April 2021

NOTE: These are Advisory Actions only. Details are contained in full Conference committee reports.

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 71st GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The following recommendations were approved by the 71st General Service Conference:

Floor Actions

It was recommended that:

1. The A.A. Preamble be changed from:

   Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

   To:

   In Alcoholics Anonymous we share our experience, strength and hope with each other that we may solve our common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

2. The first sentence of the A.A. Preamble be revised with gender-neutral language by replacing the words “men and women” with the word “people” to read: “Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.”

3. The pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American" be updated to include language that is both respectful and inclusive of all Indigenous peoples as well as add fresh stories and updating inaccuracies contained in the current pamphlet and that a draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

4. The Preamble revision replacing the words “men and women” with the word “people” be presented to the General Service Board for approval as the new revised A.A. Preamble.

Agenda

It was recommended that:

5. The following theme for the 2022 General Service Conference: “A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service.”

6. The following presentation/discussion topics for the 2022 General Service Conference:

    1. How do A.A.s go to any lengths to Recover, Unify, and Serve?
    2. Going Beyond Fear
    3. How to Reach Anyone, Anywhere

7. The following workshop topic for the 2022 General Service Conference:

    The Warranties – Our Promise to the Fellowship and the World.

Archives*

No recommendations.

*Members serve on this committee as a secondary committee assignment.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

It was recommended that:

8. The goals expressed in the 2018 Advisory Action establishing a dynamic A.A.W.S. LinkedIn page be implemented by G.S.O., to provide current and relevant content about A.A. to professionals in accordance with A.A. principles and Traditions; and that a progress report on the usefulness and effectiveness of implementing these updates

on the A.A.W.S. LinkedIn page be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community.

9. The trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee develop a pamphlet directed to mental health professionals. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2022 Conference Committee Cooperation with the Professional Community.

10. That the updated draft pamphlet "Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous" be approved with minor editorial changes and retitled "Faith Leaders Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous."

Corrections

It was recommended that:

11. Revisions be made to A.A.W.S. literature directed to members behind the walls and that the terms "inmate" and "offender" be replaced with "person in custody."

Finance

It was recommended that:

12. A watermark with the word "SAMPLE" be added to the 2nd and 3rd pie charts on page 13 of the pamphlet, "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix."

13. The following language to the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" be revised:

    - On page 7 after the bulleted section entitled "A.A.'s General Service Office":

      Please note that not all areas, districts, intergroups and central offices follow these divisions of service for institutions work, cooperation with the professional community, public information, etc. Therefore, prior to making contributions in your area, please find out which entity is providing these services and allocate your contributions accordingly.

    - On page 13 after the pie chart examples and before the question, "Where should I send contributions?":

      Duties of the entities notated above are described on page 7 of this pamphlet. Performance of these service duties vary from area to area. Please be sure to

inquire which services these entities provide in YOUR area and contribute accordingly.

Grapevine and La Viña

It was recommended that:

14. The AA Grapevine Board implement an Instagram account and that a report on the Instagram account be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.

International Conventions/Regional Forums*

No recommendations.

*Members serve on this committee as a secondary committee assignment.

Literature

It was recommended that:

15. The "A.A.W.S. Policy on Conversion of Written Conference-approved Literature and Service Material into Video Format," approved by the A.A. World Services, Inc. Board of Directors in January 2020, be acknowledged and accepted by the General Service Conference.

16. A Fifth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action that: "The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, 'The Doctor's Opinion,' 'Dr. Bob's Nightmare,' and the Appendices remain as is," and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

17. Pending its development, the draft Fifth Edition of the Big Book would include a new foreword, an updated preface and updates to expand on existing ideas in Appendices III and V.

18. A revision be made to page 117 in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, replacing the phrase “opposite sex” with the word “partner” as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context to the change as it relates to inclusivity:

    The text on page 117 which currently reads:

    > "Nearly every sound human being, experiences at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way. ..."

    Be revised to read:

    > "Nearly every sound human being, experiences at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a partner with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way. ..."

19. The sentence which includes the phrase “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six” of the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, be revised to refer to the Seven Deadly Sins without specific mention of examples that are severe in nature as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context as to the basis for the change:

    The text on page 66 which currently reads:

    > "No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health."

    Be revised to read:

    > "No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony.”

20. The pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic” be updated to include fresh stories and a new title that is respectful and inclusive and that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

21. The existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” not be retired.

22. The draft update of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” be approved with the working title, “Experience Has Taught Us: Our Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”

23. The Long Form of each Tradition be included at the end of each essay for that Tradition in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and that the complete set of Traditions at the back of the book be retained as is.

24. A Fourth Edition of the book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership, and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

25. The pamphlet, "Frequently Asked Questions About A.A." be revised by omitting the text on page 17 "…including coffee, sandwiches, cakes or whatever else may be served," as follows:

    The line on page 17 currently reads:

    > "…to defray the cost of renting a meeting place and other meeting expenses, including coffee, sandwiches, cakes or whatever else may be served."

    Be revised to read:

    > "…to defray the cost of renting a meeting place and other meeting expenses."

26. The paragraph containing the suggestion that sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex on page 12 in the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be revised as follows:

    The paragraph on page 12 currently reads:

    > In most instances, A.A. custom does suggest one limitation, already noted on page 10: If the group is large enough to allow a choice, sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex. The reasons are the same from both viewpoints; we A.A. members, no matter how long we have been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from "our primary purpose."

    Be revised to read:

    > A.A. custom does suggest one limitation: sponsorship should be avoided whenever a romantic entanglement might arise between sponsor and sponsee. We A.A. members, no matter how long we have been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from "our primary purpose."

27. The draft pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women in A.A. be approved.

28. A draft version of the book*, Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition)*, be translated into plain and simple language and be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible and that a progress report or draft be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

29. Krishna Murthy Vadlamani, general secretary of the General Service Board of A.A. India, be admitted to the 72nd General Service Conference as an observer. *(Note: This agenda item was approved using the Conference Polling process.)*

30. The trustees' General Service Conference Committee develop a process for polling the General Service Conference between annual meetings that makes use of virtual meeting technologies, in order to enable real-time discussion and debate, broad participation, and greater efficiency than the current process.

31. The Equitable Distribution of Workload Process, as detailed in the Report from the 2020 trustees' General Service Conference Committee, be implemented for the 72nd General Service Conference on a three-year trial basis, with a progress report to be brought to the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions after each year of the trial.

32. The U.S./Canada General Service Structure recognize online groups and encourage their participation, listing those groups who ask to be listed within the group's preferred district and area, with the default option being the location of the group's primary contact. This supersedes the 1997 Advisory Action that designated online groups as "International Correspondence Meetings."

33. The General Service Board form a committee to explore future possibilities for the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada General Service structure.

Public Information

It was recommended that:

34. In keeping with the "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or Its Affiliates," the video PSA utilizing full face actors "Party" (working title) be approved with the following revisions: That the voiceover "scratch tracks" be replaced, and other minor editorial edits to be conducted in post-production.

35. In keeping with the "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or Its Affiliates," the video

PSA utilizing full face actors “Wall” (working title) be approved with the following revisions: That the voiceover “scratch tracks” be replaced, and other minor editorial edits to be conducted in post-production.

36. In addition to the work of local committees, one to two PSAs be centrally distributed to broadcast media, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed $60,000, and that the information gathered from the process be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information.

37. A feasibility study on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms including, but not limited to, Netflix, Hulu and YouTube be conducted and that a report on the research be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information.

38. Podcasts providing sharing within the Fellowship and information about A.A. to the public be produced and distributed by G.S.O. in cooperation with the Grapevine Office. The committee requested that a progress report on the development and implementation of podcasts be forwarded to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information.

    The committee noted that podcasts would serve as a new format to produce “service material” to communicate on topics with similar sharing that can be found in *Box 4-5-9*, *About AA*, aa.org, and sharing from AA Grapevine and La Viña.

39. The trustees’ Public Information Committee revise the pamphlet “Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings” to better reflect carrying the A.A. message to diverse public audiences in non-A.A. settings and include a section on media training/press interviews, and that a draft or progress report on the revision be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information.

40. The trustees’ Public Information Committee revise the flyer “A Message to Teenagers” to better reflect carrying the A.A. message to young people. In addition to revisions to language in the twelve questions and updated graphics, the committee requested that the trustees’ Public Information Committee provide suggestions on what the best format would be to present information contained in the flyer.

Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

41. The compilation and printing of the A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.) be discontinued.

42. The revised manuscript distributed to all Conference members in April 2021 with the inclusion of the Original Conference Charter be approved as the 2021-2023 Edition of *The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service*.

43. A revision be made to paragraph one, the Purpose statement of the Current Conference Charter, found in the Appendices of *The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service*, which currently reads:

> **Purpose:** The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of world services and of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Conference shall be a service body only; never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous.

Be amended to read:

> **Purpose:** The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of world services and of the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions **and the Twelve Concepts** of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Conference shall be a service body only; never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous.

44. A new section be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled "Amendments," and that it contain an updated version of the Concept XI essay that incorporates the information in the current footnotes and endnotes, along with comprehensive descriptions of the current General Service Board committees, and that a draft or progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

Treatment and Accessibilities

It was recommended that:

45. The following audio interviews with A.A. members who are in the Armed Forces, developed by the trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee, be approved and posted on G.S.O.'s A.A. website:

- Male – Navy Captain
- Female – Air Force Pilot
- Male – Army Combat Medic

Trustees

It was recommended that:

46. The following slate of trustees of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 24, 2021 following presentation at the 2021 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Class A Trustees	Class B Trustees
Molly Anderson	Beau B[redacted]
Hon. Christine Carpenter	Cathi C[redacted]
Linda Chezem, J.D.	Jimmy D[redacted]
Sr. Judith Ann Karam, C.S.A.	Josh E[redacted]
Al Mooney, M.D., FAAFP, FASAM	Kathi F[redacted]
Nancy McCarthy	Francis G[redacted]
Kevin Prior, MBA, CFA, CPA	Tom H[redacted]
	Deborah K[redacted]
	Trish L[redacted]
	Jan L[redacted]
	Mike L[redacted]
	Paz P[redacted]
	Marita H[redacted] R[redacted]
	Irma [redacted]

47. The following slate of officers of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 24, 2021 following presentation at the 2021 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Chairperson:	Linda Chezem, J.D.
First Vice-Chairperson:	Trish L[redacted]
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Jan Lembke
Treasurer:	Kevin Prior, MBA, CFA, CPA
Secretary:	Francis G[redacted]
Assistant Treasurer:	Paul Konigstein*
Assistant Secretary:	Jeff W[redacted]*

**G.S.O. employees*

48. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board on April 24, 2021 following presentation at the 2021 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Beau B[redacted]	Irma [redacted]
Jimmy D[redacted]	Carolyn W[redacted]
Vera F[redacted]	John W[redacted]
Deborah K[redacted]	Jeff W[redacted]*
General Manager*	

**G.S.O. employees*

49. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the AA Grapevine Corporate Board on April 24, 2021 following presentation at the 2021 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Josh E[redacted]
Ino F[redacted]
Cindy F[redacted]
[redacted]

Coree H[redacted]
Mike L[redacted]
Nancy [redacted]
[redacted]
AAGV Publisher*

**AA Grapevine employee*