

April 2024

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

## **CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 74th GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**

The following recommendations were approved by the 74th General Service Conference:

### **FLOOR ACTIONS**

It was recommended that:

- A pamphlet on the Asian and Asian-American alcoholic in A.A. be developed.<sup>1</sup>

### **AGENDA**

It was recommended that:

- The following theme for the 2025 General Service Conference: “Working Together, Increasing Trust.”
- The following presentation theme and topics for the 2025 General Service Conference:
  - “Delegating: It is okay to ask for help.”
  - “Closing the Gap: How do we make the voice of every Group count?”
  - “Our Financial Responsibility in carrying the message.”
- The following workshop topic for the 2025 General Service Conference: “How do we address the new financial reality facing our spiritual movement?”
- The General Service Conference Inventory Plan be approved and that an inventory summary (not to exceed eight pages), be included in the 2025 Final Conference Report.
- A comprehensive summary of the 2025 General Service Conference Inventory be developed and distributed as an electronic version only.

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<sup>1</sup> That a draft or progress report be brought to the 2025 General Service Conference.

## **ARCHIVES\***

No recommendations.

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

## **COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY**

No recommendations.

## **CORRECTIONS**

It was recommended that:

- The Singleness of Purpose description in the pamphlet “A Message to Correctional Professionals,” which currently reads:

“Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as “substance abuse” or “chemical dependency.” Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Nonalcoholics may attend open A.A. meetings as observers, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings.”

Be replaced with the following text:

“Some professionals refer to alcoholics and drug addicts as a single group when using professional terminology. Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Nonalcoholics may attend open A.A. meetings as observers, but attendance at closed meetings is limited to persons who have a desire to stop drinking.”

- The video “Carrying the Message Behind the Walls” be discontinued.
- A pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in A.A. be developed. The committee requested that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Corrections.

\* Note: As a result of the 2023-2024 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, the previous item was on the agenda of the Conference Committee on Corrections.

## **FINANCE**

It was recommended that:

- The following change to the language in the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” be implemented:

At the bottom of page 9 where it currently reads:

Q: Who manages GSO’s share of your group contributions?

A: The General Service Board’s Finance Committee meets quarterly to review and approve GSO’s budget and the audited financial accounts.

The A.A. World Services Board meets monthly and maintains direct control of income and expenditures. The annual General Service Conference reviews A.A.’s finances through its own Finance Committee. A.A.’s financial affairs are an “open” book. A summary is published in each Quarterly Report and a full accounting is in the Final Conference Report. The account books themselves are available at the General Service Office for scrutiny at any time.

Be revised to read:

Q: Who manages GSB’s share of your group contributions?

A: The General Service Board’s Finance Committee meets quarterly to review **and approve the financial reports of the General Service Board, inc., A.A. World Services, Inc., and AA Grapevine, Inc. In addition, the committee reviews and approves the budgets two times per year.**

The A.A. World Services Board meets regularly and maintains direct control of income and expenditures. The annual General Service Conference reviews A.A.’s finances through its own Finance Committee. A.A.’s financial affairs are an “open” book. A summary is published in each Quarterly Report and a full accounting is in the Final Conference Report. **These reports are available at aa.org and at the General Service Office for review at any time.**

\*Suggested changes highlighted in black.

- The maximum annual contribution from an individual A.A. member to the General Service Board be increased from \$5,000 to \$7,500.

## **GRAPEVINE AND LA VIÑA**

It was recommended that:

- The AA Grapevine Board develop a 5-year financial plan for La Viña with the goal to reduce shortfalls and increase revenue to be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.

## **INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS\***

It was recommended that:

- An anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2025 International Convention.
- An encrypted, delayed anonymity-protected Internet video of the 2025 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved and that the video be placed on appropriate communication channels.
- Providing six options for closing the Big Meetings at an International Convention: The Serenity Prayer, Responsibility Statement, Declaration of Unity, the Third Step Prayer, the Seventh Step Prayer, or a Moment of Silence.
- Anonymity-protected video footage with highlights of the 2025 International Convention be produced for maintaining archival footage of the Convention, as well as for sharing the spirit and enthusiasm of the 2025 International Convention.
- That a delayed, anonymity-protected, digital access stand-alone product offering of the three Big Meetings be created.

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

## **LITERATURE**

It was recommended that:

- The pamphlets “It Happened to Alice” (P-39) and “What Happened to Joe” (P-38) be retired.
- The draft of the revised pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic” (retitled “Black in A.A.: Experience, Strength and Hope”) be approved with the following minor editorial changes:
  - Generalize terminology surrounding drug and addiction references.
  - Removal of one story.
  - The removal of the political commentary within two stories.

- The draft manuscript *Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous* be approved with minor editorial changes to include:
  - Relocation of the “A.A. Steps Table” to constitute an Appendix (on the Twelve Steps) at the back of the new publication.
  - Replace the references to “addiction” and “addicted” with language related to alcoholism.
- The “Too Young?” video adaptation project be permanently suspended.
- The word “donation” be utilized to state that A.A. does not accept donations from outside entities; and that the word “contributions” be utilized when referring to Seventh Tradition contributions from A.A. members, in AAWS literature as it comes up for reprint.

## **POLICY/ADMISSIONS**

It was recommended that:

- The Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) process be adopted and implemented.
- The Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) submission date deadline for the 2025 General Service Conference be moved to a date no earlier than September 30, 2024.

Committee recommendations approved by videoconference April 9, 2024, at the Pre-General Service Conference meeting:

- Alice G., who currently serves as the Area 80 Alternate Delegate and has been selected by the Area to replace Lawrence P., serve as a 2024 Conference Member during Conference Week. The Area has communicated that Lawrence P. will continue to serve as the Area 80 Delegate.
- Dwayne M., (who is replacing Gerry W. as Area 82 Delegate) serve as a 2024 Conference Member.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

It was recommended that:

- The :30 English language version of the Public Service Announcement (PSA) “Since Getting Sober I Have Hope” be discontinued.

- The :60 English language version of the Public Service Announcement (PSA) “Since Getting Sober I Have Hope” be discontinued.
- The :15 English language version of the radio Public Service Announcement (PSA) “We Know How You Feel” be discontinued.
- Two Public Service Announcements be distributed on broadcast media, tracked and evaluated at a cost of \$17,000 which would be in addition to the \$48,000 that is planned to be spent to track the Value of Donated airtime on PSAs in 2024 per the audit requirement. The total expenditure should not exceed \$65,000 and that the information gathered from the process be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The 18 interviews recorded to date as part of the project<sup>2</sup> be approved, giving the General Service Office (GSO) the latitude to edit and distribute the videos in the style of “I Thought Drinking Made Me an Artist (working title)” and “The World Has Color Now (working title)” The videos can be produced in various formats and made available on our communication channel platforms. The committee requested that an update report be provided to the 2025 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The revised draft of the flyer “A.A. at a Glance” (F-1) be approved with minor edits.
- The revised pamphlet “Speaking at Meetings Outside of A.A.” (P-40) be approved.
- The flyer “A Message to Teenagers” be retired.

## **REPORT AND CHARTER**

It was recommended that:

- The section "The (Typical) Area Assembly" in the “Area Assembly and its Activities” chapter of The A.A. Service Manual be amended to add a text reference in addition to the color reference in order to address readability for members that are color blind.
- In the draft section “Board’s Custodial Oversight” in the “The Board’s Operating Corporations” chapter of The A.A. Service Manual be amended from:

“To facilitate the board’s custodial oversight, there are three corporate mechanisms: electing directors, approving budgets, and authority to make changes to corporate bylaws). These are used for the primary in the management of the principal assets of the General Service Board: the trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee, the General Service Board Reserve Fund, and the many trademarks, copyrights and logos maintained on behalf of A.A. as a whole.”

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<sup>2</sup> Young Peoples Video Project.

to:

“To facilitate the board’s custodial oversight, there are three primary corporate mechanisms to manage the principal assets of the General Service Board: electing directors, approving budgets, and authority to make changes to corporate bylaws.”

- The order of the chapters in The A.A. Service Manual be amended from:

Chapter 8: The General Service Board  
Chapter 9: The Board’s Operating Corporations  
Chapter 10: The General Service Office  
Chapter 11: A.A. World Services, Inc.  
Chapter 12: AA Grapevine, Inc.

to:

Chapter 8: The General Service Board  
Chapter 9: The Board’s Operating Corporations  
Chapter 10: A.A. World Services, Inc.  
Chapter 11: AA Grapevine, Inc.  
Chapter 12: The General Service Office

- In Article 9, "The General Service Conference Meetings," a footnote be added to the Current Conference Charter with the following text:

“In 2023 an Advisory Action was passed by the General Service Conference outlining a process for polling the General Service Conference body between annual meetings using virtual technology.”

- The items that receive simple majority be included in the Final Conference Report under the heading “Recommendations that achieved Simple Majority – These items did not receive the two-thirds majority required to pass as a Conference Advisory Action.”

## **TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES**

It was recommended that:

- The draft pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” (P-49) be approved with minor editorial revisions.
- The flyer “Where Do I Go from Here?” (F-4) be updated with current inclusive language and information on how to find A.A. both in person and online. The

committee requested that a progress report or draft flyer be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

## TRUSTEES

It was recommended that:

- 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 20, 2024, following presentation at the 2024 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

### Class A Trustees<sup>+</sup>

Sr. Judith Ann Karam, C.S.A.  
Dawn Klug  
Hon. Kerry Meyer  
Al J. Mooney, M.D., FAAFP, FASAM  
Anadora (Andie) Moss  
Molly Oliver  
Kevin Prior, MBA, CFA, CPA

<sup>+</sup>Nonalcoholic

### Class B Trustees

Cathi C.  
Charles H.  
Tom H.  
Scott H.  
  
Teresa J.  
Reilly K.  
Deborah K.  
Robert L.  
Gail P.  
Paz P.  
Marita R.  
Joyce S.  
David S.  
Ken T.  
Carolyn W.

- 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 20, 2024, following presentation at the 2024 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Chairperson:	Scott H.
First Vice-Chairperson: (**)	Deborah K.
Second Vice-Chairperson: (**)	David S.
Treasurer:	Kevin Prior, MBA, CFA, CPA <sup>+</sup>
Secretary (**)	Teresa J.
Assistant Treasurer:	Paul Konigstein <sup>**</sup>
Assistant Secretary:	Racy J. <sup>*</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>GSO employee

<sup>+</sup>Nonalcoholic

(<sup>\*\*</sup>) Elected by Third Legacy procedure



- The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board on April 20, 2024, following presentation at the 2024 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Vera F.  
Racy J.\*  
Reilly K.  
Deborah K.  
Clinton M.

Ken T.  
Carolyn W.  
John W.  
Bob W.\*

\*GSO employee

- The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the AA Grapevine Corporate Board on April 20, 2024, following presentation at the 2024 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Teddy B.  
Morgan B.  
Chris C.\*  
Teresa J.  
Nikki O.

Molly Oliver+  
Paz P.  
Joyce S.  
David S.

\*AA Grapevine employee

+Nonalcoholic

***Recommendations that achieved Simple Majority – These items did not receive the two-thirds majority required to pass as a Conference Advisory Action.***

There were no recommendations passed on a simple majority vote that did not receive the two-thirds vote necessary to become a Conference Advisory Action.

***Recommendations Not Resulting in Conference Action***

These recommendations were presented but did not receive the two-thirds vote necessary to become a Conference Advisory Action.

**TRUSTEES**

- The following change to the Scope of the Conference Committee on Trustees' Composition, Scope, and Procedure:

### **Currently reads:**

2. The committee reviews the resumes of all newly nominated Class A and Class B trustees of the General Service Board and nontrustee directors of the corporate boards (AAWS and the AA Grapevine). The committee reviews the slates of members and officers of the General Service Board and the slates of corporate board directors, before the Conference meeting, and expresses disapproval, if any.

### **Revised to read:**

2. The committee reviews the resumes of all Class A and Class B trustees of the General Service Board and nontrustee directors of the corporate boards (AAWS and the AA Grapevine). The committee reviews the slates of members and officers of the General Service Board and the slates of corporate board directors, before the Conference meeting, and expresses disapproval, if any.

### **FINANCE**

- The committee recommended that the General Service Board hold one Quarterly Board weekend a year virtually when possible. The committee is respectful of the General Service Board Bylaws, and Concept 3, Right of decision of the General Service Board Chair.
- The committee recommended that the Trustees Emeriti of the General Service Board be invited to the Annual General Service Conference and to the General Service Board weekends at their own expense.

### **AGENDA**

Motion made at Opening Session:

- The committee recommended suspension of oral presentation of all Area Service Highlights during the 74th General Service Conference to allow for additional time on the agenda for general sharing and questions.

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

- The committee recommended that A social media policy be developed for all current and future social media channels and requested that a draft be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- The committee recommended that to better provide equality in availability and messaging, starting with the July 2024 General Service Board Meeting, that unedited but anonymity-protected minutes, including trustees' committee reports in English, Spanish, and French, be provided to all Conference members within three weeks

following quarterly Board Weekends. Minutes should retain the current format and scope.

### ***Floor Actions Not Resulting in Conference Advisory Actions***

- A pamphlet for the unhoused person that specifically addresses alcoholism, what A.A. is and is not, who is welcome at A.A. meetings, and includes stories from AA members who have experienced homelessness be developed and a draft or progress report be brought back to the appropriate 2025 Conference committee. ***(Conference declined to consider)***
- PAIs requesting censure and reorganization have no submission deadline and be forwarded directly to Conference Committee on Trustees. ***(Not Approved)***
- All memorandums between Conference Committee and Trustees Committees or Boards be made available to all members of the Conference. ***(Conference declined to consider)***

### ***Motion passed to recommit Floor Actions #5-#15 to the appropriate trustees' Committee or Corporate Board***

#### **Floor Action #5:**

It was recommended that:

The Conference affirm that La Viña continue to be published by the AA Grapevine and supported by the General Service Board as a service to the Fellowship. La Viña continues to be published utilizing AA Grapevine resources in order to achieve efficient production and distribution.

*Submitted on April 18, 2024 by*

*Richard O.*

*Panel 74 A8, San Diego/Imperial California, Delegate*

#### **Floor Action #6:**

It was recommended that:

The Grapevine Board develop a plan for a more effective La Viña subscription procedure, fulfillment process and customer service experience, and that a progress report be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.

*Submitted on April 18, 2024 by*

*Irene D., GSO Staff Member*

**Floor Action #7:**

It was recommended that:

All non-offensive PAIs submitted for consideration of the 72nd, 73rd and 74th General Service Conferences regarding the change made to the A.A. Preamble by the 71st General Service Conference be grouped as one item, and forwarded to the appropriate 75th General Service Conference committee with the following suggestion: given the importance and interest of this issue, consider forwarding the item to the general service areas for wider discussion, looking toward a fair and reasonable solution to the division within the Fellowship by the use of different copyrighted Preambles.

*Submitted on April 18, 2024 by*

*Ilir T.*

*Panel 74 A12, Delaware, Delegate*

**Floor Action #8:**

It was recommended that:

The additional feedback from the Conference Committee on Literature identified in their memo to the Publishing Department on sticking points for the Plain Language draft manuscript be implemented in the draft before printing.

*Submitted on April 19, 2024 by*

*Nick K.*

*Panel 74 A41, Nebraska, Delegate*

**Floor Action #9:**

It was recommended that:

Whenever any changes are brought to the Conference floor to the Founders' writings, considered by this motion to be:

1. The book *Alcoholics Anonymous* — specifically, the first 164 pages, the chapter “The Doctor’s Opinion,” Forewords to the first and second editions, the Appendices on Spiritual Awakening and the Traditions, and Dr. Bob’s Nightmare
2. The book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*

the Conference must achieve a supermajority of 75% for the General Service Board to act upon it. However, the General Service Board shall not immediately act upon the Conference’s directions, and instead, shall request all Area Delegates to conduct further discussions in their respective Areas. Area delegates’ report backs will be conducted the second following General Service Conference at which the Conference may amend or change the previously approved change to the Founders’ writings described above. For final action by the General Service Board, the Conference must achieve substantial unanimity.

*Submitted on April 19, 2024 by*

*Ilir T.*

*Panel 74 A12, Delaware, Delegate*

#### **Floor Action #10:**

It was recommended that:

The AA Grapevine Board develop a 5-year financial plan for the Grapevine with the goal to reduce shortfalls and increase revenue to be brought back to 2025 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.

*Submitted on April 19, 2024 by*

*Pablo H.*

*Panel 73 A93, Central California, Delegate*

#### **Floor Action #11:**

It was recommended that:

Reaffirming the 1975 Advisory Action that in reports to their Areas delegates place more emphasis on group support. Delegates should emphasize to the groups the effect that inflation has had on the contribution dollar and the necessity for adjusting contributions accordingly to support services provided by the General Service Board.

*Submitted on April 19, 2024 by*

*Suzanne S.*

*Panel 73 A30, Eastern Massachusetts, Delegate*

**Floor Action #12:**

It was recommended that:

Delegates who require translation be provided with all documents, materials, reports, communications, etc., in their native language, with all necessary information to be able to fulfill their role as trusted servants, bearing in mind the traditional Right of Participation.

*Submitted on April 19, 2024 by*

*Julio M.*

*Panel 74, A77, Puerto Rico, Delegate*

**Floor Action #13:**

It was recommended that:

In the flyer “A.A. At a Glance” — in the last paragraph on page one under the heading “Who can attend A.A. meetings?” that the last sentence ““Closed’ discussion meetings are for alcoholics only” be changed to: “Attendance at a ‘closed’ meeting is limited to A.A. members and persons who have a desire to stop drinking.”

*Submitted on April 19, 2024 by*

*Irma V.*

*Western Canada Regional Trustee*

**Floor Action #14:**

The explanations of the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts be removed from the Plain Language Big Book.

*Submitted on April 19, 2024 by*

*Jimmy W.*

*Panel 74, A64 Tennessee, Delegate*

**Floor Action #15:**

It is recommended that:

The Plain Language Big Book be retitled to: “The Plain Language Guide to A.A.’s Twelve Steps of Recovery”

*Submitted on April 19, 2024 by*

*Debbie H.*

*Panel 73, A39 Western Missouri, Delegate*