2021 General Service Conference (GSC)
Agenda Item Summaries for Assembly

Area 42 Pre-Conference Assembly

March 26 - 28, 2021

Attached are six (6) GSC agenda items to be presented at the Area 42 Assembly. And the ten (10) 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 feedback time 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 71ˢᵗ General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document; Distribution is limited to A.A. members. The entire background which is the basis for the summaries, is available on the password protected section of the nevadaarea42.org webpage. The password is available to any member of Nevada Area 42 of Alcoholic Anonymous.

Presentations at the Area Assembly

Conference Committee: II. **CPC — Item A**

Agenda Topic	+ Discuss progress report on LinkedIn page implementation.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	– The idea of an A.A. LinkedIn page was brought to the trustees' committee in July 2017. The AAWS LinkedIn site, was subsequently launched on 11/19/19, in English, French, & Spanish. [web search key words = alcoholics anonymous LinkedIn] – "LinkedIn is the world's largest professional network, with nearly 740 million members, in more than 200 countries and territories worldwide. The mission of LinkedIn is to connect the world's professionals to make them more productive and successful." – Today's, and tomorrow's, professional is also more likely to satisfy their curiosity and acquire their knowledge via the internet, than at any time before. And networking on-line is the most efficient for many of them. – The feedback from the AAWS LinkedIn site since its launch has been very positive, and can be measured with metrics like: landing page counts, click throughs to AA.org, calls to GSO, subscriptions, etc.
What does the Delegate want to hear from you?	What ideas, concerns, opportunities does your group see with the implementation of AA's LinkedIn page? Improvements or removal?

Area Results		For #	Against #	Pass ☐	Fail ☐
Notes					

Conference Committee: II. **CPC — Item B**

Agenda Topic	+ Consider a request to create a pamphlet for mental health professionals.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	• Submitted by The Area 11 General Service Committee, believe that pamphlets directed at specific, rather than general areas of mental health professionals, facilities, and public organizations, seem to be received and acknowledged more readily. CPC Area 11 is suggesting the creation of a pamphlet directed at Mental Health Professionals { not necessarily addiction recovery }, specifically Therapists and Psychiatrists, with facts and knowledge About Alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous. This idea has been submitted and considered at conferences in 1987, 1990, 2006, 2012 and 2015. Also considered is the possibility of the creation of a Draft Letter from ["A Mental Health Professional to Mental Health Professionals"], to be included in the professionals' page on the GSO website. Current service pieces under this purview include: AA fact sheet [F-94], AA guidelines for AA members employed in the Alcoholism Field [MG-10] CPC Kit [M-41].

Presentations at the Area Assembly

What does the Delegate want to hear from you?	Does your group want the Trustees' Literature Committee to consider developing such a pamphlet?

Area Results		For #	Against #	Pass ☐	Fail ☐
Notes					

Conference Committee: II. **CPC — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review draft update of the pamphlet "Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous."
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The pamphlet was brought up for an update by the A.A.W.S.'s Publications Department. The decision to review for update was based on the literature update policy and process, <u>Keeping A.A. Literature Current</u>. The A.A.W.S.'s editorial process was guided by considering these criteria. Does the pamphlet: - use outdated language, jargon, references? - utilize most current science about alcoholism? - focus on inclusivity and represent A.A.'s broad diversity? - draw on A.A. history in a way that is relevant and necessary? - effectively address the audience to whom it is directed The editorial process included input from a member of the clergy and former nonalcoholic trustee of the General Service Board of A.A. One of the main updates to the pamphlet is replacing the word Clergy with Faith Leaders. Please note that the pamphlet marked up in the background material is not the same as the current (2018) pamphlet available from AA.org
What does the Delegate want to hear from you?	Does your group have ideas for additional updates to the pamphlet?

Area Results		For #	Against #	Pass ☐	Fail ☐
Notes					

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Presentations at the Area Assembly

Conference Committee: IV. **Finance — Item A (2)**

Agenda Topic	The pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix." 2. Discuss mechanization of group contributions.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	Group's reliance on this pamphlet's p. 13 pie charts has created "mechanical" thinking when making distributions of excess funds. Should groups be better at discussing best uses for funds as circumstances change? Recent events have reduced in person meetings, thus reducing group expenses which may create surplus funds at the group level. Often these funds have been distributed "up", first to the district, who could have excess funds, then to Areas, who could have excess funds, and finally up to GSO. Have we begun to disregard AA's policy of "corporate poverty"? Has "mechanical" distribution reduced the group's "power of the purse"? Does this pamphlet exacerbate the issue by mechanizing the sending of contributions in a way that removes discussion and spirituality from the process?
What does the Delegate want to hear from you?	Discussions from your group on how often groups ought to review group distributions. Should the amount of funds the entities have on hand be included in the review?

Area Results		For #	Against #	Pass ☐	Fail ☐
Notes					

Conference Committee: VI. **Literature — Item U**

Agenda Topic	Consider if proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, can be addressed with a common solution.
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The question that is up for discussion is whether the plain language book could be merged with a simplified language book and include accessible translations and be printed in large print. This would all be included with a workbook. The Trustee's Literature Committee has been tasked with identifying and gathering information with regards to addressing accessibility and reliability issues surrounding the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous. The subcommittee has met three times. They have discussed the fact that these requests have come from AA members who are unable to access the message of recovery in its current form. The supporting materials include research showing trends of people who have difficulty reading in English and has also addressed how modernized language along with gender, faith, culture and other social factors could affect and individual's ability to comprehend and identify with our program. The materials include literature that has already addressed some of these accessibility and relatability issues along with requests for other changes to the existing version of the Big Book. In addition, there are requests for larger print and an attached workbook. Seeing that these are all issues of accessibility and relatability, the Subcommittee wants to find out if there is one common solution.

Presentations at the Area Assembly

What does the Delegate want to hear from you?	Discussions from your group surrounding whether one common solution can address the many proposed agenda items asking for help with the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass ☐	Fail ☐
Notes				

Conference Committee: VII. **Policy/Admissions — Item H**

Agenda Topic	Discuss the revised proposed process for equitable distribution of workload.

Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2018 an original request was made to consider a proposed process for the equitable distribution of Conference committees' workload.
	   A review in 2020 brought several questions:
	• Precisely how will this process impact what will happen regarding agenda items considered at the Fall and Winter trustees' committees' meetings.
	• Clarity on how the proposed process will impact or change the delegate chairs' participation in the Winter Board Weekend and on the Conference Committees
	• What will creating additional committees look like?
	   In 2021 The trustees' Committee on General Service Conference (TCGSC) have proposed a process including:
	• A standardized G.S.C Proposed Agenda Item Form Process timeline including a change in submission deadline to September 15ᵗʰ.
	   ○ A scope and procedure for the new TCGSC's subcommittee workload
	   ○ Scoring tool and methodology to standardize the evaluation of proposed agenda items.
	   This process is to potentially redistribute agenda items amongst conference committees for a more equitable workload size amongst them.

What does the Delegate want to hear from you?	Discussions from your group surrounding the redistribution of workload between Conference Committees.

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass ☐	Fail ☐
Notes				

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Presentations at the Area Assembly

Conference Committee: VII. **Policy/Admissions — Item J**

Agenda Topic	Consider requests regarding participation of online groups in the General Service structure.

Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	AAs have been meeting online for at least 24 years. The topic of online groups was discussed at the General Service Conference (GSC) in 1997, 2005, 2008, and 2016. Prior to 2014 discussions and advisory actions focused on where and how online groups would be listed in the A.A. Directory. In 2014, a General Service Board planning/sharing session "… discussed a request to include online groups in the General Service Structure and … agreed to take no action." There is no record in the GSO archives that the topic has come to the trustees or the General Service Conference since then.
	 <u>The six proposed agenda items for the 2021 GSC are as follows:</u>
	 J.1 - Consider a request from a local district that recognizes "Online Groups" as voting members of the district and asks that the Conference take action to grant "Online AA Groups" the same privileges as "Brick and Mortar Groups".
	 J.2 - That the General Service Conference consider allowing participation of all virtual groups, not affiliated with a physical meeting space, by creating a 94th Area to our Service Structure that will encompass those A.A. groups.
	 J.3 - Adapt the General Service structure to recognize online-only groups as official groups. Without that recognition, members have no voice and are denied access to service opportunities.
	 J.4 - Consider allowing Virtual or Online Groups to register under their respective district and area instead of the Online Intergroup.
	 J.5 - Consider holding a discussion about how to give online only (virtual) meetings a voice and a vote in the General Service Structure and access to General Service Offices (GSO) services.
	 J.6 - Discuss the current procedure of referring non-face-to-face Groups to an entity outside the A.A. service structure to be listed and consider creating a Traditions based policy that meets the needs of the Fellowship and its Groups.
	   Currently the organization of the General Service structure is geographically-based. New group registration forms ask for the physical location of a group's meeting(s). The form also asks for the name of the GSR. If the group has a physical address and a GSR, then the group is assigned a group ID number and has a voice and a vote in the AA Service Structure.
	   Benefits of registering virtual meetings/groups include: the opportunity to elect a GSR; giving virtual meetings/groups a voice and a vote in the AA Service Structure; creating general service opportunities for members and enabling groups to receive services from GSO.
	   Concerns related to including virtual groups in the general service structure include: with world-wide members, where do we anchor?; Do we vet groups? Who decides?; What if a virtual GSR/DCM lives in other geographic areas? Will they be allowed to serve? Will they be able to attend face-to-face assemblies?; Would there be double voting? (one virtual, one local).

What does the Delegate want to hear from you?	Discussions from your group about online groups participating in the General Service Structure.

Area Results		For #	Against #	Pass ☐	Fail ☐
Notes					

Five Items that were presented at the Northern Roundtables (NAGSC)

III. <u>**Corrections**</u> **– B.** Discuss innovative ways of carrying the message to alcoholics in correctional facilities/programs.

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass ☐	Fail ☐
Notes				

IV. <u>**Finance**</u> **– D**. Discuss Concept XII, Warranty Two and the practice of "selling of our books at cost or less.". (See

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass ☐	Fail ☐
Notes				

VI. <u>**Literature**</u> **– M**. "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" pamphlet:
1. Discuss draft update of the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated."
2. Consider not retiring the existing version of the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated."

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass ☐	Fail ☐
Notes				

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Five Items that were presented at the Northern Roundtables (NAGSC)

VIII. Public Information – B. Review the 2020 trustees' Public Information Committee progress report on Google Ads performance. (See Summarized Agenda Items: Pg 32-33)

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass ☐	Fail ☐
Notes				

VIII. Public Information – E. Consider draft plan to develop podcasts.

(See Summarized Agenda Items: Pg 34-35)

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass ☐	Fail ☐
Notes				

Five Items that were presented at the Southern Roundtables (SAGSC)

III. <u>Corrections</u> – A. Consider request for a review of all correction related literature to replace terms such as "inmate" and "offender" with less stigmatizing language.

<div align="right">(See Summarized Agenda Items: Pg 8)</div>

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass ☐	Fail ☐
Notes				

IV. <u>Finance</u> – C. Reconsider the 1972 G.S.C. Advisory Action stating "G.S.O. should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from groups meeting in clubs as long as they are sent in the name of the group."

<div align="right">(See Summarized Agenda Items: Pg 9)</div>

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass ☐	Fail ☐
Notes				

IV. <u>Finance</u> – H. Review the "Google Grants and the Seventh Tradition Report."

<div align="right">(See Summarized Agenda Items: Pg 11)</div>

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass ☐	Fail ☐
Notes				

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Five Items that were presented at the Southern Roundtables (SAGSC)

VI. <u>Literature</u> – V. Consider adding the Long Form of each Tradition at the beginning of each essay for that Tradition in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass ☐	Fail ☐
Notes				

VIII. <u>Public Information</u> – G. Discuss Public Information pamphlets.
    1.   Consider revising the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings."

Area Results	For #	Against #	Pass ☐	Fail ☐
Notes				

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