

GSC 76 AGENDA ITEMS BACKGROUND SUMMARY SHEET WITH DELEGATE’S QUESTIONS

Please take this information to your Home Group, get an Informed Group Conscience to give our Delegate at our Assembly on April 11-12 or via her Google Sheet = **CLICK HERE: [Comments for the Delegate on items for the 76th GSC](#)**

Any Questions?

Contact your DCM, your Chair (lesliekarl55@gmail.com) or our Delegate (Delegate@area15aa.org).

More information is available at Area15aa.org = **CLICK HERE: [76th General Service Conference Information](#)** (password: area15aa)

UNDERSTANDING EDW (Equitable Distribution of Work)

The EDW process was developed to provide a fair and balanced experience for all Conference members. EDW addresses the issue of uneven committee workloads by assigning some new agenda items to less busy committees. This allows for more meaningful participation across the Conference and helps distribute work more evenly.

Each year, the EDW Subcommittee reviews November’s preliminary Conference agenda and proposes adjustments to balance committee workloads. Their plan is reviewed and approved by the trustees’ General Service Conference Committee, then forwarded to the General Service Board for final approval during the January Board Weekend. The approved EDW plan is reflected in February’s final Conference agenda.

The 2021 General Service Conference started a three-year EDW trial (2022–2024). After the third year, the 2024 General Service Conference

Question – Why do some agenda items seem to be misplaced?

Answer – The EDW process allows new agenda items to be assigned to Conference Committees with shorter agendas.

This year there are a total of 9 EDW items on the agenda:

7 from Literature went to Corrections (2), Finance (1), Treatment & Accessibilities (1), Trustees (3)

2 from Policy & Admissions to Finance (1)

formally approved the EDW process after gathering feedback through surveys and sharing sessions.

and Archives (1)

ARCHIVES

b. Consider a request to define eligibility for Area-level service for members residing outside of the geographic area they want to serve. (PAI 46)

EDW item (Equitable Distribution of Workload) which moves agenda items from one committee to another that may have less to review. EDW from Policy & Admissions.

PAI#46 was submitted by an individual in Area 13 District of Columbia. The individual is requesting that the Policy & Admissions Committee discuss who can serve as an area trusted servant if they live outside the area they are serving, for example someone who belongs to an online group, asking: Does geography limit the ability to carry a group conscience? The submitter explained that the purpose of this PAI is to generate a fellowship-wide discussion of representation in A.A.

Should members be able to serve an area if they live outside of the geographic area? Should members be able to stand for Trustee in an area they didn't serve as delegate?

REPORT & CHARTER

a.ii: Consider request to remove a quote from Dr. Bob in The A.A. Service Manual.

PAI # 9 from a member in North Florida Area 14.

"I motion that an Advisory Action be passed to remove the quote by Dr. Bob in The Service Sponsor section of the GSR chapter on page 10 of the AA Service Manual." The quote:

Co-founder Dr. Bob said, "I spend a great deal of time passing on what I learned to others who want and need it badly. I do it for four reasons:

1. Sense of duty.
2. It is a pleasure.
3. Because in doing so I am paying my debt to the man who took time to pass it on to me.
4. Because every time I do it I take out a little more insurance for myself against a possible slip."

This member feels this quote from co-founder, Dr. Bob is completely out of context in the Service Manual and was not written to address service sponsorship. It paints a faulty picture of Dr. Bob's role as it relates to service sponsorship and General Service since he died before General Service and Conference was established. They feel it's dishonest to present co-founder Dr. Bob in this way and it causes confusion as to Dr. Bob's role in service sponsorship and General Service. The date of Dr. Bob's story in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous is 1939. Dr. Bob died in 1950.

The first General Service Conference was April 1951, one year after Dr. Bob's death. They believe there is no way that quote relates to service sponsorship and General Service and the timeline supports it. If this item is approved the text would be removed from the Service Manual and would clear up any confusion alcoholics may have as to why it is there since it is completely out of context. It will also clear up the faulty picture of Dr. Bob as it relates to service sponsorship and General Service. Removing the quote will not change the information presented to GSRs on page 10 of the AA Service Manual.

Are you in favor of removing Dr. Bob's quote from The A.A. Service Manual?

TRUSTEES

<p>e. Review Progress Report on process for receiving motions to censure.</p> <p>That Proposed Agenda Items (PAIs) to censure or reorganize the General Service Board be sent directly to the Conference Committee on Trustees, and that these Proposed Agenda Items be for committee eyes only. Historically, the General Service Conference through group conscience decision, has <u>never</u> voted to censure the General Service Board. There is much history listed from Archives to be viewed 1994/1995, 2017/2018, 2021/2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.</p>	<p>No question</p>
<p>g. Consider a request to produce an animated video based on the pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.”</p> <p>PAI #103 submitted by Area 73, West Virginia. They believe people are engaging with short videos. It may help connect with some people who either cannot read or simply prefer videos. It is hoped that this video will be used/seen by people who really have no idea what the program of Alcoholics Anonymous is all about. In addition, it could be used by sponsors when working with a new person or at First Step meetings as a jumping off point. This would be based on (P-55) the 24-page pamphlet that was approved last year. The Twelve Steps Illustrated Cost estimated at \$25,000 - \$40,000.</p>	<p>Are you in favor of a new animated video for “The Twelve Steps Illustrated?”</p>
<p>h. Consider a request to produce an animated video based on the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”</p> <p>PAI #104 submitted by Area 73, West Virginia. Some people are visual learners or cannot read so this could help to convey the information in the pamphlet. In addition, today’s trends are toward people viewing short videos to obtain information. It offers another way to get the 12 Traditions out to more people who otherwise might not take the time to read about them. It could also be used by sponsors or even groups to initiate discussion about the Traditions. This would be based on (P-43) the 28-page black and white pamphlet. The Twelve Traditions Illustrated Cost estimated at \$35,000 -- \$50,000.</p>	<p>Are you in favor of a new animated video for “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated?”</p>

GRAPEVINE / LaVina

<p>c. Review the 5-year plans for both Grapevine and La Viña.</p> <p>This item involves reviewing strategic financial and operational plans for 2026–2030. The strategy focuses on digital expansion, with a goal to increase digital subscriptions from 17,500 to 37,000 by 2030. Key initiatives include upgrading the Grapevine App, implementing an AI-powered assistant, and establishing a new bulk discount structure for book sales. The plan aims to make Grapevine Inc. financially self-supporting by 2030.</p> <p>The 10 strategic pillars and Key Actions are: digital expansion & app growth; print retention and managed decline; Carry the Message Program; Area, Central Office & Intergroup partnerships; email & direct engagement campaigns; Fellowship Ambassadors & local presence; online Grapevine open meeting; pricing strategy.</p>	<p>There is no question to answer.</p>
<p>f. Consider that the AA Grapevine, Inc. accept contributions</p> <p>This item came about due to AA Grapevine Board discussion and the Grapevine and LaVina Conference Committee’s expressed interest in exploring various funding models for AA Grapevine, Inc.</p> <p>Currently income is from subscriptions (print, digital, app), gift subscriptions, Carry the Message Project and book sales. The Publisher has noted that the way A.A. members access Grapevine (and LaVina) has changed significantly. Grapevine now provides a growing range of services that directly support A.A.’s primary purpose but do not generate revenue: daily quotes, weekly podcasts, video and social media content, Grapevine recovery stories on correctional-facility tablets, and accessible videos for deaf members. These member services require ongoing financial investment to produce and maintain.</p>	<p>Are you in favor of A.A. Grapevine, Inc accepting A.A. member contributions? If yes, should the same limits (yearly and bequests) be in place as there are with the General Service Board?</p>

CPC

e. Consider a request that stand-alone audio/visual clips be created when developing any new/revised videos for professionals.

PAI#82 was submitted by Area 79 BC Yukon. They feel we need shorter (15 to 60 second) videos as opposed to the 6+ minute ones for professionals. Busy professionals are unlikely to sit and watch a full-length video without first having their interest piqued. Providing stand-alone soundbites preserves the shelf life of new video(s), with the ability to have new/fresh soundbites pulled and added to the collection periodically. The intended outcome is to create short, engaging soundbites that capture the attention of busy professionals. Cost estimated at \$500 - \$1,000 - \$25,000 based on length of video.

Are you in favor of creating these stand-alone audio/visual clips?

FINANCE

<p>b. Discuss motion to add wording to Item F-3, “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.”</p> <p>EDW item (Equitable Distribution of Workload) which moves agenda items from one committee to another that may have less to review. EDW from Literature.</p> <p>PAI#99 was submitted by Area 34 Western Michigan. They would like to add text on page 13 (pie charts) about purchase of Grapevine/La Vina subscriptions for your group, gift subscriptions, and Grapevine/La Vina books and specialty items as a great way to support Grapevine/La Vina. The intention is to move A.A. Grapevine and La Vina toward being fully self-supporting. Here is the pamphlet F-3 Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix Cost estimated at \$500 - \$3,000 for an all-text revamp.</p>	<p>Are you in favor of adding the wording that talks about various Grapevine/ La Vina options?</p>
<p>c. Consider a request to create a Twelve Step study guide or workbook.</p> <p>EDW item (Equitable Distribution of Workload) which moves agenda items from one committee to another that may have less to review. EDW from Literature.</p> <p>PAI#70 was submitted from Area 58 Oregon. There are past Advisory Actions from the 24th and 35th General Service Conferences that talked about 4th & 5th Step Study guides. The 13th Conference discussed a Steps and Traditions workbook. It was noted there were 24 requests this past year for a workbook. They feel this would be a valuable resource for members seeking structured support in working the Steps. This would be especially helpful for those in challenging circumstances such as incarceration. It would align with A.A. and ensure inclusivity and accessibility for all members. Cost estimated at \$100,000 - \$130,000.</p>	<p>Do you think there should be a Conference approved Twelve Step study guide?</p>

FINANCE (continued)

d. Consider a request to discuss the location of the General Service Conference (GSC) (PAI-22)

EDW item (Equitable Distribution of Workload) which moves agenda items from one committee to another that may have less to review. EDW from Policy & Admissions.

PAI#22 was submitted by Area 67 SE Texas. There are past Advisory Actions regarding GSC Site Selection: 1956, 1969, 1970, 1991, 2008 and 2017. The Current Conference Charter specifies the Conference is held in New York. Area 67 feels it is costly and that a study should be done similar to Location + to find a less expensive location. They state that cost of hotels in NYC is expensive as is transportation to/from the airport. Estimated cost per Conference member for 76th GSC \$9,350, 75th GSC \$9,300, 74th GSC \$9,600, 73rd GSC \$10,500, 72nd GSC \$9,600. In 2022 Policy & Admissions asked next site selection committee to look at financial, logistical and spiritual implications of holding the GSC at other locations.

Financial covers travel for Conference members - 12 Staff, director of Staff Services, general manager, GV Publisher and Grapevine Secretary. In addition, there are 40 other support staff that assist during Conference Week. There would be meals and lodging for all of those listed. Also, other equipment that is normally transported from the Office (computers, printers, copiers, etc) would be needed. Logistical covers site visits needed as well as equipment already mentioned. There are some estimated numbers that show (rounding numbers off) total \$64,000 more in E Canada, \$101,000 less in North East, \$130,000 less in West Central and \$172,000 less in East Central. This was based on \$9,800 per Conference member and the current cost is now lower (\$60,750) which makes those numbers also different - \$124,000 more to \$41,000 to \$112,000 less depending on the region. Those figures work out to 10% higher or 3-9% less. The financial data gathered clearly shows it's possible to find venues within our structure that are slightly more cost effective than NYC.

That said, if there was a rotational schedule included with hosting a Conference outside NYC, a question to consider may be: "Would all areas have the option to be included and participate?" Also of note would be consideration of Bill's and others' spiritual thoughts on this question to host a GSC outside NYC; "Just a bunch of sane A.A.s who will sit down and see whether things are going all right in New York." Or this thought from "Your Third Legacy" pamphlet: "They will visit the premises of the Foundation, Grapevine, and Service Headquarters. This should engender mutual confidence." Logistics certainly have pro and cons also. The pros of venues outside NYC offering the possibility of easy access from airports to hotels and the cons of planning from a distance, no access to office tools during Conference week, unfamiliarity of the area, considerable number of staff traveling and site visits throughout the year taking staff away from other work. Estimated cost of relocation of GSC (Outside Consultant fees) \$60,000 - \$160,000.

Do you think there should be a discussion into looking at a different location for the General Service Conference?

LITERATURE

<p>c. Review progress report on the development of the Fourth Edition of the book <i>Alcohólicos Anónimos</i> – Spanish.</p> <p>This started as a 2021 Advisory Action. The working group received 180 new stories and they are working on which ones will be added and which ones will be staying from the 3rd Edition. The working group has reviewed the draft of revised chapters. They anticipate the draft manuscript will be ready for the 77th Conference.</p>	<p>No question, just letting you know that the Fourth Edition <i>Alcohólicos Anónimos</i> – Spanish will not be ready until next year. It’s still in process.</p>
<p>d. Review draft of the Fifth Edition of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>.</p> <p>Draft manuscript is for committee eyes only. If the Conference Literature Committee makes a recommendation, Conference members will get to review.</p> <p>This started as a 2021 Advisory Action. There were 2393 stories submitted and 26 have been selected for the new edition. From the 4th Edition 12 stories will remain and 30 are being removed. Updates have been made to several Appendices as per Advisory Action and a new Preface and Foreword have been drafted.</p> <p>The first 164 pages are NOT changing!</p> <p>Emphasis was placed on selecting stories with depth and weight that would help a newcomer identify and find hope. In the end, a final set of 26 new stories were selected. These stories reflect A.A.’s geographic diversity and include stories of those who got sober as young people and those who got sober later in life. The stories also reflect different kinds of lived experiences, including those who identify as being part of remote communities, those who came to the U.S. or Canada as immigrants, members who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community and those who have served in the military. These new stories also include members who got sober during periods of incarceration and some who struggled with the notion of a Higher Power. All found sobriety, hope and a new way of life through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.</p>	<p>Are you in favor of updated stories to better reflect current membership? Are you in favor of expanding the medical view on A.A.? Are you in favor of expanding and being more inclusive in the religious view on A.A.?</p>

LITERATURE (continued)

<p>e. Review progress report on the update to the book <i>Living Sober</i>. Revisions to Chapters 10 (“Telephone Therapy”), 14 (“Fending Off Loneliness”), and 16 (“Being Good to Yourself”) are for committee eyes only. The subcommittee wants feedback from the Conference Literature Committee to see if the edits are in line with the intended goal of the 75th Advisory Actions before they proceed further.</p>	<p>No question, just an update.</p>
<p>f. Review progress report on the development of a <i>Plain Language Big Book</i> amendment process. The PLBB subcommittee created a visual representation of the process for receiving, considering and routing suggestions related to the Plain Language Big Book. It shows the workflow or “swim lanes” of responsibility and authority to avoid confusion of “double-headed management.” As per the Advisory Action from the 75th Conference all proposals to rescind or revise the PLBB will be collected and deferred until the 77th Conference.</p>	<p>No question, just an update</p>
<p>g. Review progress report of subcommittee exploring the needs of Spanish-speaking members for tools to access the Big Book. The subcommittee developed a 12 question survey for Spanish-speaking members to gauge interest in and need for tools for reading the Big Book (and other literature) in Spanish. Once the survey is distributed and completed they can examine the results and determine how to proceed with a recommendation.</p>	<p>No question, just an update</p>
<p>i Consider publishing the personal stories from the Fourth Edition of <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> not included in the draft Fifth Edition of <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>.</p>	<p>Are you in favor of creating a new publication featuring the 30 stories removed from the 4th Edition?</p>

This was a suggestion from the Conference Literature Committee Chair and the Trustees forwarded to Conference. The 30 stories removed from the 4th Edition would be retained in a new publication. The stories are already edited and formatted since they have previously been published. This was a recommendation in 2022 but failed to gain 2/3 votes to pass. It was not known at that time which stories would be removed from the 4th Edition. Cost estimated at \$8,000 - \$15,000.

TREATMENT & ACCESSIBILITIES

e. Consider a request to review locally produced safety-related video service material and provide input on the potential for this video service material to be adapted for use by GSO.

EDW item (Equitable Distribution of Workload) which moves agenda items from one committee to another that may have less to review. EDW from Literature.

PAI #84 from Area 93 Central California, PAI#90 from Area 49 SE New York and PAI#107 from Area 09 Mid-Southern California were submitted. There is a locally produced safety video from District 22 in Area 93 that they feel could be adapted and used by AAWS. They feel that the material can be adapted with minimal editorial effort which supports fiscal responsibility and timely availability while ensuring consistency with U.S./Canada usage. These would be short, digestible videos based on literature-based tools.

They feel safety awareness and availability of safety resources for groups across Alcoholics Anonymous would remove blocks that interfere with primary purpose of carrying the message. Lastly, they feel once completed this could also be a tool for Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC), and Treatment and Accessibilities committees working with members and non-members, and or professionals who seek to understand what A.A. does – and does not do – and to provide their clients or patients with

Are you in favor of adapting this local safety-related video to be used by GSO?

a potential solution or understanding to the challenges they may or may not face. English: [Safety in Alcoholics Anonymous Playlist: Three Chapters on Safety in A.A. \(Area 93, District 22 San Luis Obispo County, CA\) - YouTube](#)
 Cost estimated at \$1,000 - \$3,000.

CORRECTIONS

c. Consider a request to update the pamphlet “The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs.”

EDW item (Equitable Distribution of Workload) which moves agenda items from one committee to another that may have less to review. EDW from Literature.

PAI #50 from District 32 in Area 10 Colorado. They feel the pamphlet has outdated and unrelatable stories with outdated language and terminology and should be updated so it is consistent with today’s modalities while still honoring our primary purpose. In 2011 3 stories were added as a result of a 57th General Service Conference Advisory Action. In 2018 a new cover was added. PAI#56 was submitted by Southern Illinois. They feel the pamphlet is out of date and redundant. Content last updated in 1984 and members’ stories added in 2007. The topic of how A.A. members handle interactions with other drugs and medications has been of importance to the fellowship since before the first GSC when the existing pamphlet on “Sedatives” was getting revised. This continues to be a complicated topic, which is related to possible relapse and confusion. Updating this pamphlet would be helpful in dealing with this ever-changing area of concern for members. Here is the pamphlet P-11[The A.A.](#)

Are you in favor of updating the pamphlet “The A.A. Member - Medications and Other Drugs?”

<u>Member — Medications & Other Drugs</u> Cost estimated at \$1,000 - \$2,000.	
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