

Northern Area General Service Conference (NAGSC) Business Meeting

Date: March 12, 2022

Location: Zoom and Wolf Center, 457 Esmeralda St, Fallon, Nevada

Agenda:

12:00pm District Committee Members & Committee Chairs

1pm-4pm General meeting

Zoom hosts: Jeffrey and Dave

Lyle opened the meeting at 1:13 with the Serenity Prayer

Announcement of anniversaries

Responsibility Reading on World Services: Read by Rocky H.

Notice of recording by Northern Area General Service Conference Secretary

Motion to approve of December 2021 minutes by Mike L., Michelle M. seconded. No opposition.

Northern Area General Service Conference Treasurer (Anne Y.):

Attached are the Profit and Loss sheet and the Balance sheet. We have \$27,274.34 in the checking account and the certificate of deposit is \$1,553.24.

Motion to increase gas from \$0.30 to \$0.50 for this Assembly and the next by Chris. Seconded by Pat S. Passed.

Carol asked if this a guideline change proposal and was told No.

Paul opposed because gas fluctuates, and we don't lower it when gas is down.

Rhonda discussed combining treasuries with the Southern Area General Service Conference, but Lyle said that would not happen until after this is changed back.

2nd vote: No change.

Motion passed.

7:35 PM

03/10/22

Cash Basis

Northern Area General Service Committee

Profit & Loss

January through February 2022

	<u>Jan - Feb 22</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4001 · 7th tradition	121.00
4002 · Contribution Income	1,758.35
	<hr/>
Total Income	1,879.35
	<hr/>
Gross Profit	1,879.35
	<hr/>
Net Ordinary Income	1,879.35
	<hr/>
Net Income	<u><u>1,879.35</u></u>

7:30 PM

03/10/22

Cash Basis

Northern Area General Service Committee
Balance Sheet
As of February 28, 2022

	Feb 28, 22
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1000 · BofA checking #	27,092.54
1004 · Savings CD	1,553.95
Total Checking/Savings	28,646.49
Total Current Assets	28,646.49
TOTAL ASSETS	28,646.49
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
3000 · Opening Bal Equity	5,099.83
3200 · Retained Earnings	21,967.31
Net Income	1,579.35
Total Equity	28,646.49
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	28,646.49

Delegate's Report (Julie C.):

I have the honor to serve Nevada Area 42 as your Panel 71 Delegate. I am serving on the Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community. I would like to thank all of you for coming today, and for spending part of your weekend helping your Group become informed and hopefully bringing your voice to the Assembly in Tonopah in April. To all of you who had a hand in preparing our Area for these roundtables, thank you, thank you, thank you! I hope you have a little better understanding of the process than you did before.

Before I begin, I keep forgetting to update the Area on what happened with our agenda item submission. I received an email thanking me for our submission of the proposed Conference Agenda Item that **“the General Service Conference consider developing a pamphlet on the Corrections Correspondence Service to include current and additional Fellowship sharing on the value of Correspondence Service participation.”** The Trustees' Committee on Corrections discussed the proposed agenda item and determined to take no action. Please note below an excerpt from the October 29, 2021 meeting report relevant to the item:

The committee discussed the request to consider developing a pamphlet on the Corrections Service to include current and additional Fellowship sharing on the value of Corrections Correspondence Service participation and took no action. The committee determined that with the new Corrections Correspondence Service database in its infancy, development of a pamphlet at this time may not be the best avenue to raise awareness. However, in keeping with the spirit of the suggestion, the committee will monitor the impact of the new Corrections Correspondence Service database and assess the need accordingly. In the meantime, the committee suggests utilization of currently available communication tools like AA Grapevine, Box 4-5-9 and What's New on aa.org to raise awareness of the Corrections Correspondence Service.

You may be pleased to know that we are considering the committee's suggestions on raising awareness and plan on utilizing same (i.e., future articles in *Box 4-5-9*).

How many of you are at your first Roundtable? Welcome! My first Area event was the Roundtables in Reno in the second year of the panel. Nevada delegates and officers are elected every two years – we are in year two of Panel 71 (2021-2022). I had no idea what we were discussing. I had never paid attention to the voice of the Group or my responsibility to AA as a whole until my first Roundtable. So, if you are new and confused, you are not alone.

What I was told is to have an experience. So, I say to you, today, have an experience. What my Group wanted to know is what touched my heart. Today we will hear from five presenters who have done research for us. Then you will have an opportunity to ask questions or make comments. Please consider holding an open mind and an open heart. Perhaps someone will say something that moves you. When that happens take note. Your Group will want to know what moves you.

Next, please bring back to your Group what you heard, saw and felt today. Try to listen to your Group's feedback with an open heart and mind and then come to Tonopah and share with our Assembly what your Group feels and thinks. We call this time March Madness because we are so busy running around finding out what people think. Maybe we should call it *Open Mind and Open Heart* month.

As I said last year, I am here to listen to you. I have done everything in my power to keep an open mind, to remain undecided and to hear your ideas, concerns and opinions. It is so vital that we always remember as we do the work of Alcoholics Anonymous that we are doing this in order to reach the still suffering alcoholic. To ensure that those not here can find a way here. To ensure that those not born yet will find our solution if they someday need it. To ensure that we are staying within the bounds of our Steps, Traditions and Concepts.

I really want to thank the Area Conference Committees for their outstanding service in preparing for today, especially the presenters. I believe all of the presenters are on one of the Committees. I am extremely grateful for your love and service to Alcoholics Anonymous.

We will have time for additional feedback at the Assembly. We are working on an online survey again and I plan on having two more "Tea with the Delegate" Zoom meetings on March 20th and 21st, which is before our Assembly.

My best advice to those of you who are new and perhaps confused is what was told to me when I was a new District Committee Member. "Bring your enthusiastic self." I am not a big proponent of gimmicks. Bring your love and passion for AA to those who are available.

Thank you for the privilege to serve as your delegate. I am truly humbled.

Purpose of today's meeting: To inform ourselves on following five agenda items that will be discussed in committee at the AA General Service Conference

2 mins per question. Only speak once on topic until everyone has had the chance. Mike L. is our timer.

IV. Finance:

Libby G.

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

This is actually a Literature committee item but was assigned to the Finance committee as part of redistributing the workloads among the various committees.

Agenda item C reads “Consider request that all proposed changes to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* be handled in footnotes.” The purpose of this motion is to address concerns about keeping the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book historically accurate and faithful to the original version. This item shares the same background information with Finance Agenda Item B which is about adding a disclaimer to the front of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book. It will be presented separately at the Southern Area General Service Conference roundtable.

This motion came about in reaction to changes to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book that were passed by substantial unanimity at the 71st General Service Conference. Specifically, there were three Advisory Actions passed to make changes to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book. First, Advisory Action 18 was passed to change the text on page 117 to replace the phrase “opposite sex” with the word “partner” and to add a footnote to provide context to the change as it relates to inclusivity.

Second, Advisory Action 19 passed to change the text on page 66 in Step 6. The revision is to refer to the Seven Deadly Sins without specific mention of examples that are severe in nature and that a footnote be added to provide context as to the basis for the change. The current wording is “No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health.” The new wording is “No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony.”

Third, Advisory Action 23 was passed to add the long form of each Tradition at the end of each Tradition essay and that the complete list of Traditions will remain in the back of the book.

The General Service Office received 40 requests to reverse or rescind one or more of these Advisory Actions and to preserve the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book without alterations. Of the 40 requests they can be divided into four large categories. Where possible, I will only refer to those items relating to footnotes and not the other Advisory Actions.

The first category is related to the 1995 advisory action that no changes happen to the Big Book and the 2002 Conference Action relating to not altering the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book. In the background material there are five past agenda items (76, 80, 94, 143 and 140) related to this one.

To summarize, the request of all five items in this category is to not make any changes to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book. A disclaimer in the front of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book and the use of footnotes are suggestions to handle the use of language that might now be construed as inappropriate. At a minimum the Advisory Actions should be suspended until the matter can be further discussed and AA has recovered from the effects of the pandemic.

The second category is titled “Slippery Slope” and is about the concern that these changes could lead to endless future changes. There are five past agenda items (138, 139, 142, 149 & 150) in this category.

Some of the detail related to this item is that it will make the English version not be aligned with foreign translations. It would also be massively expensive for the new printing to change 10 words. The changes themselves are only semantic arguments and would increase our trusted servant's workload. The changes are politically motivated and might lead us down the path of the Washingtonians. Also, it is impossible to satisfy everyone's sensitivities and attempting to do so will cause problems down the line.

The third category has to do with the lack of a fully informed Group Conscience due to the pandemic. There are concerns that a broader Group conscience is needed. There were four past agenda item's (94, 148, 150 & 163) related to this category. The comments were almost all about the impact of COVID-19 and how communication between Groups, General Service Representative's, Districts, and Areas were disrupted, and a fuller conversation needs to happen before changes are made.

The final category is that these changes are not in keeping with our Traditions. Tradition 10 is cited as the changes seem to be related to outside issues and we should have no opinions on them. Traditions 1 and 12 are also mentioned in that the changes would be inconsistent with our principles of Unity and Anonymity. Some see it as a distraction from our Primary Purpose. They consider the literature to be historical documents and as such should remain intact. There are three past agenda items related to this one (146, 153, & 178).

There were a couple of points that didn't fall within the above categories. There are concerns that our Big Book and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book are God-given and any changes should be considered major and need more consideration. There were some concerns that we are becoming too righteous, and did we really think the intent of the original language was meant to offend or diminish anyone or anything (past agenda item's 151, 152, 155, 159 and 160)?

After all that, the motion was about changes being handled as footnotes instead of revisions to the actual text. It was meant as solution to keep the literature true to the original wording.

Discussion

Justin F. asked about where the footnotes are and who votes on the footnotes and disclaimer. It was responded that the Southern Area General Service Conference will vote on the disclaimer and we are just voting on whether there should be footnotes.

Jim S. clarified that the footnotes have already been made. Changes to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book are pending but the original text would remain as is in this proposal. Libby said that if we adopted this proposal, the original language would remain the same.

Kevin H. tried to clarify what is to be considered changed. Is it to change the forward and footnotes, or leave changes as they are now, or revert to how it was? The action is to stop the change before it gets printed.

Julie clarified that some versions of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book has already been revised. And reminded the body that they may attend the Southern Area General Service Conference happening the next day.

Billy asked if this the minority who lost the vote and wants to change?

Andrea commented that there have been a lot of changes that started with the strategic plan from 2016, added on by the distractions of the mock agenda, and then the unfamiliarizing of the General Service Representatives and the Fellowship with the Agenda Conference Committees. They were not receiving the background information. This agenda topic is not written in typical AA language; the background information does not tell you what Home Group, District, or Area it comes from. The Equity Distribution Workload is government overreach, including who can and cannot be a Delegate, flying without a vaccination, and dining in New York. They want to move the General Service Conference out of New York, and that's probably why. They want to change the conference charter to which Trustees can vote.

Rhonda asked how many of these 40 requests were coming from individuals. The answer is that it is unknown, although it does show some copies of the requests from Groups and Areas.

THE BODY VOTED TO REVISIT THIS AGENDA ITEM AFTER ALL SIX AGENDA ITEMS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. THE NOTES FROM THE REVISIT ARE PLACED HERE FOR CLARITY OF ORGANIZATION.

Paul asked for clarification because AA World Services has already changed the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book, so he wanted to know whether the footnotes would be added moving forward, or whether AA World Services would change the wording back to the original manuscript and footnote that change. Libby responded that the intent is to maintain the original writing and any changes would be footnoted.

Mike said we talked about why it would be a good idea to put in footnotes, but he wants to be able to present it from both sides to help his Group make an Informed Group Conscience. He was looking for more information. Libby said that the one side is that we made changes to be more inclusive and make it stick, or go back to the original manuscript and add footnotes. Libby said she was reluctant to give you opinions so that she doesn't sway anyone and Libby suggested having Mike talk to his Group and get their opinion. Libby provided that suggestion that we make no changes now and revisit this in a few years.

Erica provided her opinion that she would vote no to go back to the original manuscript, because she is a member of the LGBTQI community and the changes make her feel included. She also finds the language on rape to be triggering for many women in AA including herself. The changes gave her hope for AA. We also need new literature and to change "Boy meets girl on AA campus" to "Whatever meets whatever..."

Andrea said that the Big Book and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book tell us that the price to be paid is pain and this is the language of the heart. She said she likes it how it is. She is concerned that the background material suggests getting a wider Group Conscience beyond your Home Group.

Debbie asked if we decide to go back to the original manuscript, would the new publication be a whole new edition? Libby was not sure. Julie said we would not throw away the books, they would just start printing the books with the change.

Libby invited folks to the Southern Area General Service Conference to discuss the same background material, but a different Agenda item.

Michelle M. asked for more information on the fact that this was a request to not make this an Advisory Action. Libby replied that the intent was to make this an Advisory Action, so Libby said she may have misspoken.

*SENSE OF THE BODY

Those in favor of changing the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book to its original manuscript with footnotes: 6

Those opposed: 19

VI. Literature

Dave

S. Consider an update of the book *Experience, Strength and Hope*.

Agenda item S is new, so new that my service sponsor who has some experience in sharing his opinion about these things suggested we may have the cart harnessed in front of the horse on this one. You have the summary that was provided using the available information. There's a lot left to be discussed. We do not even know how many pages it will be and we heard at Pacific Regional AA Service Assembly the 5th edition isn't even likely until at least 2025.

I can tell you with some certainty we have no idea how much it will cost yet. I have heard rumors that the book Experience, Strength & Hope was our lowest-selling book last year but as yet that's unconfirmed because I haven't found the info yet on the new aa.org.

I believe there will be more info to work with next year.

Discussion

Lisa asked if the book was to be updated because it was the lowest-selling book and the answer was that this had not been discussed.

*SENSE OF THE BODY

Those in favor of updating the book: 16

Those opposed: 3

VIII. Public Information

Michelle M.

J. Discuss Public Information pamphlets/materials:

4. Consider request to retire and replace the "AA Fact File."

From the January 29, 2022, Trustees' Public Information Committee report:

The committee agreed to forward to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information the request to retire “The AA Fact File” (M-24) and replace it with a service material version of a new digital Public Information Press Media Kit.

Sending it around right now. And go to AA.org if you are on line.

What is the AA fact file? It is a 17-page booklet that provides basic information and data on our fellowship. It includes information on structure, traditions, membership, anonymity as well as public relations and financial policies. It also contains a list of books and pamphlets available from AA. We currently use this booklet as a Press Kit, providing general information to the public in an easy-to-read format. The AA fact file can be found on AA.org.

The 2021 conference committee on Public Information discussed the content and format of the Press Kit. They noted a recent memo regarding the possibility of an AA service app and considered the overall request to move away from a “print first” approach, instead preferring pdf resources, which are more quickly updated and downloaded from AA.org.

The Public Information coordinator put a new version together, and it was included in the background information, along with examples of Overeaters’ Anonymous and Gay and Sober Press Kits.

Discussion

Kevin asked if it would eliminate paper copies and is this about this going digital. The response was yes.

*SENSE OF THE BODY

Those in favor of replacing the AA Fact File: 24

Those opposed: 3

Break

IX. Report and Charter

Don D.

E. Consider requests that the chapter titled “The Doctor's Opinion” be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition.

Excerpts from the Trustees’ Committee on Literature October 2021 meeting:

The Committee considered the request that upon the creation of a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the chapter titled: The Doctor's Opinion be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition, published in 1939. The committee agreed to forward and consider that request.

What problem does this proposed item address?

The Doctor’s Opinion was moved from page one to the roman numerals when the Second edition was

published. Data suggests that the average reader does not read the Preface and Forwards. Instead, they start on page one. If the suffering alcoholic, without a sponsor or guidance, starts on page one they will miss the only medical explanation of the disease presented in the text, Alcoholics Anonymous.

History of Item:

Former District 10 District Committee Member Dave T. brought forth a motion to his Salem Noontime Homegroup on January 23, 2021, asking to return The Doctor's Opinion to page one which was approved with substantial unanimity. The motion was then brought forth to the District 10 Committee Meeting. General Service Representatives were asked to bring the motion back to their home Groups for discussion and a vote. On April 15, 2021, all participating Groups voted with substantial unanimity in favor of the motion. It was then decided to bring the motion to the Area 43 (New Hampshire) Assembly for endorsement with a final vote taken on August 21, 2021. Of those in attendance, 60% voted in favor of the motion; 67% was needed for Assembly substantial unanimity approval.

What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

Back in 1939, when this The Doctor's Opinion first appeared, the Foundation was mailing the Big Book out and newcomers were reading it without any guidance. The AA Fellowship saw exponential growth. This content packaging worked. The suffering alcoholic, without a sponsor or guidance, will begin reading The Doctor's Opinion on page one and absorb the only medical evidence presented in the book, Alcoholics Anonymous. Furthermore, readers will be validated with a sense of surety, freedom and well-being.

The author also included some links to websites but these were not Conference-approved websites, so I chose to not include them.

Discussion

Pam just confirmed that we are deciding for 5th Edition of the Big Book where The Doctor's Opinion should be placed, which is correct and the sole issue we are discussing is where The Doctor's Opinion would be in the 5th edition of the Big Book.

David asked how was this changed to in the first place. The response was that we do not and that there are myths, but no confirmed information. David provided the story that Bill changed it on his own and the other story is that the Conference knew about the changes as they were being made.

Rhonda provided the story that the The Doctor's Opinion was not written by an alcoholic, so that's why it was moved to the early part of the book. Rhonda believes sponsors should take their sponsees through The Doctor's Opinion.

Lisa said that Rhonda said what she was going to say.

Jim S. asked the purpose behind the reason to move The Doctor's Opinion. He asked if it would change the "program" numbers back to 179 pages instead of 164 where we are today. The response was the data suggests that people don't read the pre-reading, so to move it may keep people from skipping it. Jim asked if all the forwards would stay under the roman numerals, and that was confirmed to be true.

Kevin H. said he talked to Michelle in Archives. She had said that the roman numeral pages were added as more information. This was also brought up in the preface of the 4th Edition that you read the stories first. The change was made at the Trustees level so more information could be added before Bill's story,

and it had nothing to do with Silkworth not being an alcoholic.

Joyce stated that this change would mess up with her numbering, and she will feel like a newcomer.

Billy stated that he didn't have a sponsor and didn't skip that part of the book.

Jay stated that he wants the sex inventory to stay on page 69.

Rocky said that our Primary Purpose should keep us from messing with program for the newcomer, so we should change the book and start on page 1 so the newcomer does not skip anything.

Paul said he starts with his sponsees at the Preface, then the Forwards, then The Doctor's Opinion. Same with his book study. He also read the Experience, Strength & Hope book and believes it all goes back to sponsorship.

Debbie O. said she is undisciplined and would not read the prefaces, so she thinks it should start on page 1.

Justin commented that a sponsee will go through The Doctor's Opinion with their sponsor, but if a new member starts in prison or rehab, they may miss The Doctor's Opinion since they're not sponsored.

Dave said he didn't start with The Doctor's Opinion and almost died. He read from the AA Comes of Age book on page 13-14 "...Then, as our only medical friend at the time, the good doctor [Silkworth] boldly wrote the introduction to our book, where it remains to this day and where we intend to keep it always."

Carol asked if the Big Book could be renumbered similar to the General Service Manual, like S-1, S-2, etc. Or make the prior reading 1-A, 2-A, etc.

Erica stated the Big Book is outdated and we need new literature.

*SENSE OF THE BODY

Those in favor of returning The Doctor's Opinion to page one: 24

Those opposed: 24

XI. Trustees

Paul E.

"Procedures for a Partial or Complete Reorganization of the General Service Board, the AA World Services Board or AA Grapevine Boards."

The 2018 Conference Committee on Trustees reviewed a proposal to reorganize the AA World Services Board and General Service Board and took no action. The Conference Committee on Trustees noted that although a reorganization was not considered necessary at this time, the Conference Committee on Trustees requested that the Trustees' Nominating Committee develop procedures for a partial or complete reorganization of the General Service Board, the AA World Services Board or AA Grapevine

Board and that a report be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Trustees, including all possible options.

At their August 2018 meeting, the Trustees' Nominating Committee formed a subcommittee to draft procedures for a partial or complete reorganization of the General Service Board, AA World Services Board, and the AA Grapevine Board.

At their February 2019 meeting, the Trustees' Nominating Committee agreed to forward the draft procedures to the 2019 Conference Committee on Trustees. Additionally, the Trustees' Nominating Committee requested that the General Manager prepare a memorandum summarizing pertinent information forwarded by legal counsel to accompany the draft procedures. The Conference Committee on Trustees reviewed the draft procedures and agreed that the procedure needed more specific suggestions and bring it back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Trustees.

At their February 2020 meeting, the Trustees' Nominating Committee reviewed the report from their 2019 subcommittee and took several actions. The Conference Committee on Trustees recommended to the General Service Board that the following text "Until the election, the Trustees would still be bound by their Code of Conduct and required to fulfill their fiduciary duties to Alcoholics Anonymous" be added to End Note 2 of the "Procedures for a Partial or Complete Reorganization of the General Service Board, the AA World Services Board or AA Grapevine Board."

At the October 2021 meeting, the Trustees' Nominating Committee reviewed and discussed notes from the 2021 Conference Committee on Trustees that expressed some disappointment about the Trustee committee taking no action on their committee considerations from the 71st General Service Conference. The Trustees' Nominating Committee considered the request for action stated in the notes for "Procedures for partial or total reorganization of the General Service Board, AA World Services Board and AA Grapevine Board" and took no action. The Trustees' Nominating Committee noted the current language in the General Service Board bylaws on filling unexpected Trustee vacancies. The Trustees' Nominating Committee felt that a discussion of the request for action by a Trustee of a region, and Area delegates within the region, would be an approach that is consistent with the General Service Board bylaws.

REVISED SUGGESTED PROCEDURE TO REORGANIZE

The Trustees' committee agreed to forward an agenda item to the Conference Report and Charter Committee to amend the sentence in the Current Conference Charter to read:

b. ~~Article 4 of~~ The Conference Charter provides, in part:

"It will be further understood, regardless of the legal prerogatives of the General Service Board, as a matter of tradition, that a three-quarters vote of all Conference members **participating in the vote** may bring about a reorganization of the General Service Board and the directors and staff members of its corporate services, if or when such reorganization is deemed essential."

(This language would be inserted in the document where applicable.)

"2. Selection of Class B Trustees

(a) The Conference shall determine who should preside as designated Chair for election of Class B Trustees set out in subparagraphs (b) through (aa) below;

~~(b)~~ **(c)** The delegate of each Area in each Region shall ~~provide~~ **submit to** the **designated** Chair with the

name and resume of its nominee for Regional Trustee in writing. Elections shall be conducted by the **designated** Chair following a Third Legacy Election Procedure in accordance with the established voting procedures for the election of Regional Trustees.”

(This language would be inserted in the document where applicable, the lettering would also be changed due to the addition of (a).)

“4. The ~~Chief Executive~~ **Publisher** of AA Grapevine Board, Inc. normally serves as a director of AA Grapevine Board, Inc. and, by custom, as its President. Care should be taken with any employee of the General Service Board, AA World Services Board, Inc. and AA Grapevine Board, Inc. in changing duties and responsibilities, as such changes may have legal and financial consequences. Legal advice should be sought.”

“6. The Trustee Vacancy provisions of the Bylaws of the General Service Board contemplate a Regional Trustee being eligible to serve ~~a full four year term~~ **four successive annual terms** after serving one or two years in filling a vacancy. They do not speak to a Trustee-at-Large, General Service Trustees or NonTrustee Directors. However, the same spiritual principles apply. The Bylaws of the General Service Board, AA World Services Board, Inc. and AA Grapevine Board, Inc. may need to be amended to expressly allow this process. Legal advice should be sought.”

There was much appreciation that all three items were considered, but unanimous disappointment upon seeing “no action.” Without any structural change, there is concern that motions to censure or reorganize will keep chipping away at unity.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Discussion

Kevin H. made the statement that this will rest on an informative background we will never see or hear, and unless we have a complaint, he said he feels it’s moot.

Sophie asked if the background mentioned reorganization of the General Service Board that would warrant this. Paul responded that the background talked about the suggestion that was shot down related to replacement of Trustees when they leave unexpectedly and to have alternate Trustees. That was shot down right away because of 21 more Trustees and also having to do with a lot of legalese, looking at New York state law.

Andrea said that the action wants to change the statement of Trustees “participating in the vote,” whereas it used to say $\frac{3}{4}$ count of all *Conference members*. Paul replied by saying those Trustees who are not there would not be counted; they would only count the Trustees present.

Billy confirmed that this says we are supposed to *discuss* these procedures. He confirmed that they have not yet been written or implemented.

Erica asked if this came out of the censure and was told No.

Pam stated that the organization is 80 years old and spans the world, and said the point is moot because we are already doing it.

Julie asked Rhonda to clarify that these were written and they actually get approved, and then the Conference asked the Trustees to go back and edit them and it hasn't been approved, right?

Rhonda stated that this came out of the censure. The proposed amendments have not been approved because of the non-profit laws in New York.

Julie confirmed that there is a section in the background where the Trustees would recuse themselves if they are being voted on, which could lead to not having $\frac{3}{4}$ of the vote, otherwise.

Erica said that this is agenda item is important because of the censure. She explained how the Trustees took an action that AA did not like, so AA wanted to punish those Trustees in some way, even if it were minor. The Trustees were not censured, but this is AA's way of dealing with Trustees if, for some reason, they should have to be removed from their position in the future.

Julie C. stated that we are trying to work within the constraints of the Fellowship and the laws of New York. What do we do if we have to remove Trustees is what we are trying to figure out, and last year the question was whether we should have alternates.

Rhonda F. commented that we elect our Trustees and are not trying to beat up on Trustees; we love our Trustees. We don't re-elect them if we don't like what they are doing.

Joyce piggybacked by saying we trust our Trustees; if we don't like them, then don't elect them. Trustees are just people, like everyone else.

*SENSE OF THE BODY:

Those in favor of assessing the reorganization: 24

Those opposed: 3

Lisa I. reminded folks about the Assembly in Tonopah April 1 through 3, and our focus is on Unity.

Jake S. thanked the body and let folks know that the background information is available to all.

*THE SENSE OF THE CONFERENCE WAS TAKEN AT THIS TIME. THOSE NOTES ARE FOUND AT THE END OF EACH AGENDA ITEM FOR ORGANIZATIONAL CLARITY.

Registrar (Paul E.):

Pre-Registration is open for the Area 42 Pre-Conference Assembly is open and you can find a link on the Area 42 web site www.nevadaarea42.org, this will be a hybrid assembly. In-person pre-registration will be open until March 29, 2022 at 10:00PM. After that, you can register on-site and virtual (online) registration until Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 6:00PM. Everyone attending will need to register. Please do this as soon as possible as it will greatly help with all of the preparation for the Assembly.

The General Service Office just created new forms for Group changes and new Groups. I have some with me and I have emailed them to your District Committee Members. If you have any changes or you are a new Group, please fill one out and return it to me. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

68 are pre-registered and only four of those are virtual.

Carol asked if your Group is already registered, do you need to fill out a new Group form and Paul responded No.

Pat B. clarified that if a Group has a new General Service Representative, then the Group needs to fill out the form.

Andrea asked if there is a new Zoom meeting, do they need to fill out a form for that, and Paul responded Yes.

Linn asked if the registration price includes the banquet, and Paul responded that the dinner is separate and you can pay online or when you get there.

Lyle suggested that folks pre-register for the dinner so they can have an accurate count.

Julie C. thanked the body and the Hybrid Committee for their questions and participation, and said she was touched to be able to hear from past Delegates in the North and the South. She said that if anyone feels new and overwhelmed, to remember what they felt and heard here, and ask if there are questions.

Lyle said that the next Northern Area General Service Conference would be June 4th and asked for a host. Districts 2 and 4 volunteered. District 22 will do the reading at the beginning of the Conference.

Lyle thanked the attendees, District 12 for hosting, the Hybrid Committee, and Mike for timing. Joyce thanked Lyle to for doing awesome.

See the end of this document for announcements and the closing.

District Committee Member Reports (emailed in)

District 2 (Billy O.):

I would like to thank my District for letting me serve.

Our District holds meetings on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30PM. We meet at the Central Office. We have an average attendance of 15 people. Our meeting is hybrid.

This is a short report, as I am putting together a superb report for the Assembly.

With a goal of bringing Unity to our District, we have formed committees with different purposes. We have a "Dark Meeting" Committee that will attend the business meetings of underrepresented Groups in our District. The purpose is to educate these Groups. We would like to bring awareness on what General Service is all about. The end goal is to have as many Groups as possible bring their voice to our Area Assembly. We have also formed an Activities Committee. We hope to bring a little fun and comradery to the District. We can have fun in sobriety. There is more to come on that front.

If your District has ideas, we are open to hear from you. Maybe we can work together to make this more of an *area-wide* family.

The General Service Representatives' current main difficulties in District 2 are an abundance of open service positions, Zoom challenges in general, cleaning fees, and getting chips to people in Zoom meetings.

There is more to say, but I will save it all for the Area Assembly.

I also want to send a sincere apology to our Secretary, as I sent this report in late and I want it to be publicly known that I am a slacker.

I love being part of service and I love all of you.

District 4 (Michelle M.):

Time is flying as I round the corner of my first official year as District Committee Member. The Dark Meeting Committee took a small break, but successfully added three new General Service Representatives this quarter. I would like to thank everyone who assisted in the success of the Traditions Workshop. We had over 70 responses, and over 50 attendees. Notes for next time: We needed more open service positions and literature available for the attendees. They were ready for the next steps of service. At the last minute, I was called in to substitute for traditions 1, 2, and 3. It is such an honor to be among these presenters. I'm still shaking my head in disbelief.

I made some new friends at the Pacific Regional AA Service Assembly and was overjoyed to visit the business meeting for District 18 in Area 8. I did not know we have a District Committee Member and General Service Representative Preamble. They are doing some exciting bootcamps for the conference agenda items, where their General Service Representatives get to practice summarizing at the microphone. Contact me if you want the Zoom information.

We are currently looking for a Treasurer. You can join us via Zoom or in-person, and we meet the first Thursday of each month.

District 4 is interested in having guest speakers for the standing committees at our business meeting to explain why these services are needed and how to go about sharing that information within our District. I'll be reaching out to a few folks to get you on the agenda.

Yours in service!

District 6 (Pat S.):

District 6 encompasses all of Douglas County, Carson City, South Lake Tahoe, and surrounding communities.

I was honored to serve on a Pacific Regional AA Service Assembly panel last weekend. My topic was "The Warranties — our promise to the Fellowship and the world." I knew nothing of the Warranties, but I do now, and I'm grateful.

Since we last met, I have addressed two Group meetings in my District. I was asked to discuss AA service in general at one meeting, and the change in the AA Preamble at the other.

District 6 will host a Founder's Day potluck picnic and speaker meeting starting at noon Sunday, June 12 at the Mormon Station Park in Genoa. We'd love to see you there.

We try to have a Northern Area General Service Conference or Area Officer speak at all of our District meetings. At the past two sessions, our speakers were Julie, our Delegate, and Lyle, our Northern Area General Service Conference chair and Alternate Area Chair. Thank you both.

District 6 meets the second Sunday of even-numbered months at 1:15 p.m. at the Carson City Alano Club. Those meetings are hybrid.

Yours in Service.

District 8 (Dorrie K.):

We are still settling in as far as meetings go. Some have gone back to Zoom, weather being a factor. Things will probably change when it's warmer.

Lee Vining has gone virtual-only for now, and will most likely change when the weather is warmer. Bridgeport is hanging in, and the C & T people are continuing to go to the jail. June Lake has purchased a new computer and a big-screen TV since their meetings average 15+ on Zoom, as well as good attendance in-person. Mammoth Lakes is doing well and has lots of visitors this time of year. Crowley Lake is virtual-only, and has a solid core Group. Bishop Group is changing it up, and they'll start a speaker meeting format on the 2nd Saturday of the month. Boiled Owls has changed their meeting locale after many years at the old site. They are still going strong. High Sierra Group has all three types of meetings, in two locations now instead of three...a bit simpler! Circle in the Park is getting good attendance and will be moving outdoors again fairly soon. Big Pine has returned to their Sunday Night meeting after a long hiatus. Good going! Lone Pine continues their Thursday night meeting with a consistent core.

We are still providing DUI panels, jail meetings, and an out-patient treatment center panel. The men's prison has not yet returned to meetings, and will require all new volunteer vetting.

Things are moving right along in the Eastern Sierra, and we hope to schedule our chili-cookoff again. We are planning for the Mammoth Campout. Thanks for letting me serve!

District 10a (Joe H.):

I don't have a lot to report this time except that on March 20th, we've secured our meeting hall in Elko from 1:30 till 5pm for an Agenda topic meeting. The Elko District Committee will present six to seven topics, depending on time, with ample time for questions and a "sense of the room" after each topic.

In the past, we attempted to hold this meeting prior to a Saint Patrick's Corned Beef Dinner and it never really worked out. Members were angry that we didn't host this same way after last year's General Service Conference, so we're doing it this way again. We have made anyone interested aware of our meeting for over a month, and all Groups were given a flyer to read during the announcement time for their meeting. Hopefully, this will spark more interest in General Service.

Thanks for this opportunity to serve.

District 10b (Inactive)

District 12 (Debbie S. - Interim):

We are excited that we could provide a meeting place for this pre-Conference meeting. I am grateful to be that one person who receives the information from the Area, forwards it on to the General Service Representatives and others on the District email list.

I am grateful for Frank, who does a good job spreading that information by word of mouth to District 12 AA members. I am grateful for Crissy in Fernley who has, on many occasions, reminded me that if I need any help from Fernley to let her know.

Participation in the District business meetings is still low for now. The Groups are getting all the communication from Northern Area General Service Conference and Area 42. Our District business meeting is held the 2nd Saturday monthly at 5pm. On that same evening, we hold a chip and speaker meeting at 7pm to help with District 12's 7th Tradition funds. This year, we have incorporated a pot luck dinner at 6pm, which has helped increase the attendance of the District Speaker Meeting. We have hope that it will grow with the longer days and warmer weather. Thank you for this opportunity.

District 14 (Terri M.):

I can't believe it's March already. I want to start out by saying: I love General Service. In my program, it was a requirement to be in General Service. My sponsor was in General Service. When I was two years sober and our Group needed a General Service Representative, she looked at me and with that gentle nod which meant I was the new General Service Representative. Not knowing anything about General Service and feeling quite inadequate, I quickly was scooped up by all of you and shown the way.

I talk about this because, as a District Committee Member, I am having issues with General Service Representatives not participating in District meetings. I, quite frankly, was taught differently. Is it the pandemic? What are the issues? Currently, half the General Service Representatives choose not to come to District meetings, and I fear that their voice will not be heard. This program has also taught me that I have a part. My part is that I have not been very visible in certain Fellowships. I have made it my mission to go to all business meetings and, hopefully by attraction, I can attract more General Service Representatives.

I love the Pacific Regional AA Service Assembly and absolutely love the agenda items. It would be a shame if the General Service Representatives did not get these items to their Groups. I know I have to let go of the outcome because I am definitely not in charge. I have to keep all of this in perspective and just take it easy.

Groups in our District are going strong. With mask mandates dropping, we seem to be getting along better at least. We had one Group close for a month due to COVID-19 back in January, but, as of now, all Groups are going strong with a few new Groups starting.

At the upcoming business meeting this month, we will discuss bringing back the Dessert Potluck Speaker Meeting and put on a Sponsorship Workshop in the near future. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve. General Service, in my opinion, has truly bumped my level of serenity up two notches. I have learned so much in these seven years of General Service and I plan on staying in the boat.

Thank you.

District 16 (Pat B.): No report.

District 18 (Inactive)

District 20 (Jodie G.):

In our District, we have live meetings, Zoom meetings and at least one hybrid meeting. Our District meetings are being held live also.

The District has been holding events to reunite the District, and it has been going very well. The last one we held was a Sober Holiday Dance, which was a blast! We hope to hold a Second Annual Recovery Roundup in July and we may have found an alternative campground to hold our District Campout since we lost the last one to the Dixie Fire.

We still have a couple of meetings without General Service Representatives and one District position open. We started off 2021 with many open positions, so this is really great news.

There are several of us signed up and ready to go to the Area Assembly in two weeks. It is so good to go back to Tonopah, and we hope to see you there.

Yours in Service.

District 22 (Tony A.): No report.

Chair Reports

Corrections/Bridging the Gap (Joe H.):

We are still not able to get back into the Nevada State Correctional Facilities. This may be changing soon. I'm still gathering information regarding the different counties and cities.

We were asked to try to re-start meetings at the Lakes Crossing Psychiatric Hospital in Sparks. A flyer was sent out to the local Districts for help in recruiting volunteers. Due to the COVID-19 situation, we had a very poor response. A few people volunteered, but they were not able to follow through on the facility's requirement for an orientation meeting, background checks, tuberculosis testing, and COVID-19 vaccinations because the facility would not accept volunteer visitors where these requirements would be met. To compound the problem, the Lakes Crossing coordinator took a promotion and changed offices and her phone number. After repeated phone call attempts, I finally called the main facility number and was forwarded to her. I was able to arrange to have a box of Big Books, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions books, Daily Reflections, and various pamphlets set aside for them, and the coordinator will pick them up at the Central Office

Hopefully, the next report will have some good news.

Thanks for the service opportunities.

Grapevine & La Viña (Elise F.):

Our Grapevine Conference Committee met in February and summarized four agenda items quickly and easily. It's a pleasure working with my counterpart in the South, Jason, and always fun to work with Jake. We will present one of the Agenda items at our upcoming Assembly in Tonopah, which will be a new experience for me. I look forward to seeing everyone!

I am in the process of gathering materials and updating information for our Grapevine table at the Area Assembly in April. If you have any special requests, please let me know!

Locally, I have encouraged people to submit their experience, strength and hope via the Grapevine website, which is a great resource! If you haven't had a chance to check it out, please do. Tons of information and links to resources can be found there. [Home | AA Grapevine](#).

That's it for now! In love and service.

Public Information (Rich B.):

The Public Information Committee meetings were held on February 19th and 21st. The purpose of the meetings were to discuss the 17 items to be addressed at the General Service Conference. Several people were asked to summarize the 17 items. The summaries are to help the General Service Representatives provide and explain all 17 items to their Groups in a simpler form.

The other reason for the committee meetings were to aid the Delegate to decide which of the 17 items to present to Northern Area General Service Conference and Southern Area General Service Conference.

The items presented to Northern Area General Service Conference and Southern Area General Service Conference will be:

1. Public Information pamphlets, "AA at a Glance." (Editorial updates)
2. Public Information pamphlets, "AA Facts File." (To retire and replace service material version)

Treatment/Bridging the Gap (Ed L.):

As we know, the past few years have been a challenge for us, especially the new comer. Treatment facilities have had a difficult time complying with mandates and threats of fines and being shut down for any number of reasons. This being said, it has been difficult for our members to bring the message into treatment facilities. That is about to change with the lifting of mask mandates and a new Nevada resolution to send alcohol- and drug-related cases to treatment rather than prison or long jail sentences.

We are beginning to see a trend change where we were, basically, locked out or ignored in the past. I am excited to see these changes come about and the chance we will all have to be a part of them. I have a very unique situation in that along with this position, I am also on the Board of Directors of a nonprofit drug and alcohol recovery Group. This position has given me an advantage as far as getting the information on these changes. Sadly, by the time they are implemented, I will have transitioned into another service position.

There is still much to be done right now, though, since we are basically starting over with many recovery facilities. The other obstacle I have faced is that the names of people who were taking meetings into facilities has dwindled, and rightfully so, I guess. The fear of contracting COVID-19 is understandable.

What I ask for now is that any Group or individual who is or has been taking meetings into drug and alcohol facilities all along contact me. Let's get the ball rolling and get ready for the flood of help we are going to need once the courts open back up.

Yours in Service.

District Committee Member Coordinator (Lonnie M.): No report.

General Service Representative Survival Manual/Trainer (Jay S.): No report.

Northern Nevada Intergroup Liaison (Don D.):

The Northern Nevada Intergroup business meeting is held every 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Sparks Alano Club. The monthly Speaker Meeting is held the 2nd Saturday of every month at the Silver Legacy casino. All information concerning the speakers can be found at NNIG.org.

Northern Nevada Intergroup closed out the year financially solvent and was able to return its prudent reserve to its full amount with \$62 in excess.

The Pink Can balance has been steadily decreasing to better represent a true operating expense rather than a large surplus balance. It held \$4,800 at the end of this month instead of the \$8,000 it had held for a while.

As far as Service Committee representation, we have seen many positions filled including Events and Bridging the Gap. Bridging the Gap wants to rebuild its roster of people to take folks to their first AA meeting after release from incarceration or treatment, so let me know if anyone is interested in helping to be on the Carson Valley or Tahoe rosters. These Committee Chairs are trying to rebuild these positions after being vacant for so long. The Reno Nevada Young People in AA Committee has also begun holding events again to help represent the young people of AA and show them sobriety can be a better time than being drunk.

Treatment Centers are reopening with Reno Behavioral Health; Step 1; Step 2; Bristlecone; and Ridge House all hosting in-person meetings. I would like to invite all in General Service to unite with their Intergroup counterparts to help create ideas on how to help the still-suffering alcoholic.

Elections for Northern Nevada Intergroup will be held in June at the monthly meeting. If anyone is interested in serving, we will be looking to fill some of our remaining service positions. There will be many members of the Steering Committee rotating out, so we will need trusted servants to help be there to carry the torch out of what has been a difficult time.

In loving and grateful service.

YPAA Liaisons (Natasha H.):

Our Young Peoples' Conference is June 24th through the 26th in Las Vegas at the Palace Hotel. We look forward to seeing you all there! If you have any questions, you can speak to Dan after the meeting. It is \$25 to pre-register.

Cooperation with the Professional Community (Joel B.): No report.

Accessibilities/ Remote Communities (Dan M.):

The Accessibilities and Treatment Committee met to review the agenda items. There was lot of useful information and conversations around the agenda topics for Treatment and Accessibilities. The seven agenda items were:

- Item A: Review the progress report from the pamphlet "AA for the Older Alcoholic";
- Item B: Review the progress report on the military audio interviews;

- Item C: Discuss the draft of the guidelines for remote communities; however, that will only be available to the conference committee members;
- Item D: Review the content and format of the Treatments kit and workbook;
- item E: Review the content and format of the Accessibilities kit and workbook;
- Item F: Consider revising the pamphlet “The AA Group” to reflect the importance of the Group as a “spiritual entity” as it stands in the Long Form of Tradition Five; and
- Item G: Consider revising the text in the chapter “Getting plenty of rest” in the booklet “Living Sober.”

I look forward to the discussions on these agenda items as they move forward.

When the Committee met this time, it was more efficient. The Committee has a better understanding of how this process works. I am excited to continue these Committees in the future, and it has been a great learning process.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Officer Reports

Chairperson (Lyle C.):

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

I want to thank everyone for showing up to the Northern Area General Service Conference Roundtables. What an awesome job, with all of the work you put in together on the Agenda Items. Summarizing the agenda was a lot of work and, even though we had a lot of help, it took good coordination and leadership. Thank you to our presenters for great work.

I was able to attend the 2022 Pacific Regional AA Service Assembly and attend the Chair/Alternate Chair Roundtables. I was with some very dedicated servants, with some great questions. We talked about how to host hybrid meetings with Tec-12 (the company that facilitated the Pacific Regional AA Service Assembly); how to increase participation for Area meetings/virtual meetings; and much more. The Areas in the Pacific Region seem to have difficulty with Translation and Interpretation Committees unless they pay for translation and interpretation. Websites seem to be another service commitment where professionals are very useful.

I also asked the Area Chairs how they used their Standing Committee Chairs. There were different uses on Chairs: some Areas had the Chairs develop Committees with Districts and other Areas help with more direct involvement such as setting up information tables at events and passing out literature. There may not be a right and wrong way but, rather, just different, as long as we are fulfilling our Primary Purpose.

Thank You All for your service.

Archivist/Alternate Area Archivist (Debbie S.):

There have not been a lot Archival displays or search requests in the North, but mainly just collecting material. In December, I assembled a small display for District 16’s Christmas event; it was well received with interest. I have some pretty cool stuff that I can display at your District events and functions. I am participating on the Area Conference Committee for Archives. We only had one Agenda Item: “Review the Workbook.”

I found some archival thoughts and words of Bill W. on the General Service Conference from the article, "The Rocky Road to the First General Service Conference" in the April/May 2008 issue of "Box 459." Years earlier, Bill W. was convinced that the Fellowship needed an annual meeting to allow General Service Office input from AA Groups. A conference, Bill wrote, "would bring our Trustees into friendly contact with a representative cross section of AA. It would permanently close the gap of remoteness in which Dr. Bob, I and others are still standing."

On April 20, 1951, 37 Delegates from the U.S. and Canada convened in New York for three days meeting with 15 Trustees, Bill, and staff members from General Service Office and the Grapevine. That Conference and the following three "trial" conferences were a confirmation of Bill's original vision that an annual meeting of Delegates from AA Groups could work for the good of Alcoholics Anonymous. Bill's comments at the closing session of the 1954 Conference--the last of the four trial Conferences--indicate his great relief at the success of his plan: "As recently as 6 or 8 years ago...there still remained this terrific question of how to guarantee our overall function. Today...I share with you the promise of its certain success and am more moved than at almost any time in my AA life. The moment of the transfer of authority to serve, from us old timers to the movement, is at hand." Thank you for this opportunity.

Webmaster (Mike L.):

It is good to be here at our Northern Area General Service Conference meeting and Roundtables for 2022. The Area website can be found at nevadaArea42.org. Right now, the website has invaluable information for 2022 agenda items, list of all the agenda items, background information, and summaries of all the agenda items.

As soon as I receive them, you will be able to find summaries of the Roundtable discussions from both the Northern Area General Service Conference and the Southern Area General Service Conference posted on the website. To find this information on the website, go to the main menu, to the right and on the bottom, and you will find a link to Area Member Info (Login Required) for the password. Please contact your District Committee Member for the password. Also, if you go to the Assembly Information page, there is a link to register for the upcoming Area Service Assembly. I can be contacted at webmaster@nevadaArea42.org with any comments or concerns about the Area website. I am deeply grateful to be entrusted to serve Alcoholics Anonymous.

Newsletter (Alfredo M.):

The email address for all your submissions is: Area_newsletter_editor@nevadaArea42.org. The deadline for the upcoming spring newsletter is April 16th, 2022. Thank you to all who have submitted articles and helped me in putting out last year's editions.

You can submit any articles, meeting changes, event flyers, etc. to the email address Area_newsletter_editor@nevadaArea42.org. This is my 2nd of a 2-year commitment, and I can't help but reflect what a rewarding, learning and growing experience this has been...so far.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Secretary (Erica P.):

I bought too much literature for the Assembly so please ask your Groups for \$20 extra to purchase literature, especially including pamphlets. You can fill your rack with pamphlets you can buy there. I also bought a lot of Spanish pamphlets. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Announcements

Kathy asked for a roommate if anyone has an extra bed. Kathleen W. volunteered.

Erica P. asked for people to bring \$20 to buy literature.

The Conference ended at 3:44pm with the Responsibility Declaration.