

69th General Service Conference

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

AGENDA

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

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)

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

CORRECTIONS

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

FINANCE

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

GRAPEVINE and LA VI^{ET} A

- Remove “Alcoholism at Large”: TOOK NO ACTION, but reaffirmed GV/LV editorial freedom and requested more prominent and visible disclaimer
- Forwarded 3 working titles for possible publication
- Reviewed workbook revision project & Fellowship Feedback Survey results & looks forward to reports of further actions taken by the Board & staff

- Discussed creation of Spanish audio version of *The Language of the Heart* and took no action, since the project already is on the list of future actions to be taken by GV/LV when it is financially prudent (Also see Floor Action #2 on page 3 for more info)

LITERATURE

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

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Conference process to develop & update literature
(See Floor Action #7 on page 3 for more info)

- Reviewed the matrix of A.A. recovery literature & suggested that the trustees' Literature committee consider updating the pamphlet "Is A.A. for Me?"

POLICY / ADMISSIONS

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

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- Bring a plan to the 2020 GSC to produce video shorts based on current A.A. pamphlets: PASSED
- Discontinue the video PSA "My World": PASSED
- Reaffirm policy on full-face actors: PASSED
- Develop 2 PSAs costing a max of \$50K each with "actor portrayal" disclaimers on screen: PASSED
- Add draft language on anonymity and safety to the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity": PASSED
- Update language in flyer "A.A. at a Glance" PASSED
- 2020 report on AAWS YouTube Channel: PASSED
- Update PSA titles for search optimization: PASSED
- AAWS & AAGV apply for "LegitScript" certification to qualify for Google AdWords/Grants: PASSED
- AAWS apply for Google AdWords/Grants: PASSED

- AAWS implement Google AdWords & bring report to the 2020 Conference P.I. Committee: PASSED
- Other ideas include adding www.aa.org & possibly www.aagrapevine.org to pamphlet covers, exploring online platforms for PSAs, and updating "how to find A.A." methods listed in existing PSAs

REPORT AND CHARTER

- Reviewed progress on redesign of Service Manual & forwarded comments to Publishing Department
- Requested alternative methods of accessing and distributing contact information in A.A. Directories
- Agreed to a new privacy policy that personal addresses not be included in the final Conference Report for Area Delegates, Trustees and Non-Trustee Directors.

TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES

- Inclusion of a deaf A.A. member's story to the pamphlet "Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers" plus update video version: PASSED
- Update pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late": PASSED
- Develop anonymity-protected audio interviews on aa.org with military professionals about their experience with A.A.: PASSED
- Agreed with idea of including corrections activities in Bridging the Gap pamphlet and requested that trustees meet to consolidate, eliminate, and combine materials and bring report back in 2020
- Review of draft Remote Communities Kit and suggested that a guideline/workbook be included.

TRUSTEES

- 21 GSB trustees, 7 GSB officers, 9 AAWS directors, and 9 AAGV directors were reviewed and approved
- Reviewed draft procedure to reorganize GSB, AAWS & AAGV Boards, offered suggestions, & requested a revised plan from trustees' Nominating committee

ARCHIVES

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

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INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS

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

GSO Financial Report

- \$8.4 million in 7th Tradition Contributions in 2018, *almost equal to 2017 record*
- *Cost of services provided to Fellowship was \$11.4 million, up 11.8% from 2017*
- *Shortfall between 7th Tradition and Cost of Services was \$3.0 million*
- *AAWS publishing profits were \$3.4 million, down 4%, used to cover Contributions shortfall, resulting in net GSO profit of \$400,000*
- *Grapevine subscription levels declined in 2018*
- *GV would have essentially broken even in 2018, were it not for severance payments to the departing Executive Editor/Publisher*
- *General Fund support of the La Viña service activity was \$148,000*
- Reserve Fund is \$15.9 million, a ratio of 9.7 months
- \$6.7 million in group contributions by 28,314 groups
 - 41.3% of total groups
 - \$237.35 average group contribution
 - 61% of those 28,314 groups have contributed at least 5 of the past 6 years
- \$819,000 in contributions by 5,169 individuals
 - 63% were online contributions
 - \$158.50 average individual contribution
- \$11.4 million = Cost of Services provided by GSO
 - 25% for Outreach Activities
 - 19% for Service Leadership
 - 19% for Group Services
- 73.4% of Cost of Services were supported by 7th Tradition contributions
- 902,004 Big Books sold (48.4% of all AAWS literature sales), including 83% to A.A. entities (groups, members, districts, areas & intergroups)

- Online contributions continue to increase, to 12,330 contributions of \$880,311, or 10.59 % of total contributions in 2018
- Cost of GSO services per member in 2018 was \$8.06
- This year's grassroots self-support challenge is to contribute \$8.06 per person to GSO on 8/06/19
- The 2019 budget shows a combined operating profit of \$201,000. Prediction for 2020 is an overall profit of \$262,000, followed by a loss of \$97,000 in 2021

Floor Actions

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

REPORT ON EQUITABLE WORKLOAD DISTRIBUTION

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

ELECTIONS:

TRUSTEE-AT- LARGE CANADA – PATRICIA L.
Area 79 B.C./YUKON
NORTHEAST REGIONAL TRUSTEE – FRANCIS G.
AREA 30 EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

2020 Int'l Convention is July 2-5 in Detroit, MI