

72nd GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

Quick Reference

Definition of Advisory Actions & Additional Committee Considerations

- Conference Advisory Actions represent recommendations of the Conference committees, or floor actions that have been approved by the Conference body as a whole with substantial unanimity (2/3rds vote). Advises the Trustees how “we” want them to serve the Fellowship
- Additional Committee Considerations are items discussed, but no action taken, or recommendation made, as well as committee recommendations which are not adopted.

I. AGENDA

Recommendations (4) Advisory Actions (4):

For the 2023 General Service Conference

A. Theme: **Passed**

A.A.'s Three Legacies – Our Common Solution.

B. Presentation/Discussion Topics: **Passed**

General Service – Our Mighty Purpose and Rhythm

1. *Our Common Perils and Common Solution*
2. *Using A.A.'s Literature in Carrying the Message*
3. *Fostering a Thriving Three Legacy Culture*

C. Workshop Topic: **Passed**

Practicing Our Twelve Traditions Across All Group Settings

D. The General Service Board develop a status report on the progress and outcomes from the 2013-2015 Conference inventory and include a draft plan for another Conference inventory with considerations of its value, timeline and approach to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Agenda.

Passed

II. COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (C.P.C.)

No Recommendations

III. CORRECTIONS

No Recommendations

IV. FINANCE

No Recommendations

V. GRAPEVINE & LA VINA

No Recommendations

VI. LITERATURE

Recommendations (11) Advisory Actions (9):

A. The pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” be revised to add the following text regarding safety and A.A.:

1. In the section "For the person wanting to be a sponsor" (p. 14) under the heading "What does a sponsor do and not do?":

Stresses the importance of A.A. being a safe place for all members and encourages members to become familiar with service material available from the General Service Office such as "Safety in A.A. – Our Common Welfare."

2. In the section "For groups planning sponsorship activity" (p. 23), under the heading "How does sponsorship help a group?" add a fourth paragraph:

Sponsorship can also help a group to create a welcoming and secure environment. Safety is an issue affecting all members and it is important for groups to remain accessible to all who are seeking recovery. Sponsorship can help keep the group focused on the common welfare.

Passed

- B. The booklet *Living Sober* be revised to add the following paragraph regarding safety and A.A. in chapter 29, page 76:

“Of course, A.A. is a reflection of the larger society around us and problems found in the outside world can also make their way into the rooms of A.A. But by keeping the focus on our common welfare and primary purpose, groups can help provide a safe and secure environment for all their members.”

Passed

- C. The draft pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated” be approved with minor editorial revisions. **Failed**
- D. The video animation of the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" (currently published by the General Service Board of A.A., Great Britain) be adapted and produced by the Publishing department. **Passed**
- E. The draft of the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” be approved. **Passed**
- F. The pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated” be updated with non-offensive, contemporary text and illustrations. **Passed**

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G. Discuss G.S.O. Publishing updates per the A.A.W.S. print policy:

1. The updated pamphlet “Is A.A. for You?” be approved. **Passed**
2. The updated pamphlet “Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?” be approved. **Passed**
3. The pamphlet “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.” **Passed**
4. The updated pamphlet “This Is A.A.” be approved. **Passed**

H. A second volume of the book *Experience, Strength and Hope* be developed with the stories dropped from the Fourth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and that a progress report be brought to the Conference Committee on Literature once development of the publication is in progress. **Failed**

VII. POLICY & ADMISSIONS

Recommendations (4) Advisory Actions (3):

Two members were admitted.

A. The “Process for Approving Observers to the Conference” be changed. The revised process would allow the Policy/Admissions committee to approve routine admissions from structures outside the U.S. and Canada without having to poll the full Conference. As with the current process, the trustees’ General Service Conference Committee and then the General Service Board would first need to approve the request prior to forwarding it to the Policy/Admissions committee for their action. **Passed**

B. The Scope of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions which currently reads:

Admissions function: Is responsible for reviewing all requests for admissions to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference.

Be revised to read:

Admissions function: Is responsible for reviewing all requests for admissions to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference; and for approving routine requests for admissions from A.A. service structures outside of the U.S./Canada service structure to observe the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference.

And that the following be added to the Procedure of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions:

Procedure

1. To approve routine requests from qualified representatives of other A.A. service structures to observe the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference. **Passed**

C. The paragraph in the story “Freedom from Bondage” which was removed due to pagination issues from the Fourth edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* be restored in all future printings and publications in which the story is included. **Failed**

D. The compilation of all Conference committee background be made simultaneously in English, French, and Spanish. (amended) **Passed**

Note pre-Conference advisory actions passed: Two persons from A.A. in Brazil and one person from A.A. in Argentina be admitted to the 72nd General Service Conference as observers, as well as two alternate delegates in place of their delegates be admitted to the 72nd General Service Conference.

VIII. PUBLIC INFORMATION

Recommendations (5) Advisory Actions (5):

A. The following revisions to the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity.” The question and answer that currently reads:

- *Anonymity in the digital age*

Q. I maintain an Internet website and a personal page on a social media site. I also belong to an online meeting. At what level should I protect my anonymity on the Internet?

A. Publicly accessible aspects of the Internet such as websites featuring text, graphics, audio, and video can be considered the same as publishing or broadcasting. Unless password-protected, a website requires the same safeguards that we use at the level of press, radio, and film. Simply put, this means that A.A.s do not identify themselves as A.A. members using their full names and/or full-face photos.

Be changed to:

- *Anonymity in the digital age*

Q. I maintain a website and social media pages. At what level should I protect my anonymity on the Internet?

A. Publicly accessible aspects of the Internet such as websites featuring text, graphics, audio, and video can be considered the same as publishing or broadcasting. Unless password-protected, a website requires the same safeguards that we use at the level of press,

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radio, and film/video. Simply put, this means that A.A.s do not identify themselves as A.A. members using their full names and/or full-face photos.

It is suggested that when A.A.s gather as A.A.s or as an A.A. group on social media pages and other similar platforms that these pages are set to “private” rather than “public.” **Passed**

- B. The following text addition to the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity.”

Q. Are virtual A.A. meetings considered “Public”?

A. These online gatherings are not streamed to the general public; however, information about the meeting is provided to A.A. members, potential members, and the general public similar to in-person meetings.

While some members feel comfortable using their full names and faces, other members feel it is more aligned with Tradition 11 to use only their first name and last initial or turning their camera off. For safety purposes, some groups have provided helpful reminders in their group format that picture taking, or screen shots are not in keeping with anonymity principles.

Passed

- C. The outdated “A.A. Fact File” be retired. **Passed**
- D. Format changes, two new questions and six changed questions on a 2022 membership survey questionnaire, be approved. **Passed**
- E. A 2022 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted with a budgeted cost not to exceed \$20,000. The process will include mailing, digital back-end response and analysis, creation of message and distribution, including a “How to” video for groups/members. **Passed**

IX. REPORT & CHARTER

Recommendations (2) Advisory Actions (2):

- A. Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of *The A.A. Service Manual* be revised to correct inaccuracies and to provide clarity and consistency on the roles, responsibilities and relationships between the General Service Office, AA Grapevine, and A.A. World Services, Inc.

Note: Because 2023 is a printing year these changes would be reviewed by the A.A.W.S. Board, AA Grapevine Board, and the General Service Board prior to being brought to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter. This process is in

keeping with the 2018 advisory action regarding review of *The A.A. Service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service*. **Passed**

- B. Items 5 and 6 that relate to Regional Directories be removed from the Scope of the Report and Charter Composition, Scope and Procedure.

(Note: Regional Directories are no longer being produced.) **Passed**

X. TREATMENT & ACCESSIBILITIES

Recommendation (1) Advisory Actions (1):

- A. The Long Form of Tradition Five be added to the pamphlet, *The A.A. Group* on page twelve in the section “What is an A.A. Group?” at its next printing. **Passed**

XI. TRUSTEES

Recommendation (6) Advisory Actions (6):

The following slates elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 30, 2022 following presentation at the 2022 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

All four **Passed**

- A. The slate of trustees of the General Service Board

Class A Trustees

Molly Anderson

Linda Chezem, J.D.

Sr. Judith Ann Karam, C.S.A.

Hon. Kerry Meyer

Al Mooney, M.D., FAAFP, FASAM

Andie Moss

Kevin Prior, MBA, CFA, CPA

Class B Trustees

Cathi C.

Jimmy D.

Josh E.

Francis G.

Reilly K.

Tom H.

Deborah K.

Trish L.

Mike L.

Paz P.

Marita H. R.

Joyce S.

Irma V. N.

Carolyn W

- B. The slate of officers of the General Service Board
- C. The slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
- D. The slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.
- E. The “Suggested Procedure to Reorganize the General Service Board and the boards of A.A.W.S., Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc.” be approved as one acceptable pathway to a whole or partial reorganization of the Boards, understanding that, as provided by the Conference Charter, the final

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process will be determined by whichever General Service Conference might be considering reorganization. **Passed**

- F. The trustees' Literature Committee revise the pamphlet "Do You Think You're Different?" to update the stories to represent greater diversity and bring back a draft pamphlet or progress report to the 2023 General Service Conference. **Passed**

XII. ARCHIVES

No Recommendations

XIII. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS & REGIONAL FORUMS

No Recommendations

FLOOR ACTIONS

Recommendations (9) **Advisory Actions (2):**

- 1) With the translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language, that the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts, not be translated into plain language in any way: that these remain in the existing form in English as in previous editions of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. **Declined to Consider**
- 2) The trustees' 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 meaning in the illustrations. **Passed**
- 3) The 2022 Membership Survey questionnaire receive final editorial review by the trustees' Public Information Committee after consulting with our professional survey methodologist, to address concerns raised by the 72nd General Service Conference related to the survey questions about Racial and Ethnic Background, and Employment Status. **Passed**
- 4) The General Service Conference impose a one-year moratorium on any new agenda item received through September 15, 2022, with new agenda items held to be placed on the agenda for the 74th General Service Conference, allowing the General Service Board and its corporate affiliates time to adjust and align their processes to accommodate the 2022 Policy and Admissions recommendation to provide simultaneous translation of all background material. **Declined to Consider**
- 5) The trustees' Ad Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups develop a plan to create one or more non-geographic Areas for online and telephone groups in the U.S./Canada General Service Conference structure, with a progress report on the plan to be presented to the 73rd General Service Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions. **Failed**
- 6) That the following GSR Preamble be added to the pamphlet "Your Group's Link to A.A. as a Whole":
The GSR Preamble
We are the General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of A.A.
We realize the ultimate authority is a loving God as he may express Himself in our Group Conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that they can reach an informed group conscience. In passing along this group conscience, we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship.
Let us, therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our group and A.A. as a whole.. **Declined to Consider**
- 7) The trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference evaluate the current process of developing Conference background material and bring back to the 2023 General Service Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions a plan that describes the process of developing background material, keeping in mind the Conference desire for background material to be targeted, balanced and with relevant historical content. **Failed**
- 8) The Advisory Actions from Panel 71:
Advisory Action 18 for changes to page 117 phrase "opposite sex" with the word "partner"
Advisory Action 19 changes to page 66, "No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health. No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony."
in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, be returned to the original text. **Declined to Consider**
- 9) The 1995 Conference Advisory Action be reaffirmed that the first 164 pages of the Big Book, the Forewords, "The Doctor's Opinion," "Doctor Bob's Nightmare" and the Appendices remain as is. **Failed**