

# 73RD GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE –

## "A.A.'s Three Legacies: Our Common Solution"

The Conference adopted advisory actions; This is a quick reference for most topics.

### 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.

### AGENDA

#### Recommendations (7) **Advisory Actions (5):**

1. 74th GSC Theme will be “*Connecting with Love, Unity and Service.*” **Approved**
2. Presentation Topics: Theme: “Responsibility in Service: When and How to Give” **Approved**
  - A. “Safety throughout the Structure in our Fellowship” **Approved**
  - B. “1728 Sponsorship” **Approved**
  - C. “Overcoming the Barriers to Participation”
3. Workshop Topic:  
“Connecting Home Groups to the Conference Throughout the Year, to Better Inform the Group’s Conscience.” **Approved**
4. Consider request to suspend reading the Area Highlights from the 73rd General Service Conference and include in the 2023 Conference Final Report, to allow discussion.  
The Conference committee on Agenda recommended that the reading of the Area Highlights from the 73rd General Service Conference be suspended and included in the 2023 Conference Final Report, to allow discussion of the following topics:
  - Are the decisions of the General Service Board producing Unity within the Fellowship and inspiring confidence in the Board’s future functions?
  - The General Service Board Code of Conduct
  - Is the prudent reserve being used as the Conference intends?
  - Note: The Conference Committee on Agenda caucused during the opening session of the General Service Conference to consider this motion from the floor regarding changing the Conference week schedule. **The motion failed.**
5. Review a report and draft plan for a future Conference Inventory:  
The committee recommended that the General

Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself during the 2025 General Service Conference and that a Conference Planning Committee be established by the General Service Board to develop a comprehensive inventory plan, timeline and cost estimate, to bring forward to the 2024 Conference **Approved**

### COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)

#### Recommendations (4) **Advisory Actions (1):**

- A. Review suggested revisions for the final draft pamphlet “A.A. in Your Community.”  
The committee recommended that the pamphlet “A.A. in Your Community” be approved with minor editorial changes. **Approved**

### CORRECTIONS

#### Recommendations (6) **Advisory Actions (2):**

- A. Review Conference Committee Composition, Scope and Procedure.  
The committee recommended that item #5. in the Procedures of the Conference Committee on Corrections which currently reads:  
“To maintain correspondence with committee secretary and other committee members during the year,”  
Be revised, to read:  
“To maintain communication with committee secretary and other committee members during the year.” **Approved**
- B. Consider a request to include content to existing A.A. literature on sponsorship of persons in custody by outside members of the Fellowship.  
The committee recommended that the following section be added to the pamphlet “A.A. in Correctional Facilities” on page 12 between the sections titled “Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS) – a special kind of A.A. service” and “The

following-through – released A.A. persons in custody”:

Sponsorship

Like all A.A. members, persons in custody can benefit from sponsorship. For more information, please refer to the Corrections Kit and Workbook or contact your local Corrections committee. **Approved**

**FINANCE**

**Recommendations (6) Advisory Actions (2):**

A. Consider requests that materials produced and maintained by A.A. World Services, AA Grapevine, La Viña, and General Service Office (GSO), clarify that the General Service Board (GSB) is the entity which receives all voluntary A.A. contributions and that GSO performs contribution processing. **Approved**

The committee recommended that the materials produced and maintained by A.A. World Services, AA Grapevine, La Viña, and the General Service Office (GSO), clarify that the General Service Board is the entity which receives all voluntary A.A. contributions and that GSO performs contribution processing. Any text changes should be implemented when each item comes up for reprint or revision.

B. Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.

The committee recommended that the suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference be increased from \$1,800 to \$2,200.

**Approved**

The committee recommended that the Trustees Finance & Budgetary Committee develop additional ways to report quarterly the fiscal performance of the AAWS, GSB and GV Boards throughout the year to the members of the General Service Conference for the purposes of transparency and assisting in the reporting to the A.A. Fellowship.

**GRAPEVINE**

**Recommendations (3) Advisory Actions (1):**

A. Consider a request to provide all area alternate delegates with the same Conference materials as sitting delegates. **Not Approved**

Note: As a result of the 2022-23 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, this item was moved to the Committee on AA Grapevine and La Viña from the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions.

**LITERATURE**

**Recommendations (13) Advisory Actions (3):**

A. Review revised draft of the existing version of the pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”

**Approved**

The committee recommended that the revised draft of the existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” be approved. **Approved**

B. Discuss request to revise the pamphlet “Too Young.” **Approved**

The committee recommended that the print version of the pamphlet “Too Young” be retired and that the content be repurposed as an animation video. The committee requested that a progress report or a rough cut of the video be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.

**POLICY / ADMISSIONS**

**Recommendations (4) Advisory Actions (1):**

A. Review progress report on the development of a process using virtual meeting technologies for polling the GSC between meetings. **Approved**

The committee recommended that the “Process for Polling the General Service Conference Between Annual Meetings Using Virtual Technology” be approved as amended below:

Process for Polling the General Service Conference Between Annual Meetings Using Virtual Technology

- Videoconference Meeting
- Meeting Time and Date: With as much notice as possible, and the fewest possible conflicts, the Conference Coordinator sets up a videoconference call in Eastern Time, keeping in mind that circumstances involving great emergencies may have their own deadlines.
- Quorum and Abstentions: The Current Conference Charter states that for Conference business, “A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of all the Conference members registered.” To determine a quorum for polling between Conferences, abstentions *will* be counted. Abstentions *will not* be counted in the vote totals. The responsibility to vote is incumbent on each Conference member. Alternate delegates should be invited by the sitting delegate if the delegate cannot attend. The Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions will

plan to meet virtually, prior to the General Service Conference, to accept admissions.

- Notifications about the Poll: Notice of the poll determination will be emailed to all Conference members. To help guarantee the availability of each Conference member to participate, anyone whose email bounces back will be contacted by telephone.

The committee recommended that, to foster unity, trust, and transparency in the Fellowship, the members of the General Service Conference meet outside of the annual meeting for general sharing sessions at least two times per year utilizing virtual meeting technology. The General Service Board Chair and Delegate Chair will set the date and time as well as determine what issues currently facing the Fellowship would be chosen as topics. **Approved**

Committee recommendations made Pre-Conference:

The committee recommended that Daniel Gutarra, trustee member of the Peru General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, or their substitute, be admitted to the 2023 U.S./Canada General Service Conference as an observer. (The substitute who attended the Conference was Luis Pastor Nevado Salas, General Manager, GSO Peru.)

The committee recommended that Gonzalo Teodoro Montaña, General Custodian of the Southern Territory for Central Mexico General Services of Alcoholics Anonymous, or their substitute, be admitted to the 2023 U.S./Canada General Service Conference as an observer. (The substitute who attended the Conference was Fernando Enrique López Ramírez, Southwest Regional Trustee, GSO Mexico.)

The committee recommended that an International Delegate, on behalf of the Poland General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, be admitted to the 2023 U.S./Canada General Service Conference as an observer. (The person who attended the Conference was Tadeusz Chyl, Trustee, GSB Poland.)

The committee recommended that Jocelyne Caouette, alternate Area Chair, Area 89, Northeast Québec, be seated as a Conference member at the 73rd General Service Conference because neither Gisèle Vaillancourt, Panel 73 delegate for Area 89 nor the alternate delegate from that area were able to attend.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

### Recommendations (19) Advisory Actions (2):

- A. Review report on 2022 A.A. Membership Survey Results Reporting. **Approved**

The committee recommended that the Membership Survey pamphlet be updated to reflect the findings from the 2022 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey, with minor editorial changes. **Approved**

- B. Review report on analytics.

The committee recommended that the AAWS Board prepare sufficient periodic analytics reporting on our current communications platforms to be provided to the trustees' Public Information Committee and the Conference Committee on Public Information.

(Note: This replaces the 2004 Advisory Action which is outdated and no longer adequately serves as the basis of our communication channel reporting.)

## REPORT AND CHARTER

### Recommendations (7) Advisory Actions (2):

- A. *The A.A. Service Manual, 2023-2025 Edition:*

The committee recommended that *The A.A. Service Manual* not be printed in 2023 and that a new edition be published biannually (i.e., every two years), beginning in 2024. **Approved**

The committee recommended that a full rewrite be conducted of chapters 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 to correct inaccuracies and to better clarify the roles, responsibilities and relationships between the General Service Office, AA Grapevine, and A.A. World Services, Inc. in *The A.A. Service Manual* and that the trustees' Literature Committee forward these draft sections or a progress report to the 2024 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

**Approved**

- B. Consider posting an anonymity-protected Conference *Final Report* on aa.org. **Approved**

The committee recommended that anonymity-protected Conference *Final Reports* be posted annually on aa.org beginning with the 2023 General Service Conference.

## TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES

### Recommendations (13) Advisory Actions (2):

- A. Review progress report on update to the pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic—Never too Late." **Approved**

The committee recommended that the revised pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic—Never

too Late” be approved with minor edits in a format that does not require folding.

- B. Review progress report on Military audio interviews. **Approved**

The committee recommended that the 22 interviews recorded to date as part of the Military Audio project be approved, giving the General Service Office (GSO) the latitude to distribute the audio interviews in various formats and on various platforms, and that an update report be provided to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

**TRUSTEES**

**Recommendations (5) Advisory Actions (3):**

- A. Review resumes of candidates for:
a. Northeast Regional Trustee
**Ken Taylor - Area 30 – Eastern Massachusetts**
b. Southwest Regional Trustee
**Teresa Jacks – Area 46 – New Mexico**
c. Trustee-at-Large/Canada **Robert Lalonde – Area 89 – Northeast Quebec**

- B. Review slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.

**Approved**

Table with 2 columns: Custodios Clase A, Clase B. Lists names and titles of trustees and officers.

- C. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc. **Approved**

- D. Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc. **Approved**

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee thoroughly discussed the General Service Board’s actions at the January 29, 2023 Board Planning and Sharing session that led to the resignation of the board chair. The committee agreed that the board’s failure to fully utilize the

spiritual principles of Alcoholics Anonymous to address leadership problems were deeply concerning. The committee also agreed that failure to expedite communication to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous about the board chair’s resignation and lack of transparency regarding the board’s decision resulted in widespread mistrust and disunity. After lengthy and prayerful discussion the committee took a vote to censure the General Service Board failing to achieve substantial unanimity.

**ARCHIVES**

no recommendations

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS**

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

- A. Selection of cities to be considered as a site for the International Convention in 2035.

**Approved**

The committee recommended that the following three cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2035:

- Phoenix, Arizona
Indianapolis, Indiana
New Orleans, Louisiana

- B. Inviting up to 21 non-A.A. speakers to participate in the 2025 International Convention at A.A.’s expense. The committee recommended that up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2025 International Convention at A.A.’s expense. **Approved**

**FLOOR ACTIONS**

Floor Action #1:

It was recommended that:

Starting in 2024, voting for trustee elections may utilize paper or electronic ballots.

**Motion to decline to hear the motion: substantial unanimity; conference declines to hear this motion**

Floor Action #2:

It was recommended that:

The 2016 Conference Advisory Action stating: "General Service Conference delegates be provided a copy of the final approved annual General Service Office and AA Grapevine budgets with the Pre-Conference material for all future Conferences" be reconfirmed.

**Motion to decline to hear the motion: substantial**

## **unanimity; conference declines to hear this motion**

Floor Action #3:

It was recommended that:

The 73rd General Service Conference censure the General Service Board due to poor communication to the Fellowship regarding the resignation of the former Chair of the General Service Board and for the process that was followed regarding the acceptance of her resignation.

**Motion failed with substantial unanimity**

Floor Action #4:

It was recommended that:

To enhance trust among General Service Conference members, the following actions be taken:

- The General Service Board prepare a report delineating the history of their Confidentiality Policy and the reason(s) for enacting it, submitting it for review to the Conference Trustees' Committee at the 2024 General Service Conference.
- The General Service Board initiate a review regarding the need for a less restrictive Confidentiality Policy, submitting a draft or progress report to the Conference Trustees' Committee at the 2024 General Service Conference.
- The existing Confidentiality Policy of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., be made null and void.

**Motion to decline to hear the motion: substantial unanimity; conference declines to hear this motion**

Floor Action #5:

It was recommended that:

In an effort to improve communication, ensure Board policies are reflective of our principles, and reestablish a relationship of trust between the General Service Conference, the General Service Board and the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, the General Service Board is asked to undertake an inventory prior to the 74th General Service Conference. To assist the Board in this endeavor, the 73rd General Service Conference will establish a working group to aid the General Service Board in formulating possible inventory questions.

**Motion Approved with substantial unanimity**

Floor Action #6

Mitchell B., Delegate Mid-Southern CA Area 09 Panel 72

It was recommended that:

The General Service Board create an Ad Hoc Joint committee on Communications throughout out service structure that includes trustees, delegates, and staff members.

**Motion to decline to hear the motion: substantial unanimity; conference declines to hear this motion**

Floor Action #7

It was recommended that:

Following the work of the trustees' ad hoc committee on policy review, Conference members be asked to sign a code of conduct which guides how we work together including but not limited to:

- Confidentiality
- Communications
- Mutual respect
- Social media
- Transparency

This code should include an acknowledgement that mistakes will be made and should suggest mechanisms for righting any wrongs.

This code should follow in spirit and language the principles outlined in our 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts and our Conference Charter.

This code should be reviewed annually by the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions.

**Motion to decline to hear the motion: substantial unanimity; conference declines to hear this motion**

Floor Action #8

It was recommended that:

The General Service Board begin to develop supplemental reporting focused on the actual costs of the various service items we provide, with an initial draft being brought back to the Conference Committee on Finance for review at the 74th General Service Conference.

These reports should include the budgeted costs of these items, any changes to the budgeted amounts, the long-term trends of the costs, as well as a reasonable projection of future costs for the services, when possible. Expenses to consider shall be regarding initial development, ongoing content creation, maintenance & upkeep, as well as any other substantive ancillary costs.

**Motion to decline to hear the motion: substantial unanimity; conference declines to hear this motion**

April 23-29, 2023

[delegate@msca09aa.org](mailto:delegate@msca09aa.org)

## Floor Action #9

It was recommended that:

Beginning with the 2024 GSC, the delegate chair and alternate delegate chair for the following year's GSC, will be elected in the Conference session scheduled immediately following completion of all committee reports and completion of the discussion of, and voting on, floor actions (if any). Following the election of the delegate chair and alternate delegate chair for the following year's GSC, each primary Conference committee will convene and elect their own committee chair and alternate committee chair for the following year's GSC, according to each Conference Committee's own Composition, Scope and Procedure, with the newly elected delegate chair and alternate delegate chair ineligible to stand for primary or secondary Conference Committee chair or alternate chair. Following the election of the primary committees' committee chair and alternate committee chair, each secondary Conference committee will convene and elect their own committee chair and alternate committee chair for the following year's GSC, according to each committee's own Composition, Scope and Procedure, with the newly elected delegate chair, alternate delegate chair, and committee chairs ineligible for secondary committee chair or alternate chair. At the Conference session immediately following the election of all Conference Committee chairpersons and alternate chairpersons, the newly elected chairpersons and alternate chairpersons will be announced to the full GSC.

The process for selecting the delegate chair and the alternate delegate chair for the following year's GSC will be:

1. The first and second-year delegates from a region will nominate one candidate from among the willing 1st year delegates of their region by ballot, utilizing the Third Legacy procedure. A first-year delegate may decline to be considered as a nominee for election for delegate chair or alternate delegate chair.
2. From the nominees (one per region), two of the nominee names will be selected by lot, i.e. by "going to the hat."
3. From the two names selected by lot, the delegate chair for the following year's GSC will be elected by third legacy procedure, with each region casting one ballot per a decision process of that region's own choosing. The candidate elected/selected by the regions in the Third Legacy procedure will serve as the delegate chair for the following year's GSC, beginning at the close of the current GSC. The second candidate will

serve as the alternate delegate chair for the following year's GSC, beginning at the close of the current GSC.

**Motion to decline to hear the motion: substantial unanimity; conference declines to hear this motion**

## Floor Action #10

It was recommended that:

The options for closing the Big Meeting at the International Convention be the Serenity Prayer or the Responsibility Statement.

**Motion to recommit Approved: Motion recommitted to Trustees ICRF for 2024**

Your Trusted Servant, Mitchell B. Delegate Area 09  
Mid-Southern California, Panel 72  
delegate@msca09aa.org

edited 5/8/2023 mcb