

## 73rd GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

### **AGENDA**

#### Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed the composition of the Conference Inventory Planning Committee and suggested that the composition be similar to the makeup of the General Service Conference: delegates, trustees, nontrustee directors, and staff members from the General Service Office and AA Grapevine.
- The committee discussed the current use of virtual meeting technologies and electronic surveys and noted that the GSB Quarterly report could help communicate updates about the development of a Conference Inventory Plan. The committee suggested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee consider the use of modern communication technologies that could advance the development of the Conference Inventory plan.
- The committee reviewed the questions and framework of the 2013-2015 Conference Inventory Plan noting that it received extensive time and preparation. The committee also noted that the 2013-2015 Conference Inventory did not produce a report on procedural flaws. The committee requested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee consider the same framework in the development of a 2025 Conference Inventory plan.
- The committee discussed the role of non-voting A.A. consultants on trustees' committees, noting that they could be invited to participate on trustees' committees on a voluntary non-compensatory basis, when expertise is needed. The committee requested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee consider the use of a consultant with relevant experience in planning the 2025 Conference Inventory.
- The committee reviewed the 2023 General Service Conference (GSC) evaluations and noted improvements implemented at the 73rd GSC.
- The committee reviewed the 2023 progress report on Conference Improvements from the trustees' General Service Conference Committee. The committee appreciated the suggestions for improvement provided and suggested the exploration of available translation technology to support participation at the Conference in English, French and Spanish.
- The committee reviewed the positive feedback from delegate committee chairs on their quarterly communications with their corresponding trustees' committee chairpersons. The

committee encouraged continuation of this practice to support communication within the Conference process.

## **ARCHIVES**

### Committee Considerations:

The committee reviewed the newly revised Archives Workbook and noted the updates that were suggested by previous Conference Committees on Archives and other updates implemented by GSO Archives staff.

The committee discussed the section “Sharing on Digital Archives” in the Archives Workbook that includes shared experiences from local Archives committees on maintaining digital collections. The committee noted that the section was last updated over eight years ago and contains outdated information. The committee suggested that the section “Sharing on Digital Archives” be refreshed with new stories from local archivists.

## **COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered a request to retire the pamphlet “A Member’s Eye View” and took no action. The committee agreed that some members consider the pamphlet a useful tool for carrying the A.A. message. However, the committee expressed support for removing the pamphlet from Cooperation with the Professional Community materials as it may appear outdated and less effective for providing information about A.A. to the professional community.
- The committee reviewed the progress report on the LinkedIn page and received a verbal update from the Communication Services Department. The committee noted the improvement in the consistent cadence of posting and expressed their appreciation for the strategic planning and thoughtfulness which goes into posting to the LinkedIn page. The committee commended the sustained activity and strategy, mindful of A.A. Tradition, to ensure consistency and the best possible results with a continued focus on content for the professional community. The committee looks forward to receiving a progress report submitted to the 2024 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community.
- The committee reviewed a progress report on the development of an outward-facing pamphlet for mental health professionals and expressed their appreciation for the work completed to date. The committee supports the continued efforts to interview additional mental health professionals with a focus on professionals who are not A.A. members.

The committee suggested a theme and direction to move forward, and that interviews seek to identify the myths and misconceptions that could prevent a clear understanding of Alcoholics Anonymous. Additionally, the committee suggested the trustees' CPC/TA Committee consider other vehicles of communication beyond a pamphlet to make the message more relevant for current mental health professionals. The committee requested that a progress report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community.

- The committee reviewed the content and format of the CPC Kit and Workbook and noted the updates that were suggested by the 2022 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community. The committee provided several minor suggestions for updates to be included in the next printing.

## **CORRECTIONS**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee suggested that the assignment of new delegates to the Conference Committee on Corrections be balanced to allow for a more even rotation of panels.
- The committee suggested that AA Grapevine consider including shared experience on sponsoring persons in custody in the July prison issue and future issues.
- The committee agreed to forward to the trustees' Committee on Literature a suggestion to consider inclusion of language related to sponsorship of persons in custody in the pamphlet "Questions & Answers on Sponsorship."
- The committee reviewed the Corrections Kit and Workbook. The committee noted that extensive changes were made to the workbook over the last two years. The committee provided a brief list of suggested changes to be considered at the next reprint.
- The committee acknowledged the work completed by the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Service Material ad hoc committee and expressed support for the recommendations put forth by the committee.

**Note:** As a result of the 2022-2023 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, the following item was on the agenda of the Conference Committee on Corrections.

- The committee discussed the 2021 and 2022 versions of the service piece "Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare" and concluded that the service piece is a necessary and useful tool for A.A. groups. The committee suggested revisions to be considered for inclusion in the next printing of the service piece.

## **FINANCE**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the Conference-approved level of \$10,000 for individual Bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members and took no action. The committee feels the level was doubled in 2019 and is still appropriate as is. The committee also felt that the current limit captures the spiritual elements embodied in our principles, reminding members that modest personal contributions align with the concept of personal anonymity.
- The committee reviewed the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$5,000 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member and took no action. The committee felt that the current limit was satisfactory and captures the spiritual elements embodied in our principles reminding members that modest personal contributions align with the concept of personal anonymity.
- The committee reviewed the Self-Support Packet and approved the changes requested by the 2022 Conference Committee on Finance. The committee also noted that the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” will be updated to clarify that the General Service Board is the entity which receives all voluntary A.A. contributions and that the General Service Office performs contribution processing.
- The committee discussed the change of the Grapevine Subscription Liability in the Reserve Fund. The committee requests that the Finance Department clearly identify in all reporting to the Fellowship the portion of the Reserve Fund that is represented by the Grapevine Subscription Liability along with an explanation of the breakdown.
- The committee requests that to better align with the duties described in the Service Manual for the Conference Finance Committee, committee members receive the monthly AAWS/GSB consolidated financial statements along with an executive summary from the Chief Financial Officer.

(**Note:** As a result of the 2022-2023 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, the following item was on the agenda of the Conference Committee on Finance.)

- The committee considered a request to discuss proposed agenda items related to changes to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. The committee suggested that the Trustees’ Literature Committee seek input from the Fellowship (including but not limited to Area delegate feedback) regarding any possible future changes to literature written by A.A.’s founders. The committee requested that a progress report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Finance. (Mindful of budgetary

restraints, the committee suggests financial prudence when determining how best to obtain Fellowship sharing.)

Questions to be considered might include:

- Should suggested revisions be subjected to a 2-year Conference review process.
- Should any future suggested changes retain the original writing with footnotes for text being updated or should founder's writings remain unchanged?
- Should there be a threshold for review (group, district, area)?
- Should the changes to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* by 2021 General Service Conference remain?
- Should a new policy regarding Bill W.'s writing be created as a guide to future changes?

## **GRAPEVINE AND LA VIÑA**

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the AA Grapevine Workbook and provided some editorial suggestions and ways to access the workbook more easily.
- The committee reviewed the progress report on the Grapevine and La Viña Instagram accounts and provided some suggestions.
- The committee agreed to forward to the AA Grapevine Board the suggestion that AA Grapevine, Inc. produce in the year 2024 or later:
  1. *Grapevine 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 A.A. program and how they have found peace and serenity in sobriety. Stories previously published in Grapevine.
  3. *Veteranos Hispanos en AA* (Voices of Oldtimers) (working title) (La Viña book)  
Members who have been in A.A. a long time share their experience, strength, and hope. Stories previously published in La Viña.
  4. *Cómo llegamos a creer* (How We Came to Believe) (working title) (La Viña book)  
A.A. members share stories about their own personal journey with Step Two, how

they found their Higher Power and what helped them. Stories previously published in La Viña.

5. *Spiritual Awakenings* (La Viña book) (GV book translated into Spanish) A.A. members share stories about their journey with Step Two and connecting with a Higher Power.

## **INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS**

Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed the update report on methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention, which summarized the survey data indicating that there was not an overwhelming desire by the Fellowship to change the current practice. The consensus of the committee was to keep with the current practice of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention wherein the chair has the choice of closing the meeting with either the Lord's Prayer, the Serenity Prayer, or the Responsibility Statement.
- The committee discussed ways of encouraging interest in Regional and Local Forums and attracting first time attendees and suggested:
  - That the General Service Board add virtual elements to Regional Forums, or even add a virtual fifth forum to the annual calendar.
  - Disseminate advance information about events using flyers, posters, announcements in Grapevine and La Viña, podcasts, Instagram messages, invitations in ASL, QR codes, and *Box 4-5-9* articles.

## **LITERATURE**

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed minor graphic and editorial updates that improve the final appearance and clarity of the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." which was approved by the 2022 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed a draft of the Literature Committee workbook. The committee made minor editorial suggestions and looks forward to the new Literature Committee workbook being made available.
- The committee reviewed a draft pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies and requested that the material gathered for the draft pamphlet be made available to the Fellowship as service material, not a pamphlet. The committee suggested that the

service material be included in the General Service Representative (GSR) and District Committee Member (DCM) service kits.

- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding the translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language and agreed with the general direction of the project. The committee requested that the project continue to move forward and that a draft or progress report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee reviewed a progress report on the update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic.” The committee noted the progress made on the development of the pamphlet and requested that a draft or a progress report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.

The committee noted with appreciation the efforts made by the trustees’ Literature committee to ensure that the members of the working group that participated on the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic” represented the community reflected in the pamphlet. The committee suggested that the 2018 report “Reaching Out to African-American Alcoholics” be provided as a possible resource for future projects involving carrying the message to other communities.

- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding development of a Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos* (Spanish). The committee requested that a progress report or draft manuscript be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding the update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.” The committee discussed efforts to distribute the call for stories to the widest possible native North American population in the U.S. and Canada. The committee requested that a draft or progress report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.

The committee noted with appreciation the efforts made by the trustees’ Literature committee to ensure that the members of the working group that participated on the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American” represented the community reflected in the pamphlet.

- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding development of a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The committee requested that a progress report or draft manuscript be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.

- The committee discussed new proposed agenda items (PAI's) related to the plain language Big Book translation and took no action. The committee acknowledged the concerns of members, groups and areas in the Fellowship regarding the oversight of the process of a translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth edition) into plain and simple language. The committee noted that these concerns will be addressed at a special session during the 2023 General Service Conference.
- The committee discussed an update on the adaptation of the video animation of the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" published by the General Service Board of A.A. Great Britain. The committee acknowledged that the project of adapting the video for use in the U.S./Canada structure is pending for budgetary reasons. The committee looks forward to a report on the status of this project being brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee discussed a proposal for Big Book or *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* study guides and took no action. The committee suggested that currently approved projects be completed before considering new materials.
- The committee reviewed the 2023 matrix of A.A. recovery literature. The committee agreed to continue providing suggestions regarding the usefulness and purpose of the A.A. recovery literature. The committee looks forward to reviewing the matrix at their meeting during the 2024 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed a draft of the revised pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated" and chose not to proceed with the graphic approach. The committee requested that the Publishing Department develop a new draft and that a progress report or a draft be brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.

## **POLICY/ADMISSIONS**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the dates for the 2027 General Service Conference. In order to provide additional flexibility to the General Service Office management in contracting the most cost-effective and appropriate venues for the General Service Conference, the committee agreed to select three proposed dates for the 77th General Service Conference, as follows (in order of preference): May 2-8, 2027; April 11-17, 2027; May 23-29, 2027. The committee noted that these proposed Conference dates are the best choices available for avoiding conflicts with significant holidays. The committee asked that all Conference members be notified of the final dates for the 77th General Service Conference as soon as they are finalized by GSO management.



- The committee reviewed the GSO general manager's report regarding General Service Conference site selection. The committee appreciated the detailed analysis of the costs and logistics of holding the Conference at sample facilities in four of the eight regions. The committee is not requesting a site selection report from the General Manager in 2024, recognizing that contracts have been executed with hotels in the New York area for 2024, 2025, and 2026, and that site selection for the 2027 General Service Conference could be impacted by the results of the Location Plus Committee and possible relocation of the General Service Office. The committee is requesting that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee conduct a survey of current General Service Conference members regarding the spiritual implications of holding the Conference outside the New York area. An additional option to explore in the survey could be alternating between holding the Conference in the New York area and the Akron/Cleveland area. The committee looks forward to reviewing the survey results or a progress report at the 74th General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed the "Report of the GSB Ad Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the U.S./Canada Service Structure" and expressed appreciation for the report, particularly the results of the survey to delegates. The committee agreed that an important next step would be for delegates to find out more about the online groups in their areas and requested that the ad-hoc committee provide them with sample questions they may use in that inquiry. The committee looks forward to the next iteration of the ad hoc committee and the continued exploration of the possibilities for the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada general service structure.
- The committee reviewed the progress report from the 2023 Subcommittee on the Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) regarding year two of the three-year pilot. The committee appreciated the improvements made to the joint meetings and the simplification of forms and processes. The committee requested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee (TGSCC) explore all possibilities for extending the deadline for submitting Proposed Agenda Items (PAIs) to allow areas more time to consider items at their Fall assemblies. The committee also requested that TGSCC conduct a survey of delegates to find out the effect EDW has had upon their areas, especially related to the submission deadline and the engagement of members and groups in the group conscience process. Finally, the committee requested that TGSCC consider creating a simple video or other communication that would reinforce the idea that PAIs can be submitted year-round, as well as help the Fellowship better understand the role of PAIs as a document to reflect the outcome of a group conscience rather than a petition or suggestion box.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed a request for Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. to establish an Instagram account in line with the Twelve Traditions and encouraged

Communication Services to continue with planning for the account. The committee suggested that Communication Services provide additional information on the intended messaging, target audiences, analytics, and total cost to maintain the account. The committee requested that a new proposed plan be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.

The committee offered the following suggestions for the next iteration of the proposed plan:

- Posting *Daily Reflections*, “What’s New” from GSO, and press releases, are duplicative to what we share on our A.A. website and Meeting Guide app news. The committee requested a detailed strategy on the target audiences for internal versus external messaging to be communicated within a potential future Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Instagram account.
  - Including more information in the proposed plan, specifying how distinct messaging and target audience of a potential Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Instagram account differs from the existing AA Grapevine and La Viña Instagram accounts.
  - Providing information on the total expense including the staff expense for managing the account.
  - Including a section defining the key performance indicators that will indicate the channel is successful in carrying the message to members and potential members.
  - Capturing the need for a social media management platform, like Hootsuite, in the proposed plan.
  - Performing ongoing evaluations of our communications channels to meet members and alcoholics on the platforms they utilize.
  - Developing a policy with defined criteria that would allow AAWS to explore and implement new external platforms as technology changes.
- The committee discussed feasibility research of paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms. The committee noted that paid placement is an important new addition for airing and tracking our already produced, relevant and useful PSAs on streaming platforms. The committee requested that the trustees’ Public Information Committee consider several vendors and develop a plan detailing target audiences, analytics, and cost for how we would begin to use such streaming platform channels in the U.S./Canada Service Structure and that a report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.
  - The committee reviewed the report on the 2022 A.A. Membership Survey process and

offered the following suggestions for improvement for future surveys.

- Provide the survey method process, including the timeframes and actions that delegates will need to perform, to the Conference Committee on Public Information each year that a triennial membership survey is requested to be considered.
- Encourage all the delegates who participated in this 2022 A.A. Membership Survey to complete the process evaluation to inform process improvements as needed.
- Design a pilot study to complete two surveys using convenience sampling, which focuses on gaining information from participants (the sample) who are “convenient” to access. These samples could be collected using the A.A. website, and the A.A. Meeting Guide App, and the same questions as the 2022 A.A. Membership Survey.

The goal is to examine any potential differences in data patterns across the three different collection methodologies, the traditional A.A. survey process and the two channels listed above. Ideally, collection of this type of data would follow the collection of the traditional A.A. membership survey data within 1-2 years from 2022, so that no portion becomes dated. The committee requested that the trustees’ Public Information Committee design a pilot study and that it be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.

- The committee reviewed the report titled, “The 2022 A.A. Membership Survey Results Reporting” and agreed with the development of a dynamic A.A. web page to disseminate the complete results of the 2022 A.A. Membership Survey. The committee appreciates that each infographic developed to reflect the survey results is designed to be a part of a library of results and will be made available for use by A.A. members, the professional community, and the media. The committee liked the concept that local A.A. members and service committees will be able to share direct experience with GSO regarding how they are using these tools, via the A.A. web page “how are you using this information?”
- The committee reviewed the progress report on the 2022 Young People’s Video project. The committee expressed support for the vision and architecture of the ongoing project to obtain user generated content. The committee reviewed two submitted videos and is requesting that the trustees’ Public Information Committee review the project’s process, A.A. website webpages, project flyers and the technical requirements to ensure that we are communicating appropriate information to obtain the desired user generated content. The committee offered the following suggestions to consider and requested a progress report to be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.
  - Expand the submission timeframe to include fifteen second minimum up to three minute maximum for videos submitted by members.
  - Clarify that we are seeking user generated content video submissions from young

members creatively carrying a message to other young people. Focus is requested to be on the experience of getting sober young and to reflect the diversity of the Fellowship. The committee is seeking shared experiences that will relate to the “young” alcoholic who has yet to come to A.A.

- Review of the two submissions to determine if we can make additional edits to tighten the message in the framework of what it was like, what happened and what it is like now focusing on the key messages that have an impact and identification.
- Provide communication to all delegates with the goal of producing excitement and engagement for the Young People’s Video project for the members in their local areas.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2023 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan (CMP). The committee expressed continued support for the vision and architecture of this version of the CMP. The committee shared that the plan provides a great framework and guardrails that capture the public information work, messaging and channels GSO and AA Grapevine are using to make the Fellowship, general public, media, and professionals aware of the relevance of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The committee offered the following suggestions for the next iteration of the CMP to be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.

- Consider the creation of a section on how projects requesting user generated content, such as the Young People’s Video Project, fit into our Comprehensive Media Plan and messaging for Alcoholics Anonymous.
- The committee reviewed the progress report on the request to create a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media. The committee requested that the trustees’ Public Information Committee and staff secretary focus on developing and administering a survey, to all age demographics, particularly a young population with the goal of obtaining results that will inform decisions on any future new form of communication. The committee looks forward to a progress report to be brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee reviewed and accepted a progress report on revision to the flyer “A.A. at a Glance” and looks forward to a progress report or draft flyer to be brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee reviewed and accepted a progress report on revision to the pamphlet “Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings” and looks forward to a progress report or draft pamphlet to be brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee reviewed and accepted a progress report on revision to the flyer “A Message to Teenagers.” The committee provided support for the fact that there is a

need for a flyer or format that can be handed off to professionals or young people in hard copy and would like it to include a QR code, if possible. The committee looks forward to a progress report or draft work to be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.

- The committee reviewed and accepted the final distribution and tracking information for the video PSAs:
  1. Sobriety in A.A.: My Drinking Built a Wall
  2. Sobriety in A.A.: When Drinking is no longer a Party.

The final one-year campaign results for the U.S. 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.

The committee noted these results are an excellent return for the self-support contributions spent to produce these two PSAs. The committee requested a “call to action” be provided to all delegates with the goal of producing excitement and engagement for how the local public information service committees can increase the airings and ongoing usage of our relevant PSAs.

- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2024 report on the “Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcements.” Discussion included that PSAs are conversation starters about A.A. or how to get help for a problem with alcohol for people who view them. The committee found the current Conference-approved PSAs to be relevant and useful. The committee is excited to learn we are finalizing a one-year contract with a no cost channel called Mesmerize Point, to distribute PSAs on digital TV screens in doctor offices, private pharmacies, and community-based organizations with our relevant messaging made available to viewers. The committee looks forward to a Mesmerize Point progress report being brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information. The committee did not see the need at this time for a new video PSA.
- The committee reviewed and accepted a progress report for the GSO podcast development. The committee noted the planning, development, and production of episodes on many service-related discussion topics. The committee reiterated that the planned topic focus will help avoid competing with the Grapevine Podcast. The committee appreciated that the plan is to produce up to eight episodes to introduce a recognizable, consistent, and enthusiastic voice for the GSO podcast. The committee agreed, before the launch, it is important to “bank” these initial episodes for the initial rollout to ensure a regular cadence. The committee noted it would be good to use relevant archival recordings in the podcast, as applicable to an episode. The committee looks forward to a progress report to be brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the trustees’ PI Committee report on the

usefulness and effectiveness of the AAWS YouTube account. The committee offered the following suggestions and looks forward to a report to be brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.

- The committee noted that stagnant growth of the channel and requested the trustees' PI Committee to consider ways to encourage members to use the channel as a public information tool.
- The committee requested consideration of the use of hashtags for the channel.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the Communications Services report on the AAWS Meeting Guide. The committee looks forward to a report to be brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information. The committee suggested that the Meeting Guide keep its focus on providing information on locating A.A. meetings.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2022 annual reports from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding aa.org. The committee finds the website is easy to navigate and user-friendly. The committee suggested that GSO continue to improve its website search functionality.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2022 trustees' Public Information Committee report on Online Business Profiles. The committee suggested care be taken to ensure the GSO response messages avoid sounding canned. The committee looks forward to a report to be brought to the 2024 Conference.
- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2022 annual report "AAGV/La Viña Website, Marketing and Podcast" regarding aagrapevine.org. The committee noted that the current host style and delivery could limit attraction to the podcast by all members, potential members, or professionals and to consider the fully intended audience regarding diversity, attraction, and belonging.
- The committee discussed the content and format of the PI Kit and Workbook. The committee noted the contents of the kit are useful to local Public Information Committees. The committee provided the staff secretary with suggested updates to the PI Workbook.

## **REPORT AND CHARTER**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee noted that some sections of *The A.A. Service Manual* need more detailed review of language clarity by the General Service Board and affiliate boards before being revised. The committee asked that the Publishing Department "short order" supply of the current *A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*,

*2021-2023 Edition* to ensure sufficient inventory until a proposed 2024 printing.

- The committee accepted a report from the Publishing Department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of the proposed *A.A. Service Manual, 2023-2025 Edition* and the 2023 General Service Conference *Final Report*.
- The committee reviewed a list of editorial updates from the Publishing Department for *The A.A. Service Manual* and accepted the updates.

In keeping with the 2018 Advisory Action that the General Service Board, the AAWS Board and the AA Grapevine Board bi-annually review *The A.A. Service Manual* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed the current updates from the AAWS Board and the AA Grapevine Board. The committee noted the importance that the Conference Committee on Report and Charter receive any proposed edits in a timely window prior to Conference to give thoughtful review of any proposed edits.

The committee provided suggestions regarding *The A.A. Service Manual* to be forwarded to the three boards, GSO, and the Grapevine Office.

- The committee considered a request for specific changes to the 2021-2023 version of *The A.A. Service Manual* and suggested that the requests be considered in the 2024 review of the updated manual.
- The committee considered a request to rescind the 2018 Advisory Action regarding a footnote in the Resolution concerning “register” and “Groups” and took no action. The committee noted that the footnote sufficiently clarifies the current terminology for groups that list with the U.S./Canada service structure.

However, the committee suggested the following:

- Add the following text from footnote 4 in The Resolution: “A.A.W.S. neither monitors nor oversees the activities or practices of any A.A. group. Groups are listed solely for purposes of accurate communications” to the A.A. Group chapter of *The A.A. Service Manual*.
- That GSO provide clear and consistent language disclaimers on GSO digital platforms and informational materials to clarify that the purpose of listing groups at GSO is distinct from listing meetings on the Meeting Guide App.
- The committee discussed the 2021 Advisory Action that a new section be added at the end of the *Twelve Concepts for World Service* titled “Amendments,” and that it contain an updated version of the Concept XI essay that incorporates the information in the current footnotes and endnotes, along with comprehensive descriptions of the current General Service Board committees. The committee reviewed draft language provided

by the Publishing Department and provided suggestions to the staff secretary. The committee requested that the trustees' Literature Committee provide an updated draft or progress report to the 2024 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

- The committee reviewed a GSO Publishing feasibility report for an ASL translation of *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*. The committee noted the importance that A.A. materials be translated in the order of the most widely expressed needs of the Fellowship.

The committee asked that the staff secretary forward notes from the committee to the trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee to continue discussion on this important topic, to gain insight from members of which ASL materials are most in need for members and potential members.

## **TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed the suggestion that an Accessibility Inventory be conducted throughout A.A.'s services and structure and suggested that the trustees' CPC/TA Committee take an inventory of what resources are currently available from the General Service Office and the AA Grapevine to meet accessibility-related challenges and consider the best methods for communicating about those resources to the Fellowship.
- The committee discussed carrying the message to alcoholics with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities, and suggested that:
  - The trustees' CPC/TA Committee review accessibility-related service material and consider updating it with new shared experience on this topic.
  - The AA Grapevine consider publishing an issue dedicated to the experiences of people with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities and those who sponsor them.
  - The trustees' Literature Committee consider revising the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" to add language on working with alcoholics with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities.
- The committee discussed the progress report on a proposed Bridging the Gap workbook. The committee noted that information on Bridging the Gap and other contact programs already exists in the Treatment and Corrections Workbooks and suggested instead that sharing be collected from the Fellowship and combined with existing resources to develop A.A. Guidelines on Bridging the Gap.



- The committee reviewed the progress report on the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” (P-49). The committee appreciated the work that has been completed on the updated draft pamphlet for A.A. members and suggested additional revisions. The committee also agreed that the distinction between Treatment and Corrections activities be maintained in literature from GSO and requested that references to Corrections and to the video “A New Freedom” be removed from the draft. The committee requested that a progress report or revised draft be brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.
- The committee reviewed the progress report on updates to the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” and suggested that the trustees’ CPC/TA Committee convert the newly developed draft pamphlet “For Professionals How A.A. Bridges the Gap” into a single sheet service piece or a service card.
- The committee reviewed the progress report on Military Audio interviews and requested that the Military Audio project be expanded to include veterans. The committee also suggested that the Military Audio project continue to seek interviews with francophone members. The committee requested that sample audio and an update report be provided to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.
- The committee reviewed the draft A.A. Guidelines for Remote Communities and asked the staff secretary to revise the service piece. The committee looks forward to the guidelines being made available once the updates have been made.
- The committee reviewed the Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook. The committee noted that some changes suggested for the Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook in recent years have not yet been implemented. The committee suggested that the staff secretary work with the Publishing Department to update these materials.
- The committee reviewed the Accessibilities Kit and Workbook and strongly suggested that the material be updated to reflect the fact that some members and potential members experience various forms of discrimination including racism which creates a barrier or accessibility challenge. The committee also noted that some of the already suggested changes to the kit and workbook had not been implemented and suggested that the staff secretary work with the Publishing Department to update the materials.

## **TRUSTEES**

### Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed an update report regarding the pamphlet “Do You Think You’re

Different?" The committee requested that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Trustees.

**Note:** As a result of the 2021-22 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, the above item was on the agenda of the Conference Committee on Trustees.

- The committee reviewed the resumes and approved as eligible for election all Class B trustee candidates for Northeast Regional trustee, Southwest Regional trustee, and trustee-at-large/Canada.
- The committee thoroughly discussed the General Service Board's actions at the January 29, 2023 Board Planning and Sharing session that led to the resignation of the board chair. The committee agreed that the board's failure to fully utilize the spiritual principles of Alcoholics Anonymous to address leadership problems were deeply concerning. The committee also agreed that failure to expedite communication to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous about the board chair's resignation and lack of transparency regarding the board's decision resulted in widespread mistrust and disunity. After lengthy and prayerful discussion the committee took a vote to censure the General Service Board, failing to achieve substantial unanimity.
- The committee met individually with each current General Service Board trustee to hear their vision for the future of Alcoholics Anonymous, assessment of the current state of the board, and what actions can be taken to improve communication. The committee agreed the board must improve communication with the Fellowship, including listening to the Fellowship. The committee suggested that the board utilize an externally facilitated process to make organizational improvements.
- The committee requested that the General Service Board find time and space to continue to develop spiritual practices in harmony with the A.A. principles of reflection, accountability, and healing. The committee encourages the board to continue their work on reviewing and clarifying the board's code of conduct, whistleblower policies, and confidentiality policies to provide a clear path to remedy any possible problems within the General Service Board.