outside sponsor on their visitor list. Other persons in custody are sponsored through the Corrections Correspondence Service, but facility staff read all incoming and outgoing mail. Others are sponsored through the phone or via video, while in one facility, meeting volunteers have a good relationship with facility staff and can have private meetings within the facility. In some Canadian facilities, outside members can take persons in custody out of the facility through “Temporary Escorted Absences.”</p> <p>In response to this proposal, a request for sharing was sent out to the fellowship. Fifty-four responses from the membership across corrections service positions and areas were received. A six-page report details the responses, which included inside visitation sponsorship, sponsorship by mail, sponsorship by video, and sponsorship between members, as well as additional ways to provide sponsorship to persons in custody. This is described as an “enthusiastic response” in the background, so the trustee’s Corrections Committee asked for a draft service piece, which is also in the background, that could be added to the Corrections Workbook.</p> <p>The proposal suggested content on sponsorship could be included in a number of other pamphlets, books, service materials, and Grapevine publications. The full list is in the background. This would be in addition to the service material that has already been developed as a result of this proposal.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Corrections — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review content and format of Corrections Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Every year, the Corrections committee at the Conference reviews the Corrections Kit and Workbook. Outdated information may be updated or removed by GSO staff members, who report those changes to the trustees. Sometimes, members of the Conference Corrections committee will also review these changes.</p> <p>The current Kit and Workbook are available online: www.aa.org/contents-corrections-committee-kit-list</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Corrections — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Discuss service piece, “Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare” (SMF-209) and its revisions.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>“Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare” is a service piece first developed in 2017 that arose from several safety-related discussions that were happening at all levels of A.A. Many of these original discussions included conversation about literature updates, guidelines, or policy statements related to safety. The General Service Office had also been receiving reports from members regarding unsafe conditions and behaviors within A.A., and media also published stories about safety issues in A.A. and were inquiring to GSO about the Fellowship’s safety policies. Staff at the office had no written material to share in relation to internal or public queries related to safety. This service piece was originally written by a GSO Staff ad hoc committee and approved by the AAWS board in February 2017.</p> <p>A Yellow Safety Card was approved in July 2017, which was criticized by some members of A.A., prompting the Board to review, possibly revise, or discontinue the card. But there were no changes to the Safety Card or to “Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare.”</p> <p>After the publication of “Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare” and the Yellow Safety Card, the topic of safety remained a common workshop theme throughout the fellowship. This helped broaden and inform discussions, so an update of “Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare” was made to incorporate this latest information. Additionally, a Safety Flyer was also explored. While the revision was initially prompted by concerns about the safety card, it was informed by sharing at multiple events (such as Regional Forums), where the conversation focused on predatory/illegal actions, misconceptions about anonymity, dealing with health emergencies, racism in A.A., and the impact of sharing gender identity/pronouns. All this sharing prompted revisions to the safety pieces in April 2021.</p> <p>After these revisions, between 40 to 60 groups and individuals provided feedback; some feedback was accepting of new material, while others were concerned it could be perceived to be inconsistent with our Traditions and our scope. Another revision was undertaken, this time reviewed by legal counsel and distributed in March 2022. This revision resulted in more feedback, much of it upset about the removal of specific language addressing diversity and inclusion, prompting this agenda topic.</p> <p>The background includes four proposed agenda items from members and groups that another revision to “Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare” be made to revisit changes</p>

	<p>made between 2021 and 2022. These proposed agenda items focused on the removal of language regarding diversity and inclusion – which stated that “racism in A.A. is a safety issue” and acknowledged that “we all operate within some unearned privilege.” Also removed were passages about gender pronouns and “special interest” groups, like groups for women, the LGBTQ+ community, young people, Black and indigenous people of color (BIPOC), and certain professions like lawyers and doctors.</p> <p>The background has all three (2017, 2021, and 2022) versions of the safety service piece.</p> <p>The background includes a report on how service material is developed and updated and what purpose it serves (Document 1). Service material dates to the 1960s. In the 1970s, material included information about A.A.’s relationship with Al-Anon, guidelines for tapers, and the introduction of service kits. In the 1980s and 1990s, service material expanded to include information about cooperation with the courts, finances, conventions, intergroups, our primary purpose, and anonymity. Historically, some material (like the preamble and the Responsibility Declaration) were initially service material that have become part of the Conference’s purview, and some service material has been added to Conference-approved literature.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Finance — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Consider request that materials produced and maintained by A.A. World Services, AA Grapevine, La Viña, and the General Service Office (GSO), clarify that the General Service Board (“GSB”) is the A.A. entity which receives all voluntary A.A. contributions and that GSO is the A.A. entity which performs the processing of all A.A. contributions.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The groups and districts in Texas and an individual in Arizona proposing this change believe adding language could correct the current inconsistent language throughout our literature and clarifies that the General Service Board is the recipient of our contributions, not the General Service Office. The office processes contributions. Currently, they believe this is not clear in our literature.</p> <p>Per the proposal, some items of literature correctly state that our AA voluntary contributions are received by the General Service Board, while other items of literature may require more clarification. By reviewing this proposal, the presenters of these items hope to provide consistent information throughout our literature that clearly represents and explains our service structure and the roles that each service entity fulfills.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Finance — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Conference Area Delegate fees are reviewed every few years. The last adjustment was in 2017 when the suggested Area contribution increased from \$1600 to \$1800. A history of the suggested area contributions is in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or on the phone.

Conference Committee: **Finance— Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review the Conference-approved level of \$10,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Individual bequest contribution limits are reviewed every few years. The last adjustment was in 2019, when the individual bequest limit was increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000. There is a history of bequeathal limits in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Finance— Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$5,000 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The annual contribution limit from an individual AA member to the General Service Board is reviewed every few years. The last adjustment was in 2018 when the limit increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Finance— Item E**

Agenda Topic	Review Self-Support Packet.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The self-support packet is reviewed annually by the Conference Committee on Finance. It consists of several pamphlets, the self-support card, A.A. Guidelines on Finance, and the Birthday Envelope. The 2022 Conference Committee on Finance requested updates to the self-support packet, including clarifying that Seventh Tradition contributions are received by the General Service Board and not the General Service Office (see Finance Item A).</p> <p>The Publishing department is in the process of revising and updating all the service pieces that are part of the packet, including revision to the Conference-approved pamphlet, “Self- Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.”</p> <p>Drafts reflecting the above-referenced updates will be provided to the 2023 Conference Committee on Finance as soon as they are available.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Finance— Item F**

Agenda Topic	Discuss new proposed agenda items (PAI’s) regarding the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>After the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> was changed after the 2021 General Service Conference (two edits, one in the chapter Step 6 and one in the chapter Step 12), multiple agenda items related to those changes were submitted and reviewed by the Trustee’s Literature Committee.</p> <p>The trustees’ Literature committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Literature Committee all of the proposed agenda items related to the changes in the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> as one grouped item with the suggestion that the Conference Literature Committee consider forwarding the item for wider discussion looking toward setting a policy on how and whether to edit A.A. founder's words in our current</p>

	<p>literature. There are also references to changes to the Preamble as well as the Plain Language Big Book in the background.</p> <p>These agenda items would be discussed by the Fellowship during the 2023-2024 Conference year and considered by the Conference Committee on Literature at the 2024 General Service Conference.</p> <p>One submitter asked to conduct a survey to all A.A. groups in the U.S. and Canada asking if they want to keep the changes to the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> made in 2021 or return to the original text to get a clear group conscience. There is also a reference to a discussion in 1980s to make changes to A.A. literature; during that discussion, the General Service Office sent a survey to all A.A. groups.</p> <p>You will find in the background Conference Advisory actions, Committee considerations, Committee recommendations that failed to pass, a list of editorial changes throughout the years, and samples of asterisk use.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group believe that there should be more conversations about how and whether to edit the words of the A.A. founder in our present literature? What approaches are currently working? What is not working? Are there better solutions to help set policy going forward regarding changes and edits to Bill's writing, and what are they?

Conference Committee: **Grapevine/La Vina — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review AA Grapevine Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The committee reviewed the progress report on the AA Grapevine Workbook revisions and looks forward to having it available on the website, in English and Spanish. The committee also forwarded editorial suggestions to the workbook to the Grapevine office. The committee reviewed the progress report on AA Grapevine Workbook revisions and suggested adding additional information on ways to use AA Grapevine resources as Twelfth Step tools, availability of books, pricing, ways Canadian members can more easily participate, and new multimedia platforms.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Grapevine/La Vina — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on the Grapevine and La Viña Instagram accounts.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2022, the Grapevine committee recommended that the A.A. Grapevine Board launch an Instagram account, and they requested that a report on that account be brought back to the Conference this year. Instagram is an online mobile photo-sharing site that allows its users to share pictures and videos either publicly or privately, as well as through a variety of other social networking platforms. It is visual in nature, allowing images to be displayed with or without short descriptions.</p> <p>The progress report included in the background states that the Instagram accounts for Grapevine and La Viña launched on July 7, 2021, posting a Daily Quote each morning and additional posts each week, including new magazine issue releases, new book accounts, and inspiration from both AA pioneers and today's members. There are numerous examples of posts in the background. More than 130,900 people were reached by the Grapevine posts. The account has 5965 followers, an increase of 8.21 percent in the past 90 days. Most followers are from the United States, with a handful of followers from other English-speaking countries. Approximately 40 percent of followers are under age 45, and more than half of followers are female. Another 15,000 people were reached by the La Viña posts. The account has 658 followers, an increase of 6.82 percent in the</p>

	past 90 days. While most followers are from the United States and Mexico, a large number of followers come from Spanish-speaking countries in Central America, South America, and Europe. Nearly 38 percent of followers are under age 45, and while the majority of followers are female, about 33 percent of followers are male.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Grapevine/La Vina — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2024 or after.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>At every Conference, the Grapevine Committee reviews a list of proposed book topics. The proposed books for 2024 and later are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cartoons & Jokes III (working title) (GV book) Original members' cartoons, jokes and humor of the past few years, previously published in Grapevine. 2. Emotional Sobriety III (working title) (GV book) Members share how they have changed after years of being in the AA program and how they have found peace and serenity in sobriety. These are stories previously published in Grapevine. 3. Veteranos Hispanos en AA (Voices of Old timers) (working title) (La Viña book) Members who have been in AA a long time share their experience, strength, and hope. These stories were previously published in La Viña. 4. Cómo llegamos a creer (How We Came to Believe) (working title) (La Viña book) AA members share stories about their own personal journey with Step Two, how they found their Higher Power and what helped them. These stories were previously published in La Viña. 5. Spiritual Awakenings (La Viña book) (GV book translated into Spanish) AA members share stories about their journey with Step Two and connecting with a Higher Power. 6. Young & Sober (La Viña book) (GV book translated into Spanish) Members share their experience, strength, and hope about coming into AA at an early age. <p>The background also includes a list of previously-approved book ideas that could be produced.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Grapevine/La Vina — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to provide all area alternate delegates the same Conference materials as sitting delegates.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This topic was a presentation and discussion at the 72nd General Service Conference (GSC) Delegate's Only Meeting. The discussion resulted in broad support among the Panel 71 and Panel 72 Delegates. It was a consensus of the group that access should be granted to Alternates and that this proposal be brought to the 73rd GSC via the Proposed Agenda Item Submission process.</p> <p>Conference dashboard materials are posted for the use of Conference members, who are each given a username and password that are not intended to be shared with others.</p> <p>Background materials and Conference documents are anonymity protected and confidential A.A. documents meant for internal discussion in the Fellowship, and not the general public. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the</p>

	confidentiality of the material. In accordance with the Conference Charter, we leave to the discretion of each area delegate the extent to which copies of these materials are further distributed to interested members in the area.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Annual review of recovery literature matrix.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The matrix is designed as a tool for the trustees' and Conference Literature committees, containing pertinent information regarding distribution to inform periodic review. In 2022 it was reformatted, and these changes will be reviewed along with the overall usefulness and purpose of the tool. An interactive digital version will be shared with the Conference Literature Committee this year.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review draft pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2018, the General Service Conference approved the development of a pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies, with emphasis on the history of the Three Legacies, how they work together, and personal stories of members' experiences with the Three Legacies. The draft was sent only to the Conference Literature committee, but you can review the progress report and some history on the development in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review draft of the revised pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated."
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2019, the General Service Conference voted to update this pamphlet. The draft was sent only to the Conference Literature committee, but you can review the progress report and some history on the development in the background, including considerations related to the graphics. The current pamphlet is available on the aa.org website.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review draft of the revised pamphlet "Young People and A.A."
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2016, the General Service Conference voted to update this pamphlet. The draft was sent only to the Conference Literature committee, but you can review the progress report and some history on the development in the background, including considerations related to the graphics. The current pamphlet is available on the aa.org website.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report regarding update of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic."
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2021, the General Service Conference voted to update this pamphlet with fresh stories and a title that is respectful and inclusive. The progress report is in the background, along with the history of Conference considerations and actions, and past reports from subcommittees related to the need. The progress report details the formation of the working group, which is comprised of seven A.A. members representing a wide variety of ethnic, geographic, linguistic, and age perspectives, who are well acquainted with the

	pamphlet’s target audiences. Details on the working group process and strategy for outreach to collect stories are also in the report. Four members’ stories have been selected for inclusion. The final progress report will be reviewed by the Conference Literature Committee at the conference this year.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report regarding update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2021, the General Service Conference voted to revise and update this pamphlet to correct inaccuracies and to include fresh stories and language that is respectful and inclusive. The report is in the background along with some history. A working group has been established, with a diverse representation of indigenous members from throughout the U.S. and Canada.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report regarding development of a Fourth Edition of the book <i>Alcohólicos Anónimos - Spanish</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2021, the General Service Conference approved the development of the Fourth Edition of the Spanish Big Book. History regarding the development of the current Third Edition is in the background, along with requests for revisions related to translation “errors and omissions” sent in by members over the years. The history of the progress of the Fourth Edition to date is in the background, as well. The Committee notes that the Appointed Committee Member (ACM), who is also the chair of the Working Group, is set to rotate out in April 2023. A request for a new ACM has been forwarded to the trustees’ Nominating Committee.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item H**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report regarding the translation of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition)</i> into plain and simple language.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2021, the Conference approved a recommendation that a draft version of the book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> (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. The background material contains excerpts from each of the progress reports from the quarterly meetings of the Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) subcommittee of the trustees’ Literature Committee, as well as more thorough reports in Documents 1 through 5. TABB reviewed all the feedback from the Fellowship on the video that was made available last year by a previous subcommittee (RIPTAB). The TABB subcommittee has been reviewing final drafts of whatever completed material is available on a quarterly basis, with each member providing feedback with the expectation that additional rounds of refinements ensure the tone and tenor of each chapter are faithful to the guidance and suggestions contained in the Big Book.</p> <p>In January 2022, the TABB subcommittee reviewed several proposed agenda items sent in to stop the development of a plain language Big Book. Of note in these proposals were concerns regarding political intentions, the eradication of God, and the removal of all gendered language. The TABB subcommittee affirmed in the report that the objective is to achieve a translation into plain language that meets the accessibility needs of those with a 5th-grade reading level. The request to prospective translators noted specifically</p>

	<p>that “we are seeking simplification of vocabulary, syntax, and style to bring it into alignment with current plain language guidelines” and that “sensitivity to A.A.-specific language will be key.” The committee further discussed potential gender changes at the February 2022 meeting, emphasizing that there is no intent or desire to remove gender from the text. It was also made clear that under Article 3 of the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board, the Steps themselves will not be modified, altered, or extended. While the translator is a professional, this will be a collaborative effort. A.A. members through the TABB subcommittee, G.S.O., the trustees’ Literature Committee, and ultimately the General Service Conference will guide the process. The January 2022 progress report also contains a roadmap to guide workflows and address the unique circumstances of this sort of translation, including touchpoints with the General Service Conference. Also because of the high level of interest in the process of translation, the background information contains <i>examples</i> of plain language translation.</p> <p>At their January 2023 meeting, the TABB Subcommittee reported that a formal agreement between Alcoholics Anonymous World Service (AAWS) and the writer was finalized in May 2022. The writer has submitted chapters to Publishing, as well as the preface, the foreword, and the beginnings of a glossary. The Publishing Department has committed to providing the subcommittee with written updates monthly. The subcommittee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report regarding the translation.</p> <p>Given the fellowship’s deep and wide interest in this project, the subcommittee has greatly considered balancing well-defined delegated authority with unity and transparency. The Conference Literature Committee will be provided with all available chapters completed by March 31 for their restricted review during pre-Conference hours. These chapters will also be available to all Conference members who may wish to read them in a room monitored by members of the trustees’ Literature Committee to maintain confidentiality.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	What particularly do you want me to look for when reviewing the draft?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item I**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report regarding development of a Fifth Edition of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>At the 2021 General Service Conference, there was an advisory action that a Fifth Edition of the Big Book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>, 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, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>, the Preface, the Forewords, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion,’ ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,’ and the Appendices remain as is.” The background information contains excerpts from each quarterly report from meetings of the trustees’ Literature Committee. Document 1 in the background material contains a more thorough report from the November 2022 meeting of the subcommittee on the development of a draft Fifth Edition of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>, and Document 2 contains a report from the October 2022 meeting.</p> <p>The subcommittee’s work over the past year has included overseeing and participating in a variety of story-gathering efforts, developing an evaluation tool that allows for effective and efficient assessment of a large volume of story submissions, and reading and evaluating stories. Additionally, the subcommittee had a preliminary discussion of possible approaches to the updating of Appendices III and V. Over 2500 A.A. members</p>

	<p>submitted their personal stories of experience, strength, and hope for possible inclusion in the Fifth Edition. From the overwhelming number of submissions, a broad selection of 100-150 stories will go through the second round of evaluation. The subcommittee will continue the story-reading process and other aspects of the development of the draft Fifth Edition and plans to present a progress report or draft in 2024.</p> <p>At the January 2023 meeting of the trustees Literature Committee, the committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report regarding the development of a Fifth Edition of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item J**

Agenda Topic	Review revised draft of the existing version of the pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2021, a General Service Conference advisory action approved the updated version of this pamphlet, “Experience Has Taught Us: An Introduction to Our Twelve Traditions,” (P-91) a distinct piece of literature addressing a different audience and serving a different purpose. The Conference that year also recommended that the existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” (P-43) not be retired. Both pamphlets are available for review on G.S.O.’s A.A. website. The trustees’ Literature committee agreed with continuing publication and distribution of the existing “Twelve Traditions Illustrated” pamphlet. The committee also noted the potentially offensive language and visuals which contributed to the original request to revise this pamphlet, and in January 2022 they requested that the Publishing department seek professional input on approaches to revising the language and offensive visuals.</p> <p>At their October 2022 meeting, the trustees’ Literature Committee received a report from the Publishing Department about the update of the pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated,” which included the selection of an illustrator who understands the specific style of the pamphlet.</p> <p>At the January 2023 meeting of the trustees’ Literature Committee, the committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature a draft of the updates to the existing pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated” that includes suggestions made by the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature. The committee agreed that the draft fulfilled the goal of replacing outdated illustrations while maintaining artwork that is near and dear to A.A. members.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item K**

Agenda Topic	Review revised draft of the Literature Committee workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>At the 2019 General Service Conference, the Conference literature committee suggested that the trustees’ Committee on Literature develop a Literature Committee Workbook and provide a progress report to the 2020 General Service Conference. The background material for this agenda topic contains excerpts from each of the quarterly meetings of the trustees’ Literature Committee. At the 2020 Conference, the Literature Committee noted that the development of the workbook is moving in the right direction. The committee provided several suggestions regarding the length and content of the workbook and requested that a revised draft be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature for review.</p> <p>On January 28, 2023, the trustees’ Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward a progress report to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature a draft of the</p>

	Literature Committee Workbook revised to include suggestions from the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature. The committee made additional suggestions to the Publishing department and requested that A.A. Grapevine literature be mentioned in the list of available A.A. literature in the workbook.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item L**

Agenda Topic	Review request to update the pamphlet “Do You Think You're Different?”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This proposal to revise the pamphlet “Do You Think You’re Different?” (P-13) originally came from the Archives Chair in Area 79 (BC/Yukon) in 2021, with assistance from the Delegate. The submitter of this item felt that in keeping with the purpose of the pamphlet, new stories are needed to better represent all the diverse populations of the U.S. and Canada with language that is more current and respectful. This proposal became an Advisory Action at the 2022 General Service Conference, that “The trustees’ Literature Committee revise the pamphlet ‘Do You Think You're Different?’ to update the stories to represent greater diversity and bring back a draft pamphlet or progress report to the 2023 General Service Conference.”</p> <p>Since then, the trustees’ Literature Committee appointed a chair and members of the subcommittee to begin the work on this project. At their January 2023 meeting, the trustees’ Literature Committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature a request to update the pamphlet “Do You Think You’re Different?” The chair of the subcommittee suggested that work on an update be postponed until further consultation with the Conference Committee on Literature.</p> <p>The current pamphlet is available at: https://www.aa.org/do-you-think- youre-different</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item M**

Agenda Topic	Discuss new proposed agenda items (PAI’s) related to the Plain Language Big Book Translation.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	At their October 2022 meeting, the trustees’ Literature Committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Literature committee all new proposed agenda items related to the Plain Language Big Book as one grouped item. The committee also discussed requests from some members regarding access to the draft of the Plain Language Big Book. After legal consultation, the committee agreed to provide a monitored closed reading room for Conference members only during the 2023 General Service Conference, where Conference Literature Committee members will be given the first viewing of draft chapters in a controlled environment. For more information on the progress of and discussions regarding the translation of <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> into plain and simple language, see Literature Item H.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item N**

Agenda Topic	Review update on video animation for the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2019, the Conference voted to update this pamphlet. The draft was sent only to the Conference Literature committee, but you can review the progress report and history of

	<p>the development in the background, including considerations related to the concurrent update of similar pamphlets. The current pamphlet is available on the aa.org website. Another consideration is whether to adapt a video animation of a similar pamphlet from the General Service Office in Great Britain for use here in the U.S. and Canada. You can view their video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qN6t4jAXJd0</p> <p>At the 2022 General Service Conference, there was an advisory action that the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" (currently published by the General Service Board of A.A. Great Britain) be adapted and produced by the Publishing Department. At the July 2022 meeting, the trustees' Literature Committee reviewed the video animation of the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" published by the General Service Board of A.A. Great Britain, noting that the development of a U.S./Canada version, with revised voiceover talent, is pending for budgetary reasons.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item O**

Agenda Topic	Discuss cost effective media options that welcome young people to A.A. as an alternative to revising the 'Too Young?' pamphlet
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2019, the General Service Conference voted to update this pamphlet, and different formats are being explored, including video and animation. Progress reports along with the history of Conference considerations and past sharing from Y.P.A.A. members are in the background information.</p> <p>At the January 2023 meeting, the trustees' Literature Committee discussed the new formats proposed and the high estimated costs (\$100,000). In view of the high-cost estimates, the committee suggested exploring other options, such as utilizing existing young people's videos developed by the International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (ICYPAA) or other possible alternatives to carry the message to young newcomers in A.A. The committee requested that Conference Committee on Literature provide additional direction regarding the initial Conference floor action to update the pamphlet. The current pamphlet is available at: https://www.aa.org/too-young</p> <p>Videos developed by ICYPAA are available at: https://www.icypaa.org/videos</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about utilizing existing young people's videos developed by ICYPAA to carry the message to young newcomers in A.A.? Does your group have any other ideas about possible cost-effective media options to revise the pamphlet "Too Young"?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item P**

Agenda Topic	Review update on the proposal for Big Book or Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions study guides.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2022, the trustees' Literature committee discussed a request to develop <i>Big Book</i> or <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> study guides and took no action. This means that they decided not to move forward with this request. In a report shared in October last year, they stated "there is not a widely expressed need at this time." The background contains an excerpt from this report (it is just one paragraph) that notes that other projects in plain and simple language will be discussed after the Conference reviews the draft of the plain language <i>Big Book</i> and expresses their opinions on that project.
What does the Delegate need to know?	<p>Does your group believe there is no current need for study guides for the <i>Big Book</i>? <i>The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>? What are the pros and cons of these study guides?</p> <p>Note: There is no active proposal to create a study guide. This is just a discussion.</p>

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review GSO general manager’s report regarding General Service Conference site selection.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The 2022 Policy/Admissions Conference Committee requested that the General Service Office (GSO) general manager provide a report detailing the financial, logistical, and spiritual implications of holding the General Service Conference at other locations throughout the eight regions of the U.S./Canada service structure, perhaps in rotation every other year with the New York City metropolitan area.</p> <p>The financial data gathered shows it is possible to find venues within our structure that are more cost-effective than in New York. That said, if there was a rotational schedule included with hosting a Conference outside New York, a question to consider may be “would all areas have the option to be included and participate?” Also of note would be consideration of Bill’s and others’ spiritual thoughts on this question to host a Conference outside of New York, found in the background material Doc 1.</p> <p>Logistics certainly have pros and cons also. One benefit of venues outside New York is the possibility of easy access from airports to hotels. Negatives include the challenges of planning a large week-long Conference in a different part of the country for an office based out of New York, the lack of easy access to office tools during the Conference week, unfamiliarity of staff with the hosting area, and the considerable number of staff that must travel and conduct site visits throughout the year, which would also impact their ability to complete other work.</p> <p>For now, the General Service Conference is scheduled to be held at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge (Brooklyn Marriott) through 2026.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review dates for the 2027 General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In order to provide additional flexibility to the General Service Office (GSO) management in contracting the most cost-effective and appropriate venues for the General Service Conference, the committee will review a slate of dates in April or May that are the best choices and do not conflict with any significant holidays. Included in the background is a list of Conference dates from 1993-2023. GSO staff makes a note of holidays and observances so that there are no scheduling conflicts.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on the development of a process using virtual meeting technologies for polling the GSC between meetings.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2021, it was decided that a process would be developed to make use of virtual meeting technologies when polling the General Service Conference (GSC) between annual meetings. As a result of the Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW), the undertaking was paused. The number of potential agenda items submitted overwhelmed and reprioritized the workload of all committees, and only one item needed polling, which

	<p>was handled through the standard process. The committee continued their discussion of a draft plan process for polling the GSC between meetings that make use of virtual meeting technologies and offered several suggestions to the plan and invited participation from delegate chairpersons. The committee agreed that alternate delegates should be invited by the sitting delegate if the Delegate cannot attend. The committee agreed that the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions would meet prior to the Conference meeting to accept admissions, noting that circumstances involving great emergencies may have their own deadlines. In the background, Doc 1 is the current process for polling and Doc 2 explains the new proposed process of videoconference polling.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Discuss report on the Equitable Distribution of Workload process.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2021, the General Service Conference changed the way Agenda Topics were assigned. While most literature topics would remain with the literature committee, the sheer number of literature topics and topics in other committees meant that some committees had many topics and others had very few. The Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) meant that some overly-impacted committees would distribute some of their topics randomly to other less-impacted committees. This would be done on a three-year trial basis, with a progress report after each year. The purpose was to redistribute work to make committee time more effective and to balance the workload.</p> <p>To implement the 2021 advisory action, an EDW sub-committee was re-formed at the 2022 July General Service Board (GSB) meeting to deliver the second year of this three-year pilot. In the progress report, many challenges were noted such as the workflow, communication, and scoring tools, as well as the significant challenges to areas and to the group conscience process caused by moving up the deadline for submitting proposed agenda items to September 15. Included in the background are listings of the EDW distribution of Agenda Items and Item Distribution graphs before and after EDW.</p> <p>The proposed agenda item (PAI) form and processes were reviewed as well as the EDW processes and roles, the increase of voting members being able to participate, and balancing the workload. As with all new projects there are successes and challenges which are detailed in the background in Document 2d.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Review report of the GSB Ad-Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the U.S./Canada Service Structure.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2021, two advisory actions passed at the Conference. The first recognized online groups and encouraged 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".</p> <p>The second advisory action was that the Board form a committee to explore future possibilities for the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada General Service</p>

	<p>structure.</p> <p>The committee reviewed the Progress Report from the trustees' Ad Hoc Committee on the Participation of Online Groups in the U.S. and Canada Service Structure. There are more questions than answers as different areas and districts evolve and change as the impact of online participation continues to be felt.</p> <p>The background has the history and current reporting, current database information, the survey of area delegates, regional forums and workshop presentations, and the international perspectives from World Service Meeting.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	<p>How does your group feel about the participation of online groups in the General Service Structure? What have been the challenges and solutions as participation has increased? What more can be done to increase awareness to online groups about their ability to participate? How should online groups participate? Should there be an online-only area? Online-only districts? Or is the current situation working well right now?</p>

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review the 2023 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This is an annual item. The Comprehensive Media Plan (CMP) is now an established roadmap for AA's overall communications and communication is at the heart of A.A.'s mission to extend the hand of recovery from alcoholism to anyone who seeks our help. This media plan outlines all the activities A.A. does to carry the message publicly. The committee continues to refine this draft plan document and seek feedback from the Fellowship through the General Service Conference process. This year's focus is to refine the overall style in AA's media and messaging as well as to make the CMP easier to digest across the fellowship.</p> <p>The CMP is a living document that is meant to be improved and updated yearly. The goal of the 2023 CMP was to create the most accurate picture of the status of all the Public Information projects currently in progress at A.A. World Service (AAWS) and Grapevine while causing the least disruption to office staff, examining our efforts in light of industry standards, and providing guidance where necessary.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item B1**

Agenda Topic	Public Service Announcements (PSAs): Review the distribution and tracking information for two video PSAs: "Sobriety in A.A.: My Drinking Built a Wall" and "Sobriety in A.A.: When Drinking is no longer a Party"
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Since 1966, A.A. has utilized Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to inform the public about our message of recovery. When local TV or radio stations have "gaps" in their programming, they will allow non-profits to fill said gaps with short information that serves the public good. The final one-year campaign results were 125,192 airings, 615,956,841 impressions and \$34,506,580 in media value. The final Canadian results for the campaign were 11,485 airings.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item B2**

Agenda Topic	Public Service Announcements (PSAs): Review the 2022 report on the “Relevance and Usefulness of Video PSAs.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This is an annual item. Our current video PSAs remain useful according to the report. Also noted, the project to update all English, French, and Spanish Radio/Audio PSAs, update A.A. tag lines, and remove any outdated references, is complete</p> <p>Committee members would like to see additional research comparing paid versus donated media value ads and the effectiveness of these different approaches and would like research on Canadian streaming platforms to better understand PSA regulations and the specific streaming platforms found within Canada. There is also an expressed desire for obtaining A.A. member feedback from various age groups on the desire from the Fellowship to embark on A.A. paid placement ads on streaming platforms.</p> <p>Video and Audio PSAs are all available online: www.aa.org/public-information-committees</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on the development of a GSO Podcast.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The Public Information (P.I.) committee is in the process of developing a service material-themed podcast, as directed by the 2021 General Service Conference. The committee released a survey about the pilot episode to the corporate boards and office staff and feedback was positive.</p> <p>The committee is relying on the experience and success of the Grapevine podcast and came up with these points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Entrust the General Service Office (G.S.O.) to manage the podcast’s creation and adherence to A.A. principles to allow the seamless production of a regular series of episodes. ○ Ask the trustees’ Public Information Committee to research the best methods for future podcast episodes to be completed in Spanish and French. ○ Develop the methodology to invite participants in recorded sessions based on topics to include our trustees, staffs, and members in the episodes. ○ Establish internal and external resources to support the production of the G.S.O. Podcast. It may be helpful to engage freelance support that brings experience on creative Podcast development and formatting. ○ Implement analytics as described in the G.S.O. Podcast Plan to report annually to the Conference Committee on Public Information.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group want to hear in a GSO Podcast? What kind of topics or information about GSO would your group like to hear in a podcast format?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review report on “YouTube Performance.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	General Service Office (GSO) staff continues to update the content on the AA World Service YouTube channel. Goals include maximizing searchability, updating branding, and adding more Spanish content. The 3 rd Quarter report from YouTube is in the

	background material showing total views of 24,351 with the video titled Alcohólicos Anónimos with the most views (5,814). You can find the channel here: www.youtube.com/c/AlcoholicsAnonymousWorldServicesInc
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group know about or view the AA YouTube channel? Does your group think this is going to be an effective Public Information tool? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Review report on “Google Ads Performance.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2019, the Conference approved starting the process to implement Google AdWords for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public through Google searches. This year Google Ads moved AA to the “responsive ads” model which increased the performance in searches by 94%. The most “attention” since we began Google searches through Google AdWords continues to be “Find a Meeting” followed by “Get Help.” Staff continued to update content to ensure improved performance and we have seen measured growth in engaging in this technology.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Review report on “Meeting Guide Performance.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Version 4.0 of Meeting Guide App is now live. The App now has about 600,000 active users. The app has about 30 million users in the US and Canada. The next steps for the Meeting Guide App will be refining the usability in representing online vs. in-person groups and creating an easier way for local entities to upload meeting info. More info on the App: https://www.aa.org/meeting-guide-app
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Review the "2022 Third Quarter Report on A.A.W.S. Board Oversight of GSO's A.A. website."
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	A.A. launched a new website in 2021 and has continued to make upgrades to its technology. Staff is working with new web development and web-hosting providers as well as a new version of analytics measurement from Google. The website had 4,337,380 users with 7,825,012 page views in the 3 rd quarter of 2022. In that same time period, the most popular page on the website was Daily Reflections. Seventy-one percent of visitors to the website were on a mobile device and 27% were on a desktop.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item H**

Agenda Topic	Review report on “AAGV/La Viña Website, Marketing and Podcast.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The background on this topic is a comprehensive view of the Grapevine/ La Viña public information activities over the last year.</p> <p>Website: Grapevine (GV): 786,600 users in 2022; La Viña (LV): 30,000 users</p> <p>Marketing: Email campaigns and new landing pages for four new GV properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The "Welcome, Professionals" aagrapevine.org/professionals o The “Fun in Sobriety Book” aagrapevine.org/fun-in-sobriety-book o The “Diversión en sobriedad” aalavina.org/diversion-en-sobriedad o The "Concepts 60 years" aagrapevine.org/concepts60years <p>Podcast: As of October 2022, the GV Podcast had 56 episodes with 252,215 downloads. The GV Podcast is in the top 5% of all podcasts.</p> <p>Instagram: There is also a report on the performance of the GV & LV Instagram accounts in the background material.</p> <p>You can find the website and podcast at: www.aagrapevine.org</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Do your group’s members interact with GV/LV on the website, listen to the podcast, or view the GV or LV Instagram? How does your group find out about new GV/LV publications?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item I**

Agenda Topic	Review report for “Online Business Profiles.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Google, Bing, and Yelp keep public, online profiles of millions of businesses. These online profiles also have open comment sections that if unattended can become unruly. For example, in the 3rd quarter of 2022, the Google Business profile of AA had over 60,000 views. The Trustees committee approved a plan for the Communication Services Department and Public Information (PI) coordinator to begin a weekly cadence of review and response to these comments.</p> <p>The background material contains a sample of some of the public comments and the standard responses the PI coordinator uses.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item J**

Agenda Topic	Review report on analytics.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	A 2004 Advisory Action requires the General Service Office (GSO) to compile quarterly and annual website analytics reports. Since that time, AA’s digital footprint has grown along with the data it produces. There is now a working group appointed by the Public Information (PI) committee that will research the best way to report on the data generated by our website, YouTube, Google Analytics, and the Meeting Guide app. Staff is striving to capture and combine them into a single report to help summarize all this information into a digestible and actionable format.

What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or on the phone.
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Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item K**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on the Young People’s Video Project.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This year’s report includes the review and development of the videos that were submitted. The Public Information (PI) committee is working through the various technical and editorial issues with the submitted videos. These videos may eventually end up on AA’s website and other digital properties.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item L**

Agenda Topic	Discuss feasibility research on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The 2021 General Service Conference approved a recommendation that a feasibility study is done on the paid placement of Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos on streaming platforms like Netflix, Hulu, and YouTube. The 2022 Conference Committee reviewed this study and requested further research be conducted comparing paid versus donated media value ads and the effectiveness of these different approaches. The study is in the background material.</p> <p>A portion of this report states that: “decades ago, the main media to work with included television, radio, and print. Today, nonprofits cannot ignore the shift in habits in terms of where people get their news, information, or entertainment. Television audiences are moving away from broadcast TV and moving to [streaming platforms] ... For any organization wanting to have messaging on digital and social media platforms, it must be on a paid basis as there really are no ‘donated’ options. Yes, other nonprofits who want to be online do pay. If you are searching online and you see a banner come up for a nonprofit organization, that organization is paying to have that banner appear... Even with A.A.’s successful TV PSA generating tens of thousands of airings, consider that the median age of a live TV viewer is 56 (according to Nielsen). This means certain audiences are not as exposed to the A.A. message as much as others because they are not frequent TV watchers. From Nielsen: 59% of live TV viewers are 55+, 18% of live TV viewers are 45-54, 12% of live TV viewers are 35-44, 3% of live TV viewers are 18-24.”</p> <p>The background also contains a report on the Canadian streaming environment. The background also has materials from some of streaming platforms, the target audiences, and the expected deliverables the platform can create.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	How does your group feel about our PSAs being placed on streaming services like Hulu or Netflix? What could the benefits and drawbacks of this be?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item M1**

Agenda Topic	Discuss Public Information pamphlets/materials: Review progress report on revision to the flyer “A.A. at a Glance”
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Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The staff secretary has researched the trustees' Public Information (P.I.) Committee files and discovered the P.I. Pamphlet Review Grid of the Conference-approved pamphlets under the purview of this committee. "A.A. At a Glance" (F-1) has been part of our materials since 1954 and has continued to be updated, most recently in 2019. The Conference Committee is being asked to consider if editorial updates and a more modern look would improve the ability to carry the message expressed in this flyer. Although some suggestions for updates have been gathered, the committee did not have a chance to review any changes and tabled this work until after this year's General Service Conference.</p> <p>The current pamphlet can be found at: www.aa.org/aa-glance.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item M2**

Agenda Topic	Discuss Public Information pamphlets/materials: Review progress report on revision to the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings"
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The 2021 General Service Conference approved a recommendation that 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. The draft of the revision is still being developed and a draft or progress report on the revision will be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information. There are eight suggestions in the background material that are still being worked on. After a draft is completed, the committee will consider additional tools like a PowerPoint presentation.</p> <p>The current pamphlet can be found at: www.aa.org/speaking-non-aa-meetings</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item M3**

Agenda Topic	Discuss Public Information pamphlets/materials: Review progress report on revision to the flyer "A Message to Teenagers"
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>A 2021 advisory action stated, "That the trustees' Public Information Committee revise the flyer 'A Message to Teenagers' to better reflect carrying the A.A. message to young people."</p> <p>The committee is in discussion on how to best reach teenage alcoholics from updating the artwork and questions in the pamphlet to creating digital materials that can be shared on social media and other platforms to reach teens where they are today.</p> <p>Link to the flyer: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-9_amesagetoteenagers-1.pdf</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item N**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on the request to create a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2020, the Conference Public Information Committee reviewed a request “to create a new form of communication” to address anonymity on social media. The committee suggested that information be gathered from the fellowship regarding how A.A. members adhere to anonymity Traditions on various social media platforms, safety and etiquette suggestions while using social media, and about anonymity on video meeting platforms. The committee is planning on sending out a survey to the fellowship about anonymity on social media soon; this has been delayed because of the amount of other work currently being done by staff at the General Service Office.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think is the best way to communicate to the fellowship about social media and anonymity?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item O**

Agenda Topic	Review report on 2022 A.A. Membership Survey process.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This item is a look back at the process of the Membership Survey conducted last year. This process had 14 segments to it, the 14 th of which is this evaluation of the process itself. Surveys of this size were previously researched by GSO and Staff and this method was selected. All 93 Areas participated in the 2022 Membership Survey, with 780 in-person and 86 online groups randomly selected and reached out to by Area Delegates. After reconciling our registration data with the actual status of these groups, the process of sorting and calculating the data and then working with the subcommittee on survey reporting (see the next topic- Item P) on how to present the survey results will begin.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item P**

Agenda Topic	Review report on 2022 A.A. Membership Survey results reporting.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In anticipation of the 2022 Survey results, a subcommittee was formed to create a draft of the pamphlet and website for displaying the survey results. The subcommittee is considering different forms of infographics that can: 1. Live in a pamphlet 2. Live on the webpage 3. Be used by the Fellowship to do the service work in the local communities. Also being considered is how this survey could help our Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC) efforts.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item Q**

Agenda Topic	Review content and format of P.I. Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The review of these items is on the agenda every year. Typically, service kits are updated annually each fall. A list of the proposed changes is in the background material. Most of

	the changes modernize the language (like references to using “telephone directories” and the “yellow pages”) and adjust the language to align with the new preamble.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item R**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to implement an Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Instagram account.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The Communication Services Department, along with the guidance of Public Information Desk recommends the creation, implementation, and management of an official Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (A.A.W.S.) Instagram account. This Instagram account would: highlight the GSO Podcast (with scheduled posts to build awareness of upcoming episodes); share updates from G.S.O. (such as calendars and upcoming events i.e., Regional Forums, Conference, etc.); post seasonal literature special offers; and publicize press releases, newsletters, and news.</p> <p>All the postings would observe AA’s anonymity and security standards and utilize Conference-approved content. Grapevine and La Viña are currently utilizing Instagram accounts. Details about their effectiveness can be found in the background material found in Public Information Item H.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think having a GSO Instagram account is a good idea? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item A1**

Agenda Topic	The A.A. Service Manual, 2023-2025 Edition: Review list of editorial updates.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Every year, the General Service Board, the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (A.A.W.S.) Board and the AA Grapevine Board review <i>The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service</i> and forward updates to the Conference committee on Report and Charter. A list of editorial updates is available only for members of this committee.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email, through a web form on the Area website, or on the phone.

Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item A2**

Agenda Topic	The A.A. Service Manual, 2023-2025 Edition: Consider the request to rescind the 2018 Advisory Action concerning a footnote in the resolution concerning “register” and “Groups.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2018, the General Service Conference voted to add a footnote to the Resolution attached as part of the Original Conference Charter and Current Conference Charter that stated that “Bill uses the term ‘registered.’ Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (A.A.W.S.) neither monitors nor oversees the activities or practices of any AA group. Groups are listed solely for purpose of accurate communications.” This proposed agenda item (from Area 76 Wyoming) would remove this footnote.</p> <p>The original Resolution states that the 12 Traditions and Warranties cannot be changed without asking for the consent of the “registered A.A. groups of the world.” The writers of the proposed agenda item are concerned that the footnote causes confusion about which groups would need to give consent – all “listed” groups (e.g., every meeting listed in the meeting guide app), or only all “registered” groups (e.g., groups that are registered with the General Service Office).</p>

What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.
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Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item A3**

Agenda Topic	The A.A. Service Manual, 2023-2025 Edition: Consider the request for specific changes to the 2021-2023 version of The A.A. Service Manual.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	A member from a group in Texas is submitting several changes to the A.A. Service Manual. The majority of the changes are minor and simply clarify where in the Manual information can be found.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item A4**

Agenda Topic	The A.A. Service Manual, 2023-2025 Edition: Review progress report from A.A.W.S. Publishing on a new section to be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled “Amendments.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2021, an agenda item requested a revision to Bill W.’s Concept Eleven essay in <i>The Twelve Concepts for World Service</i>. This 2021 agenda item noted that several changes have occurred with the structure of trustees’ committees since Bill W.’s writing of the essay, and the footnotes that were being used to explain them made the essay confusing to read.</p> <p>The 2021 Conference advised the creation of an “Amendments” section at the end of the <i>Twelve Concepts for World Service</i>, containing an updated version of the Concept XI essay. In 2022, progress was reviewed and it was requested that a draft update be created. Four options were offered, and one was selected.</p> <p>The selected option would use a new “Amendments” section to incorporate new text to update the Committee descriptions, and include information from the Concept XI essay footnotes. This version also deletes some of the original text for continuity. The committee notes that this version will likely need its own footnote to explain the removal of original text.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	How does your group feel about the proposed “Amendments” section?

Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item A5**

Agenda Topic	The A.A. Service Manual, 2023-2025 Edition: Review feasibility report of an ASL translation of The A.A. Service Manual Combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>A 2022 Conference Committee Consideration requested research into the need and feasibility of producing an American Sign Language (ASL) translation of the A.A. Service Manual, as well as encouraging local areas, districts, and Intergroup/Central Offices to make ASL service opportunities more accessible.</p> <p>The background notes that the projected cost would total between \$75,000 - \$90,000, not including the “talent costs” of hiring four sign language interpreters (including transportation, room and board). There may also be need for more discussion and feedback on ASL formats as a larger conversation. More input is needed from ASL,</p>

	Quebec Sign Language (QSL), and Spanish Sign Language users on what the next large-scale project should be.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about the translation of the A.A. Service Manual into ASL, given the results of the feasibility report?

Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Discuss General Service Conference Final Report.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This is an annual item for the Report & Charter committee, to discuss the 2022 General Service Conference <i>Final Report</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Consider posting an anonymity-protected Conference Final Report on aa.org.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2020, the Trustee’s General Service Conference Committee (TSGSC) considered a proposed agenda item to post an anonymity-protected Conference Final Report on aa.org and took no action, noting that there are “sufficient avenues” for distribution.</p> <p>At the October 2022 A.A. World Service (A.A.W.S). board meeting, a motion was passed to request the TSGSC to again engage in discussion about posting the anonymity-protected Final Report on aa.org.</p> <p>At the January 2023 TSGSC meeting, the Committee noted that several local AA areas are already posting the digital version of the General Service Conference Final Report on their websites. This digital version is anonymity protected (with AA members being referenced by first name and last initial). A google search of “2022 final conference report alcoholics anonymous” finds the report posted on several local area websites.</p> <p>The committee has agreed to forward the request for posting an anonymity-protected Conference Final Report on aa.org.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on update to the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic— Never too Late.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2019 there was a Conference Advisory action to revise the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic—Never Too Late.” At the April 2022 meeting of the General Service Conference, the committee on Treatment and Accessibilities reviewed stories selected for an update to the pamphlet, which would focus on developing an expanded range of stories from A.A. members who found recovery after the age of 60. The committee identified some gaps in the stories and communicated those gaps to the Trustees’ Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities (CPC/TA). Although the draft pamphlet and progress reports are not available for regular A.A. members to review, the Treatment and Accessibilities committee’s suggestions to the trustees’ CPC/TA can be found in the background (Document 1). Ultimately, the committee felt that the stories that were presented in 2022 would not be an effective way</p>

	<p>to reach the newcomer. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2023 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.</p> <p>Since the 2022 Meeting of the General Service Conference, the Trustee's CPC/TA committee created a Working Group charged with updating the pamphlet, keeping in mind the suggestions made at the April 2022 General Service Conference. Over a series of meetings, the Working Group has narrowed the story selection to eight. The Working Group has also been working on updating the introductory text of the pamphlet.</p> <p>The Working Group also hoped to revise the back pages of the pamphlet to ensure that readers of "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic" would easily find other helpful resources, in particular, other conference-approved literature available in large print. A suggestion was made to add a QR code to the pamphlet, which could direct users to large-print material. It was also observed that using a QR Code to point readers to electronic resources would allow readers to enlarge PDFs with their own electronic devices, thus making most Conference-approved literature available to those with vision impairments. Although the Publishing Department indicated that they are still evaluating the use of QR codes at this time, the Working Group suggests that once this QR Code piloting evaluation is complete, staff consider adding a QR code to the pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic."</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on Military audio interviews.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2019 there was a Conference Advisory action to "...develop anonymity-protected audio interviews with military professionals about their experience with A.A. as a resource for posting online." The Trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities (CPC/TA) committee has been continuing work on this "Military audio interview" project, guided by the suggestions of the 2022 Conference committee on Treatment and Accessibilities. The subcommittee has conducted many audio interviews with active-duty members representing a diverse cross-section of those who serve in different branches of the military and have different ranks and genders. A sample audio recording reviewed by the committee received positive feedback. The background material contains transcripts of two such interviews for those interested in reviewing (Documents 4 and 5).</p> <p>The 2023 Conference committee on Treatment and Accessibilities will be reviewing the report for the project, and the subcommittee members of the project will be working on a plan to offer audio interviews as a resource, finalizing interviews and posting them in communication channels, and gain agreement on an action plan for the General Service Office (GSO) staff to take on the responsibility to manage the completion on production for all remaining audio interviews that are recorded.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review contents and format of Treatment Kit and Workbook.
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Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Every year, the Treatment and Accessibilities committee at the General Service Conference reviews the Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook. Outdated information may be updated or removed by General Service Office (GSO) staff members, who report those changes to the trustees.</p> <p>The Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook are available to view on: https://www.aa.org/contents-treatment-committee-kit-list</p> <p>Due to pandemic-induced supply chain and paper shortage challenges, the implementation of annual updates has been delayed. As of the October 2022 Trustee's Cooperation with the Professional Community/ Treatment / Accessibilities-Remote Communities meeting, the annual kit contents update is underway to capture all suggested changes from 2021 to 2022.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review contents and format of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Every year, the Treatment and Accessibilities committee at the Conference reviews the Accessibilities Kit and Workbook. Outdated information may be updated or removed by GSO staff members, who report those changes to the trustees.</p> <p>The Kit contents and Workbook are available online at: www.aa.org/contents-accessibilities-kit-list</p> <p>Due to pandemic-induced supply chain and paper shortage challenges, the implementation of annual updates has been delayed. As of the October 2022 Trustees Cooperation with the Professional Community/ Treatment/ Accessibilities-Remote Communities meeting, the annual kit contents update is underway to capture all suggested changes from 2021 to 2022.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to do an Accessibilities Inventory of Alcoholics Anonymous throughout its services and structure.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This request comes from Area 29 (Maryland) after unanimous approval at their Area assembly in August 2022. The intent of this inventory is to identify areas for improvement in carrying the message to those with accessibility challenges. The reasoning for the proposal as stated in the background material (Document 1) is that “there are still numerous obstacles within our fellowship and its services for members and prospective members in carrying and receiving the message of recovery for persons with a disability. There are also barriers in language differences and reaching remote communities.” The submitter of this agenda item states that “looking at and inventorying how we are doing in meeting these needs is the first step in improving providing services and access to the message or recovery.”</p> <p>Also included in the background material (Document 2) are samples of activities where accessibilities have been considered, and other activities where considering accessibilities could be useful, including 1) the A.A. Membership Survey (see Conference Committee</p>

	on Public Information Agenda Item O), 2) the General Service Conference Inventory Report, 3) the 2020-21 progress report on the Trustees' Literature Subcommittee on RIPTAB (Researching Issues, Possible Tools and Access to the Book, Alcoholics Anonymous) indicating a need for a "plain language Big Book," 4) several issues of Grapevine and La Viña magazines, 5) area, district, and group Inventories, 6) the Accessibilities Checklist (SMF-208), and 7) A.A. Guidelines on Accessibility (MG-16).
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group believe that an accessibilities inventory of Alcoholics Anonymous throughout its services and structure is necessary? Why or why not?

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Discuss carrying the message to alcoholics with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>The Trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee (CPC/TA) received a proposed agenda item: "Consider the development of a pamphlet directed to the alcoholic with learning disabilities, social disorders, developmental disabilities, and cognitive disorders" and took no action. Instead, the committee agreed to forward a discussion topic to the 2023 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities to discuss the best methods for the Fellowship to reach the alcoholic with learning disabilities, social disorders, developmental disabilities, and cognitive disorders.</p> <p>The background material (Document 1) includes a history of activities related to carrying the message to alcoholics with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges, and diverse neurological abilities. Some of the more recent activities include editorial changes to the pamphlet "A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs" as well as retitling it to "Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers," expansion of the scope of the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities, and a suggestion from the trustees' CPC/TA to update the A.A. Guidelines on Accessibilities to include references to intellectual disabilities and learning difficulties. The committee has also requested ongoing reviews and revision of materials to replace the term "special needs" with "accessibilities" across all A.A. literature, including service material.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on Bridging the Gap Workbook and other service materials.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Following the 2020 General Service Conference, General Service Office (GSO) staff and the trustees' Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee (CPC/TA) began work on a Bridging the Gap (BTG) workbook, as suggested by the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.</p> <p>Their preparatory work included collecting sharing from the Fellowship on BTG, considering locally produced workbooks in use by BTG committees in different parts of the country, and a review of other service material that refers to BTG. The list of service materials reviewed can be found in the background information (Document 1). Based on the review, it was unclear whether a workbook was needed, or whether existing service materials might be updated to meet the needs of members.</p>

What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about Bridging the Gap’s service to the Fellowship now, and in the future? What service materials are needed to effectively do the work of Bridging the Gap across the fellowship?
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Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item H**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on update to the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Following the 2019 and 2020 General Service Conferences, General Service Office (GSO) staff and the trustees’ Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities (CPC/TA) Committee continued work on updating the Bridging the Gap pamphlet, as suggested by the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.</p> <p>Two versions of the revised pamphlet have been drafted. The first is an update to the existing pamphlet, P-49 “Bridging the Gap.” This update reflects changes suggested by the 2019 and 2020 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities. The second draft is a re-organized and re-focused pamphlet retitled “For Professionals: How Bridging the Gap Helps Alcoholics.” This second pamphlet came because of a shift in direction from an inner-facing pamphlet to an outward facing one.</p> <p>These drafts are not available for A.A. members at this time but will be reviewed by the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities to discuss and provide input regarding the focus of this pamphlet.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	What is your group’s experience with Bridging the Gap? Who should the target audience for a pamphlet about Bridging the Gap be? Why?

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item I**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on GSO’s Guidelines for Remote Communities.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2019, the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities reviewed a draft Remote Communities Kit and agreed that there is a need for the new material. The committee suggested that before the kit is made available, that a guideline or workbook be developed for inclusion. Since then, the trustees’ Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee (CPC/TA) has been reviewing and discussing the creation and revisions to guidelines for Remote Communities. At the January 2023 trustees’ CPC/TA meeting, the committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities the G.S.O.’s Guidelines for Remote Communities report for review and discussion because it is new service material. The draft guidelines are included in the background material (Document 1).
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item A1**

Agenda Topic	Review resumes of candidates for: Northeast Regional Trustee
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The resumes are only available to members of the Conference Committee on Trustees, but you can see a list of names of the candidates elected by each Area in the Northeast Region in the background. The Northeast Regional Trustee will be elected by Area Delegates from that region, members of the trustees’ Nominating Committee, and the Conference Committee on Trustees in accordance with the procedures laid out on the voting sheets in the background and Chapter 8 of the <i>A.A. Service Manual</i> .

What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Conference Assemblies.
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Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item A2**

Agenda Topic	Review resumes of candidates for: Southwest Regional Trustee
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The resumes are only available to members of the Conference Committee on Trustees, but you can see a list of names of the candidates elected by each Area in the Southwest Region in the background. The Southwest Regional Trustee will be elected by Area Delegates from that region, members of the trustees' Nominating Committee, and the Conference Committee on Trustees in accordance with the procedures laid out on the voting sheets in the background and Chapter 8 of the <i>A.A. Service Manual</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Conference Assemblies.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item A3**

Agenda Topic	Review resumes of candidates for: Trustee-at-Large/Canada
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The resumes are only available to members of the Conference Committee on Trustees, but you can see a list of names of the candidates elected by each Area in Canada in the background. The Trustee-At-Large/Canada will be elected by Area Delegates from that region, members of the trustees' Nominating Committee, and the Conference Committee on Trustees in accordance with the procedures laid out on the voting sheets in the background and Chapter 8 of the <i>A.A. Service Manual</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Conference Assemblies.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board has been reviewed and recommended by the trustees' Nominating Committee. It will be reviewed by the Conference Committee on Trustees, before the Conference meeting, for disapproval, if any. The Interim Chairperson of the Conference Committee on Trustees will then present the slate to the entire Conference for disapproval, if any. The slates with the names of trustees and officers are in the background material, and include six Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees, with a seventh to be determined, and 13 Class B (alcoholic) trustees. Three of those Class B trustees will be elected at the Conference (see Topics A1, A2, and A3 above). Resumes for the new trustees were provided only to members of the Conference Committee on Trustees.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Conference Assemblies.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc. has been reviewed and recommended by the trustees' Nominating Committee. A resume for a new non-trustee director was provided only to members of the Conference Committee on Trustees. The entire slate will be reviewed by the Conference Committee on Trustees, before the Conference meeting, for disapproval, if any. The Interim Chairperson of the Conference Committee

	on Trustees will then present the slate to the entire Conference for disapproval if any. The names of the slate of directors are included in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Conference Assemblies.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The slate of directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc. has been reviewed and recommended by the trustees' Nominating Committee. A resume for a new non-trustee director was provided only to members of the Conference Committee on Trustees. The entire slate will be reviewed by the Conference Committee on Trustees, before the Conference meeting, for disapproval, if any. The Interim Chairperson of the Conference Committee on Trustees will then present the slate to the entire Conference for disapproval, if any. The names of the slate of directors are included in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Pre-Conference Assemblies

Conference Committee: **Archives — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review content and format of Archives Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Workbooks for Archives, Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.), Corrections, Public Information, Treatment and Accessibilities are reviewed by the appropriate Conference committees during each General Service Conference. The Archives Workbook can be found online: www.aa.org/archives-workbook
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Discuss selection of cities to be considered as a site for the International Convention in 2035.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	At their first quarterly meeting in January 2023, the General Service Board recommended that the following four cities be forwarded to the Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums (IC/RF) as possible sites for the International Convention in 2035: Indianapolis, Indiana; New Orleans, Louisiana; Phoenix, Arizona; and Toronto, Canada. During a Site Selection meeting, Conference IC/RF Committee members will hear presentations by the respective area delegates and convention/visitors bureau personnel from the bid cities.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email.

Conference Committee: **Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Discuss inviting up to twenty-one non-A.A. speakers to participate in the 2025 International Convention at A.A.'s expense.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Historically, non-A.A. friends have been invited to be panel speakers at our International Conventions. These Panel meetings at the International Convention maintain communication with the professional community, demonstrate Cooperation with the

	Professional Community (CPC) work for A.A.s attending, and ensure accurate information about A.A. The twenty-one non-alcoholic speakers come from suggestions made by the Fellowship, as well as the Trustees' CPC Committee and General Service Office (GSO) staff and are selected by the General Service Board. Non-A.A. panelists do not receive an honorarium. However, in keeping with our Seventh Tradition, their travel and hotel expenses are covered. It is estimated that transportation, housing, etc. in 2025 will be \$3,500 to \$4,500 for each non-A.A. speaker. The background material also includes a list of the non-A.A. Speakers who spoke on the following panels at the 2015 International Convention: A.A. and Treatment Facilities, A.A. and the Clergy, A.A. and the Healthcare Professional, A.A. and Court Programs, A.A. as a Resource for the Military, A.A. and the Alcoholism Field, A.A. and Correctional Facilities, and A.A. and the Workplace.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think we should continue this custom of inviting and paying for the travel expenses of non-alcoholic friends in the professional community to speak on CPC panels at the 2025 International Convention?

Conference Committee: **Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Discuss update report on methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	For the last four International Conventions, at the choice of the respective chair, one of the Big Meetings is closed with the Lord's Prayer, one is closed with the Serenity Prayer, and one is closed with the Responsibility Statement. At the 2021 General Service Conference, the Conference Committee on International Conventions/ Regional Forums (IC/RF) discussed methods of closing the Big Meetings at the next International Convention in 2025, particularly the use of the Lord's Prayer. A survey was conducted in 2022 to gather feedback from the Fellowship regarding methods of closing the Big meetings, including the use of the Lord's Prayer and potential alternatives (e.g. Third Step Prayer, Seventh Step Prayer, A.A.'s Declaration of Unity). In December 2022, the Trustees IC/RF Committee reviewed and discussed the survey results and concluded that the data "did not reflect an overwhelming desire by the respondents to change the current practice". Calculating the English, French, and Spanish responses in total, the Trustees committee noted that over 50% responded favorably to keeping with the current practice. The background material includes the survey data, which does show that almost 40% of English respondents and 55% of Spanish respondents wanted to end the practice, and that 47% of English respondents and 74% of Spanish respondents wanted to substitute another option for the Lord's Prayer.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Do you agree with the conclusion of the Trustees IC/RF Committee that there is not an overwhelming desire by the Fellowship to change the current practice of closing Big meetings at the International Conventions and that A.A. should continue the practice of allowing a Chair to choose the Lord's Prayer as a method of closing one of the Big meetings?

Conference Committee: **Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Regional Forums are held several times a year and are a service provided by General Service Office (GSO) staff and the General Service Board with the intent of allowing the general A.A. membership, not just people involved in General Service, to meet and interact with GSO staff and corporate Board members. This helps members put a face to their trusted servants and special workers. In order to encourage interest and attract first-

	<p>time attendees, this committee discusses several ideas each year. In 2022, some of the ideas discussed were: utilizing more current language when titling Regional Forums; and continuing to utilize digital communication options (such as the Meeting Guide app) to convey information about upcoming Forums, while also using non-digital options to ensure full accessibility and participation by members who may not have access to technology.</p>
<p>What does the Delegate need to know?</p>	<p>Have you been to a regional form? If so, why did you go? If you haven't been, what's keeping you from attending?</p>