

I.

AGENDA

AGENDA

Conference Committee on Agenda

Monday, May 20, 2019 – 9 a.m. - Noon

Room 505

Chairperson: Roxane R.

Secretary: Patrick C.

Conference Committee Members

Panel 68

Jenny C.
Roxane R.
Mike S.

Panel 69

Coleen A.
Bobby D.
Lorraine P.
Steve S.
Susan V.

- ◆ Discussion and acceptance of trustees' committee report.
- A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2020 General Service Conference.
- B. Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2020 General Service Conference.
- C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2020 General Service Conference.
- D. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, process and 2018 Evaluation Summary.
- E. Discuss report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference.

Note: 1989 Conference Advisory Action

Each Conference Committee carefully consider their Agenda items and strive to make their recommendations for Advisory Actions to the Conference at the policy level. To be more financially responsible, when a Conference Committee recommendation involves a substantial expenditure of money, an estimate of cost and its impact on the budget be part of that recommendation.

2019 Conference Committee on Agenda

ITEM A: Review suggestions for the theme of the 2020 General Service Conference.

Background notes:

In the early years of the Conference (1951 through 1961) the theme of the Conference became defined following the Conference meeting itself, from taking a “sense of the meeting.”

Definite themes came into being beginning with the 1962 General Service Conference. We do not have documentation attesting to the selection of the topic or about the decision-making process at this time. However, letters mailed to speakers/presenters prior to the Conference tell us that a definite theme was selected, before the start of the Conference.

Conference theme and presentation topics revolve around basic principles of A.A. and can spark thought-provoking discussion at Area and district meetings as well. Regions, areas and districts often incorporate discussion of these topics into workshops, meetings, pre-Conference assemblies, etc. This gives all A.A. members the opportunity to participate and become more informed about A.A.

Background:

1. Suggestions for 2020 Conference Theme
2. List of Conference Themes 1951-2019

Suggested Themes for the 2020 Conference

The topics in the following list were submitted by the Fellowship as possible Conference themes. They came in response to an August 2018 request for theme topics sent by the Conference Coordinator on behalf of the Agenda Committee.

1. Giving Up Personal Desires for the Common Good
2. 2020: A Clear Vision for You
3. Moving into the Future with Singleness of Purpose
4. Unity in a Divided World
5. Our Literature- Preserving the Integrity of the A.A. Message
6. Living the Legacies in the Home Group
7. The 12 points to ensure our future -- Still relevant
8. Cooperation without Affiliation
9. Our Literature -- And how it preserves the integrity of the A.A. message
10. Our Fellowship must have humility too, "Recognizing A.A.'s true place in the world."
11. 2020: A Vision for You... (get it... 2020 vision...Sound the nerd alert!)
12. Back to Basics
13. The Importance of Service in A.A.
14. Architects of adversity
15. Attraction rather than promotion
16. Inside job for an Outside World
17. Carrying Our message, One alcoholic to another
18. Let's prepare our servants
19. Service is for all
20. A.A.: Unified and Strong
21. Infinite A.A.
22. Worldwide A.A. Spirituality
23. Always Inclusive, Never Exclusive
24. Journey into Light

25. Guarantee the serenity of A.A.
26. Relaunch service
27. Acceptance as a Key Stone
28. 85 Years of Serving Alcoholics
29. 85 Years of gratitude
30. A.A., the beacon for the future
31. Accept, change and help
32. Love and tolerance
33. Today, acceptance is the answer to all my problems
34. How to reach young people today
35. Free at last
36. Together for recovery
37. Getting involved: Remedy for our recovery
38. The key to freedom
39. Gratitude at work
40. Recovery through sharing
41. Learning love and tolerance through service
42. Service at the heart of humanity
43. Life is a journey, love is a mission
44. Love and tolerance in all our affairs
45. Get to know our triple heritage (or, our Three Legacies)
46. Our Three Legacies: Where are we today?
47. Our recovery through service
48. Forgiveness, love and understanding
49. Share, help, recovery
50. Resolutions for service
51. Helping each other in order to grow
52. A spiritual movement in the era of communication
53. One step toward freedom
54. Define with precision what is the registration to a home group
55. A.A. in the process of change

56. A.A. and its future
57. Adapt to better serve
58. The place of sponsorship
59. Love of God
60. Life in A.A.
61. A.A. in Social Media
62. Just for Today
63. A.A a Message of Hope
64. The message of hope through publications
65. The message of hope through my way of listening
66. The message of hope through our groups
67. Does my appeal carry the A.A. message of hope?
68. A Vision for You
69. Diversity-Reaching Every Alcoholic
70. The Group Conscience: The True Voice of Alcoholics Anonymous
71. Without Unity, The Heart of A.A Would Cease to Beat
72. A.A is more than a Set of Principles, it's a Society of Men and Women In Action
73. Our Spiritual Principles -- The Path to Our Primary Purpose
74. Back to Basics -- The 12 Steps and the Message of Recovery
75. A Spiritual Awakening: The result of the steps and future legacy
76. Long Timers and Trusted Servants
77. Our Primary Objective
78. "Re-establishing vision in Alcoholics Anonymous": becoming less reactive to particular notions of action. We must step back and plot next 100 years in A.A
79. A.A. All Inclusive, Never Exclusive
80. Worldwide A.A. Spirituality
81. Change Today-One Day at a Time
82. Infinite A.A. (Infinite inclusion, Infinite future, Infinite Progress)
83. I Am Responsible
84. Grapevine and La Vina: Our Meetings in Print
85. Our Unity, Our Identity, Our Life Force

- 86. A.A. a spiritual Movement for All
- 87. From Generation to Generation
- 88. Define with Precision What is the Registration to a Home Group

**Themes of the General Service Conference
1951 - 2019**

- 2019 - Our Big Book – 80 Years, 71 Languages
- 2018 - A.A. – A Solution for All Generations
- 2017 - Supporting Our Future
- 2016 - Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts
- 2015 - Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity and Service – The Foundation of Our Future
- 2014 - Communicating Our Legacies – Vital in a Changing World
- 2013 - The General Service Conference Takes Its Inventory – Our Solution in Action
- 2012 - Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age
- 2011 - We are Responsible for A.A.'s Future – Let it Begin With Us
- 2010 - Practicing A.A.'s Principles – The Pathway to Unity
- 2009 - Our Commitment to Carry A.A.'s Message – Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action
- 2008 - Communication and Participation – The Key to Unity and Self-Support
- 2007 - Our 12th Step Responsibility – Are We Going to Any Length?
- 2006 - Sponsorship, Service and Self-Support in a Changing World
- 2005 - Basics of Our Home Group – Recovery, Unity and Service
- 2004 - Our Singleness of Purpose – The Cornerstone of A.A.
- 2003 - Living A.A.'s Principles Through Sponsorship
- 2002 - Sharing the Steps, Traditions and Concepts
- 2001 - Love and Service
- 2000 - Trusting Our Future to A.A. Principles
- 1999 - Moving Forward: Unity Through Humility
- 1998 - Our Twelfth Step Work
- 1997 - Spirituality – Our Foundation
- 1996 - Preserving Our Fellowship – Our Challenge
- 1995 - Pass It On – Our Three Legacies
- 1994 - Spirit of Sacrifice
- 1993 - A.A. Takes Its Inventory – The General Service Conference Structure
- 1992 - The A.A. Message in a Changing World
- 1991 - Sponsorship: Gratitude in Action
- 1990 - The Home Group – Our Responsibility and Link to A.A.'s Future
- 1989 - Anonymity – Living Our Traditions
- 1988 - Singleness of Purpose – Key to Unity
- 1987 - The Seventh Tradition – A Turning Point
- 1986 - A.A.'s Future – Our Responsibility
- 1985 - Golden Moments of Reflection
- 1984 - Gratitude – The Language of the Heart
- 1983 - Anonymity – Our Spiritual Foundation
- 1982 - The Traditions – Our Way of Unity
- 1981 - A.A. Takes Its Inventory
- 1980 - Participation: The Key to Recovery
- 1979 - The Legacies: Our Heritage and My Responsibility

- 1978 - The Member and the Group – Recovery Through Service
- 1977 - The A.A. Group – Where It Begins
- 1976 - Sponsorship – Our Privilege and Responsibility
- 1975 - Unity Through Love and Service
- 1974 - Understanding and Cooperation – Inside and Outside A.A.
- 1973 - Responsibility – Our Expression of Gratitude
- 1972 - Our Primary Purpose
- 1971 - Communication: Key to A.A. Growth
- 1970 - Service – The Heart of A.A.
- 1969 - Group Conscience Guides A.A.
- 1968 - Unity Vital to A.A. Survival, Growth
- 1967 - Sponsorship – The Hand of A.A.
- 1966 - Principles and Responsibility
- 1965 - More Effective Ways to Use Tools of Service
- 1964 - Sharing
- 1963 - Our Common Welfare
- 1962 - One Primary Purpose
- 1961 - Working and Growing Together
- 1960 - Need for Improved Internal and External Communications
- 1959 - Confidence – Absence of Fear of the Future
- 1958 - Promise and Progress
- 1957 - Stability and Responsibility Without Complacency
- 1956 - Self-Confidence and Responsibility
- 1955 - A.A. Had Truly Come of Age
- 1954 - Self-confidence and Responsibility
- 1953 - On the Threshold of Maturity
- 1952 - Progress – Humility and Unity
- 1951 - Genuine Faith – It Begins as an Experiment and Ends as an Experience

2019 Conference Committee on Agenda

ITEM B: Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2020 General Service Conference.

Background:

1. Suggestions for 2020 Conference Presentations
2. List of Conference Presentations 1985-2019

**Suggested Presentation/Discussion Topic Ideas
for the 2020 General Service Conference**

The topics in the following list were submitted by the Fellowship as possible presentation/discussion topics for the Conference. They came in response to an August 2018 request for presentation/discussion topics sent by the Conference Coordinator on behalf of the Agenda Committee.

1. Delegated Authority and the Sacrificial Spirit
2. A.A. Traditions and the Sacrificial Spirit
3. A.A.'s Future and the Sacrificial Spirit
4. Attracting Gen. 2
5. Spirituality for Gen 2
6. Keeping A.A. Relevant
7. Singleness of Purpose
8. Engaging absent members/groups
9. Embracing tech while protecting anonymity
10. Using steps, traditions, and concepts to avoid polarization
11. How to use A.A. pamphlets in our Twelfth Step work and sponsorship
12. How to use A.A. pamphlets at business meetings, and committee meetings
13. How to use A.A. pamphlets to carry the message outside of A.A. to our communities using pamphlets for CPC, PI, treatment and correctional facilities... at the workplace
14. Our Twelve Traditions -- How to learn, practice, apply and teach the 21 points to ensure our future
15. How to cooperate with the courts, institutions, and other Twelve Step Fellowships, without affiliating
16. How to utilize A.A. literature within the rooms at meetings
17. Our Fellowship must have humility too. "We can't be all things to all people, nor should we try."
18. Sponsorship in Service
19. We are not doctors -- professionals; Service -- securing our future
20. Changing with the Times
21. Cooperating (not affiliating) with other Twelve Step Fellowships that may be able to help those who suffer from problems other than alcohol.
22. Being inclusive to ALL people with an alcohol problem (Tradition Three) regardless of our additional problems, while embracing our Fifth Tradition and keeping the focus on our one similarity, Alcoholism.

23. "The primary purpose of an A.A. group is to carry the A.A. message to alcoholics. Experience with alcohol is one thing all A.A. members have in common. It is misleading to hint or give the impression that A.A. solves other problems or knows what to do about drug addiction."
24. How to use our pamphlets, in meetings, with sponsorship, at business meetings, and to the outside world. (CPC/PI).
25. A part of opposed to apart
26. Matching Calamity with Serenity
27. The Importance of Identification as An Alcoholic
28. Carrying the A.A. Message Outside the A.A. Group
29. Sharing what we were like, what happened, and what we are like now.
30. Service Sponsorships
31. Sexism through A.A. Literature
32. Cross addictions and A.A.: Do we really accept everybody?
33. Infinite inclusion
34. Infinite progress
35. Infinite future
36. Progress not perfection
37. Universal problem, universal solution
38. Connecting past and present
39. A.A. in remote communities
40. Looking for similarities, not differences
41. Overcoming barriers
42. The message of hope through publications
43. The message of hope through my way of listening
44. The message of hope through our groups
45. Does my appeal carry the A.A. message of hope?
46. Cultural Diversity, Who is Not in the Rooms and Why Not?
47. The Strength of Our Whole Service Structure starts with the Group and with the General Service Representative (GSR) the groups elects
48. One Big Tent: Atheist and Agnostic members in A.A.
49. Rigorous Honesty – Trust - the guiding principle for a society with no rules
50. The Principles Found in the Steps, Traditions and Concepts
51. Inclusive of All who Suffer from Alcoholism
52. Definition of Long Timers and Trusted Servants

53. Why Long Timers vs Old Timers
54. Can A.A survive without Long Timers and Trusted Servants
55. 5th Tradition
56. Online A.A.
57. Universal Fellowship
58. Spiritual Progress, not Perfection
59. CPC Work and Spirituality
60. Singleness of Purpose
61. Diversity
62. Service in Remote Areas
63. H&I
64. Universal Problem, Universal Solution
65. United in Sobriety
66. Spiritual Unity
67. Strategy Timeline
68. Connecting Past and Present
69. Financial Sobriety
70. AA Promises-Principles, not Personalities
71. Reaching Out The Hand of A.A
72. Service and the Recovery
73. Twelve Steps as They Apply to Everyday Life
74. Anonymity and Carrying the Message
75. Grapevine and La Viña in Our Home Groups, Districts, Areas, Intergroups and Conventions
76. Role of Grapevine and La Viña in A.A. History
77. Using Grapevine and La Viña to reach out to professionals
78. The Importance of the New
79. What is a role of Public Information?
80. Experience & Knowledge required for each position
81. The Identification of Members of other Fellowships in our meetings
82. Does A.A. speak of God too much—more than a Higher Power
83. Carrying experience and wisdom
84. Nowhere in our literature does it say that being registered to a homegroup is important to serve the group conscience at the group level and district and areas etc.

**Presentations recommended by Conference
1985 – 2019**

- 2019: Yesterday's World – Our Legacies Begin
Today's World – Demonstrating Integrity, Anonymity and Service
Tomorrow's World – Courage to be Vigilant
- 2018: Today's Alcoholic: Inclusion, Not Exclusion
Participation in All of A.A. – Is My Triangle Balanced?
A.A. Technology: Where Innovation Meets The Traditions
Attraction not Promotion: A.A.'s Relation to the World
Group Conscience: The Guiding Force
- 2017: 1. Growth:
Diversity – Outreach and Attraction
Safety – Our Responsibility
Communication – Today and Tomorrow
2. Participation:
Fellowship vs. Membership
Leadership: "I am Responsible. . ."
Is Your Voice Heard?
3. Contributions:
Spirituality and Money
Fully Self-Supporting Our Obligations
Apathy and Power of the Purse
- 2016: Connecting With the Newcomer
Connecting With Each Other
Connecting with A.A. as a Whole
- 2015: Our Common Welfare Through Gratitude in Action
1. Diversity in A.A. - Our Heritage of Inclusion
2. Safety and Respect – Practicing the Principles Begins in our Home Group
3. Safeguarding our Traditions through the Evolution of Technology
4. Inventory – Looking Back to Move Ahead
- 2014: Living in the Heart of A.A.:
1. Recovery, Unity and Service – Our Responsibility
2. Passing It on Through Sponsorship
3. Participating in Our Common Welfare through Contributions
4. Inventory – A Guiding Tool to Our Future
- 2013: Spiritual Principles for World Service:
1. The Triangle – More Than a Shape
2. The General Service Conference Inventory – Why is it Necessary?
3. Self-Support – What Does it Mean to the Fellowship?
4. Primary Purpose – Carrying the A.A. Message

- 2012:
- a: Carrying the A.A. Message:
 - 1. Still Our Primary Purpose
 - 2. Social Web Sites
 - 3. Young People in A.A.
 - 4. Importance of Sponsorship
 - b: Change – Essential to A.A.’s Growth:
 - 1. Service: Our Third Legacy
 - 2. Spirit of Rotation
 - 3. Diversity – Let’s Keep Our Doors Open for Any Who May Suffer from Alcoholism
 - 4. Archives – Where the Past Meets the Present
- 2011:
- a: Alcoholics Anonymous in a Digital Age:
 - 1. Practicing Our Traditions in a Digital Age
 - 2. Carrying A.A.’s Message Online
 - 3. Grapevine – “A.A.’s Meeting in Print” and More . . .
 - b. An Informed Group Conscience: The Voice of A.A.:
 - 1. Self-Support – Where Do Money and Spirituality Mix?
 - 2. Humility – Accepting the Group Conscience
 - 3. An Informed Group Conscience – Using the Three Legacies
 - c. Diversity in A.A.:
 - 1. The Language of the Heart is Spoken Here
 - 2. The Hand of A.A. – Inclusive Never Exclusive
 - 3. Tradition Five – Our Primary Purpose
 - d. Sponsorship:
 - 1. Importance of a Home Group
 - 2. Leading by Example – Attraction Not Promotion
 - 3. Recovery, Unity, Service
- 2010:
- a: Practicing These Principles in All Our “Service” Affairs:
 - 1. What is the Difference Between General Service and Service in General?
 - 2. Love and Tolerance is Our Code
 - 3. Setting an Example – Attraction to Service
 - b: Unity Through Inventory:
 - 1. Our Common Welfare Should Come First
 - 2. This We Owe to A.A.’s Future
 - 3. What Happens After Inventory?
 - c: General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process:
 - 1. How it Works.
 - 2. Collective Participation.
 - 3. Communication – The Key to an Informed Decision
- 2009:
- a: Humility and Sacrifice:
 - 1. Setting an Example
 - 2. Changing Our Perceptions
 - 3. Anonymity – Sacrificing Our Egos

- b: Enthusiasm and Gratitude:
 - 1. Hope and Purpose from Defeat and Despair
 - 2. Happy, Joyous and Free
 - 3. Enthusiasm – A Gift of Inventory
 - c: Spiritual Program in Action:
 - 1. Maximum Service – Our Spiritual Benefit
 - 2. Persistence – The Key to Progress
 - 3. Living the Traditions
- 2008:
- a. Communication and Participation:
 - 1. Sharing the Message of Service
 - 2. Our Key to Keeping A.A. Strong
 - 3. Leadership in A.A.: Building Communication
 - b: Unity
 - 1. Our Common Welfare Should Come First
 - 2. Principles Before Personalities
 - 3. Diversity: Reaching Out to All Alcoholics
 - c: Self-Support:
 - 1. Self-Supporting Through Members' Voluntary Contributions Only
 - 2. Contempt Prior to Investigation
 - 3. Responsibility to Communicate and Participate
- 2007:
- a. Inclusiveness in A.A.:
 - 1. Our 3rd Tradition
 - 2. Growth of the Fellowship
 - 3. Reaching Out to All Who Want It
 - b. Our Primary Purpose:
 - 1. Attraction Rather Than Promotion
 - 2. Working with Wet Drunks
 - 3. Practicing These Principles in All Our Affairs
 - c. Humility and Responsibility:
 - 1. Expressed by Anonymity
 - 2. Are We Resting on Our Laurels?
 - 3. Raising Literature Prices or Footing the Bill?
- 2006:
- a. Sponsorship:
 - 1. Presenting A.A. to Newcomers
 - 2. Changes in the Alcoholic Coming to A.A.
 - 3. Sponsorship Into Sobriety, Into Service
 - b. Service:
 - 1. Performing Service Without Expectations
 - 2. Leadership – An Ever Vital Need
 - 3. Responsibility With Accountability
 - c. Self-Support:
 - 1. An Informed Group Conscience
 - 2. Gratitude through Self-Sacrifice

- 2005:
 - a. Recovery:
 - 1. "How It Works" in Our Home Group
 - 2. Carrying the Message Through Practicing the Principles of Our Daily Lives
 - b. Unity:
 - 1. "Love and Tolerance of Others is Our Code" (*Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 84)
 - 2. The Basket – Where Money and Spirituality Mix
 - 3. The Spiritual Principle of Our Twelfth Tradition
 - c. Service:
 - 1. Concept One – Final Responsibility and Ultimate Authority
 - 2. Minority Opinion – Are We Listening?
 - 3. Leadership – Responsibility for A.A.'s Future – Concept Nine
- 2004:
 - a. Our Singleness of Purpose:
 - 1. Our Responsibility to the Newcomer
 - 2. Communicating Our Singleness of Purpose
 - b. The Cornerstone of A.A.:
 - 1. Safeguarding Our Unity
 - 2. The Role of the Home Group
 - 3. Traditions Three and Five: Our Members, Our Message
- 2003:
 - a. Sponsorship:
 - 1. Responsibilities of Sponsorship
 - 2. Is Sponsorship Fading Away?
 - 3. Working with Medical Practitioners, Other Professionals and Friends
 - b. Principles:
 - 1. What are the Principles?
 - 2. Living the Principles, Accepting Our Differences
- 2002:
 - a. Unity:
 - 1. Spirit of Rotation—Letting Go!
 - 2. Does Our Committee System Work?
 - 3. The Internet—A Part of or Apart From?
 - b. Inventory:
 - 1. A.A. Literature—Is It Being Utilized or Collecting Dust?
 - 2. Seventh Tradition and Spirituality—Do They Really Mix?
- 2001:
 - a. Sponsorship:
 - 1. The Home Group
 - 2. Sponsorship into Service
 - 3. Never Too Late to Get a Sponsor
 - b. Language of the Heart:
 - 1. Listening to the Language of the Heart
 - 2. Sharing Experience, Strength and Hope
 - 3. Passing On Our Three Legacies
 - c. The G.S.R.'s Role in A.A.:

1. In the Home Group
 2. Link to the District, Area and G.S.O.
 3. Guardian of the Traditions
- 2000:
- a. Recovery:
 1. Trust the God of Your Understanding
 2. Clean House
 3. Work With Others
 - b. Unity:
 1. Our Common Welfare
 2. The Informed Group Conscience and Substantial Unanimity
 3. Practicing Genuine Humility Through Anonymity
 - c. Service:
 1. I Am Responsible...
 2. Our Primary Purpose
 3. Spirit of Rotation
- 1999:
- a. Our Responsibility to A.A. Unity:
 1. Home Group
 2. A.A. Service Structure
 3. A.A. Worldwide
 - b. Many Faces—One Fellowship
 1. Accepting Our Differences
 2. I Am Responsible...
 3. Principles Before Personalities
 - c. Our Future Together:
 1. Sponsorship
 2. A.A. Literature
 3. Tradition Seven
- 1998:
- a. Our Twelfth Step Work:
 1. Reaching the Newcomer
 2. Carrying This Message
 3. Back to Basics
 - b. Tools for Twelfth Stepping:
 1. The A.A. Member
 2. Sponsorship
 3. Literature
 - c. Diversity of Twelfth Step Work:
 1. Home Group
 2. Service Structure
 3. Around the World
- 1997:
- a. Group Conscience—Seeking Our Ultimate Authority
 - b. Carrying A.A.'s Message Around the World
 - c. The Hat—Where Money and Spirituality Mix

- 1996:
 - a. Preserving Our Fellowship—Let It Begin With Me
 - b. Preserving Our Fellowship—Carrying Our Original Message
 - c. Preserving Our Fellowship—Unity and Spirituality in All Our Affairs
- 1995:
 - a. Pass It On: Recovery—Our First Legacy
 - b. Pass It On: Unity—Our Second Legacy
 - c. Pass It On: Service—Our Third Legacy
- 1994:
 - a. Spirit of Sacrifice: Bill's and Dr. Bob's Farewell Messages:
 - Bill's Message
 - Dr. Bob's Message
 - b. Spirit of Sacrifice in the Long Form of the Traditions:
 - Traditions One, Two and Three
 - Traditions Four, Five and Six
 - c. Spirit of Sacrifice in the Long Form of the Traditions:
 - Traditions Seven, Eight and Nine
 - Traditions Ten, Eleven and Twelve
- 1993:
 - a. A.A. Takes Its Inventory
 - The Purpose of the General Service Conference
 - The A.A. Conference Relation to A.A.
 - The General Service Conference and Its General Procedures
 - b. A.A. Takes Its Inventory
 - Conference Relation to the General Service Board and Its Corporate Services
 - The General Service Board: Composition, Jurisdiction, Responsibilities
 - c. The General Warranties of the Conference
 - d. A.A. Takes Its Inventory: Finance
 - e. A.A. Takes Its Inventory: The Grapevine
- 1992:
 - a. The A.A. Message in a Changing World
 - Our Common Welfare
 - Unity: Together We Can
 - The Language of the Heart Worldwide
 - b. The Joy of Living
 - The Newcomer: A.A.'s Future
 - Principles Before Personalities
 - Humility Through Rotation
 - c. Love and Service
 - d. G.S.O. Finances
- 1991:
 - a. Sponsorship
 - Help and Hope
 - I Am Responsible
 - A Way of Life
 - b. Our Collective Humility
 - How We Identify Ourselves

Anonymity—Our Spiritual Foundation
In All Our Affairs
Self-support Project—Five Years Later
G.S.O. Finances

- 1990:
- a. The Importance of the Home Group
 - In Recovery
 - For Unity
 - For Service
 - b. Sponsorship
 - In Recovery
 - For Unity
 - For Service
 - c. Self-support
 - d. G.S.O. Finances
- 1989:
- a. Self-support
 - b. G.S.O. Finances
 - c. Anonymity
 - How It Developed
 - Its Necessity Today
 - Principles Before Personalities
 - d. Back to Basics
 - The Group in the Structure
 - Sponsorship in Recovery and Service
 - A.A. Literature—Tool or Mandate
- 1988:
- a. Self-support
 - b. Singleness of Purpose—Key to Unity
 - Groups vs. Meetings
 - Are We Being Too Friendly with Our Friends?
 - Our Primary Purpose—Is Our Message Clear?
 - c. Focus on the Positive
 - Communications—Challenges
 - What Are We Doing Right?
 - Spirit of Rotation
- 1987:
- a. Are We Carrying the Message to All?
 - b. Area Structure
 - General Service Representative
 - District Committee Member
 - Area Committee
 - Delegate
 - c. Finance
 - Can G.S.O. be Self-supporting Through Group Contributions Only?
 - What About the Birthday Plan?
 - Could Groups Pledge Contributions?

Group Support to District, Area and Intergroup

- d. Maintaining the Basics—A.A.'s Principles
 - Our Primary Purpose
 - The Twelve Steps
 - The Twelve Traditions
 - The Twelve Concepts—How Can We Live the Concepts in Service?
 - e. Right of Decision
- 1986:
- a. The Committee System
 - Do We Trust It?
 - Does It Eliminate Conflict?
 - b. Responsibility in Service
 - Why Are You a General Service Representative?
 - Why Are You a District Committee Member?
 - Why Are You an Area Officer?
 - Why Are You a Trustee?
 - c. Trusted Servants
 - Do We Trust Them?
 - Ultimate Authority—Are We Listening?
 - Are Trusted Servants Informed?
 - The Importance of Rotation
- 1985: (Presentation and/or workshop for 1985)
- a. Will the Hand of A.A. Always Be There?
 - The Middle Years of Sobriety—A Dangerous Time
 - Are We Diluting Ourselves?
 - Communication Within the Fellowship
 - b. The Warranties
 - c. Beyond the Seventh Tradition—Group Responsibility
 - In the Meeting Place
 - To the Newcomer
 - d. Fifty Years of Caring and Sharing
 - In Treatment Centers
 - In Correctional Facilities
 - With Young People
 - In the Group
 - e. The G.S.R.—The Key Role
 - Obtaining the Most Qualified Member
 - The Service Sponsor

2019 Conference Committee on Agenda

ITEM C: Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2020 General Service Conference.

Background:

1. Suggestions for 2018 Conference workshop topics
2. List of Conference workshop topics recommended by Conference 1985-2019

Suggested Workshop Topic Ideas for the 2020 Conference

The topics in the following list were submitted by the Fellowship as possible workshop topics for the Conference. They came in response to an August 2018 request for workshop topic ideas sent by the Conference Coordinator on behalf of the Agenda Committee.

1. The Conference Agenda and the Sacrificial Spirit
2. A.A. Literature Development and the Sacrificial Spirit
3. Carrying the Message Beyond the Groups and the Sacrificial Spirit
4. Accessibility and Participation and the Sacrificial Spirit
5. GSR training
6. Making A.A. a safe place for the next generation
7. Unity in Districts
8. Connecting groups to the A.A. Service Structure
9. Let us give credit where credit is due. Who got us sober and keeps us sober?
Based on the Twelfth Tradition humility in service
10. Pamphlet study meetings
11. A.A. History study meeting
12. Newcomer packets and new Home Group Member Kits
13. It's All About the Love
14. Passing it on- Hope and Faith
15. Where Does Spirituality Fit in?
16. Our Twelve Traditions -- How to learn, practice, apply and teach the 21 points to ensure our future
17. How to cooperate with the courts, institutions, and other Twelve Step Fellowships, without affiliating
18. Our literature preserves the integrity of the A.A. message. How to utilize A.A. literature within the rooms at meetings
19. How can our fellowship practice humility? "We can't be all things to all people, nor should we try."
20. A.A. and Social Media
21. Singleness of Purpose

22. Humility, and A.A. having no opinion either way on Narcotic addiction, sex addiction, eating disorders, or any other addictions
23. How to help newcomers to qualify using the Big Book and other A.A. Literature
24. How to carry the message of Singleness of purpose into treatment, corrections, and other places that deal with all “substance abuse”
25. Pamphlet study meetings
26. A.A. History meeting
27. Newcomer packets
28. New member kits
29. From recovery house to recovery
30. Promotion through Action: Steps, Sponsorship, and Service
31. Avoiding Controversy- Endorsing Contribution
32. The Art of the Twelfth Step
33. What makes Me an Alcoholic
34. Properly Armed with the Facts about Ourselves, we are Uniquely Qualified
35. How to interest members in service
36. Reaching out
37. Including the newcomer
38. Getting homegroups involved in service
39. How to accept the differences between groups?
40. Are we communicating our message of hope in a good way?
41. Challenges to the Fellowship: Cultural Diversity and Special Needs
42. Finding Ways to close the Gap in Information transfer to GSR and Groups
43. May you Find Him Now- the purpose of our clear-cut decisions
44. The Twelve Steps- It Works, It Really Does
45. Transparency: The Cornerstone of Trust
46. Relevancy of our Long Timers in today's A.A.
47. Trusted Servants- Who are they?
48. General Service- Are We Circumventing the Groups?
49. Empowering and encouraging group members

50. Steps
51. Traditions
52. Concepts
53. "Keys to The Kingdom"
54. Surrender Prayer Meditation
55. Step Three: How do we turn our will and life over to a power greater than myself?
56. Concepts condensed and how they overlap day to day lives
57. How to get homegroups more involved in service
58. Literature Committee Membership
59. Step Eleven Workshop
60. Professionals and A.A.
61. Youth Outreach
62. Money Matters
63. Responsibility and Authority
64. How to include the newcomer
65. Open to change
66. The newcomer
67. Strength in Diversity
68. Grapevine and La Viña in Treatment/Correctional Facilities
69. The Use of Grapevine/La Viña books, e-books, CDs, and other items.
70. Making Grapevine and La Viña Available to A.As. and Non-A.As
71. How do you accept the identification of members of other Fellowships in your meeting?
72. Involvement in group conscience and service
73. Ending a meeting with the Lord's Prayer or the Responsibility Statement
74. How do you identify yourself in meetings?
75. Service Sponsorship
76. Regular Practice
77. A God of Love as we conceive of Him
78. The benefits of involvement
79. How to attract young people to join A.A. Our IP committee has made a tremendous effort in our schools, but we have not attracted them.

**Workshop Topics Recommended by General Service Conference
1985 – 2018**

- 2018: Getting the A.A. Message Out...
- 2017: Anonymity – The Spiritual Foundation
- 2016: G.S.B. Brainstorming Ideas – no Workshop
- 2015: Conference Inventory – no Workshop
- 2014: Conference Inventory – no Workshop
- 2013: Conference Inventory – no Workshop
- 2012: Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare
- 2011: How to Increase Participation in A.A. – Striving for Self-Support in All Our Affairs
- 2010: Discuss the General Service Agenda Selection Process
- 2009: Language of the Heart – Keeping It Simple
- 2008: Love and Tolerance, Now More Than Ever
- 2007: Spiritual Value of Our A.A. Dollars
- 2006: Passing It On in a Changing World
- 2005: Do I Carry the A.A. Message Or My Own?
- 2004: How is Singleness of Purpose Important to the Individual, Group, District, Area, G.S.O. and Grapevine Office?
- 2003: Sponsorship – Remembering to Practice Our Principles
- 2002: Using the Steps, Traditions and Concepts in Our Daily Lives
- 2001: Love and Service
 - a. Carrying the A.A. Message of Service
 - b. Living the A.A. Principles in All Our Affairs
 - c. Maintaining the Spirit of Anonymity
- 2000: Trusting Our Future to A.A. Principles
 - a. Twelve Steps
 - b. Twelve Traditions
 - c. Twelve Concepts
- 1999: Moving Forward: Unity Through Humility
 - a. Harmony in the A.A. Community
 - b. Principle of Rotation
 - c. Spiritual Significance of Anonymity
- 1998: Our Twelfth Step Work
 - a. In the Home Group
 - b. In the Service Structure
 - c. Around the World

- 1997: Spirituality – Our Foundation
 - a. Spirit of Rotation
 - b. Working with Faith, Serving with Love
 - c. Unity – We are Responsible
- 1996: Preserving Our Fellowship – Our Challenge
 - a. Through Your Home Group
 - b. Through Your District
 - c. Through Your Conference Area
- 1995: How We Pass It On:
 - a. Our Basic Message
 - b. Sponsorship in Recovery and Service
 - c. Communication – The Language of A.A.
- 1994: The Twelfth Step in Action:
 - a. Where have we been?
 - b. Where are we now?
 - c. Where are we going?
- 1993: A.A. Takes Its Inventory—The General Service Conference Structure (Focus to be on the other six articles of the Conference Charter)
A Vision for Us—Where Are We and Where Are We Going?
- 1992: The A.A. message in a Changing World
- 1991:
 - a. Sponsorship: Gratitude in Action
 - b. Sponsorship: Our Three Legacies
 - c. Sponsorship: The Hand of A.A.
- 1990:
 - a. Home Group—Where Love and Service Begin
 - b. Home Group—Our Link to the Fellowship
 - c. Home Group—Our Responsibility and Link to A.A.'s Future
- 1989: Anonymity—Our Past, Present and Future
Anonymity—Living Our Traditions
Love and Service
- 1988: Our Singleness of Purpose—Key to Unity
(Per conference: A second workshop be scheduled, if time permits, with the subject to be determined at the trustees' Conference Committee's discretion)
- 1987: Unity—Let's Talk About It
Living Sober—Growing Together or Growing Apart?
- 1986:
 - a. Letting Go of Old Ideas:
New Ways of Carrying the A.A. Message
Are We Getting Too Rigid?
 - b. A.A.'s Impact on the World
Are We Being Friendly With Our Friends?
How A.A. Cooperates
- 1985: (Presentation and/or workshop for 1985)
 - a. Will the Hand of A.A. Always Be There?

The Middle Years of Sobriety—A Dangerous Time
Communication Within the Fellowship

- b. The Warranties
- c. Beyond the Seventh Tradition—Group Responsibility
In the Meeting Place
To the Newcomer
- d. Fifty Years of Caring and Sharing
In Treatment Centers
In Correctional Facilities
With Young People
In the Group
- e. The G.S.R.—The Key Role
Obtaining the Most Qualified Member
The Service Sponsor

2019 Conference Committee on Agenda

ITEM D: Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, process and 2018 Evaluation Summary.

Background notes:

From the report of the 2018 Conference Agenda Committee:

The committee reviewed the 2018 General Service Conference Evaluation and noted that the evaluation is now available for delegates to fill out online.

The committee reviewed the summary of the 2017 General Service Conference evaluations. Noting the low number of respondents, the committee reiterated the obligation that Conference members have to fill out the evaluation.

From the report of the July 2018 trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference:

The committee reviewed the 2018 Conference Evaluation Summary and a summary of the in-house Post-Conference Sharing Session. The committee noted the generally positive tone of the responses. At least one response provided through the new electronic evaluation was not received, and the system will be tested to insure that all evaluations are collected. The committee agreed to review an updated version of the questionnaire at their October meeting.

From the report of the October 2018 trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference:

The committee reviewed the updated 2019 Conference Evaluation Form including the addition of questions related to the dashboard, electronic evaluations and the electronic Conference manual.

Background:

1. 2019 General Service Conference Evaluation Form
2. 2018 General Service Conference Evaluation Summary

May 2019

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE EVALUATION FORM

To: All Conference Members

***Please take the time to share your experience and opinions
by filling out & turning in this Conference Evaluation.***

This Conference Evaluation plays an important role in helping both the trustees' Committee on the Conference and the staff to plan the next annual meeting of the General Service Conference. The 2017 Conference Agenda Committee emphasized strongly that all Conference members have an obligation to fill out the Conference Evaluation Form so that useful decisions for improvement of the Conference can be made. The committees and staff members responsible for the agendas for future Conferences give careful consideration to the comments of all delegates, trustees, directors and staff who turn in a form.

Pre-Conference

Was the advance material and preparation from G.S.O. adequate? () Yes () No

Was the advance material and preparation from G.S.O. timely? () Yes () No

Comments: _____

Dashboard

How valuable did you find the Conference dashboard?

1 – Not valuable 2 – Somewhat valuable 3 – Very valuable

Value: _____

Comments: _____

Please indicate whether you are:

() Delegate () Director () Staff () Trustee

CONFIDENTIAL: 69th General Service Conference Background

Please rate the value of sharing information from the dashboard with members of your area while preparing for the Conference?

1 – Not valuable

2 – Somewhat valuable

3 – Very valuable

Value: _____

Comments: _____

Please indicate whether you are:

() Delegate

() Director

() Staff

() Trustee

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

SUNDAY, MAY 19

Conference Manual

Please rate the value of the Conference Manual in providing you information about the schedule of Conference week's events?

1 – Not valuable 2 – Somewhat valuable 3 – Very valuable

Value: _____

Comments: _____

Please rate the value of having an electronic version of the Conference Manual available for your use?

1 – Not valuable 2 – Somewhat valuable 3 – Very valuable

Value: _____

Comments: _____

Presentations

“The 1969 Project” – History of the World Service Meeting

Please rate the value of discussing this topic in the course of this Conference week:

1 – Not valuable 2 – Somewhat valuable 3 – Very valuable

Value: _____

Comments: _____

Please indicate whether you are:

() Delegate () Director () Staff () Trustee

25th World Service Meeting

Please rate the value of discussing this topic in the course of this Conference week:

1 – Not valuable 2 – Somewhat valuable 3 – Very valuable

Value: _____

Comments: _____

Joint Meeting

Please rate and comment on the joint meeting experience:

1 – Not valuable 2 – Somewhat valuable 3 – Very valuable

Value: _____

Comments: _____

Please indicate whether you are:

() Delegate () Director () Staff () Trustee

MONDAY, MAY 20

Reports

Please rate and comment on the report presentations:

1 – Not valuable

2 – Somewhat valuable

3 – Very valuable

General Service Board Report Presentation

Value: _____

Comments: _____

A.A.W.S. Board Report Presentation

Value: _____

Comments: _____

A.A. Grapevine Board Report Presentation

Value: _____

Comments: _____

Finance Report Presentation

Value: _____

Comments: _____

Please indicate whether you are:

() Delegate

() Director

() Staff

() Trustee

TUESDAY, MAY 21

Workshop

Please rate and comment on the workshop:

1 – Not valuable 2 – Somewhat valuable 3 – Very valuable

“Clarity of Purpose - Addressing the Needs of Our Meetings”

Value: _____

Comments: _____

Please indicate whether you are:

() Delegate () Director () Staff () Trustee

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

Trip to G.S.O.

Please rate and comment on the trip to G.S.O.:

1 – Not valuable

2 – Somewhat valuable

3 – Very valuable

Value:

Comments:

Please indicate whether you are:

() Delegate

() Director

() Staff

() Trustee

THURSDAY, MAY 23

Presentations

1. “Yesterday’s World: Our Legacies Begin”

Please rate the value of discussing this topic in the course of this Conference week:

1 – Not valuable 2 – Somewhat valuable 3 – Very valuable

Value: _____

Comments: _____

2. “Today’s World: Demonstrating Integrity, Anonymity and Service”

Please rate the value of discussing this topic in the course of this Conference week:

1 – Not valuable 2 – Somewhat valuable 3 – Very valuable

Value: _____

Comments: _____

3. “Tomorrow’s World: Courage to be Vigilant”

Please rate the value of discussing this topic in the course of this Conference week:

1 – Not valuable 2 – Somewhat valuable 3 – Very valuable

Value: _____

Comments: _____

Please indicate whether you are:

() Delegate () Director () Staff () Trustee

4. A.A.W.S. Audio/Video Strategic Plan Presentation

Please rate the value of discussing this topic in the course of this Conference week:

1 – Not valuable 2 – Somewhat valuable 3 – Very valuable

Value: _____

Comments: _____

5. "2020 International Convention"

Please rate the value of discussing this topic in the course of this Conference week:

1 – Not valuable 2 – Somewhat valuable 3 – Very valuable

Value: _____

Comments: _____

Please indicate whether you are:

() Delegate () Director () Staff () Trustee

FRIDAY, MAY 24

Presentation

AA Grapevine and La Viña

Please rate the value of discussing this topic in the course of this Conference week:

1 – Not valuable 2 – Somewhat valuable 3 – Very valuable

Value: _____

Comments: _____

Conference Committee Reports

Was there enough time for discussion of Conference committee reports?

Not enough _____ Just right _____ Too much _____

Comments: _____

Presentation/Discussion Sessions

Please rate the overall value of holding presentation/discussion sessions in the course of the Conference week:

1 – Not valuable 2 – Somewhat valuable 3 – Very valuable

Value: _____

Comments: _____

Please indicate whether you are:

() Delegate () Director () Staff () Trustee

Conference Participation

Was the participation of:

	Delegates	Directors	Staff	Trustees
Not enough	_____	_____	_____	_____
Just right	_____	_____	_____	_____
Too much	_____	_____	_____	_____

Comments: _____

Electronic Device Usage

Did you use a laptop or a similar computer device at this year's Conference?

() Yes () No

Comments: _____

Please indicate whether you are:

() Delegate () Director () Staff () Trustee

Conference Evaluation Forms

Please rate the value of the ability to submit your Conference evaluation forms electronically?

1 – Not valuable

2 – Somewhat valuable

3 – Very valuable

Value:

Comments:

Please indicate whether you are:

() Delegate

() Director

() Staff

() Trustee

Suggestions For The 70th General Service Conference

If you have suggestions for improving the Conference (e.g. schedule of Conference activities, meals, hotel accommodations), please list them here:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Please indicate whether you are:

☐ Delegate

☐ Director

☐ Staff

☐ Trustee

EVALUATION SUMMARY 68th GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

PRE-CONFERENCE MATERIALS:

Was the advance material and preparation from G.S.O adequate?

Was the advance material and preparation from G.S.O. timely?

Sixty-three (63) Conference members responded to the questions on this page of the Conference evaluation:

Delegates:	49
Trustees:	6
Staff Members:	4
Directors:	1
No Designation:	3

In response to whether or not the advance material and preparation from G.S.O. was adequate, the following replies were recorded:

Was the advance material and preparation from G.S.O adequate?

Yes:	60
No:	2
No answer:	1

Was the advance material and preparation from G.S.O. timely?

Yes:	55
No:	5
No answer:	3

Overwhelmingly, the majority of respondents answered that the advance material and preparation was both adequate and timely. One member answered “yes” but said, “There was a lot of information that I am sure I missed understanding what I was getting.” Another answered “yes” but said the amount of information was such that “I felt like I was drinking out of a firehouse. Can information be released differently?”

When Conference members were asked to rate the use of the dashboard, their comments were recorded and tallied. Members submitted 64 evaluations. The following is the breakdown:

How valuable did you find the Conference dashboard?

1 (Not valuable):	0
2 (Somewhat valuable):	12
3 (Very valuable):	46
No answer:	4
2.5:	1

“The dashboard was convenient and kept me apprised of updated information,” said one respondent. “Having access to this info was paramount. My area was able to be informed, enthusiastic, and engaged as a result,” said another.

One common complaint pointed not to the inutility of the dashboard, but members’ difficulty with using it. One delegate called it “valuable, [but] unfortunately there are not guidelines on the usefulness or ‘how to use.’”

Still another wrote “The value of the dashboard is high. The organization of the information needs improvement to focus Conference members in on changes as they are posted. Also, focus in on new items as they are posted. Remove 2017 (past Conference) information from current Conference folder. This is confusing to keep on dashboard. Navigation: not user-friendly. Can it be updated with icons?”

There were specific requests or suggestions:

- One trustee noted, “It would be great if the PDF of combined Conference background had a hyperlinked table of contents for the whole document, as well as hyperlinked agendas within each section.” Another trustee commented: “Need to have an email confirming that “help support” desk has been received.”
- “Consider rewording headlines to be more specific, i.e. ‘schedule of events.’”
- “Can there be icons instead of file structure?”
- “Suggest placing the “date posted” next to the file names or on a list.”

Sunday, April 22, 2018

Sixty-two (62) Conference members responded to the questions on this page of the Conference evaluation:

Delegates:	47
Trustees:	6
Staff Members:	4
Directors:	1
No Answer:	4

Presentations

20th Meeting of the Americas

Very Valuable:	48
Somewhat Valuable:	10
Not Valuable:	0
No Answer:	3
Between 2 and 3 (2.75):	1

The majority of Conference attendees found this presentation to be very valuable (as well as “inspirational,” “excellent,” “thrilling,” “très intéressant,” and “entertaining but informative”). A few respondents summed it up: “Gives us a clear picture of how

connected we are to A.A. in Central and South America” and “It was very informative about what it was like in other countries. Kept it entertaining but informative to all of us. Hearing the different ways people have their customs in their country. How we help each other for A.A. to continue.”

“A.A. Around the World”

Very Valuable:	53
Somewhat Valuable:	5
Not Valuable:	0
No Answer:	3
2.75:	1

As with the earlier presentation, Conference attendees were overwhelmingly in agreement regarding the value of the presentation. “I appreciate learning about the role of the international desk [and] G.S.O.s in other countries,” said one respondent. Listeners not only found the presentation interesting and informative, but they also found much information that included “a variety of useful facts and tidbits that will be easy to bring back to the area/districts.”

Joint Meeting

Very Valuable:	47
Somewhat Valuable:	8
Not Valuable:	0
No Answer:	7

Comments tended toward the negative, even though ratings were positive in the “Joint Meeting.” Conference members were forthcoming with suggestions on how to make the sessions more productive: “Session needs to be more interactive. The meeting is too fast. Not very descriptive about the work completed by the trustees. Going over only the trustees report is limited. It might be a good idea for each subcommittee chair to present a report of the work they performed. It would allow for a detailed understanding of the work completed of each subcommittee for more opportunity to ask specific questions about them by trustees.”

Some indicated the value they found in the Joint Meeting: “very helpful in building understanding for committee work.” One member found it helpful to meet with trustees because “It is crucial to moving forward with committee work.” Another said, “I appreciate the opportunity to ask questions and offer feedback to trustees.”

Monday, April 23, 2018

Eighty-Six (86) Conference members responded to the questions on this page of the Conference evaluation:

Delegates:	67
Trustees:	6
Staff Members:	5
Directors:	2
No Answer:	6

"General Service Board Report"

Very Valuable:	66
Somewhat Valuable:	16
Not Valuable:	1
No Answer:	2
2.5:	1

Many respondents conveyed thanks and gratitude for amends made and explanations proffered regarding recent events surrounding the original Big Book manuscript and the litigation involving it. "This was [a] useful and fairly informative report. The apology was especially useful for reporting back to my area." Yet some attendees wanted more information regarding the manuscript and litigation: "Appreciate what you have provided so far. But area still not happy." Some attendees expressed disappointment: "Wasn't able to ask questions that I had" and "it would have been nice to get this information earlier. Delegates were put in a difficult position this year."

"A.A.W.S. Board Report"

Very Valuable:	68
Somewhat Valuable:	13
Not Valuable:	1
No Answer:	2
1.5:	1
2.5:	1

Conference attendees called out specific items that they were particularly pleased or impressed by, such as: "I like the partnership with Grapevine," "Appreciated the Daily Reflections, Navajo, and video presentations. Hope those will be available on dashboard" and, finally, "Great to see the PSAs, especially in ASL!"

Many A.A. members are excited about all the advances being made to carry the message using modern technology. A minority was not as pleased with the value of the report and pointed to a variety of shortcomings such as, "Totally missing any reference to manuscript and culture of A.A.W.S. which I believe needed to be addressed directly and transparently." Another commenter "found this report frustrating... Also, there was not time for Q&A and discussion."

One delegate shared, "Inspiring. I feel we are at an important time and opportunity to improve access to our program of recovery and service."

"A.A. Grapevine Board Report"

Very Valuable:	68
Somewhat Valuable:	13
Not Valuable:	2
No Answer:	2
2.5:	1

Conference members found the report very valuable, many noting that the "presentation offered many new ways and reasons to promote Grapevine." One member noticed that the "Grapevine Board is being proactive about finding solutions to declining subscriptions." Another called it "well done" and said they "loved the creative thinking on both boards." Another also called it well done, and offered thanks for "not giving up with implementing strategies to help fund Grapevine. There is a solution!" Not all members were glad about the "proactive" role Grapevine is taking on to increase subscriptions, though. One Conference member wrote, "AA Grapevine no longer represents A.A. as I know it and so should be discontinued."

"Finance Report"

Very Valuable:	79
Somewhat Valuable:	7
Not Valuable:	0
No Answer:	0

In all, the Finance report was best summed up by one delegate's comment: "Outstanding! Lots of information communicated in a clear, concise, understandable manner." While most agreed that it was very informative, "I do feel that the same financial information is sliced/diced in too many ways . . . The 7/27 challenge should not be 'reported' by finance as it made it appear, even though it is presented as a grass roots effort, as if the challenge comes from G.S.O. It is becoming clear that providing both La Viña and Grapevine as a service supported by 7th Tradition support is an idea to consider." In addition, a few ventured to comment that there was "way too much information" and [it was presented] way too fast to follow."

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Eighty-Two (82) Conference members responded to the questions on this page of the Conference evaluation:

Delegates:	61
Trustees:	6
Staff Members:	4
Directors:	2
No Answer:	9

“Participation in A.A. — Is My Triangle Balanced?”

Very Valuable:	58
Somewhat Valuable:	20
Not Valuable:	0
No Answer:	4

The first presentation was rated as “very valuable.” Conference members called it an “Excellent presentation” and found that “The report was very valuable and provided excellent information that can be shared at the area level.” Of the 19 participants who rated it “somewhat valuable,” some found it to be a “good topic – thought provoking” but “would like sharing from the heart rather than reading a talk.”

“Group Conscience: The Guiding Force”

Very Valuable:	63
Somewhat Valuable:	17
Not Valuable:	0
No Answer:	2

The second presentation was also rated favorably. “Great topic, excellent presentation,” and “very good talk!” “Quotes from Bernard Smith were timely considering what is happening, especially about certainty rather than compromise.”

Others felt that the presentation was “useful for relaxing a bit mentally,” though it did not “spark much interest for sharing.”

Workshop: “Getting the A.A. Message Out...”

Very Valuable:	58
Somewhat Valuable:	17
Not Valuable:	4
No Answer:	2
Other (1.5):	1

Conference attendees were appreciative of the “good takeaways for actionable items” and “further discussion at home.” One attendee “loved being able to share thoughts and ideas with fellow delegates, plus having presence of a trustee and G.S.O./A.A.W.S. staff.” One member shared: “Honestly, I didn’t like it at first, but after we got going, it was a really good experience.”

One attendee who answered the survey ventured a different opinion, calling the workshop very valuable, but was “frankly surprised that written material did not reference role of class A trustees in helping to carry the message — especially to the general public and our friends.”

Other members focused on areas they thought could be presented better: “This was a tough format. People were sharing way over time and weren’t answering the specific questions provided. There were few new nuggets to take back to my area/districts. I think much depends on the willingness of the moderators to keep time during shares. Please encourage them to do this next year. Also, I am sure there is plenty of

redundancy across workshops and would have liked to hear what new ideas came from other workshops. So — either have it be a general sharing session, or perhaps do report-backs to the whole group?”

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Seventy-nine (79) Conference members responded to the questions on this page of the Conference evaluation:

Delegates:	52
Trustees:	7
Staff Members:	4
Directors:	2
No Answer:	14

“A.A. Technology: Where Innovation Meets the Traditions”

Very Valuable:	64
Somewhat Valuable:	12
Not Valuable:	1
No Answer:	1
Other (2.5):	1

One member thought the presentation on “A.A. Technology” was “Helpful in understanding how practical new opportunities for communication may be.” Another commented: “A strong voice for not letting our fear of technology prevent us from using it to reach more alcoholics. It’s o.k. to make mistakes, and we will. We should still go forward. We have a responsibility to use these tools. This talk had several good talking points for me to take to my area to encourage use of tech.” Others agreed: “A topic we can’t talk enough about.” One Conference member focused on carrying the message and shared: “We need to get A.A. information out in more formats, and vision and creativity is needed in implementing newer sources. Are we always going to be behind the information curve?”

“Attraction Not Promotion: A.A.’s Relation to the World”

Very Valuable:	58
Somewhat Valuable:	18
Not Valuable:	0
No Answer:	2
Other (2.5):	1

Many cited this as a great topic and also shared reminders, such as “It’s always important that one alcoholic is talking to another, but we fall short in getting our information out there.” One recalled the words and actions of A.A.’s co-founder and added, “Bill W. would be pushing us to use new communication tools. If our lives are better because of A.A. let’s continue to communicate this, by using our friends, to the world.” Another member noted “Carrying the message encourages me to leave my

comfort zone! Bill and Bob would be encouraging us to use technology as they did with print in their time.”

“Today’s Alcoholic: Inclusion, Not Exclusion”

Very Valuable:	57
Somewhat Valuable:	18
Not Valuable:	1
No Answer:	2
Other (2.5):	1

One Conference member shared: “This topic goes to the heart of our primary purpose.” A delegate shared that the presentation “reminded us to continue to be inclusive. Not only in carrying the message to newcomers but also in mentoring future A.A. leadership. People in service need to reflect the fellowship they serve.” There are many ways to be excluded, noted one respondent, “but we continue to find solutions.”

One member wrote: “This is a tough one to tackle without wading into outside issues [and] also bringing up the most important issues at stake. I think this one erred on the cautious side, so it didn’t end up highlighting any of the most hot-button/thought-provoking items.”

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Seventy-two (72) Conference members responded to the questions on this page of the Conference evaluation:

Delegates:	53
Trustees:	7
Staff Members:	4
Directors:	1
No Answer:	7

“A.A. Archives”

Very Valuable:	61
Somewhat Valuable:	10
Not Valuable:	0
No Answer:	0
Other (2.5):	1

One delegate summed up some important aspects of the presentation: “An excellent presentation that shows the great value of archives and the tremendous care that is taken to preserve our heritage.” Conference members were extremely appreciative of the films of Bill, Bob, Lois and Anne: “Hearing Bill’s voice at the Conference was powerful” and “I was moved today at the presentation and actually cried at hearing Bill’s voice.”

A few expressed regret at not having the original Big Book manuscript after watching the archives presentation: "I only wish we could have added the original manuscript to our collection." Another shared how the "presentation changed my perspective on why we should have pursued the manuscript. Hope to carry this message back to my area."

"A.A. Principles and Fiduciary Responsibility"

Very Valuable:	58
Somewhat Valuable:	6
Not Valuable:	4
No Answer:	4

One respondent wrote that it was "helpful in understanding why we have an obligation to protect what we have created and own." More than one found great use and help in the presentation: "it really helped me appreciate the difficult decisions that have to be made and often without a lot of time to deliberate. Both presentations actually help with that. I wasn't fully aware of the knock-off URL and will take this back to my area to help them understand fiduciary responsibility."

While the majority of those returning an evaluation sheet on this presentation topic found it "very valuable," some others only found it somewhat so, and the issue of the Big Book manuscript and other past issues were once again raised: "still did not tell us the issues re: the manuscript litigation" and "would have preferred Q&A with G.S.B., A.A.W.S. early in the General Service Conference. Felt like setting conditions for future because of past actions and reactions."

Friday, April 27, 2018

Sixty (60) Conference members responded to the questions on this page of the Conference evaluation:

Delegates:	52
Trustees:	4
Staff Members:	2
Directors:	0
No Answer:	2

"AA Grapevine and La Viña"

Very Valuable:	53
Somewhat Valuable:	5
Not Valuable:	1
No Answer:	1

As with many other talks given during Conference week, the majority of Conference members felt that the presentation on the AA Grapevine and La Viña was "very valuable." The words "heartwarming" and "heartfelt" were used (from different members) to describe aspects of the presentation. One member summed up the talk well: "The

tools that are created/developed and in the pipeline showed the General Service Conference members how AA Grapevine is carrying the message. [It was] such a positive, powerful message — inspirational.”

Many others reflected their own renewed excitement at carrying the message via “AA’s Meeting in Print.” “I am getting excited about this and I am excited to share it with my area.” “Learning the story how Grapevine has touched lives is almost as good as reading one of those stories in the magazine or online. Good info that the delegates can share with the wider Fellowship.”

One French speaking Conference member noted: “Our region in Quebec is mostly French-speaking, so Grapevine is not a popular magazine.”

Conference Committee Reports

Conference members were asked if there was enough time for discussion of Conference committee reports. To answer, they used a rating key with three choices:

Not Enough:	19
Just right:	36
Too much:	4
No Answer:	1

Members elaborated in their comments: “We adjusted our sails to make sure that each Conference committee had enough time to give a thorough presentation and allow an adequate discussion of their work” and “Very long session but I felt like everyone was heard and we reached decisions and got answers in a way that reflects all of our love and commitment.” A French-speaking member agreed: “*le temps pour discuter des rapports etait bien.*” (The time used to discuss the reports was sufficient.)

One attendee who felt that too much time was allowed for Conference committee reports shared: “We let things go into the weeds too much sometimes.”

Another who felt there was not enough time wrote: “Could have done a few less presentations (though they were good!).”

One member, however, loved the idea to “cut discussion time from 2” to 1” — it helped a lot!”

“Presentation/Discussion Sessions”

What is the overall value of holding presentation/discussion sessions in the course of the Conference week?

Very Valuable:	32
Somewhat Valuable:	24
Not Valuable:	2
No Answer:	2

Most members found the Presentation/Discussion sessions very valuable:

“Presentations and discussion are very valuable and also offer a bit of break from debating and thinking. They provide valuable information.” One member related how he (or she) changed his mind about reducing time spent: “Came in thinking we could shorten business without these sessions, however, they are incredibly important part of the General Service Conference. With the present amount of time, we can have long or more intense focus, and I think this is a good balance.”

Another Conference attendee also found the sessions very valuable: “Good discussions — even with 'lawsuit' drama and undercurrents. Most discussions and presentations were excellent.” Some found the sessions “somewhat valuable” and cautioned “if it keeps us from getting business done, we need to shorten them.”

Conference Participation

The Conference members were also asked to rate whether or not the participation of delegates, directors, staff and trustees was enough, just right, or too much.

Conference Participation				
	Not Enough	Just Right	Too Much	No Answer
Delegate	7	47	2	4
Directors	2	55	2	1
Staff	5	47	3	5
Trustees	7	46	2	5

The chart above shows that most members, during the Conference process, mark participation as “just right” whether the participant is delegate, director, trustee, or G.S.O. staff: “Participation by all Conference members was in the right proportion.” Some Conference members provided more detail in the comment section: “Delegates seem to express the same thing over and over — especially during the longest discussions. Wish to hear more of a diverse opinion and hardly heard from directors, Class A trustees, or emeriti.”

One Conference member had a thoughtful recommendation: “We need to make sure we keep delegates well-informed during the one year between Conferences.” Another simply expressed the majority opinion: “Great balance. Appreciated all the hard work of the staff . . . Would have preferred a round table with trustees or a town hall style like a regional forum.”

Laptop Usage

Did you use a laptop or similar computer device at this year’s Conference?

Yes:	30
No:	25
No Answer:	5

The majority of attendees used a computer, laptop, or similar device. Others did not and explained that they wanted to focus on the business at hand without the distractions of possible electronic complications or glitches.

“Conference Week”

Conference Members were asked to help evaluate and rate elements of the 68th General Service Conference:

Conference Week Events	Not Valuable	Somewhat Valuable	Very Valuable	No Answer/Not Applicable
Sunday Orientation	0	8	49	3
Board Reports	0	12	44	4
Committee Reports	2	3	53	2
Sharing Sessions	3	10	39	8
Joint Meeting	0	9	44	7
Reports on Area Service Highlights	4	7	39	10
Presentations/Discussions	0	13	41	6

Suggestions for the 69th General Service Conference

Fifty-Nine (59) Conference members responded to the questions on this page of the Conference evaluation:

Delegates:	51
Trustees:	4
Staff Members:	2
No Answer:	2

A summary of suggestions, submitted by Conference members for improving the Conference:

1. Having fridges available in Conference members' rooms for a lower cost or no cost (per request) would be a great idea.
2. Provide opportunity to visit Stepping Stones at the beginning or end of week.

3. Offer an A.A. meeting in the evening after Conference is over on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.
4. Coffee was only available at breaks and would be appreciated at the beginning of the day and as needed.
5. A quiet room when in New York City.
6. In NYC, there is no place to gather in the lobby or sit. Can one be provided?
7. Snacks at breaks.
8. Sunday's room set up with round tables was too crowded.
9. The General Manager's explanation of how the Conference operates was difficult to follow because some things he said were not in the document.
10. Make sure there are enough chairs on stage to accommodate delegates doing highlights, timekeeper, board chairperson, and regional trustee.
11. Is it necessary to spend so much money to feed all those people on Sunday night? Why are there reserve tables? Why are trustees and emeritus at front?
12. Michele asked us to comment on breaks. Although we are all capable of leaving the room for bio breaks, occasional breaks are necessary. We need only a few minutes to stretch our legs and give our minds a chance to relax.
13. When presenting change to something like trustee voting election procedure, first inform delegates of current procedure, in writing, if possible.
14. Meals were not so good. Can they be improved?
15. I don't think the workshops are needed. This would give more time to work on the agenda items.
16. Please put trash cans in the hall and two in the bathroom.
17. Can we move out of Rye and perhaps meet somewhere else?
18. Extend the 7:30 a.m. Serenity Group A.A. meeting to seven days rather than just five. I realize this activity is outside the official Conference, but it would be nice to have the option available.
19. Give name badges to staff members, too, so we can tell who is working to support the Conference.
20. Reduce the number of Presentation/Discussion sessions to allow more general sharing, committee reports, etc.
21. Hotel housekeeping was poor for such a high-end hotel. No laundry bag delivered. Dirty standing water in tub.
22. Cost of Manhattan Conference is objectionable and an issue not addressed totally for years. Our area can and does meet without the need of a luxury hotel with meals that likely cost a fortune.
23. Thank you for providing healthier meal options for all — not just special request meals, but also on the general menu.
24. Let's get out of these luxurious and extravagant hotels and use corporate retreat centers instead.
25. Shorten lunch and dinner breaks to increase time for Conference sessions.
26. Thank you for excellent lunches and dinners—also please keep the trip up to G.S.O. optional.
27. A visual flowchart up at the podium to help people navigate the voting procedures.
28. Fewer sharing sessions.
29. More input from Grapevine/La Viña.
30. Directors listen, not push party lines.

31. Staff should dress appropriately – ties, etc.
32. More general sharing sessions.
33. Post Conference committee report.
34. Plan more area highlights during Monday and Tuesday or something to ensure all Conference members (like staff) can participate in G.S.B., A.A.W.S. and A.A.G.V. reporting instead of having to miss it due to working on report.
35. Stop wasting time on workshops.
36. Find more time for “what’s on your mind” sessions.
37. Can the committee reports be drafted in French at the beginning of the discussions and at the vote? As well as the suggestions of the committees? For the French-speakers who are not bilingual, it is otherwise impossible to follow the discussions.
38. Food is too rich — provide more hamburgers and chicken tenders
39. I was quite troubled to learn that the Accessibilities Committee didn’t abide by the instructions to elect the 2019 committee chair by plurality. Disappointing.
40. Have hand sanitizer available in the Conference room and in the foyer. It seems lots of people caught colds, or had them.
41. Please schedule Trustee-at-Large and International staff member on another day and time and give that presentation a full hour.

2019 Conference Committee on Agenda

ITEM E: Discuss report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference.

Background notes:

From the report of the 2018 Conference Agenda Committee:

The committee reviewed the report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, which included the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference 2016 Report on the Agenda Item Selection Process.

The committee noted that progress has been made on implementing the plan in the 2016 report. However, the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference forwarded a request to the General Service Board to continue to consider enhanced participation of area delegates in the process for selection of agenda items, and no action on this item was reported by the board.

The committee noted the 2016 report suggested that:

Before the January board weekend, the entire Conference committee could have a conference call with the corresponding trustees' committee chair and staff secretary to review items submitted as agenda items and to talk about items still being considered by the trustees' committee. This way, Conference committee members would get a verbal report on the disposition of items submitted to the trustees' committee, and could share regarding those items. This would allow all Conference committee members to offer feedback on proposed agenda items. Their feedback could be brought to the trustees' committee meeting as background for the discussion.

The committee noted that this has not happened and requested that the trustees' committee chairs implement this conference call portion of the plan starting in January 2019.

After reviewing the results of the survey of Conference committee chairs about the implementation of the 2016 plan, the committee requested that this sharing be gathered from the Conference committee chairs annually and provided to the Conference Committee on Agenda.

From the report of the July 2018 trustees' Committee on the GSC meeting:

The committee reviewed a request from the 2018 Conference Agenda Committee that trustees' committee chairs implement this conference call. The committee requested that the staff secretary send a notice to the chair of the General Service Board asking that this be implemented, that each trustees' committee chair and staff secretary have a call with the members of the corresponding Conference committee prior to the January Board meeting.

From the background notes of the January 2019 trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference:

On August 1, 2018 the chair of the General Service Board agreed to the request to implement that each trustees' committee chair and staff secretary have a call with the members of the corresponding Conference committee prior to the January Board meeting.

The calls were held and each secretary captured and provided the sharing as background for the trustees to use during the January trustees' committee meeting discussions on proposed agenda items.

Background:

1. Report on the Implementation and Effectiveness of the Conference Agenda Process including sharing from the 2019 Conference committee chairs
2. Suggestions for January conference call with members of Conference committees

**Report on the Implementation and Effectiveness
of the Conference Agenda Process
Including Sharing from the 2019 Conference committee chairs**

The 2016 Conference recommended that “The General Service Board develop a new policy and a plan that enhances the General Service Conference agenda review and selection process, providing the area delegate members of the Conference a role in the vetting and selection of proposed agenda items through the Conference process, to be brought to the 2017 General Service Conference.”

During the 2017 General Service Conference the Conference Agenda Committee discussed a report from the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference on the Conference Agenda Process. Committee members expressed appreciation for the additional communication and larger role for area delegate members of the Conference in the selection of Agenda Items. The committee requested that information on the implementation and effectiveness of the plan be gathered from the 2018 Conference committee chairs and included in a report for the 2018 Conference Agenda Committee.

During the 2018 General Service Conference the Conference Agenda Committee reviewed the report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference, which included the Trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference 2016 Report on the Agenda Item Selection Process.

The committee noted that progress has been made on implementing the plan in the 2016 report. However, the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference forwarded a request to the General Service Board to continue to consider enhanced participation of area delegates in the process for selection of agenda items, and no action on this item was reported by the board.

The committee noted the 2016 report suggested that:

Before the January board weekend, the entire Conference committee could have a conference call with the corresponding trustees’ committee chair and staff secretary to review items submitted as agenda items and to talk about items still being considered by the trustees’ committee. This way, Conference committee members would get a verbal report on the disposition of items submitted to the trustees’ committee, and could share regarding those items. This would allow all Conference committee members to offer feedback on proposed Agenda items. Their feedback could be brought to the trustees’ committee meeting as background for the discussion.

The committee realized that this has not happened and requested that the trustees’ committee chairs implement this conference call portion of the plan starting in January 2019.

The Trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference requested that the staff

secretary send a notice to the chair of the General Service Board asking that this be implemented. The Board agreed and a process was developed to implement the conference calls for 2019. The sharing will be captured by committee secretaries and provided to the appropriate trustees' Committees or Boards for their discussion of Proposed Agenda items during the January meetings.

In addition, after reviewing the results of a survey of Conference committee chairs about the implementation of the 2016 plan, the Conference Agenda committee requested that this sharing be gathered from the Conference committee chairs annually and provided to the Conference Committee on Agenda.

The report contains an attachment titled: "Suggestions for January Conference Call with Members of Conference Committees." In addition, this report includes the sharing gathered from the 2019 Conference committee chairs through a questionnaire.

QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

In early January 2019, the following anonymous questionnaire was provided to the 13 Conference committee chairs and the delegate Conference chair. Nine people out of 14 responded to the questionnaire.

Below are the questions and responses.

1. Did the chair of your corresponding trustees' committee/board contact you prior to their meetings?

YES – 6 responded yes, and 5 offered these comments:

- Sometimes
- Also, the co-chair of my committee participated
- I was contacted via email by the trustee to set up or conference call with myself and the trustee. Excellent communication efforts.
- I have had spoken with Nancy McCarthy on several occasions. She is awesome.
- Nancy McCarthy was a great communicator.

NO – 3 responded no, and 1 offered this comment:

- Not for the 68th GSC and communication has started for the 69th GSC by the Secretary of the committee

2. Did the chair of your corresponding trustees' committee/board follow up with you after their meetings?

YES – 7 responded yes, and 4 offered these comments:

- The chair of the Trustees' committee provided me with minutes of the Trustees' committee meeting and followed-up with a phone call.
- Also, the co-chair of my committee participated
- Nancy and I spoke within a few days of the trustees' committee meeting.

- Nancy called within a couple of days following the July and October Board meetings

NO – 2 responded no, and 1 offered these comments:

- I have not had any communication from the Trustee Chair. It has been from the Secretary.

3. Were you able to share about potential Conference agenda items with the chair during these conversations?

YES – 6 responded yes, and 3 offered these comments:

- On one occasion, the chair of the Trustees' committee asked for feedback from members of the conference committee on a particular item being discussed. I felt this was an excellent way for the Trustees' committee to utilize the experience of the Conference committee; and it made the Conference committee members feel valued.
- I asked for feedback from the local committees. This information was shared with Nancy.
- I sent Nancy a document with local experience on the Treatment and Accessibilities kits. Nancy welcomed the document.

NO – 3 responded no, and 1 offered these comments:

- I hope I will be able to during our conference call that is coming up in a couple weeks and I hope to have conversation with the Trustee at the January Board weekend

4. How valuable did you find these conversations?

VERY VALUABLE – 4 responded “very valuable,” and 1 offered these comments:

- I really appreciated talking with Nancy. Nancy was very encouraging.

SOMEWHAT VALUABLE – 2 responded “somewhat valuable.” No comments.

NOT VALUBALE – 2 responded “not valuable” and 1 offered these comments:

- I am hoping that this will turn to very valuable once I have conversation with the Trustee.

5. Did you communicate about your calls with the corresponding chair with the other members of your committee?

YES – 6 responded yes, and 6 offered these comments:

- I emailed a copy of the minutes of the Trustees' committee meeting and a summary of my discussion with the chair of the Trustees' committee with all members of the Conference committee.
- I sent a report about our conversation by email
- I have started communication with my fellow committee members.

- I will when the minutes come out. I was asked to wait until then.
- I sent out follow up emails about our conversations.
- I shared the local experience document with the panel 69 delegates.

NO – 2 responded no, and 2 offered these comments:

- Not that many agenda items had come in and it didn't seem like there was much to report. In retrospect, I still should have contacted them at least to touch base.
- You don't know the protocol so you don't know what would be or could be communicated.

1 skipped the question.

6. Overall, how satisfied are you with this process for providing input into the Conference Agenda process?

9 out of 14 respondents replied, and offered these comments:

- It seems okay. I want to say that it could be better, but I don't have any constructive ideas on that at this time.
- I am very satisfied with how this process worked for the Conference committee I chaired and our corresponding Trustees' committee. HOWEVER, I have the honor of serving on two committees, and there has been NO communication between the chair and the committee members on the other Conference committee I serve on.
- Well, there was very little submitted in the way of suggestions so it made it very difficult to choose our 2019 Topics and Theme. Very difficult. There was no other business to conduct though there was a lot of reading of minutes and approving these minutes. Everyone seemed versed on all aspects of the committee but the newest committee members might have benefited by a short indoctrination. No one wants to seem ignorant.
- We haven't been through the whole process yet. We could also use some guidelines on how to gather and share potential Conference agenda items with the Trustees' committee.
- Very Satisfied
- Not satisfied at this time because there has not been any communication
- I think the process still needs a bit of work. Hopefully the items submitted to each committee would be able to have the input from the delegate chair 'by item'.
- Very
- I think it is a huge step in the right direction.

7. What suggestions for improvement to this process do you have?

8 out of 14 respondents replied, and offered these comments:

- Nothing yet, but perhaps later I may.

- I would love to see simple written suggestions for chairing a Conference committee which include the role of the chair between Conferences.
- The Conference evaluation is not an effective way to get input on the Conference. You must know this. We thought the digital application might up the responses and it might have added a few more to the mix but it was a fail for being to "dense" and I am wondering if we are wanting input from too many areas. I am also wondering if one committee should be reading these because though there are few, more eyes on them might be beneficial.
- Continue working at communication between trustees and committee members so delegates feel involved in the agenda selection process.
- Addressing each submitted item (briefly) with both the delegate chair and the alternate delegate chair as to the value of including each SUBMITTED item into the conference agenda final items for the fellowship to address through the conference process and thus ending with the informed group conscience. An important key is the SUBMITTED item, not just items already filtered through the trustee's committees.
- None
- Nothing I can share in this survey. I will talk to someone at Board weekend.
- I have a suggestion that I will discuss with someone during Board weekend. I have made an appointment.

1 skipped the question.

**Suggestions for January Conference Call with
Members of Conference Committees**

Here are suggestions for trustees' Committee Chairs and Conference Committee secretaries regarding inviting members of the Conference Committee to and facilitating the Board-requested January conference call to obtain feedback on proposed Agenda items.

Also included is a template for documenting sharing from members of the Conference committees that will be brought to the January trustees' committee meeting as background for the discussion on each item.

Conference Committee Chair and Member Welcome Letters: The "welcome letter" templates have been updated to include a section informing each Conference Committee member about the January Conference Call. Committee secretaries agreed to copy the trustees' Committee chair or chair of a board on the welcome letter distributed to the Conference committee chair.

Invitation to the Call: Committee secretaries will share the following information about the purpose for the conference call in the invitation to the participants.

To give area delegates a further voice in the Agenda item selection process, the General Service Board has agreed on the following action. Before the January board weekend, the trustees' committee chair and staff secretary will arrange a conference call with the Conference committee to review items submitted as Agenda items and to talk about items still being considered by the trustees' committee. This way, Conference committee members would get a verbal report on the disposition of items submitted to the trustees' committee, and could share regarding those items. This will allow all Conference committee members to offer feedback on proposed Agenda items related to their committee. On the call, we will go through a list of proposed Agenda Items. Some of these have already been forwarded to the Conference committee, some the trustees' committee agreed not to forward to the Conference committee, and some are still under consideration.

The trustees' committee is interested in the thoughts of the Conference committee members as to whether these proposed *Agenda Items not forwarded* or *still under consideration* should be forwarded to the Conference committee.

In keeping with the Concept III, the final responsibility for selection of Conference Agenda Items appropriately lies with the trustees of the General Service Board. The Conference Committee's feedback will be brought to the trustees' committee meeting as background for the discussion on each item.

The conference calls should be set up to take place no later than Tuesday, January 22, 2019. Committee chairs and secretaries will want to decide on the length of the call based on the number of agenda items that will be reviewed.

Preparation for the Call: The Conference Coordinator will provide each Conference Committee secretary a reporting of the Preliminary or Proposed Agenda items pertinent to the Conference committee.

Conference Call Talking Points: The trustees' Committee Chair can explain to the participants that the purpose of this call is to share whether an agenda item should move forward to the Conference Committee or not. Members are not gathered to vote on or debate the merits of each agenda item.

Specifically request the trustees' Committee chair to verbally review the following:

- Agenda items forwarded to the Conference committee
- Proposed Agenda items that the trustees' Committee took no action
- Proposed Agenda items on the January trustees' Committee agenda

Document and Share Feedback with Trustees' Committee: Each secretary should capture the sharing on each item to be brought to the January trustees' committee meeting as background. Sharing should be documented but, not attributed to any person.

Under the trustees' Committee Agenda section "Chair Remarks" for January, request the trustees' Committee Chair inform the committee that the sharing from the recent Conference call is being distributed to support the discussion of each Proposed Agenda item.

- **Action** – Provide copies of the sharing notes from the conference call to each trustees' Committee member and the Conference Committee Delegate Chair who is participating in the meeting.

Note: A copy does not need to be provided to all the visiting observers.

Sharing Notes Template:

**Sharing from Members of the 2019 Conference Committee on _____
Regarding Proposed Agenda Items
Conference Call
January XX, 2019**

Attendees:

Proposed Agenda Item 1

- Thought Number 1
- Thought Number 2

Proposed Agenda Item 2

- Thought Number 1
- Thought Number 2