

## **2019 General Service Conference (GSC) Agenda Item Summaries for Assembly**

Area 42 Pre-Conference Assembly

April 5 - 7, 2019

Tonopah Convention Center

Tonopah, NV

Attached are four (4) GSC agenda items to be presented at the Area 42 Assembly and two (2) agenda items to be discussed within districts at the assembly. And the twelve (12) GSC agenda items that will be presented at the Roundtables in the North and South. GSC Background information is available upon request.

Your Delegate wants to hear all comments and feedback from you and your groups on these GSC Agenda Items. Please utilize the open microphones during the Pre-Conference Assembly.

*Disclosures: The materials in this document are only summaries of the background. Information presented in the summaries are carefully distilled or extracted to be concise and provide enough information so that all districts and members in Area 42 can fully participate. The summaries do not reflect the opinions of the Area 42 officers.*

Confidential

This includes background for the 69th General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document; Distribution is limited to A.A. members.

### Presentations at the Area Assembly

**Conference Committee: V. Grapevine — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to remove the “Alcoholism at Large” section from AA Grapevine.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	Area 64 (TN) requested an Agenda item to the General Service Conference to remove the “Alcoholism At Large” section from the Grapevine. They believe this section is in conflict with A.A.’s Traditions and Grapevine’s statement of purpose. The “Alcoholism at Large” section of the Grapevine includes articles and excerpts from the press about the legal, social, and medical aspects of alcoholism. Prior to 1966 this section had different titles and was published sporadically in the magazine. In 1966 the Grapevine began publishing the section called “About Alcoholism” or the “gray pages” as it is known to the GV readers. Since 1974 there have been many agenda items requesting the removal or addition of this section. It has been removed and later added back, currently named “Alcoholism at Large”.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think the “Alcoholism At Large” section should be removed from the AA Grapevine?

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass	Fail
Notes			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Agenda Topic	The A.A. Service Manual, 2018 - 2020 • Review progress report from A.A.W.S. Publishing Department on the redesign of The A.A. Service Manual.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The Publishing Department is undertaking a thorough evaluation, update and redesign of the Service Manual with a preliminary draft or progress report to be sent to the 2019 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. The goal is to ensure the A.A. Service Manual is user friendly, has attractive and inviting tone of content, simple and targeted to the user/reader, and focused on relevant information. Goals include changing the physical format, design, organization of content and tone of content.
What does the Delegate need to know?	No Group conscience is being asked on this item at this time by the delegate. However, if there are any individual concerns the delegate can be emailed directly.

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass	Fail
Notes			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Presentations at the Area Assembly

### Conference Committee: V. Grapevine — Item D

Agenda Topic	Review AA Grapevine Fellowship Feedback Survey and summary.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Grapevine magazine subscriptions have decreased 33% over the past 10 years. Increasing subscriptions is necessary to sustain the current voice of the Fellowship and the important role GV and LV content plays in carrying AA's message of recovery.</p> <p>Fall 2018, the Grapevine Board surveyed current, past, and non-subscribers of GV and La Viña, in English and Spanish, for strategic planning purposes. The initial summary and some findings released to the board in December include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subscribers are very positive about - Appearance; Variety of stories; Most feel price is right; Some report positive resolutions to customer service issues.</li> <li>• Opportunities identified - Improve perceptions and relevance of GV and LV as important recovery tools; Clarify how funded; More content to reach younger members and long-timers; Simplify subscription model; Improve digital problems; Learn from LV engagement strategies.</li> <li>• Next steps - Apply survey results to make progress toward strategic goals; Find contributors of what readers want more of; Use new media responses; Use identified problem feedback; Pricing feedback to subscription model for platform decisions; Understand who is contributing and how to reach potential contributors; Understand funding misconceptions to develop contribution messages.</li> </ul>
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about the items under "Opportunities identified"? Also, future opportunity to review and discuss survey results once report in lay persons language becomes available to fellowship.

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass	Fail
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notes				

### Conference Committee: XII. Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item B

Agenda Topic	Consider a broadcast of the 2020 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony, similar to the anonymity-protected delayed Internet broadcast of the 2015 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The Flag Ceremony sets the celebratory and international tone for the Convention weekend and is one of the major highlights of each International Convention, displaying 90+ flags representing countries whose members are attending the Convention. Starting in 2005 the limited broadcast that required a password was shared with the General Service Conference areas in the U.S./Canada and with General Service Offices overseas and was accessed 1,760 times during a 9-hour period. The broadcast has since been expanded through G.S.O's A.A. website with no password or access code required and the ceremony was viewed a total of 448,165 during a two-week period.
What does the Delegate need to know?	How does your group feel about an anonymity-protected broadcast of the flag ceremony?

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass	Fail
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notes				

### District Consensus at the Area Assembly

**Conference Committee: V. Grapevine — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Consider the list of suggested AA Grapevine book topics for 2020 and later.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The Conference Committee on the Grapevine reviews a list of proposed special items (Grapevine Books) from the Grapevine Corporate Board so that the Conference can offer guidance or voice disapproval. The Grapevine Corporate Board retains the “right of decision”, but values the Conference Committee’s input. A 2002 Advisory Action recommended that the Grapevine should review the list at least one year prior to possible production. Grapevine items are published for several reasons, foremost of which is to carry the message of AA stories from members and friends of the fellowship. This year’s list includes: 1) <u>The Early Days of AA</u> - classic Stories by members from the 30’s, 40’s, and 50’s about what AA was like from the pages of the Grapevine. 2) <u>Getting Involved in General Service</u> - inspiring stories of experience by AA members who got involved in service below the group, from pages of the Grapevine 3) <u>Surrender and Hope</u> - Spanish-speaking AA members share how they came to surrender and join AA for a new life, from the pages of La Viña.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think these three book titles are appropriate special projects for the Grapevine Corporate Board to plan?

District Results	For #	Against #	Pass	Fail
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notes				

**Conference Committee: I. Agenda — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review suggestions for the theme of the 2020 General Service Conference.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	1951 through 1961 the conference theme became defined by taking a "sense of the meeting ". Starting 1962 definite themes came into being. Conference themes revolve around basic principles of AA, they can spark thought-provoking discussion and be incorporated into meetings, workshops, pre-conference assemblies etc.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Your ideas for a conference theme. Your opinion on the possible theme suggestions for 2020, which are available upon request.

District Results	For #	Against #	Pass	Fail
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notes				

## Six Items that were presented at the Northern Roundtables (NAGSC)

### VI. Literature C. Consider requests to develop a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

(See Summarized Agenda Items: Pg 7)

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes				

### IV. Literature N. Consider suggestion to add “Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers” to the end of the open meeting side of the Primary Purpose (blue) card.

(See Summarized Agenda Items: Pg 12)

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes				

### VII. Policy/Admissions G. Reconsider the 1986 Advisory Action regarding a simple majority vote by the full Conference.

(See Summarized Agenda Items: Pg 14)

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes				

### VIII. Public Information D. Review draft language addressing anonymity and safety proposed for the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity.”

(See Summarized Agenda Items: Pg 17)

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes				

### X. Treatment & Accessibilities C. Consider updating the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never too Late.”

(See Summarized Agenda Items: Pg 20)

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes				

### XI. Trustee E. Review draft procedures for partial or complete reorganization of the General Service Board.

(See Summarized Agenda Items: Pg 23)

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes				

## Six Items that were presented at the Southern Roundtables (SAGSC)

### II. CPC A. Discuss progress on implementation of A.A.W.S. LinkedIn page.

(See Summarized Agenda Items: Pg 2)

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes				

### IV. Literature M. Consider revising the Foreword to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

(See Summarized Agenda Items: Pg 11)

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes				

### VI. Literature O. Consider request to update the pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated”.

(See Summarized Agenda Items: Pg 12)

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes				

### X. Treatment & Accessibilities B. Consider adding a story from an A.A. member who is deaf to the pamphlet “Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers.”

(See Summarized Agenda Items: Pg 20)

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes				

### X. Treatment & Accessibilities D. Discuss the concept of posting anonymity-protected interviews on aa.org with military professionals about their experience with A.A.

(See Summarized Agenda Items: Pg 21)

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes				

### XII. Archives A. Consider request to add the 1940s home movie of the co-founders and their wives to the video “Markings on the Journey.”

(See Summarized Agenda Items: Pg 24)

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes				