

## 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference Report – 2022

### SLIDE 1



Hello friends my name is Rio and I am an alcoholic. Beyond grateful to be serving as your Area 79, Panel 71 Alternate Delegate & Literature Chair. As most of you already know I had the great honour of attending the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference held April 24-30, 2022 in Brooklyn NY as our Delegate Bob K, was unable to attend. Thank you, Bob for your past, current and future service to Area 79. You are so loved by so many.

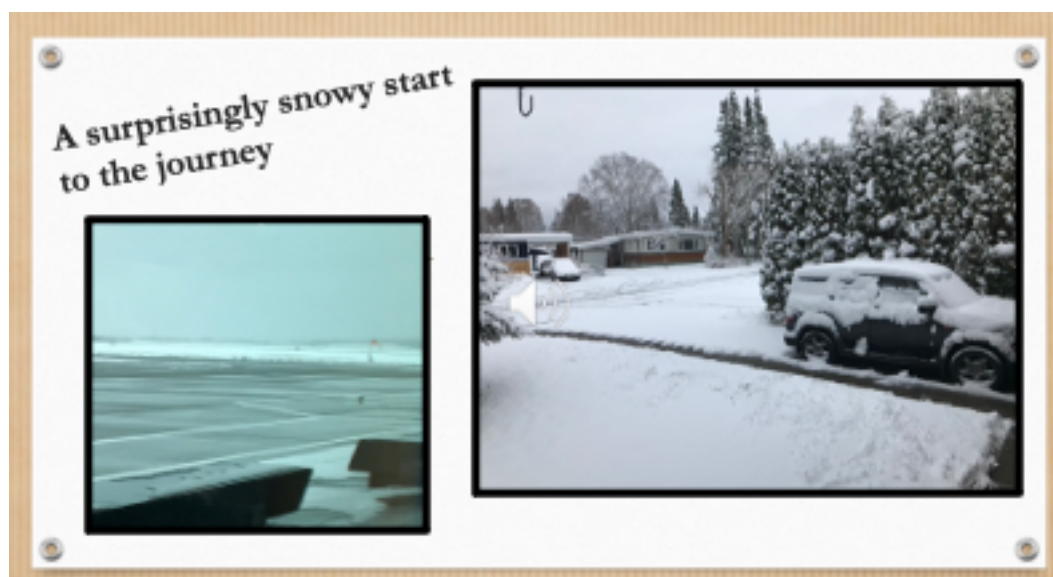
This was a rare opportunity as the last time one of our Alternate Delegates served in this capacity was 21 years ago way back in Panel 51. So, thank you for trusting me to carry the voice of Area 79 to this year's conference.

We often hear that our conference is a year-round process. Proposed Conference agenda items, the work on advisory actions, compiling all the background material happens throughout the year not just at the week-long conference. **You** have done most of the work in your groups by getting the voice of the fellowship to the April Pre-Conference which

is where I got the conscience of the Area to take with me to the conference in New York. Your work is so vital to this process. Thank you for taking the time to do this important service work it is greatly appreciated.

With just 4 weeks to prepare I was blessed to have the help of many other trusted servants. Travel plans, time off of work, changes to my role at the Pre-Conference in April, the change in my committee focus from Literature to Policy & Admissions, were just a few of the many logistics to get worked out. When we say you are not alone, we mean it especially when in service. There were past delegates that rallied in to help me prepare and I am forever grateful for all of their shared experience, strength and hope. Some helped me with travel, some helped prepare me for my committee, some typed up the labels that I used to send postcards back to the District Committee Members in our Area so I could show my appreciation for the work done in all of our districts and groups. No detail was left to chance because of their willingness to help me serve our BC Yukon fellowship at the General Service Conference.

## SLIDE 2



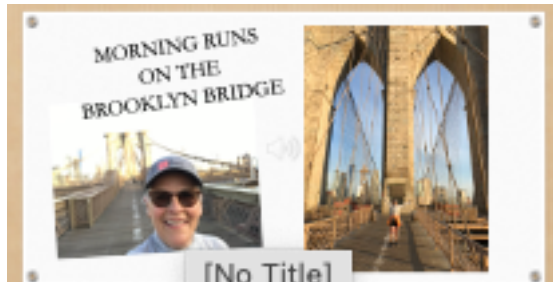
The morning of April 19<sup>th</sup> is when my journey started and even though it was a bit snowing in Prince George that didn't dampen my spirits and I arrived safely in Vancouver to start the next leg of my journey.

### SLIDE 3



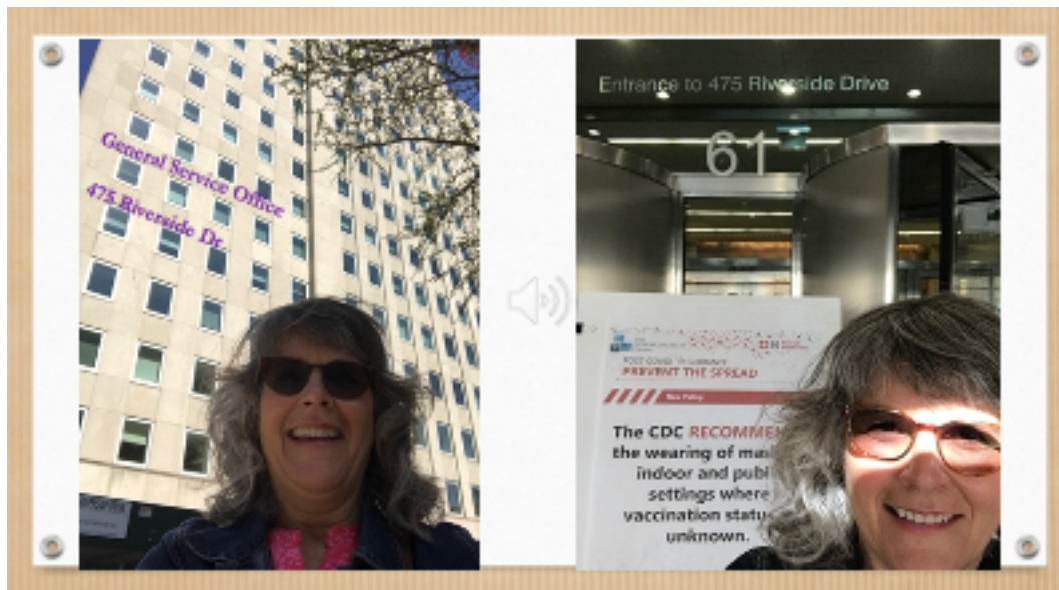
I was able to travel **to** and **from** the conference with Carolyn W, our newly elected Class B Trustee now serving both the General Service Board and the AAWS Corporate Board and her generosity provided me with the ease and comfort of getting to and from NYC with the greatest of ease. We arrived a few days early and because I was being chaperoned by Carolyn, I was able to have a personal tour guide. I was able to see some of the sites of NYC, attend a Broadway play, go to jazz club and the Museum of Modern Art and even got to a Yankees baseball game. These days of adventure prior to the start of the conference were done at my own expense and I am so incredibly grateful to Carolyn for the invitation and suggestion that we get our sightseeing adventures in prior to the conference starting. What an amazing opportunity this was for me to have the trip of a lifetime in NYC with another trusted servant who knows the city better than most New Yorkers.

#### SLIDE 4



As you know I get out to run when I can and it was incredible to run across Brooklyn Bridge each morning to clear my head and get spiritually connected for each day of the conference. On the very first day I met another runner that stopped to take this picture of me and later after running for a bit we figured out that he too is a friend of Bill W's.

#### SLIDE 5



The conference doesn't start until Sunday, but on Friday I got to attend an AA meeting at the General Service Office at 475 Riverside Drive. The General Service Offices were closed due to COVID restrictions so I was not able to see it but a large meeting room was opened up for us to have people gather safely and to follow the COVID restrictions current in the City of New York at the time. This meeting was so amazing to attend as there were some GSO Staff, trustees of all kinds, some delegates and

guests in attendance and it was the first real OMG moment for me. I was sitting in the building where so much is done for Alcoholics Anonymous. I was tearful when asked to share and am now as I remember that powerful moment that solidified the fact that I was in NYC at the General Service Office attending an AA meeting with others that were also on a journey of service because of the upcoming conference.

## SLIDE 6



Saturday morning, I was able to go on a bus tour with all of the Western Canada Regional delegates (Tami A78, Richard A80 and Glen A91) along with most of the delegates from the Pacific Region. The current and past archivists who were on the bus providing a wonderful guided tour of Clinton St, Calvary Church and Towns Hospital. What a bizarre feeling standing outside the buildings that we have read so much about in our literature.

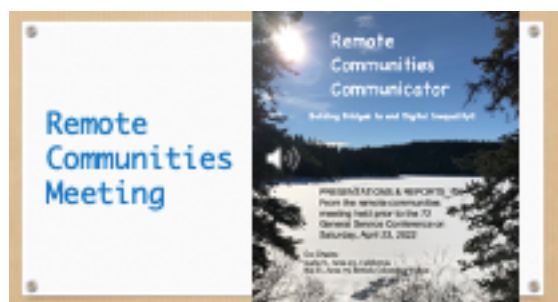
That same Saturday afternoon the hospitality room at the conference opened up and I got to meet my conference buddy Bryon B, Panel 72 from Area 74 N. Wisconsin/Upper Pennsylvania. He was as nervous as I was as we were both attending our first General Service conference. I gave him copies of our Area 79 Bottle Book, Pioneer in Skirts and the GSR Handbook. Which he was surprised and really excited to get something from our Area.

Then it was time attend the 1728 meeting. The 1728 group was formed to help Class A trustees, and other interested non-alcoholics, to learn more about the Alcoholics Anonymous program of recovery from



alcoholism. The group meets during the quarterly General Service Board weekends and prior to the annual General Service Conference. It is uniquely named as our 12 steps X our 12 traditions X our 12 Concepts = 1728.

## SLIDE 7



After that it was my great honour to co-chair the Remotes Communities Meeting with Karla Y, Area 93 Panel 71 Delegate from Central California. Karla and I met virtually a few times prior to this meeting and it was a real pleasure to meet her in person and to work tandem with her. She is such an amazing young lady who was one of the few Spanish speaking delegates. The meeting had approximately 85-90 in attendance and the participation was excellent. The theme was Building Bridges to End Digital Inequality and 4 presenters started us off before breaking the tables into groups to have discussion and report backs to the full group. All of those report backs are included in the new edition the Remote Communicator Newsletter along with many submissions from other areas. This really started the whole conference off on such a spiritually powerful direction for me. The Remote Communities meeting is not part of the Conference, but it is a time for Conference members and guests who are interested in remote communities' work, to come together and share experience, strength and hope.

## SLIDE 8



This Saturday evening ended with the first delegates only meeting of the conference and it was just incredible to be sitting in a room full of delegates and I was so surprised of how many I recognized from being on zoom with so many areas over the last few years. I have to share that in Area 56 Ohio I got to facilitate their elections last year. And the delegate that was elected was Andrea and we joked over a year ago that we one day might see each other at conference and now we were hugging and laughing and crying in person together in the delegates meeting. So powerful. It turned out that she was also in my assigned committee of Policy and Admissions and she was also elected as next year's committee chair.

The 72nd General Service Conference theme was A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service and that unity was what I felt during this entire conference. We were unified in our passion, commitment and willingness to serve. It was a unique experience for those that had attended virtually last year and were in person this year. I was blown away when within the first day I heard that someone had developed a glide app for the conference information and it was an Eastern Canada delegate from Area 83 named Kimberley M, who was a tech person for the first virtual conference back in 2020.

Day 1 – was Sunday April 24 and I was suited up and showing up to an opportunity beyond my wildest dreams. Here I was heart pounding, emotions stirring and gratitude tearing up on my eyes. Because I was on the Policy and Admissions committee, I got to meet in my committee prior to the conference starting. I can't tell you how weird it was to be

on the committee that votes on the observers and attendees attending the conference. It was kind of awkward and hilarious at the same time. No, I did not vote for myself. But I did get to vote for the one other Alternate Delegate that was attending.

At 900 am sharp the conference opened with our GSB Chair, Linda Chezem (non-alcoholic) giving an opening statement and I was rocketed into the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference. Our GSO General Manager, Bob W, (alcoholic) read off the admission names and the two names stated were my own and one other. His name is Chris M, and he was there on behalf of Area 49 which is South East New York we were in Brooklyn and that is his area. What was really incredible was that he only had 4 days' notice as his Delegate got COVID just days before the start of the conference. Chris and I really bonded as the only two Alternates that were serving as conference delegates and I've made a lifelong friend. It was also so bizarre to think that our two names are recorded forever in the advisory action that passed allowing us to attend the 72nd General Service Conference.

## SLIDE 9



Then came the Roll Call and you could feel the goose bumps that everyone was feeling. This was the first in person conference in 3 years and the energy in the room resonated to every one of the 134 voting members in the room. This slide shows you some of the stats about those attending the conference.



It's really true what they say about walking into the conference room and having that moment of how did I get here. It is truly surreal and emotional all at the same time.

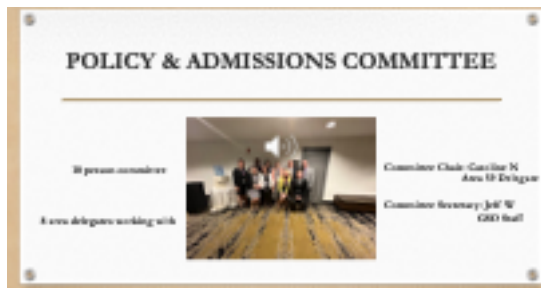
The rest of day one was filled with welcomes, orientations, overview of the conference, workshops and sharing sessions. We ate all our meals in the venue and the meal rooms, meeting rooms and conference were all easy to find and it didn't take long to get the lay of land so to speak. My first lunch was spent together with our Western Canada Regional Trustee, Irma V., and the rest of the Western Canada Regional Delegates. It is incredible how much unity we have in Western Canada and that all of us in the room knew each other either from meeting in person prior to or over zoom during the last few years. The afternoon was spent in Joint Trustee and Conference committee meetings which for my committee of Policy and Admission was short and we basically when right into our first conference committee meeting.

## SLIDE 10



The evening of this very first day of the conference ended with the Delegates Dinner and it was a formal event. Lovely to be part of something so festive and fun. I've never been to the Grammy's or Oscar's but that what it looked like with everyone so well dressed and the dinner was followed with 5 amazing speakers. What an action packed first day of conference.

## SLIDE 11



Then the next morning on Day 2 which was Monday, April 25 our committee again met and the amount of work each committee did was so incredible. The recommendations and considerations for all of the 13 conference committees was work done with care and respect. I served on the Policy and Admissions committee and we worked well together and our Committee Chair was Panel 71 Delegate Caroline N, from Area 59, Eastern Pennsylvania. She and our committee secretary Jeff W, from GSO were absolutely incredible. They were dialed into all things being discussed in our Policy & Admissions committee and the resources of trustees available to be pulled into our committee when questions arose was so valuable and appreciated during our discussions and in the preparation of our committee recommendations and considerations. The other delegates on the Policy and Admissions committee were wonderful to work with. The rest of the afternoon of day 2 was filled with board reports, dinner and a “What is on your Mind” sharing session.

## SLIDE 12



Here are some of the board meeting highlights...

**General Service Board:** presented by Linda Chezem, GSB Chair elected in May 2021 had served previously as a Class A trustee from 1996 to 2002 and first vice chair from 2000-2003. Currently the General Service Board has 3 Adhoc committees: 1) "Increasing Participation in the General Service Structure Through the Lens of the 3rd and 5th Traditions," 2) Initiation of the next General Service Office Location Study which is called (Location Plus); and 3) is the Trustees' Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the General Service Structure (in response to the Advisory Action of the 71st General Service Conference) which our Trish L, Trustee at Large Canada is currently service on. Good overall report with mention that the New Trustee orientations are under way.

**A.A.World Services:** presented by Jimmy D, AAWS Chair talked about the new Member Services Department that was unveiled in June 2021. Currently, this new department consists of six employees, five of whom are bilingual English/Spanish and/or English/French. Here are incredible stats from our GSO. They handled 22,400 unique email requests from the Fellowship, 4,381 phone calls, 26,800 literature orders, 5,582 Group/District/Area updates in the period from end of June, 2021 through the end of March, 2022. AAWS also deals with all of the following: Literature/Publishing; Website; Fellowship Connection; Corrections Correspondence Service; all member requests; Regional Forums-which had been done virtual for the first time; Intergroup & Central Offices; International services like the REDELA meeting; our Meeting Guide/You Tube Channel/Google for Non-Profit; Finance (which we will discuss more about later on); Archives; Communication Services; Technology Services; General Management and Staff; METS (meetings, events & travel services); Human Resources and so much more. This is all done by 81 full time and 3 part time employees. So, when you think of the enormous workload that these 84 people are doing it is absolutely incredible. Please be kind with your requests of our GSO staff they are working hard for the good of AA.

**A.A. Grapevine & La Vina:** presented by Josh E, GV/LV Chair, such an amazing presentation. It really made me realize how far the board and the very few workers at GV/La Vina are going to make such an attractive, interactive and valuable meeting in not only print but website and podcasts too. I've taken this directly from his written report. "Here is a little history Back in 1946 six overworked volunteer members collected, wrote and published the experience of groups from around the country. In 2022 nine overworked paid employees and a few part time assistants publish two sixty-four-page magazines, one monthly in English, the other bi-monthly in Spanish, with two unique websites, one for each magazine and each entirely in their respective languages. They record and publish the audio of every issue on the website. Repackage and redistribute that audio as content on YouTube while collecting any videos submitted by the membership to publish. They create content for, and manage, two social media pages on Instagram, one in English the other in Spanish, and one weekly English-language podcast. At the same time, they also publish a library of over 40 books across three languages and average one or two new collections annually." Josh's power point presentation was so powerful I passed it on to Drew our Alt Chair/GV Chair and will get that up on our Area 79 website for you under the Delegates page.

Okay, that was all before dinner on Day 2. Are you still with me?

### SLIDE 13



And now what you've all been waiting for the finance report. This report is also on the website under the Delegates page

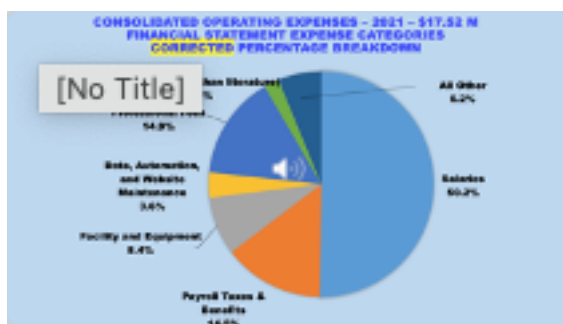
**Finance:** presented by Kevin Prior, Class A Trustee –We really should invite Kevin to one of our assemblies in Panel 73. He makes the finances interesting and easy to understand.

## SLIDE 14



2021 Audit was completed on schedule and considered clean. Meaning no major issues found and there were only 5 recommendations that came out of the audit. One recommendation was regarding allocations and that it can be simplified. So that is already in progress.

## SLIDE 15



Looking over expenses. Looking at the pie graph you can see that salaries for those extremely hard working 84 employees is half the pie. Since the pandemic we have had a lot of the GSO employees retire and attracting and keeping new staff is vital to our operations.

## SLIDE 16 & 17 & 18

Highlights as on slides...



16: another record year of contribution almost 11 million; all operating expenses are down due to the pandemic; AAWS publishing is down because the cost of publishing has risen and our prices have not



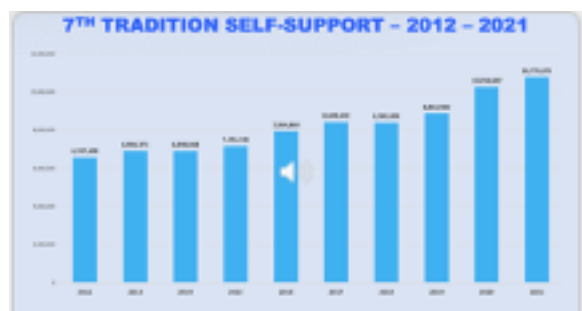
17: again, these savings are due to the pandemic and the office being closed – the office is still not operating at full in person capacity



18: GV decrease in subscriptions so please get a subscription for yourself or someone else. Still a smaller operating loss than in 2020. La Vina circulation decreased but our Spanish magazine will continue to provide a meeting in print to the fellowship. Remember we don't contribute to GV we subscribe so please do.



## SLIDE 19



A big thank you to all of our fellowship for their continued contributions to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. Your contributions are vital to our continued and future endeavours to carry the message of hope to those still suffering from the disease of alcoholism. Your contributions broke another record and were close to 11 million dollars in 2021.

This graph shows a 3-year continued increase of contributions and the gratitude extended from the General Service Board was expressed many times throughout this financial presentation.

## SLIDE 20

MEMBER SERVICES & STATISTICS 2021	
MEMBERS	
7th Tradition Self-Support Contributions	10,775,671
Number of Members	1,475,529
Contributions per Member 2021	7.30
Contributions per Member 2020	6.81
GROUPS	
7th Tradition Self-Support Contributions	10,775,671
Number of Groups	72,136
Contributions per Group 2021	149.38
Contributions per Group 2020	144.12

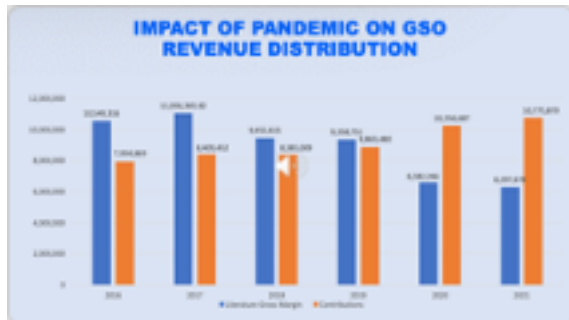
Member services & stats for 2021

So, looking at the almost 11 million dollars of contributions broken down by number of members in 2020 was 6.81 in 2021 it was 7.30

Contributions by number groups are also listed here.

Again, all of these number and the entire 34- page financials from GSO are on our website login side under the delegate page.

## SLIDE 21



Income for our services comes from two places. Our literature sales and your contributions. You can see how the generosity of our fellowship has helped to bring in nearly 11 million dollars. The reason the literature is down is that the cost to publish it has gone up. As most of you already know we have literature on back order and the cost to secure the paper and have our literature published has risen substantially since the pandemic. But our prices have not changed. AAWS is working hard to secure the resources to publish our literature and haven't been able to get caught up with the demand since the stop of publishing that the pandemic create. Again, patience from alcoholics is a practiced skill so please practice this skill when it comes to our literature distribution.

## SLIDE 22



Again, a big thank you is sent from the General Service Board and Office for your contributions. It is incredible to think that the majority of our contributions are small ones and yet those frequent small contributions into the basket make up the majority of the almost 11 million dollars sent in 2021.

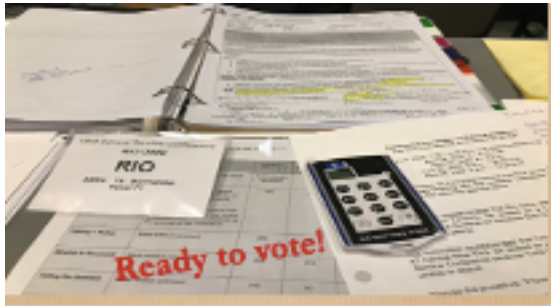
This Monday evening ended with a sharing session and a warm heart filled with even more love for our program, the people in it and the way we do what we do.

## SLIDE 23



Day 3 which is now Tuesday, April 26 was again filled with committee work until noon and then after lunch a very interesting presentation by our very own Trish L, Trustee at Large Canada on “Participation on Online Groups in US/Canada Service Structure”. Then a great workshop facilitated by our Western Canada Trustee Irma V, on “The Warranties – Our Promise to the Fellowship and the World”. This was such a neat workshop. It was done in what they called a “fish bowl” style of format which had the presenters on the floor presenting rather than from the diocese/podium. It was nice way to present the workshop and the workshop had great participation between the 3 presenters one being Diana L, GSO staffer on the CPC Desk. It was great to have a GSO staff person as a presenter because it gave a view of our warranties in another perspective. This evening of Day 3 finished with another delegates only dinner and meeting. We were all getting in the groove of the conference by the end of Day 3.

## SLIDE 24



Day 4 – On this Wednesday morning instead of committee work we were ready to get voting. This was the start of the electronic voting and I was assigned my very own clicker/voting device. Voting carried on throughout this day and the days ahead.

Voting happens when the conference committee's group conscience provides a recommendation for the agenda item. The recommendation is presented to the entire conference much like our motions. Needing substantial unanimity of voting members present to pass. If the recommendation passes the GSB takes on the responsibility to see these advisory actions are acted upon.

If the recommendation fails no action is taken on the agenda item.

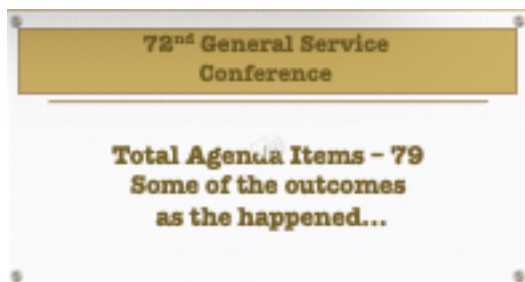
The committee's conscience can also present a consideration or additional considerations regarding the agenda item which is not voted upon but is used to be review the agenda item further for future consideration.

## SLIDE 25



The order of the committees changes each year and this year's order was agenda, CPC, literature, finance, PI, Trustees, Grapevine & La Vina, Policy & Admissions, Report & Charter, Treatment & Accessibilities, Corrections, International Conventions/Regional Forums and finished with Archives. If you had not participated in those committees, I would not have been able to vote with the conscience of our BC Yukon area at this conference. Thank you for being there and being such a support to my service journey at the conference.

## SLIDE 26



As some of you know we started with 79 Agenda Items – 17 items came from the Literature Committee which commonly has the largest number of agenda items. The outcomes were that 72 Committee considerations were presented; 35 recommendations became Advisory Actions; 9 Recommendations did not result in Advisory Actions and 11 Agenda Items Took no Action. I also wanted to let you know that 6 of 13 conference committees had no advisory actions at all. Those conference committees were Archives, CPC, Corrections, Finance, Grapevine/La Vina and International Convention/Regional Forums. This isn't unusual it just means that more consideration was asked for on those agenda items and the majority will be revisited next year at the 73<sup>rd</sup> GSConference.

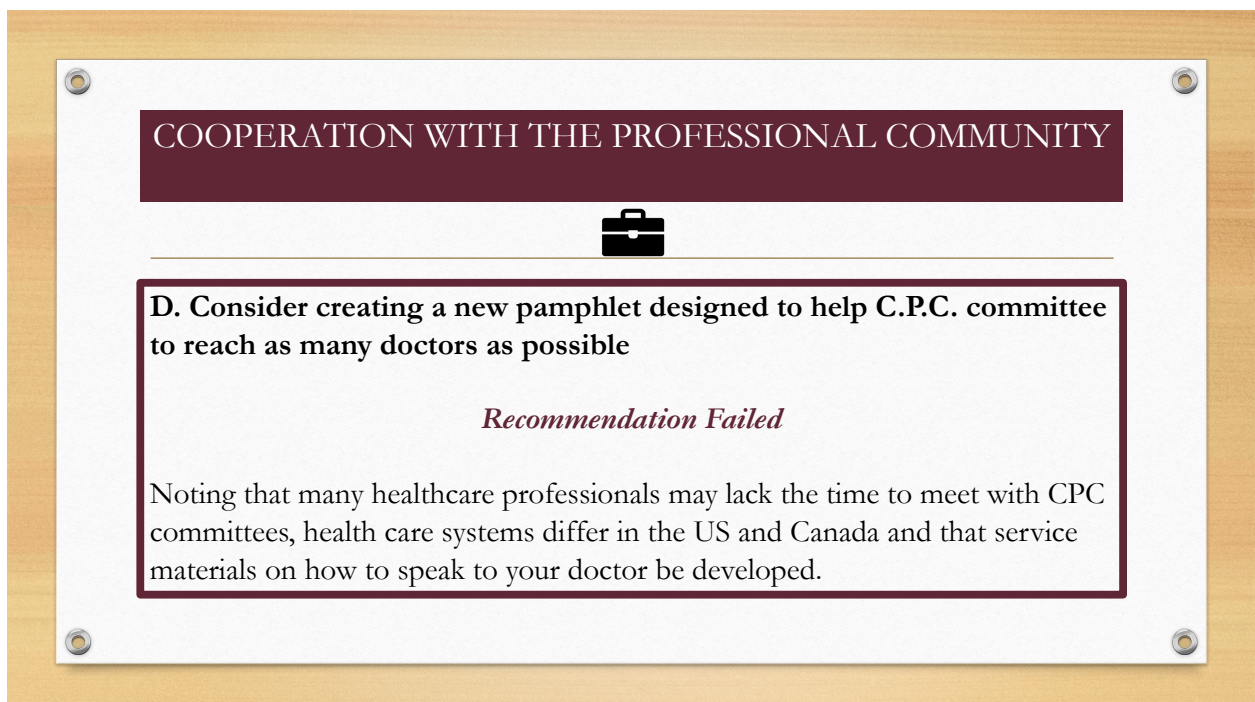
## SLIDE 27



Let us start with Agenda **read slide**

My hope is that these topics can be used in our area for sharing sessions and workshops at group, district and area functions in the upcoming year. So, we become more familiar with the year-round conference theme and presentation topics. So please keep these topics in mind when requesting a travel assignment to your group, district or event in the future.

## SLIDE 28 read slide





## SLIDE 29



The afternoon consisted of more regional luncheons and our region discussed the then upcoming Western Canada Regional Forum which was recently held in Winnipeg.

James H, GSO Staff on International Conventions and Regional Forums joined us for lunch and it was great to meet James and hear all about the agenda, volunteers and presenters being organized. I was asked to present on safety and it was a pleasure to do so. Thank you to those from Area 79 that attended we had a strong showing and it was great to see so many there.

## SLIDE 30

The image shows a presentation slide titled "Elections for 2 Regions Eastern Canada and the Pacific Region". It includes a table with the following data:

REGION	REGIONAL FORUM
Northwest U.S.	2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
Western Canada	2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
Southwest	2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
South East Canada	2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
Southwest	2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
West Coast	2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
East Coast	2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
North	2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

Below the table, it states: "Voting members of the nominating session are: Delegates from the region. An equal number of voters: one-half from the Conference Committee on Trustees and one-half from the Trustees' Nominating Committee. The session follows the Third Legacy Procedure."

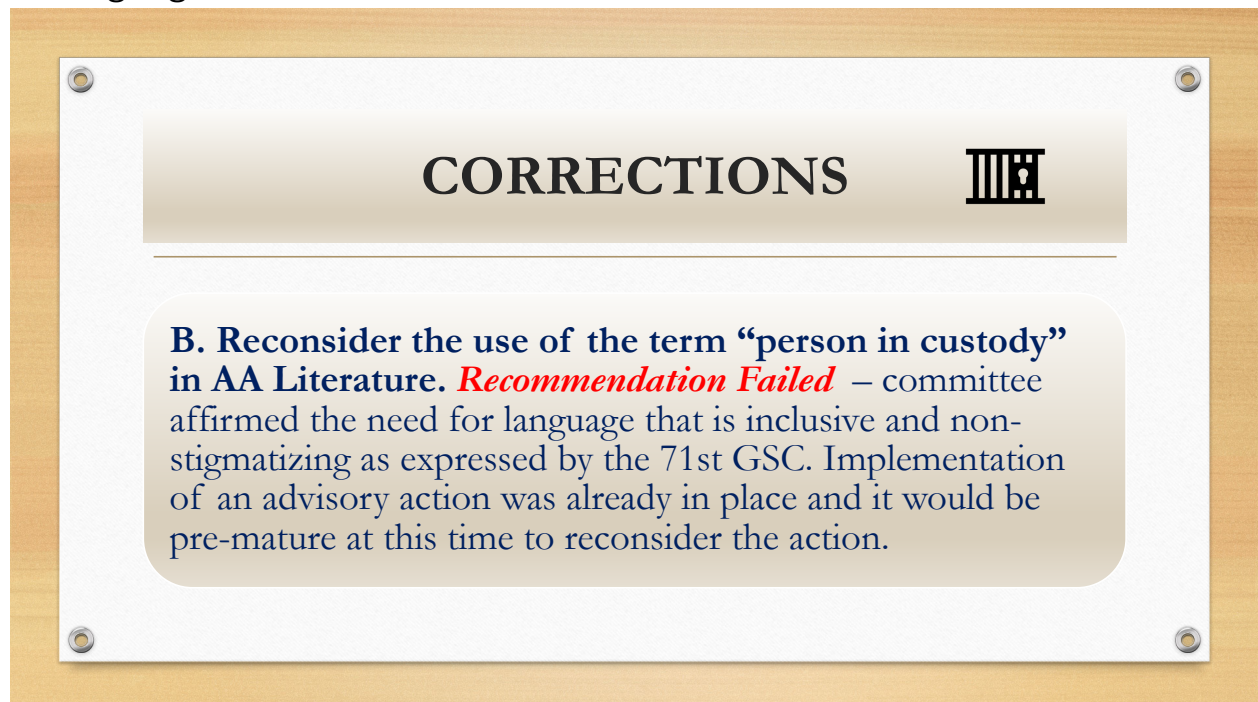
After lunch elections were held for the Eastern Canada Regional Trustee who is now Joyce S from Area 85 and the new Pacific Regional Trustee is Reilly K from Area 58. This elections process is really unique as not all voting members participate. Candidates for alcoholic regional trustee are first selected by the area in their region, then at the General Service Conference voters consisting of the delegates from the region involved plus an equal number of voters- ½ to come from the conference committee on trustees and ½ to come from the trustees nominating committee use the 3<sup>rd</sup> legacy procedures just as we do to elect the

regional trustees. They section off an area on the conference floor for those voting in the election to sit. I know this because I sat briefly in the wrong section. More voting, dinner, voting and then this evening of Day 4 ended with another “What’s on your Mind” sharing session. All of these sessions were a good place to ask questions, speak up with concerns or just share what you were experiencing at the conference.

Day 5 is Thursday, still voting and here are some agenda items I thought you might find interesting.

### SLIDE 31, 32 & 33 read slides

This was a very full date of voting, discussion, voting and more discussion right up until 9:30pm on Thursday night. Here are some of the highlights:



**CORRECTIONS** IIII

**B. Reconsider the use of the term “person in custody” in AA Literature. *Recommendation Failed*** – committee affirmed the need for language that is inclusive and non-stigmatizing as expressed by the 71st GSC. Implementation of an advisory action was already in place and it would be pre-mature at this time to reconsider the action.

## CORRECTIONS



### **C. Consider requests to limit changes to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.**

#### ***Recommendation Failed***

The committee discussed the concerns of the fellowship and noted that we work on a system of checks and balances and agreed that the 12 Concepts adequately provides guidance for our trusted servants that reflect the informed group conscience of A.A. as a whole

## CORRECTIONS



### **D. Discuss request to make A.A. literature changes slowly and with A.A.'s primary purpose in mind. *Recommendation Failed***

The committee agreed that the cadence and role the annual GSC already provides is appropriate guidance. Also mentioned Concept Four – “The Right of Participation” and that all members are invited to participate in the year-long process of the conference.

## SLIDES 34-41

Okay are you all still with me?

### LITERATURE



**H. Review progress report regarding update of the pamphlet “AA for the Black and African-American Alcoholic”**

**Consideration:** The committee asked for a draft or progress report be brought back to the 2023 Literature Committee.

**I. Review progress report regarding update of the pamphlet “AA for the Native North American.”** *This agenda item came from area 79*

**Consideration:** That a draft or progress report be brought to the 2023 Conference Literature Committee. *Waiting for appointed committee member to be assigned*

### LITERATURE



- **K. Review progress report regarding the translation of the Big Book (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language.**

**Consideration:** That a progress report or draft manuscript be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.



## LITERATURE



**L. Review progress report regarding requests to develop study guide workbooks for AA.**

**Consideration:** The committee reviewed the Subcommittee Report on Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) and several requests for development of study guides from the Fellowship. The committee noted that additional information will be needed to provide direction on these requests. *The committee requests the Trustees committee provide further information regarding the purpose of the proposals and examples of what study guides would look like.*

## LITERATURE



**N. Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”**

**Recommendation:** That the pamphlet be updated with non-offensive, contemporary text and illustration with a progress report or draft pamphlet to be bought back to the 2023 Conference Committee.

**Passed**

**ADVISORY ACTION**

## LITERATURE



**M. Review progress report regarding development of a Fifth Edition of the Big Book.**

**Consideration:** The committee reviewed a progress report and requested that a progress report or manuscript be brought back to the 2023 Conference committee.

Deadline for recovery story submission is October 31, 2022

**More info at [aa.org](http://aa.org) “What’s New” tab**

## Finance



**B. Consider request to add a historical disclaimer to the front of the Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions**

**Recommendation Failed**

The committee agreed that the current introduction in the book already addresses concerns regarding language in the book.



## Finance



**C. Consider request that all proposed changes to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be handled in footnotes.**

### **Recommendation Failed**

The committee agreed that they did not want to mandate a specific format for possible changes to a future conference. They noted that future proposals for changes should be considered by the group conscience of each Conference.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION



**L. Review report on development and distribution ideas for the “AA Triennial Membership Survey”**

A 2022 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted with a budgeted cost not to exceed \$20,000 including a “How To Video” with format changes, two new questions and six changed questions on the 2022 membership survey be approved.

*Passed*

**ADVISORY ACTION**

### SLIDES 42-46

I would like to end with some items from the committee I was assigned to which was Policy and Admissions. Such an interesting committee to be a part of.

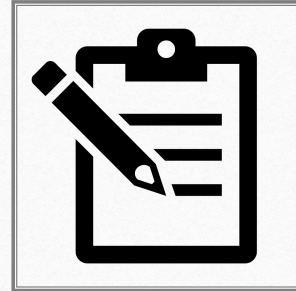
## Policy and Admissions

**C. Discuss the procedure “Process for Approving Observers to the Conference.”**

**Recommendation:** That the process for Approving Observers to the Conference be changed so it would allow the Policy/Admissions committee to approve routine admissions from structures outside the U.S. and Canada.

*Passed*

**ADVISORY ACTION**



## Policy and Admissions



**E. Discuss report on the Equitable Distribution of Workload Process.**

**Recommendation:** The committee recommended that the compilation of all Conference committee background be made available simultaneously in English, French, and Spanish.

**PASSED**

**ADVISORY ACTION**



## Policy and Admissions



**F. Consider request to restore a paragraph in the story “Freedom From Bondage” in the Book Alcoholics Anonymous.**

**Recommendation:** That the paragraph which has been removed from the Fourth Edition be restored in all future printings and publications in which the story is included.

**Failed**



## Policy and Admissions

**E-Discuss report on the Equitable Distribution of Workload process.**

## COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

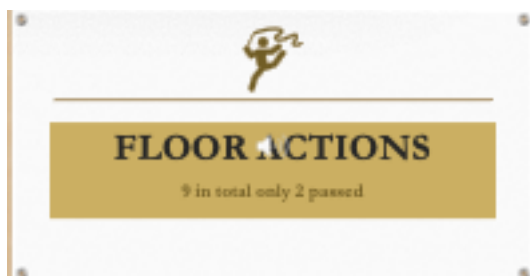
The committee noted that the workflow, communication and scoring tool challenges documented in the report, and significant challenges to areas and group conscience process caused by moving up the deadline for submissions due to the EDW.

## Policy and Admissions



Committee Considerations: 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 and expressed appreciation for the ad hoc committee's work. Given the Fellowship's interest in this topic and a desire for accountability to the Conference, the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions requests a progress report be provided as part of their background material in advance of the 73rd General Service Conference.

### SLIDE 47



There were a total of 9 floor actions with only 2 that resulted into Advisory Actions.

## SLIDE 48 & 49

### FLOOR ACTION #2



#### It was recommended that:

The trustee's committee on Literature continue to make edits to the draft pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated" with a new draft or progress report to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature, keeping in mind: color, diverse expressions of spirituality and accessible interpretation of the meaning in the illustrations.

*Passed*

**ADVISORY ACTION**

### FLOOR ACTION #3



#### It was recommended that:

The 2022 Membership Survey questionnaire receive final editorial review by the trustee's Public Information Committee after consulting with our professional survey methodologist, to address concerns raised by the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference related to the survey questions about Racial and Ethnic Background, and Employment Status.

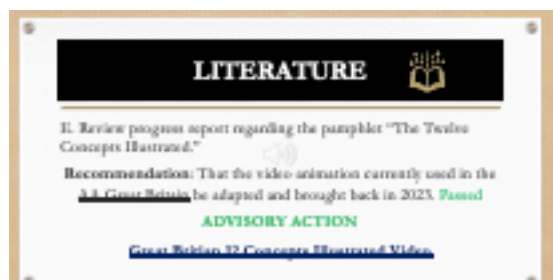
*Passed*

**ADVISORY ACTION**

Much like our area events the dedication and the amount of work that is done by those in attendance of this 72 General Service Conference is staggering really. The amount of love that the delegates, staff, directors,

board members, alcoholics and non-alcoholics have for this fellowship is really something difficult to put into words. There are procedures to be followed, voices to be heard, both strong or soft and of course the minority voice. What I was so amazed by was the broad diversity contributed into the discussions. Some voices similar to our area's voice and some much different. But all voices were encouraged and heard. It is really something to participate in.

## SLIDE 50



I have saved one of the personally most impactful agenda items to the last because I want to try to share my conference experience with you.

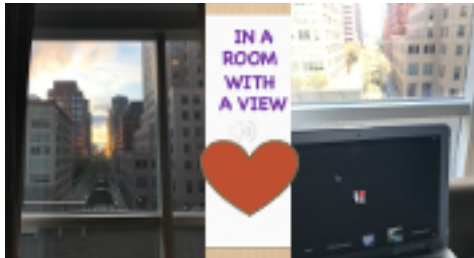
Who here in this room tonight was on the Agenda committee at our April Pre-Conference? Do you remember Literature Item "E" that was "Review progress report regarding the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated." Well, the conference agenda committee made the following recommendation: That the video animation currently used in the AA Great Britain be adapted and brought back in 2023. This passed and is now an **ADVISORY ACTION**. I want to show you what they showed all of us at the conference so you can have the same amazing moment I did when seeing this animation video for the first time. At least I hope it is the first time for you.

Go to this link to find it: <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/about-aa/12-concepts>

Isn't that an amazing video?

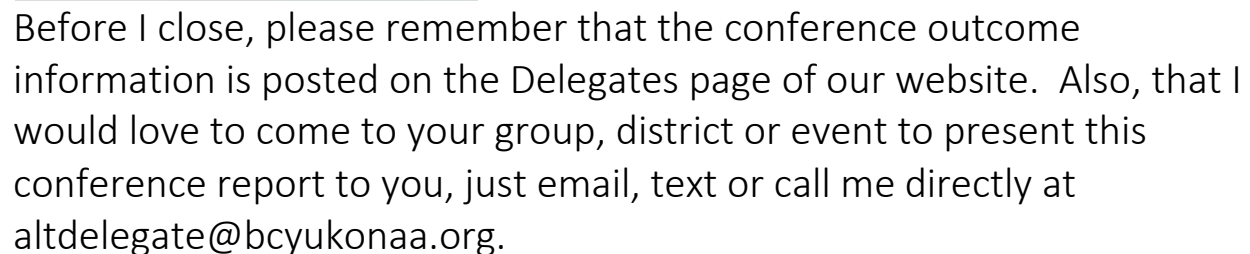


## SLIDE 51



Unfortunately, much later after midnight of the Thursday evening of the conference I woke with a fever and felt awful. I tested positive for COVID and was then quarantined to my hotel room for 5 days. The next day I was now only listening to what was happening in the conference through the zoom meeting that the General Service Office – Conference Coordinator Steve S, set up for those of us isolating in our rooms. Friday was a bit of a blurr and I was so incredibly grateful to the GSO staff who right away ensured that meals and anything else I needed was delivered to my room. Nancy McCarthy, nonalcoholic trustee was assigned to be my “meal train” person. She stayed in constant text contact with me and delivered all meals to my door. What a lady and what an incredible servant she and the others who volunteered were to help keep us comfortable while isolating in our rooms. I have to give a shout out to Arnie G, some of you know Arnie is Trish’s husband and he being a guest attending the conference reached out to me directly and asked for the shopping list of things I thought I’d need over the next 5 days. I like many others are not that great at asking for help but when Arnie offered, I was 100% without resistance to the help and he brought me gallons of water, orange juice, cold medicine, cough candies and so much more. I’m so grateful for all of the help I received from my Area 79 service family and my entire US/Canada service family. I also want you to know how incredibly blessed I felt to have my trusty chaperon with me. She wouldn’t leave me behind and we started and finished my amazing 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference journey together. That’s the type of love this service family brings to your life.

SLIDE 52



## SLIDE 53



Thank you for giving me this life changing purpose allowing me to serve and for this incredible experience.

It is an honour and a privilege to be your trusted servant.

Rio D.

Alternate Delegate/Literature Chair

Panel 71