April 2021

71st GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

Agenda

Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed the 2020 and 2021 "Reports on the Implementation and Effectiveness of the Conference Agenda Process Including Sharing from the Conference Committee Chairs" and two years of the annual survey responses from Conference committee chairs on the effectiveness of the ongoing communication between the trustees' committee chair or corporate board chair and their corresponding Conference committee chair. The committee noted the value of recent improvements to the Conference agenda process. The committee also suggested the following:

    - The committee requested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee consider a survey suggestion to create a workbook or guideline about the role of a Conference committee chair and forwarded a list of suggestions to the trustees' General Service Conference Committee.

    - That the trustees' General Service Conference Committee explore the feasibility of the three chairs of the corporate boards creating snapshot anonymity-protected videos after each quarterly board weekend, like the prerecorded board videos completed for the recent virtual General Service Conferences. These videos could include current project updates and provide details that are synchronized with but enhance the quarterly reporting that is distributed and reported out by regional trustees to delegates. Regional trustees and delegates could share such videos locally providing enhanced communication up and down the service structure.

    - The committee agreed and requested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee consider new ways, such as creating short videos, demonstrations, or visual workflows, to communicate the information in the opening session that describes how the Conference operates and floor actions so that all Conference members may understand them and effectively participate in the annual meeting.

- The committee reviewed the 2019 and 2020 General Service Conference evaluation form and process and made the following suggestions:

    - That each question on the evaluation have an open comment section.
    - That a survey like the September 2020 Conference Improvements survey be continued annually.

- The committee reviewed the summary reports of the 2019 and 2020 General Service Conference evaluations. The committee noted several repeated comments and suggested the following:

    - Explore the feasibility of the translated Conference background being completed sooner than the current Advisory Action deadline of the first week of March (French and Spanish).
    - Consider a year-over-year statistical and comparative analysis of each evaluation category.

- The committee discussed a proposed change to the General Service Conference schedule and the method of sharing on agenda items and took no action. The proposal suggested allowing for the Conference committees to hear opinions or ideas from their areas on agenda items from delegates who are not members of the committee. The committee strongly believed we should trust the committee system and felt that the proposal did not provide benefits warranting a change.

- The committee considered a proposal suggesting the inclusion of additional avenues for A.A. members to share input on G.S.C. agenda items and took no action. The committee would like to challenge all area delegates to consider innovative ways to encourage local members to participate in the Conference process.

- The committee reviewed survey results on the 2019 January conference call that provides committee members a voice in evaluating the trustee and corporate board disposition decisions on proposed agenda items. The committee requested that this sharing be gathered annually and forwarded to the Conference Committee on Agenda. The committee asked the trustees' General Service Conference Committee to act on a survey request to include more background material on all proposed agenda items discussed at this meeting.

Archives

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the Archives Workbook and made the following suggestions regarding the section "Guidelines for Collecting Oral Histories":

    - Include text offering suggestions on ways to conduct ASL interviews with deaf members to offer a greater diversity of sharing.

    - In the sub-section "Sample Interview Questions," add sample questions relating to "vision for the future."

- The committee reviewed the report on "Proposed Book on A.A. History" and took no action. The committee noted that the scope of the project is too large for one volume,

and that a single volume may not sufficiently cover the expanse of A.A.'s history from 1955 to present. The committee also noted that A.A.'s worldwide Fellowship is ethnically, and culturally diverse and such a book might unintentionally leave out some portions of the Fellowship that are today under-reported. It was also noted that the scope and purpose of the Archives is to collect and preserve materials relevant to the history of the Fellowship and expending resources on a history book at this time would not be a prudent use of archives resources. The committee also noted that several works on various aspects of A.A.'s history have been published by historians utilizing primary resources, including those available in the G.S.O. Archives.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook and made the following suggestions:
  - That the digital C.P.C. Kit be available in a format that is easily accessible on all digital devices, including desktop, laptops, tablets, and smartphones.
  - Improve the organization on the digital C.P.C. Kit content page, so it can be easily navigated and include links to all items available digitally.
  - That a QR code connecting to the "For Professionals" page on the aa.org website be added to all appropriate materials in the C.P.C. Kit.
  - Create a tabletop display with a QR code connecting to the "For Professionals" page on the aa.org website for use at C.P.C. exhibits.
  - Develop a virtual C.P.C. exhibit.
  - Update the language to service material in the C.P.C. Kit including the Workbook, C.P.C. PowerPoint presentation, and A.A. Guidelines to reflect current ways to find A.A., references to professionals, and how C.P.C. efforts are implemented in today's environment.

Corrections

Committee Considerations:

- The committee requested that the trustees' Corrections Committee review the language used in Corrections materials for Corrections professionals and explore the need for developing different language to refer to "persons in custody."

- The committee received a report from the A.A.W.S. publishing director with several viable options that had been identified to make A.A. literature in digital formats available for alcoholics in correctional settings. The committee requested that the trustees' Corrections Committee develop a service piece that will explain the digital distribution terminology to local committees who are carrying the message behind the walls, including step by step guidance on using digital materials in local correction settings.

- The committee recognized the Correction assignment's ongoing efforts to collect shared experience from members who participate in Corrections work – currently available upon request. The committee requested that the trustees' Corrections Committee actively pursue the exploration of thread-based forums and new communication models that would allow members and committees carrying the message behind the walls to access and provide shared experience. The committee requests that a progress report be brought to the 2022 Conference Committee on Corrections.

- The committee reviewed the Corrections Kit and Workbook and asked the secretary to forward a list of changes to the trustees' Corrections Committee including using current language, correspondence samples, literature, links to A.A.W.S. Inc. and AA Grapevine digital platforms, and videos from the G.S.O. website. The committee also requested that the existing stock of Corrections Workbooks and Kits be retired once updates are completed.

Finance

Committee Considerations:

- The committee suggested that any updates made to the pie charts in the pamphlet, "Where Money and Spirituality Mix" be reflected on all similar Service Materials.

- The committee reviewed the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of $5,000 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member and took **no** action. The committee noted that the maximum annual contribution was increased in 2018 and agreed the amount is appropriate as it stands.

- The committee reviewed the Conference-approved level of $10,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members and took no action. The committee noted that the maximum annual bequest was increased in 2019 and agreed the amount is appropriate as it stands.

- The committee reviewed the suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference and took no action. The committee noted that there was a need to maintain self-support with Conference costs; however, due to the pandemic, the committee agreed that it would be appropriate to leave the amount as it stands.

- The committee reviewed a request to 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” and took no action. The committee noted that practices regarding clubs varied throughout the Fellowship, and that there was no widely expressed need to reconsider or change the 1972 Advisory Action.

- The committee had a robust discussion on the mechanization of group contributions in the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” and took no action.

- The committee reviewed the Self-Support Packet and took no action. The committee agreed that the material contained in the Self-Support packet was relevant and current.

- The committee discussed Concept XII, Warranty Two and the practice of “selling of our books at cost or less” and took no action. The committee shared experience on the varying practices within the Fellowship regarding literature sales and agreed that a change to Concept XII, Warranty Two was not necessary.

- The committee reviewed the “Google Grants and the Seventh Tradition Report” and took no action. The committee had a wide-ranging discussion and concluded that Google Grants is a discount provided to all non-profit organizations and is not in violation of the Seventh Tradition.

- The committee suggested updating "The A.A. Group Treasurer" and the AA Guidelines on Finance service materials to include information on how to financially support the AA Grapevine with the following language:

  Question: Can our group make financial contributions to AA Grapevine?

  Answer: No. AA Grapevine, Inc. is not set up to take contributions from groups or individuals. Groups and individual members support the Grapevine by purchasing Grapevine and La Viña magazine subscriptions and other Grapevine publications and using them in their Twelfth Step work.

  To support the Grapevine and La Viña magazine contact:
  www.aagrapevine.org
  (212) 870-3018
  AA Grapevine
  475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor
  New York, NY 10115
  (212) 870-3018

Grapevine and La Viña

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the progress report on the AA Grapevine Workbook revisions and suggested adding additional information on ways to use AA Grapevine resources as Twelfth Step tools, availability of books, pricing, ways Canadian members can more easily participate, and new multimedia platforms.

- The committee reviewed the AA Grapevine Fellowship Survey and summary with appreciation and acknowledged the actions that the Grapevine Board and staff have taken as a result of the findings.

- The committee considered a request to develop an AA Grapevine pamphlet on how the AA Grapevine can be utilized to carry the A.A. message and took no action. The committee recognized the AA Grapevine workbook and other materials include information on how Grapevine and La Viña can be used to carry the message.

- The committee considered gender-neutral language options for possible changes to the A.A. Preamble and took no action. The committee felt they needed more information to make a decision.

- The committee requested that the Grapevine Board gather additional shared experience from the Fellowship related to the topic of gender-neutral language options for the A.A. Preamble and bring back the results to the 2022 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.

- The committee agreed to forward to the AA Grapevine Board the suggestion that AA Grapevine, Inc. produce in the year 2022 or later:

    1. *AA's Twelve Concepts (working title). Previously published stories from the pages of Grapevine by A.A. members about their various experiences with the Twelve Concepts.*

    2. *The Home Group II (working title). Previously published stories by A.A. members about their experiences with their home groups, including stories about A.A. groups that do not meet in person. Possibly a 30th Anniversary edition of the original AA Grapevine Home Group book.*

International Conventions/Regional Forums

Committee Considerations:

- The committee had a thoughtful and wide-ranging discussion regarding methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention, particularly the use of the

Lord's Prayer and the understanding that although the prayer is part of the history of A.A. and is widely used and supported in some areas, it could make some members feel excluded and support the perception of A.A. as a religious organization. The committee also discussed possible options to the Lord's Prayer including, the Third Step Prayer, the Seventh Step Prayer and A.A.'s Declaration of Unity.

The committee agreed that it would be beneficial to gather additional shared experience from the Fellowship to make an informed decision. The committee requested that the trustees' International Conventions/Regional Forums Committee explore the preference of the Fellowship regarding methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention by use of a survey through multiple communication platforms (e.g., *Box 4-5-9*, AA Grapevine/La Viña, etc.); and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums.

- The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first time attendees and suggested:

  - Consider using the meeting guide app to further convey Regional Forum information.

  - Continue using videoconferencing technology to broadcast portions of future in-person forum programs allowing members who may not have resources or time to travel to participate.

  - Ensure future host regions are well informed about dates, locations, programs, and ways the local membership can participate.

  - Extend outreach materials to invite the Spanish-speaking and LGBTQ communities to attend Regional Forums.

  - Conduct at least one presentation or workshop in Spanish and/or French at each Regional Forum.

Literature

Committee Considerations:

- Regarding the "A.A.W.S. Policy on Conversion of Written Conference-approved Literature and Service Material into Video Format," the committee noted the usefulness and relevancy of video formats of existing literature, especially items that are basic and addressing the broader aspects of A.A. The committee also noted the importance of a prioritized list of possible print to video projects being presented to the Conference for selection of projects to reflect the expressed need of the Fellowship.

- The committee expressed appreciation for the tentative plans outlined by the trustees' Literature Committee to foster expedience with moving forward on revision of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic." The committee noted the importance of involving members of the community from the intended primary audience of the pamphlet in the development of the pamphlet, including providing input for a title that is respectful and inclusive of members throughout the U.S. and Canada.

- The committee noted that the draft updated version of the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated," pending its approval, is well-suited for an introduction to the Traditions, and the existing version is helpful for more in-depth consideration of the Traditions.

- The committee considered a request to revise the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, by adding text from the pamphlet, "The A.A. Group… Where It All Begins," in an appendix and took no action. The committee agreed that the pamphlet content stands alone, and it is not necessary to add it to *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

- The committee considered a request to audit the first 164 pages of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, for necessary revisions and took no action. The committee agreed that the first 164 pages of *Alcoholics Anonymous* should remain unchanged.

- The committee reviewed a request to add a proposed addendum to a Fifth Edition foreword of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, at the time it is published and took no action. The committee noted that at the time of the development of a Fifth Edition book, the foreword would be written to reflect pertinent information at that time.

- The committee considered the request to add a subtitle, "How Not to Take the First Drink," to the booklet, *Living Sober*, and took no action. The committee noted that the current title is effective.

- The committee reviewed the progress report regarding the pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated" and requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

- The committee reviewed the progress report regarding the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" and requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Literature Committee.

- The committee reviewed a progress report on the revision of the pamphlet "Too Young?" The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet and/or samples of other potential formats of the pamphlet at the meeting of the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

- The committee accepted the 2019 and 2020 matrices of A.A. recovery literature.

The committee suggested that the annual literature matrix be included as background along with a G.S.O. Publishing Workflow description and draft updates to A.A. Conference-approved literature for the agenda item related to "A.A. World Services, Inc., Policy on Publication: Keeping A.A. Literature Current."

The committee expressed appreciation for the trustees' Literature Committee and A.A.W.S. Board continuing their efforts to outline and define the process by which updates are reviewed and approved per this policy. The committee requested that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

- The committee discussed the draft language regarding safety and A.A. to be included in the booklet, *Living Sober*, and the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship." The committee noted that additional consideration of the accessibility of the language is needed. The committee requested that an updated draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

- The committee reviewed the draft update of the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." The committee expressed appreciation for the project being deferred to 2021 due to overall budget constraints and the potential video production expenses as part of the update to this item. The committee also expressed appreciation for the pamphlet's format in terms of how the shared experience, strength and hope is presented.

  The committee provided additional suggestions to foster a greater diversity of stories and images of members and requested that an updated draft pamphlet and/or samples of other potential formats of the pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

- The committee reviewed the draft of the new pamphlet on A.A.'s Three Legacies. The committee expressed appreciation for the direction of the pamphlet development to date. The committee noted concern about the length of the pamphlet, the need for more relatable and accessible language, and perhaps reducing the extent to which Bill W.'s writings and A.A. history are included in its content.

  The committee suggested additional revisions be considered and that an updated draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

- The committee considered 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.

  The committee suggested that the development of workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, as reflected in the most current edition of the

book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, be considered and that a feasibility report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

- The committee considered the request to revise the pamphlet, "The A.A. Group…Where It All Begins," to reflect the importance of the group as a "spiritual entity" as stated in the Long Form of Tradition Five. The committee noted its extensive agenda load resulting in part from the pandemic-affected 2020 General Service Conference. Rather than rush through agenda items, the committee agreed to request that discussion on this item continue with the trustees' Literature Committee and that consideration be made to forward the item to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

- The committee considered the request to revise text highlighting service roles at the group level in the pamphlet, "The A.A. Group…Where It All Begins." The committee noted its extensive agenda load resulting in part from the pandemic-affected 2020 General Service Conference. Rather than rush through agenda items, the committee agreed to request that discussion on this item continue with the trustees' Literature Committee and that consideration be made to forward the item to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

- The committee considered the request to update the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American." The committee noted its extensive agenda load resulting in part from the pandemic-affected 2020 General Service Conference. Rather than rush through agenda items, the committee agreed to request that discussion on this item continue with the trustees' Literature Committee and that consideration be made to forward the item to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

- The committee considered the review of G.S.O. Publishing updates per the A.A.W.S. print policy for the pamphlets, "Is A.A. for You?" "Is there an Alcoholic in Your Life?" "Frequently Asked Questions about A.A.," and "This is A.A." The committee noted its extensive agenda load resulting in part from the pandemic-affected 2020 General Service Conference. Rather than rush through agenda items, the committee agreed to request that discussion on this item continue with the trustees' Literature Committee and that consideration be made to forward the items to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

- The committee considered the request to include a G.S.R. preamble in the pamphlet "G.S.R.: Your Group's Link to A.A. as a Whole." The committee noted its extensive agenda load resulting in part from the pandemic-affected 2020 General Service Conference. Rather than rush through agenda items, the committee agreed to request that discussion on this item continue with the trustees' Literature Committee and that consideration be made to forward the item to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

- The committee considered the request to revise the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" by expanding the section on "Service Sponsorship" and retitling the pamphlet to include service sponsorship. The committee agreed that

these revisions might be helpful. The committee noted its extensive agenda load resulting in part from the pandemic-affected 2020 General Service Conference. Rather than rush through agenda items, the committee agreed to request that discussion on this item continue with the trustees' Literature Committee and that consideration be made to forward the item to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

Policy/Admissions

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the G.S.O. general manager's report regarding General Service Conference site selection. The committee agreed with the overall goal of a reduction or containment of total Conference costs, the suitability of sleeping rooms and meeting rooms, and an improvement in the convenience and cost of transportation to and from airports. The committee requested that that future reports include more details on specific sites considered.

- The committee reviewed the dates for the 2025 General Service Conference. In order to provide additional flexibility to the General Service Office management in contracting the most cost effective and appropriate venues for the General Service Conference, the committee selected the following dates for the 75th General Service Conference in order of preference: May 4 – May 10, 2025; April 27 – May 3, 2025; May 11 – May 17, 2025. The committee noted that these proposed Conference dates are the best choices because they do not conflict with any significant holidays. The committee requested that all Conference members be notified of the final dates for the 75th General Service Conference as soon as the dates are finalized by G.S.O. management.

- The committee considered a request that a procedure be drafted for appealing a ruling by a General Service Conference chair and took no action. The committee noted that processes such as calling for a point of order are available, and that guidance related to handling appeals is provided in the Twelve Concepts.

- The committee requested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee consider revising the "Process for Approving Observers to the Conference" to enable the Policy and Admissions Committee to approve routine requests for admission from General Service structures outside the U.S. and Canada without requiring a Conference Advisory Action.

- The committee reviewed the "Report on Translation and Interpretation of General Service Conference Material" and agreed that great progress has been made. Noting that we are consistently under budget, the committee encouraged use of the full budget if it could mean the translated background would be available earlier. The committee encouraged gathering shared experience from the Fellowship on the five questions at the end of the report. The committee agreed

that making Conference background more concise would serve the Fellowship as a whole.

- The committee reviewed the report on the Conference Committee Assignment Application implemented for the 2020 Committee Selection process. The committee agreed the app provided absolute randomization while saving time and reducing human error. The committee looks forward to its continued evolution.

- The committee requested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee continue to explore a process for a Conference committee to review, discuss, and act on a proposed agenda item.

Public Information

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2020 annual report from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.

- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2020 trustees' Public Information Committee report on the Google Ads performance and requested that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information. The committee encouraged G.S.O. to develop an annual project calendar relating to Google Ads.

  The committee also supported suggestions provided to them from a report from the G.S.O. senior digital communications analyst and Public Information A.C.M.

  Suggestions include:

  - Creation of more and diverse content. (This is a dynamic environment; a plan of monthly changes is the best use of the tool.)

  - Create 2 new ad sets with different conversion goals and similar language.

  - Consider setting half the new ads to clicks and half to conversions for comparison.

  - Create one new campaign with multiple ad sets for the professional community.

  - Improve use of the keyword planner and add appropriate keywords in a regular cadence.

  *Conversion – Position based. Takes wider behavior into account for how metric was achieved.

**Clicks – counts the last click for the metric.

- The committee reviewed and accepted the report on the status of the 2021 draft Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan (CMP). The committee expressed support for the vision and architecture. The committee noted the new architecture is in keeping with today's communications standards and requested that the full plan be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information and that the full plan be available to all Conference members to distribute to their areas.

  The committee also suggested that the content of the CMP be expanded to include a deeper understanding of targeted audiences within A.A. relating to all genders and reaching potential members.

- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2020 report on the "Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcements." The committee found the current Conference-approved PSAs to be relevant and useful.

- The committee discussed the trustees' Public Information Committee "Survey Methodology Working Group on the Triennial A.A. Membership Survey" report. The committee reviewed and accepted the report and felt satisfied that the current methodology sampling of the survey is sound.

  The committee also discussed the suggestion that 2021 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted and took no action. The committee expressed concerns on the timing of the survey being distributed to the Fellowship considering the status of many groups, attendance, and possible interrupted local communications relating to the distribution of the questionnaire.

  The committee also expressed concerns about the A.A. Membership Survey in pamphlet form being used as an "outward" facing Public Information pamphlet to inform the public, professionals, and potential members about A.A. and believes that the function of the data collected might be better used to inform Twelfth Step efforts for groups and service committees rather than a Public Information tool.

  The committee suggested that the trustees' Public Information Committee:

  - Conduct a more in-depth review of the content, language, and function in the questionnaire;

  - Discuss the function and target audience of the pamphlet;

  - Produce a training video for delegates and G.S.R.s on data collection, purpose and methods to enhance consistency and engagement.

- The committee discussed service materials and resources for Public Information committees and suggested that a PowerPoint be developed for the purpose of providing shared experience on “how to” present about A.A. at non-A.A. events.

- The committee discussed the trustees’ Public Information Committee review of P.I. pamphlets. The committee encouraged the trustees’ Public Information Committee to continue their review of the P.I. pamphlets/service materials and requested that a comprehensive report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information including suggestions and input related to which P.I. pamphlets/materials may need revision, editorial updates, new formats or possible retirement to make room for improved public information messaging tools.

- The committee requested that G.S.O. Publishing conduct editorial updates to the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity” to reflect current technology terminologies and service resources.

- The committee discussed the content and format of the P.I. Kit and Workbook. The committee noted the memo regarding recent A.A.W.S. Board discussions on the possible development of an A.A. service app and new digital PDF version of the workbook. The committee encourages G.S.O. to move away from a “print-first” approach to publishing so that service material and resources on aa.org might be updated more quickly and efficiently with the most up to date resources for local committees.

Report and Charter

Committee Considerations:

- The committee accepted a report from the Publishing department outlining the General Service Office process for timely and accurate preparation and publication of the 2021 General Service Conference Final Report.

- The committee discussed the General Service Conference Final Report. The committee noted the decline in the distribution of print copies and, while aware of the need to make the print version accessible, encouraged the use of the digital anonymity-protected version and suggested the Conference coordinator note these points in pre-Conference documents.

- As part of its discussion on A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.), the committee noted the value of “A.A. Near You,” a searchable local resource on www.aa.org. The committee also agreed on the importance of G.S.O. updating and continuing to make available the print and digital listing of Central Offices, Intergroups and Answering Services for the United States and Canada (Item F-25) and requested that it be added to the G.S.R. and D.C.M. kits, and the A.A. Group Handbook.

Treatment and Accessibilities

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the progress report on the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic” and requested that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought to the 2022 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

- The committee reviewed the progress report on audio interviews with A.A. members who are in the Armed Forces and made the following suggestions:

  - Move forward with the production of audio files ensuring appropriate sound quality for distribution on digital platforms.

  - Gather more audio military interviews from as broad a cross-section of A.A. members in active military duty as possible, including members of the Canadian Armed Forces and native Spanish- and French-speaking members.

  - Develop a questionnaire to be used for future audio military interviews that include topics such as Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), injuries, and barriers that sober alcoholics on active military duty face in getting sober.

  - Seek the help of the Fellowship in reaching out to possible candidates for the audio military interviews.

  - Utilize higher quality equipment professional services to record and oversee the production of the audio military interviews to improve sound and visual design quality.

  - Utilize graphics such as the “Blue People” banner, alternate backgrounds and soundtracks to enhance the audio and visual design of the audio files presentations.

- The committee reviewed the Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook and forwarded a list of suggestions to the trustees’ C.P.C./Treatment and Accessibilities Committee.

- The committee reviewed the Accessibilities Committee Kit and Workbook and forwarded a list of suggestions to the trustees’ C.P.C./Treatment and Accessibilities Committee.

- The committee agreed to the concept of developing digital versions of workbooks and other service material and suggested having an opt-in choice to receive electronic versus print versions.

- The committee suggested updating the A.A. Guidelines on Accessibilities to include references to intellectual disabilities and learning difficulties.

- The committee requested ongoing reviews and revision of materials to replace the term “special needs” with “accessibilities” across all A.A. literature, including service material.

- The committee was provided an update on the Remote Communities guidelines and look forward to a draft version.

Trustees

Committee Considerations:

- The committee agreed that the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most important treasure we have as a Fellowship. The committee also agreed that A.A.’s service structure is equally valuable.

  The committee appreciated the extensive additional input provided by the interim general manager of G.S.O. and the chair of the A.A.W.S. Board. The committee noted that the General Service Board and A.A.W.S. board have a good understanding on finances and organizational strategy and expressed appreciation for the progress being made related to bringing modern communication formats and financial reporting to the General Service Office.

  The committee also discussed the authority delegated to the General Service Board and legal responsibilities involving communication, financial prudence, and transparency. The committee noted that several major decisions previously made by the General Service Board and corporate affiliate, A.A.W.S., Inc., were not fully or promptly reported out to the Fellowship. The committee recognized that the lack of providing clear, comprehendible answers in a timely manner has caused many in the Fellowship to have strong feelings on all sides of this issue.

- The committee reviewed the resumes, and approved as eligible for election, all Class B trustee candidates for the East Central region, Southeast region, and trustee-at-Large/U.S.

- The committee encourages the General Service Board to actively pursue the exploration of thread-based forums and new communication models to improve communication between the General Service Board and the Fellowship.

- The committee reviewed the status report provided by the chair of the General Service Board in response to a committee consideration from the 2020 Conference Committee on Trustees regarding amending the Bylaws of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., Article III, Directors regarding proposed new member

trustees. The committee noted the ideas from the author about changing the relationship of the three corporations to each other and to the Conference.

- The committee reviewed and discussed the revised "Procedures for a Partial or Complete Reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or AA Grapevine Boards," and requested that the trustees' Nominating Committee consider further review, with specific attention placed on the time frame and procedure for the selection of Regional Trustees.

  The committee appreciated the details and comprehensive work in the revised plan and made editorial suggestions to mirror the updated Conference Charter. The committee requested that a revised plan be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Trustees.