

2020 General Service Conference

Agenda Topic Summaries

CNCA Area 06

Pre-Conference Assembly
April 4-5, 2020
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
San Jose, CA

Disclosures:

The materials in this document are only summaries of the background. Information presented in the summaries is carefully distilled or extracted to be concise and provide enough information so that all districts and members in CNCA can fully participate. For more information on any particular item(s), please contact your DCM or DCMC to obtain full background information. Please do not consider the summaries opinions of the CNCA officers. Only the section on “What the Delegate needs to know” is personally from our Delegate.

This includes background for the 70th General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential AA document; Distribution is limited to AA members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Websites (including social media pages) available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members.

A Message from the Delegate: How to Use These Summaries

This document contains the **Agenda Topics Summaries** of the background information for all of the items to be considered by the thirteen conference committees of the 70th General Service Conference. The topics will be discussed by each committee, which *may* or *may not* send them to the whole Conference for consideration. Please note that *not all topics* will be presented to the Conference, or even resolved in committee.

The **purpose** of these summaries is so that they may be used as a tool by General Service Representatives (GSRs) to provide their group with pertinent information to facilitate an informed group conscience and then to convey that group conscience to the Delegate. In many cases, the summaries serve as an appetizer for the main course and those GSRs and groups with an appetite should request the accompanying background via their District Committee Member Chair (DCMC). Please remember to **treat the background as A.A. Confidential**, i.e. do not share it in any public forum or with non A.A. members.

These summaries may also be used by other members of our fellowship to communicate good information about the Agenda Topics and, where appropriate, to convey opinions to the Delegate.

Many of the Agenda Topics are for that particular committee (such as reviewing a progress report in the development of a piece of literature) and do not require a group conscience. Other topics appear every year, such as reviewing workbooks and kits used by Public Information, Corrections, etc. If your group is interested in these, ask your local committee to share their experience or request copies from your literature chair. Please pay special attention in these summaries to the section: **What the Delegate needs to know**, at the end of each topic.

On the next page of this document you will find the **Theme, and the Presentation/Discussion and Workshop Topics** for the 70th General Service Conference. While we don't hear "group consciences" on these, please consider using them for discussions in your groups and districts. We will also have some time for sharing on the Conference Theme at the Pre-Conference Assembly.

Your delegate this year serves on the **Treatment and Accessibilities Committee** and also the **International Conventions and Regional Forums Committee**. Please bear in mind that they will have the opportunity to discuss the agenda topics for those committees in depth during their committee meetings.

Remember, ***trust the process***—and enjoy it too!

In love and service,
Teddy B.W., Panel 69 Delegate

Conference Theme, Presentation and Workshop Topics

The theme of the 70th General Service Conference is:

“2020: A Clear Vision for You”

The Presentation/Discussion topics will include:

- a. Recovery – Who Is Missing in Our Rooms?
- b. Unity – Practicing Our Principles
- c. Service – Keeping A.A. Relevant

The Workshop Topic will be:

Attraction Through Action

These are wonderful AA topics that can be talked about and discussed throughout the Fellowship, in assemblies, districts, intergroups/central office gatherings, and in groups.

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review suggestions for the theme of the 2021 General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The theme of the conference and the presentation topics revolve around the basic principles of AA; these suggestions can provoke a stimulating discussion at Area and District meetings as well. Regions, areas and districts often incorporate the theme of the Conference in discussions, giving members of AA an opportunity to participate and be more informed about AA. The background includes a list of 64 suggestions for the theme of next year's Conference. The background also has a list with the themes of every Conference between 1951 and 2020.
What does the Delegate need to know?	From this list of suggestions, which theme or themes for the 2021 General Service Conference would your group like to see as the theme next year? Why?

Conference Committee: **Agenda— Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2021 General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The 77 presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2021 General Service Conference are listed in the background material. In the background, one can also find a list with the presentations and discussion topics of every Conference between 1985 and 2020.
What does the Delegate need to know?	From this list of suggestions, which presentations and discussion topics for the 2021 General Service Conference would your group like to see as presentations and discussion topics next year? Why?

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review workshop topic ideas for the 2021 General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The 101 workshop topic ideas for the 2021 General Service Conference are listed in the background material. In the background, one can also find a list with the workshop topics of every Conference between 1985 and 2020.
What does the Delegate need to know?	From this list of suggestions, which workshop topics for the 2020 General Service Conference would your group like to see as the workshop topics next year? Why?

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, process and 2019 Evaluation Summary.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2019, this committee reviewed the 2018 General Service Conference evaluations and noted that improvements were implemented from previous years' suggestions. The background includes a copy of this year's evaluation form. A summary of results from the 2019 evaluation form is also in the background and is generally positive about the 2019 Conference – though there were concerns about the translations (particularly the Spanish translation) being late.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Review the 2019 January conference call participant survey results.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	A conference call in January 2019 – which included sharing from Conference committee members, the chair of a corresponding Trustee's committee, and a staff secretary – gave Conference members an opportunity to review items on the agenda and discuss items still being considered by trustees. This conference call was then evaluated by the call participants. The evaluation form, results of the survey, and comments from the survey,

	are all included in the background. There are also suggestions for the call in the future.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Discuss report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Since 2016, efforts have been made to enhance the General Service Conference agenda review and selection process, giving delegates a role in the vetting and selection of proposed agenda items. By 2019, a conference call (including members of a Conference committee, the corresponding trustee's committee chair, and a staff secretary) was implemented. That phone call occurred again in 2020 (with improvements from suggestions from the previous year), and another questionnaire was sent out; answers from that questionnaire are summarized in the background and are positive about the process – one comment is that the process, “for right now, it's perfect as is,” though another comment suggests creating a workbook for Conference committee chairs to help them understand their roles as chairs.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Agenda — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Discuss the General Service Conference schedule.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The background includes scheduling ideas for the General Service Conference – focused on the question “What can we stop doing during Conference week?” Suggested options include discussing the status of agenda items from previous Conference actions prior to the January board meeting, finding a way for Delegates who are not on a specific committee to be able to offer input to the committee prior to the committee meeting, and starting earlier in the morning. Sharing on the question about what can be eliminated during the Conference week is summarized in the background. Possible items to eliminate include the keynote speaker and Area Highlights; the report also suggests reducing the time spent on Sharing Sessions and streamlining the elections process.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to discontinue the pamphlet “A.A. in Your Community.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The pamphlet is online: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-31_AAinyourcommunity.pdf The request to discontinue and retire the pamphlet came from the Sobriety Society group in Knoxville, TN because their group feels that the pamphlet is poorly constructed and there are two flyers that contain similar information in a more concise and cost-effective way: “Information on Alcoholics Anonymous” (F-2) and “A.A. at a Glance” (F-1). Details of the submitter's comments and recommendations are in the background. In 1979, the Conference P.I. Committee recommended retiring the pamphlet because they had since developed other literature for their intended audience and felt it was too much like “A.A. at a Glance” and “A Brief Guide to A.A.” (P-42). But in 1981, the Conference C.P.C. Committee recommended reinstating the pamphlet. The reasoning behind the request to reinstate was that it was useful to C.P.C. work, and none of the other similar

	pieces of literature make the statement by their title that A.A. is a community resource, or include content explaining how the Fellowship works within the community to help alcoholics.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee feel that the pamphlet “A.A. in Your Community” should be discontinued? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to create a pamphlet for mental health professionals.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This request came from the C.P.C. Committee in Area 11, Connecticut, who received a vote of confidence at an Area assembly to put it forward. They noted that in our existing literature, medical professionals are addressed but nothing speaks directly and specifically to the mental health professional. The group feels if a specific pamphlet existed it might increase the chances of mental health professionals reading it and being better able to help a person with a desire to stop drinking. Ideas suggested for possible content in such a pamphlet included: A.A. is not the same as psychotherapy; A.A. is spiritual, not religious; prescribed medications do not interfere with the principles of A.A.; there is no cost and no affiliation with other entities; information about the website and smartphone app; suggestions to attend an open meeting and be in contact with the local C.P.C. committee. More detail is in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee feel there is a need for a new pamphlet directed at mental health professionals? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Discuss progress report on LinkedIn page implementation.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The LinkedIn page was launched on November 19, 2019 in English, French and Spanish. The overall goal of the LinkedIn page is to share information on A.A. with professionals and refer professionals to aa.org. You can find the page here: www.linkedin.com/company/aa-world-services-inc/ The progress report in the background has charts with data from Nov. 2019-Jan. 2020 on page visits, how many clicked through to aa.org, and impressions of the one post so far (featuring information about A.A. exhibits at national professional events). As of the date of the report, the page had 254 followers. While not currently being done, ideas for possible content on the page include posting a version of the announcements from Box 459 when there are vacancies for non-alcoholic (Class A) trustees on the board, or bios of current or past nonalcoholic trustees. Also being considered are posts with an image and a link to specific A.A. digital resources, such as the <i>About A.A.</i> newsletter for professionals, the information for professionals page, Grapevine and La Viña, and the YouTube channels.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee have any feedback on the progress report or ideas on how the LinkedIn page could be better utilized?

Conference Committee: **Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review contents of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Kits and Workbooks are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference (GSC). Between Conferences, ideas for changes to a Workbook or to the contents of a Kit may be reviewed by the appropriate trustees' Committee and implemented. Alternatively, the trustees' Committee may choose to

	forward an idea to the Conference Committee for review. Members of the Conference Committee then have an opportunity to review proposed changes to a Workbook or Kit during the next GSC. The C.P.C. Committee Workbook is contained in the Kit and can also be ordered separately. The content list of the Kit is available online and includes links to digital versions of many items, including the Workbook: www.aa.org/cpckit The background this year included some suggestions for the P.I. Workbook that may also have relevance to the C.P.C. Workbook, including a comprehensive review/revision as it “has failed to keep pace with how work is being done using the internet,” and to seek wider experience from the Fellowship and local committees.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly; if your group or committee has suggestions, please share them with the Delegate or Alternate Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Corrections — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review Corrections Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Every year, the Corrections committee at the Conference reviews the Corrections Kit and Workbook. Outdated information may be updated or removed by GSO staff members, who report those changes to the trustees. The Kit and Workbook are available online at www.aa.org/pages/en_US/corrections-committees .
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly; if your group has suggestions regarding materials that should be added or deleted, please share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Finance — Items A1 and A2**

Agenda Topic	Review the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix:” Consider a request to revise the pie chart percentages on page 12. Consider a request regarding contribution percentages to service entities.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Two pie charts are currently provided on pages 12 and 13 that list suggested percentage breakdown for group contributions between the various service entities. A chart is provided with no percentages, this is intended for the group to use to create their own breakdown. Two other charts provide suggest breakdowns as examples. Two Areas have requested changes to these charts. Area 66 (West Texas) would like the percentages to be adjusted to show a larger contribution to the Area then to General Service in New York. Area 61 (Rhode Island) has asked that the sample charts be eliminated leaving only the top pie chart with no suggested percentages. Both areas understand that the pie charts are meant to be examples only however they believe that they are taken literally by many groups.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel it is necessary to show sample percentages in this pamphlet? Why, or why not? What suggestions does your group have on the breakdowns?

Conference Committee: **Finance — Item A3**

Agenda Topic	Review the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix:” Consider draft language related to the “virtual basket.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	At the conference last year, the Finance Committee in reviewing the Self Support package asked that language be added to a number of pamphlets regarding passing the “virtual basket”. The publishing department has provided language for the committee considerations for “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” The proposed change is to add a question regarding the passing of a virtual basket, then to provide

	guidance based on the experience of various groups. This question and answer format is consistent with the layout of this pamphlet.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel adding language on the passing the “virtual basket” is needed? Why, or why not? Does your group have any suggestions on the wording?

Conference Committee: **Finance— Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review Self-Support Packet.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The self-support packet is reviewed annually by the Finance Committee. It consists of a number of pamphlets, the self-support card, A.A. guidelines on Finance and the Birthday Envelope.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly; if your group has suggestions regarding materials that should be added or deleted, please share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Consider the list of suggested AA Grapevine book topics for 2021 or later.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	At every Conference, the Grapevine Committee reviews a list of proposed book topics. Here are some of the ones mentioned in the background information (for both Grapevine and La Viña): 1. Step Three: Turning it Over (working title) - Previously published stories from the pages of Grapevine by A.A. members about their various experience with Step 3; 2. Character Defects: Steps 6 & 7 (working title) - Previously published stories by A.A. members about their experiences with Steps 6 and 7, from the pages of the Grapevine; 3. A.A. and Families in Recovery (working title) (La Viña Book) - Spanish-speaking A.A. members share experiences about how drinking affects the whole family and how A.A. helps repair them, from the pages of La Viña; 4. Old-Timers’ Stories (working title) (La Viña Book) - Long-time Spanish-speaking A.A. members share their experience, strength, and hope, from the pages of La Viña; and, 5. Twelve Steps (working title) (La Viña Book) - Spanish-Speaking A.A. members share stories of experience with A.A.’s Twelve Steps, from the pages of La Viña.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What do the members of your group think about these topics for Grapevine/La Viña books? Are they necessary? Why, or why not? Are there other topics they would like to see addressed?

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on AA Grapevine Workbook revisions.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Grapevine Workbook is available via aagrapevine.org and is used primarily by Grapevine Representatives and Committees. This is an annually standing agenda item for the Grapevine committee.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report on actions taken from the findings of the AA Grapevine Fellowship Feedback Survey.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In the Fall of 2018, a survey was conducted by the Grapevine to measure attitudes toward the magazine, in order to identify opportunities to improve perceptions and relevance as personal recovery tools to the fellowship. This survey was distributed online and was completed by 4,568 members of the fellowship – both subscribers and non-subscribers.

	The opportunities identified included: 1. An opportunity to improve perceptions and relevance of Grapevine/La Viña as important personal recovery tools; 2. Confusion surrounding funding of Grapevine and La Viña; 3. Current content being geared toward younger members of the fellowship, as well as members with long-term sobriety; 4. A desire for a simpler subscription model; 5. A better digital experience; and, 6 Improve La Viña engagement.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Items D and E**

Agenda Topic D	Consider revising the A.A. Preamble to use gender neutral pronouns. For example, "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other..."
Agenda Topic E	Consider a request to change the language of the first sentence of the A.A. Preamble as follows: "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share..."
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2018 and 2019, the Grapevine received six requests to revise the A.A. Preamble, in order to make the language gender-neutral. The requests have come from a group in Silver Springs, MD, two separate groups in Brooklyn, NY, another group in Manhattan, Area 13 (Greater Washington DC), and Area 27 (Louisiana). Many of the sources of this topic cited their interest in aligning A.A. with the increasing diversity of gender expression within the fellowship. They state that, as it stands, the Preamble is not all-inclusive and could be modified to be more inclusive of the LGBTQ+ community.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that the A.A. Preamble should be gender-neutral? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to develop an AA Grapevine pamphlet on how the AA Grapevine can be utilized to carry the A.A. message.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This request came from the Area 39 (Western Missouri) Literature Chair with a proposed working title of "How to use the A.A. Grapevine to Carry the A.A. Message." It came as a response to the 2020 initiative of making the fellowship aware of the ways the Grapevine can be used to carry the message. Some suggestions for the pamphlet include a paragraph on how the Grapevine can be used in each specific area of A.A. life, as well as information on how to subscribe to the Grapevine.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that a pamphlet on how the Grapevine could be used to carry the A.A. message is needed? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to change the name of the General Service Conference Committee on Grapevine to the Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This request originated in Area 13 (Washington DC), and its intent is to align the name of the Committee with the scope of its work. The Area believes that this will strengthen the relationship between the Grapevine and La Viña.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that the Conference Grapevine Committee should be renamed to the Grapevine and La Viña Committee? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Grapevine — Item H**

Agenda Topic	Consider a request for AA Grapevine, Inc. to establish an Instagram account in line with the Twelve Traditions.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Over the last few years, the Grapevine has been exploring the expansion into social media as a means of communicating with the Fellowship. The Grapevine is committed to creating a viable social media strategy in a comprehensive three to five-year plan. It has discussed the idea of using Instagram as an extension of Grapevine’s graphic, video, and audio content. This could look like sharing inspirational content, information, and resources to support recovery from alcoholism. The content would be geared toward alcoholics both “inside and outside the rooms,” and would take all 12 Traditions and Concepts into consideration in the posts. <i>For more on the strategic plan and preliminary screenshots, please refer to the background information.</i>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that Instagram can Instagram account for the A.A. Grapevine is necessary? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Items A-F**

Agenda Topic A	Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.”
Agenda Topic B	Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated.”
Agenda Topic C	Review progress report regarding the development of the pamphlet on A.A.’s Three Legacies.
Agenda Topic D	Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “Too Young?”
Agenda Topic E	Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”
Agenda Topic F	Review progress report regarding the development of the pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women in A.A.
Agenda Topic G	Review draft update of the video “Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	These items relate to new or updated content previously commissioned and the progress reports are to update the Conference Literature Committee on the status of these projects.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item H**

Agenda Topic	Review draft language regarding safety and A.A. to be included in <i>Living Sober</i> and “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	There is a proposal to add wording to the book, <i>Living Sober</i> , to the effect that “it is reasonable for each member to expect a reasonable level of safety.” A similar, but connected, proposal is that the pamphlet on sponsorship contain a reference to the service piece “Safety in A.A. – Our Common Welfare” and wording relating to a “safe meeting place,” and a “safe environment” within which a culture of sponsorship can flourish at group level.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think of the suggested additions? Is the wording helpful? If so, why? If not, why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item I1**

Agenda Topic	“The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” pamphlet: Discuss draft update of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2016 the Conference decided to update the pamphlet with a modernized presentation of both text and illustrations to reflect contemporary A.A. experience. Since then, work

	has been done and a draft of the new pamphlet will be reviewed by the Conference Literature Committee.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item I2**

Agenda Topic	“The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” pamphlet: Consider not retiring the existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In reviewing the pamphlet for update the Trustees’ Literature Committee has noted “the wealth and depth of material contained in the current pamphlet,” and requests the Conference Literature Committee consider retaining the current pamphlet as a resource for the Fellowship, rather than follow the normal process of retirement of the existing piece and replacing it with an updated one.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Is the existing pamphlet meeting our needs or does it require revision? Should the Conference rescind its 2016 decision to update the pamphlet?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item J1**

Agenda Topic	A.A.W.S. Policy: Review “A.A.W.S. Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials” approved in January 2020.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The new policy affords the publishing department of AAWS greater flexibility in making certain changes to A.A. Literature. The 2019 Conference asked that the policy be brought back in 2020 for consideration by the whole Conference, not just the Conference Literature Committee. The Trustees’ Literature Committee “noted support for the revised policy on publication of literature which assures Conference approval as well affords the G.S.O. Publishing department the opportunity to proactively work to keep A.A. Conference-approved literature updated.”
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think of the new policy? Should it be approved or rejected? Why?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item J2**

Agenda Topic	A.A.W.S. Policy: Review proposed “A.A.W.S. Policy on Conversion of Written Conference-approved Literature and Service Material into Video Format.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Recognizing the ever-increasing demand for content in video and audio formats, a policy has been developed that aims to “keep our content available and accessible while ensuring that we do so within the scope of our Traditions.” Drawing upon the approach developed by the A.A. Grapevine the new policy is designed to provide “an opportunity for discussion and a balance of sharing from those conducting the work and those receiving it.”
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think of the approach outlined in the new policy? Does it meet our needs or not? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item K**

Agenda Topic	Consider if proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, can be addressed with a common solution.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2016, the Conference Literature Committee decided to take no action on a request for a plain language translation. This time around, the topic bundles several requests, driven

	by accessibility and relatability, together. The intent is to <i>start</i> a fellowship-wide conversation on how to address the issues specified in the topic and whether a common solution may be the answer. In particular the Literature Committee looks forward to input and feedback on its initial findings that will determine the specific literacy level of the Big Book and identify gaps that are being filled by non-conference approved literature. <u>Not included as formal agenda items</u>, several requests from the fellowship are included in the background i.e. workbooks for the Steps, Traditions and Concepts, a dictionary for the Big Book, diverse spiritual language from other faiths, or removal of the chapters “To Wives,” “The Family Afterward,” and “To Employers.” These requests are attached as background because they touch on what the Trustees Literature Committee considers to be an expressed, broader need that is reflected in similar requests. There are 13 documents in the background supporting this agenda topic and it is recommended that those interested in this topic consult those in detail. This summary will paraphrase some of those: • K1 – this is a proposal from Area 08, San Diego, for a plain language translation of the Big Book written at 5th grade English level that would be helpful for Young People, Remote Communities Members, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community, Prison Communities, and our members with learning disabilities. Examples of plain language are given. • K2 - this is a proposal from the Panel 67 delegate for Area 14, North Florida, for a workbook to accompany the Big Book. The proposer states that a workbook that contained brief sharings from members on their experience with a passage and space for sponsor's suggestions on taking a step would make our message more accessible to the uneducated, those with reading difficulties, and the loner. • K3 - this is a memo from the Chair of the General Service Board to the chair of the Trustees’ Literature Committee requesting the gathering of objective information and engaging in a dialog with the Conference committee on the issues to capture the “full spectrum of relevant thinking on this topic.” • K6 – this is a report from the subcommittee of the Trustees’ Literature Committee on “Researching Issues, Possible Tools and Access to the Book”. The subcommittee found an increasing trend of individuals who struggle to read in English. While there are numerous factors driving these increases, it will be important to also consider content, both modern and simple language, as well as format when determining how to address accessibility and relatability issues. An appendix to the report indicates that about half of the adults in the US could read and comprehend the Big Book. • K11 – this appears to be an internal GSO document summarizing the thinking of the board in 1977 in relation to study guides. It concludes, “the program is spiritual rather than academic. There are no authorities in A.A. and even a self-appointed ‘teacher’ has feet of clay. Hence, it is preferable that the individual member or prospect interpret the literature according to his own point of view. For these reasons, the Board does not plan to publish study guides or interpretations of A.A. literature at this time.”
What does the Delegate need to know?	Should the Trustees’ Literature Committee explore possible solutions that could help make our message more available? If so, what additional information would be helpful to support the Conference to determine if additional items are needed for accessibility and relatability to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, including a possible translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous, whether in audio options or other formats, as well as options for workbooks?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item L1**

Agenda Topic	Consider requests to revise the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> : Add pages 3 through 41 of the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” as an appendix in the next printing.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The proposal comes from Area 13 (Washington D.C.) because “it is believed that having the pamphlet inserted would encourage best practices and participation in general service. Ultimately, this could help improve our service culture to the benefit of the groups, the still suffering alcoholic, and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.”
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think of this proposal? Is the new appendix needed or not? Why?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item L2**

Agenda Topic	Consider requests to revise the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> : Revise the first 164 pages.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This proposal comes from a district southwest of Philadelphia, effectively bypassing the approval of the local Area, and seeks to audit the first 164 pages of the Big Book for the purpose of identifying changes that can be made to make the Big Book more reflective of the A.A. membership composition. Driving the proposal is the blunt assessment contained within the Communications Audit commissioned by the General Service Board that A.A. materials present “an overall perception of A.A. as an organization obsessed with its own history and perhaps out of touch with today’s population.” The proposal further states that the focus of the audit “should be on; Identifying Pronoun usage – where possible the gender-neutral form should be incorporated; Passages or sections that are no longer consistent with or relevant when taken in context of society in general or the A.A. membership composition; and, the chapters <i>To Wives</i> and <i>The Family Afterward</i> should specifically be evaluated for revisions to be more consistent with today’s membership.” Once the audit has taken place, the proposal states that items identified “should be prioritized both by the ease of editing and the possible impact to the context of the message. Changes to the overall message should be minimized or avoided entirely. Simplification of the vocabulary should not be considered and references to historical figures and events should remain unchanged. Where possible, suitable changes should be suggested for incorporation into the text subject to Conference approval.” The proposal gives examples of possible edits in keeping with the audit and those that are not. In 1995 the Conference decided that: “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>, the Preface, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Doctor Bob’s Nightmare” and the Appendices remain as is.”
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about the proposal? Is an audit needed or not? Why?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Items M1, M2, and M3**

Agenda Topic	Consider proposals related to possible Fifth Edition of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>: Develop a Fifth Edition. Develop a Fifth Edition of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> with updated stories and revisions to Appendices III and V. Add a proposed addendum to a Fifth Edition foreword of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> at the time it is published.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	We have consolidated these items as they all relate to a possible 5 th Edition. The first proposal, from Northern Illinois, suggests that the time is right for a new edition with

	stories that better reflect today's fellowship. The second proposal is from our Area, California Northern Coastal, and reflects both pros and cons resulting from our extensive discussion to approve a new edition updating the stories and also appendices III (the Medical View of A.A.) and V (the Religious View of A.A.). The third proposal comes from Bedford, Southern Indiana and is from a District, bypassing the Area. It calls for an addendum to the Foreword of the next edition of the Big Book and supplies proposed wording to address the perceived male gender bias implicit in the book.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think it's time for a 5 th edition? Why, or why not? If so, what content or sections should be updated? Why?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item N**

Agenda Topic	Consider development of a draft Fourth Edition of the book <i>Alcohólicos Anónimos</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Last year, the Conference asked the Trustees' Literature committee to consider this item and it has been placed on the agenda this year for Conference Consideration. The 3 rd and current Spanish language edition was published by A.A.W.S. in 2008. Since then various requests have been received to address perceived errors and omissions in the translation and to update the stories. The process from decision to publication of the 3 rd edition took four years and is detailed in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that it is time for a new edition of the Spanish language Big Book? Why? What changes are needed?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item O**

Agenda Topic	Consider updating the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic."
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Last year, the Conference asked the Trustees' Literature committee to consider this item and it has been placed on the agenda this year for Conference Consideration. The Pamphlet was published in 2001, was retitled in 2007, and had a cover redesign in 2018. Also included in the background is the 2018 report, "Reaching Out to African-American Alcoholics," which references the fact that the pamphlet has not been revised since its publication in 2001. Feedback from staff and professionals is also included that suggests updating the pamphlet would be helpful to both professionals and members.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think of this pamphlet? Is an update needed or not? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item P1**

Agenda Topic	Consider requests to revise the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i>: To remove the phrase "opposite sex" from paragraph two on page 117 in the chapter "Step Twelve."
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This proposal comes from a group in St. Petersburg, Florida, having failed to achieve substantial unanimity at the district level. The current text on page 117 of the <i>Twelve and Twelve</i> states: "Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made—spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way." The proposer states that the removal of the words would be more inclusive, the words are religious in nature and in conflict with Tradition 10, and that some members were personally offended by the text as written as it implied a condition of membership. He

	also states that those against the change were concerned that if we start changing anything, where would we stop and that, as written, the <i>Twelve and Twelve</i> was good enough to get them sober, so it's good enough for everyone.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about this section of the 12x12? Is the removal of the phrase necessary or not? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item P2**

Agenda Topic	Consider requests to revise the book <i>Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions</i> : To reconsider use of the phrase “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This proposal comes with substantial unanimity from Area 07, California Northern Interior. Step Six, paragraph 13, the current version of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions reads as follows: "No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health." The reasons given for suggesting this change are: lust is not the cause of rape and this inaccuracy at best misinforms AA members and at worst triggers AA members—many of whom are sexual assault survivors; the causes of sexual assault were not studied, well-known, or understood when Bill W. wrote that sentence; and, use of the are unnecessary—words that have such potential to provoke trauma belong in literature that's more narrowly focused, like pamphlets. Aware of the declaration the General Service Conference made in 2002: That no changes be made to the text of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions because "the book has helped so many alcoholics find recovery," and because "Bill's writing [should] be retained as originally published," the proposers argue that it would be more likely to keep survivors and perpetrators in the fellowship from getting upset enough to consider a drink, or become agitated enough to leave a needed meeting. Since the current language in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions regarding sexual assault is “incorrect and outdated,” the proposers request “that you please reconsider your 2002 recommendation.”
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about this statement in the 12x12? Is it necessary it be removed or changed? If so, why? If not, why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item Q**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to add a subtitle to the booklet <i>Living Sober</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This proposal comes directly from a group in Laguna Beach, California. The proposer states that the book is, “perhaps, the best piece of literature for a newcomer who is trying to stay away from the first drink” and, therefore, they suggest that the title of <i>Living Sober</i> be amended to read: “ <i>Living Sober - How Not to Take the First Drink</i> .”
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think of the proposed subtitle? Will the subtitle better help us reach the alcoholic who still suffers or not? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item R**

Agenda Topic	Consider requests to revise text related to open meetings in the pamphlet “The A.A. Group.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This item was discussed by Area 14, North Florida, where it did not pass. However, the proposer requested the delegate still forward the item for consideration. It was also discussed by Area 60, Western Pennsylvania, where it did pass by substantial unanimity. It is proposed to remove the words “Non-alcoholics may attend open meetings as observers” from the pamphlet to bring it into alignment with the Blue Card and to avoid

	the potential of silencing the alcoholic who does not yet realize they are one.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Is this change to the pamphlet needed or not? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item S**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to revise text related to self-support in the pamphlet “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This item appears to be a request from the four delegates representing areas in Quebec. They request that the second paragraph in the section on page 17 of the pamphlet <i>Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.</i> be removed completely or at least modified to read as the second paragraph on page 7 of the pamphlet <i>Self-Support Where Money & Spirituality Mix</i> under the section titled “What does membership in AA cost?” It suggests omitting the words “and other meeting expenses, including coffee, sandwiches, cakes or whatever else may be served,” and to align with the wording in the pamphlet on self-support that states: “rent, refreshments, A.A. literature,” etc. to avoid the perception that A.A. is a catering service.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Is this change necessary? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item T1**

Agenda Topic	Consider revising the pamphlet “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship”: Change the suggestion that sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This proposal, made by an A.A. member requests that the following paragraph, found on page 12 under the heading “Can any member be a sponsor?”: In most instances, A.A. custom does suggest one limitation, already noted on page 10: If the group is large enough to allow a choice, sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex. The reasons are the same from both viewpoints; we A.A. members, no matter how long we have been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from “our primary purpose.” be updated to read: “A.A. custom does suggest one limitation: sponsorship should be avoided wherever a romantic entanglement might arise between sponsor and newcomer. We A.A. members, no matter how long we have been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from “our primary purpose.” The suggested change is designed to be sensitive to and accommodate Transgender and non-binary members because a segregation of men and women leaves these members at risk of misunderstanding, ostracism, rejection, and even violence.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Is this change needed? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item T2**

Agenda Topic	Consider revising the pamphlet “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship”: Expand the section on “Service Sponsorship” and retitle the pamphlet to include service sponsorship.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This proposal comes from Area 44, New Jersey and is a second attempt to have this item on the agenda. The request is that the Service Sponsorship section in the pamphlet Questions & Answers on Sponsorship (P-15) be expanded, and that the pamphlet be retitled to include Service Sponsorship. Items that might be included in the revision might: reinforce the notion that service work often begins with a suggestion from a service sponsor; have more members engage in service work; point out the benefits of service to the individual, the group and the fellowship; define service work as a

	responsibility of the recovering AA member; discuss ways in which a person in service can attract others to service; explore ways in which a service sponsor can assist those new to service; and, present personal experiences of those serving as service sponsors.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Is the revision need or not? Why? If so, what helpful information could be included?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item U**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to include a G.S.R. preamble in the pamphlet “G.S.R.: Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This item comes from Area 21, Southern Illinois. The proposer believes that adding the GSR Preamble to the GSR pamphlet would be beneficial for the following reasons: the GSR Preamble is a clear-cut directive to GSR’s regarding their responsibility; adding the GSR Preamble to the pamphlet, would provide consistency and thus unity across A.A. as a whole; and, if added, it would affirm Conference approval when read at District and Area Functions. The exact wording is: “We are the General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of A.A. We realize the ultimate authority is a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that they can reach an informed group conscience. In passing along this group conscience, we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship. Let us, therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our group and A.A. as a whole.”
What does the Delegate need to know?	Is it necessary to add this to the pamphlet or not? Why? Are there any other publications in which the reproduction of the GSR preamble might be helpful?

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item V**

Agenda Topic	Review recovery literature matrix.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The matrix is designed as a tool for the trustees’ and Conference literature committees, containing pertinent information to inform periodic review. It contains data that may be of interest to your group, such as quantities of literature published over the past 5 years and downloaded in 2017 and 2018.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Consider a proposed process for approving observers to the U.S./Canada General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The 2019 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions requested that a process be developed by the trustee’s Committee on the General Service Conference for approving qualified representatives from other A.A. service structures to observe the General Service Conference that allows for observers to be presented for consideration prior to General Service Conference week, to be reviewed by the 2020 Conference. The proposal acknowledges the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee has been responsible for reviewing all requests for access and making recommendations to the entire Conference. Observer requests would have to be received by October 1 for the upcoming Conference. Requests would follow a review and approval flow, which would

	eventually be forwarded to the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee for review. The Committee would schedule a meeting before the Conference for approval or disapproval by vote and then make a recommendation to the Conference body, which would then review, discuss, and potentially vote using the “Process for Polling Conference Between Meetings”. After the vote is completed, the guest observers along with the corresponding entity will be notified of the results.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Consider implementing electronic voting for trustee elections.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2012, Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee Terry Bedient requested that the General Service Conference utilize an electronic voting system on a trial basis. He suggested first trying it on general voting and if it was found to be successful, that it could be used on trustee election voting in subsequent years. Following two years of trial use at Conferences, evaluation, and Conference approval, electronic voting has been implemented since 2018. It is used for all Conference voting except elections of regional trustees and trustees-at-large, which are conducted by ballot. There would be no additional cost to implement electronic voting for elections.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review G.S.O. general manager’s report regarding General Service Conference site selection.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The progress report memo states that GSO would have a better negotiating advantage with requests for two-year contracts with hotels, having some flexibility with dates, and starting the process as soon as possible. The progress report outlines a timeframe for approval of dates that GSO management believes would be more effective and proposed an agenda item in light of this (Item D). Efforts have begun to request proposals and information from hotels to determine the most cost-effective and appropriate venues for future Conferences. GSO Management is also planning to explore venues outside New York City and State for the 2025 Conference. In working on site selection, previous Advisory Actions regarding the Conference, the Conference Charter, and Bylaws of the General Service Board, AAWS, and Grapevine, Inc. are being considered (relevant excerpts are in the background).
What does the Delegate need to know?	How does your group feel about the possibility of the Conference being held outside of New York? Do they have other thoughts on the report?

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Consider continuing the review of dates for the General Service Conference with timing and year(s) to review as requested by the general manager.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	GSO’s general manager reported that GSO would have a better negotiating advantage with requests for two-year contracts with hotels, some flexibility with dates, and starting the process as soon as possible. Current policy states that: “The Conference Policy Committee routinely review the dates for the Conference to be held two years hence.”

	GSO management feels it would be more effective to have the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee review future Conference dates on a biannual review, in two-year chunks. For example, in 2021, review dates for 2025 and 2026, which would allow venue research to begin by the end of 2021 and 2022 for those.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think the proposed review process should be made? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Consider a proposed process for how a Conference committee could review, discuss and act on proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The General Service Board recognizes the desire by the Conference for greater delegate participation in the agenda process. For over 20 years, the Board has welcomed chairpersons of Conference committees and the delegate chairperson at the quarterly Board Weekend prior to the General Service Conference. It was requested that a process be developed for how a Conference committee could review, discuss and act on proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee and to include suggestions for the January conference call between trustee committee chairs and corresponding Conference committees. The proposals are available in full with supporting documents, implementation details, and historical information in the background. Proposal: Items not forwarded will be sent to the corresponding Conference committee for review and a standing item would be added to each Conference committee to reviews those. Background will be included that was reviewed or discussed to make their decision and it will also be included in the full background annually. The committee will not be asked to act on it, but rather to determine if they agree with the decision to take no action or if an item needs more work for consideration. They will send their decision back to the trustees' committee to either agree, for more work or information, or for reconsideration, along with rationale, so that a final decision could be made. The January call would include a clear invitation that the trustees' committee is interested in the thoughts of the Conference committee members as to whether these Agenda Items not forwarded or still under consideration should be forwarded to the Conference committee, with the Board keeping its final responsibility for selection in keeping with Concept 3. The focus of the call is to obtain sharing on the proposed agenda.
What does the Delegate need to know?	How does your group feel about this proposed process? Does your group feel that there is a better way to handle items not forwarded to a Conference committee?

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Consider a proposed process for equitable distribution of Conference committees' workload.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The recommended plan proposes to keep the current committee structure with the possibility of moving additional items onto a committee for equity, or to add additional primary committees as needed in a given year, such as a 2nd PI or Literature committee. Documents suggested to facilitate the process include a standardized GSC Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form, a timeline including a change to the submission deadline to Sept. 15, a workflow of the disposition of proposed items, a workflow of the Proposed Process for Equitable Distribution Workload and a Scoring Tool, along with a new trustees' subcommittee on GSC Committee Workload. Details within this flow include estimated time a topic would take and how items are routed.

	Other options included in the report are to: 1. Stay the course and keep it as it is, but require more dialogue and guidance in the submission process 2. Maintain the existing structure with the flexibility of adding extra committees 3. Reorganize the Delegate Committee structure to 6 groups with equal loads discussing all manner of topics.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Review the Floor Action process.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This item was submitted by Area 29 Maryland. They propose that a review of the process would be to “prevent any Conference member from circumventing the normal Conference process”, listing careful discussion and study of background material as parts of a fully informed vote. The background material includes their letter, notes from their area discussions on the motion, and a general history of Conference Floor Actions, which details how procedures have evolved over the years.
What does the Delegate need to know?	How does your group feel about the Floor Action process?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Review 2019 annual reports from the trustees’ Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This is a standing item on the agenda. For aa.org, some highlights of new content added include: Meeting Guide information; Big Book 4th Edition ASL video; 12x12 ASL video; new pamphlet “The God Word”; a new PSA; 2020 International Convention info; and Twelve Concepts for World Service in audio format. Approximately 431 emails were received through the online Website Feedback form last year. Eight people requested Twelfth-step help, 39 either requested help finding a meeting or commented on the difficulty of finding a meeting through the site, 54 commented on website function and questions, 49 responded to technical errors, 18 Daily Reflections requests, 25 customer service requests, 64 contributions questions, and 1 eBook question. Additional requests were sent to Grapevine, Service Committees and junk mail. Emails are forwarded to the appropriate person in the office and responded to. Some of the requests from the Fellowship resulted in the new content that was added. The aa.org website received 16,499,534 visits in 2019, for an average of 45,204 each day. The aa.org website is currently being redesigned. For Grapevine, the new website has launched and the new La Viña site is in progress.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group have suggestions for content at aa.org? Does your group know that group, personal and birthday contributions can be made online at aa.org? Have they visited the newly redesigned Grapevine website?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Discuss a progress report on the A.A.W.S. Meeting Guide app.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Meeting Guide app launched in August 2019 and information on the App can be found at https://aa.org/pages/en_US/meeting-guide. Detailed analytics of visitors from Oct-Dec 2019 are in the background, including which keywords people use to search for meeting types. There have been a total of 1761 customer support emails so far, with the top three categories being App Feature Request/Feedback (370), Add/Update Local

	Entity (244) and Meeting Coverage (199). For monthly active users, usage is steadily increasing. Meetings and Meeting Details are most accessed, with Favorites and Quotes also popular. A support website is available for participating entities and those who may want to participate. Next steps include finalizing guidance videos for the App to post on YouTube and the aa.org FAQ page, finalizing policies and guidelines on such things as who is listed in the app and how, when to reassign meeting info (and when not to), when to provide tech assistance, and branding policy.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Do members of your group know about and use the Meeting Guide App, either personally or as 12 th Step or P.I. tool? Do they have any suggestions for improvement?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review the 2019 trustees' Public Information Committee progress report on the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube account.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	As of January 30, 2020, there are currently 48 A.A.W.S. videos posted (16 each in English, Spanish and French). There are 165 completed videos not yet posted, including Corrections videos, ASL videos, Young and Sober in A.A.: From Drinking to Recovery, and flag ceremony clips from past A.A. International Conventions. Prior to posting, videos need to have intros and outros (like an end screen noting videos that appear before or after may not be associated with A.A.). All search-engine optimized video descriptions and translations have been prepared for current videos and they are working on descriptions for new videos. Optimized video names for PSAs (approved by Conference) have been implemented on YouTube and aa.org. The policy for posting videos on YouTube will be reviewed annually. As of December 2019, there are over 4,200 subscribers and average monthly video views of between 2,000 and 4,000. There has been an 88% increase in users who access aa.org from the YouTube channel since October 2018. More detail on videos, traffic and how YouTube suggests videos people might like to watch can be found in the full background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Do members of your group know about the YouTube channel? Do they have any thoughts or feedback on its usefulness and effectiveness?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review the 2019 trustees' Public Information Committee progress report on the use of Google AdWords/Grants to carry the A.A. message.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Last year, the Conference approved applying for “LegitScript” certification to qualify for Google AdWords/Grants, applying for a Google AdWords Grant, and implementing Google AdWords for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public. The General Service Board policy (affirmed by the Conference) allows A.A. to accept discounts or subsidies that would be offered to any other organization of similar size (like convention hotel rates). The Google AdWords Grant is worth \$10,000 of donated media value per month which is available to all nonprofits. Similar to the in-kind donations for TV PSAs. There is a question of how these in-kind contributions need to be reported on the financial statements and that is being looked into by the trustees' Finance committee. The background contains the implementation plan, which calls for focusing on two ad groups in English, to allow us to streamline our efforts and refine messages/keywords for two audiences, set up tracking, and evaluate the usefulness as a public information tool before expanding to other audiences, or not. Ad Group 1: Those that have, or know someone who may have, a drinking problem. Ad Group 2: Those looking for meeting information. Keywords people might search for online that would trigger the ads in Group 1 are variations on phrases such as “quit drinking,” “drinking too much,”

	“drinking problem,” “get sober,” etc. Incentive to click will be something like “See if A.A. is right for you” that links to resources at aa.org. Group 2 would be searching for things like “A.A. meeting” or “contact A.A.” and they would then get a link to the Meeting Guide on aa.org.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Do members of your group have experience searching for help with alcoholism online? What do they think about the proposed use of Google AdWords as a tool for public information?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Discuss a request to adjust all A.A.W.S. video titles for search engine optimization (SEO).
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This request came from the newly formed Communication Services department at GSO. The aim of the request is to create new titles for all our videos that are more descriptive of the content in the video and identify the video as A.A. content, make video naming conventions consistent, and make our content easier to find by search engines. The intention is to preserve original titles when possible, but some will need numerous adjustments to include search keywords and be more descriptive. At the 2019 Conference, an Advisory Action called for updating all current PSA video titles for search engine optimization purposes and this has been completed. For example, “<u>Changes</u>” became “Sobriety in A.A.: We made <u>changes</u> to stop drinking.” All of our current videos can be accessed from the home page of aa.org. Moving forward, all new videos will have optimized titles before they are published and distributed.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Have members of your group watched any of the videos on aa.org? Does your group think we should adjust video titles so that they can be found more easily online? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Review a report regarding the 2020 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This is an annual item and this year’s report focused on responding to the General Service Board’s Communications Audit and Strategic Plan action items specific to P.I. work. Items discussed following the 2019 Conference included audio PSAs, the development of two new video PSAs, the plan to produce video shorts based on A.A. pamphlets (see item G below), updating aa.org web banners, possible online PSA distribution, a new draft Young People Video Project flyer, the development of a series of P.I. postcard service pieces, identifying efforts that overlap with other committees/departments, and the development of a new Comprehensive Media Plan architecture. Ongoing projects include a comprehensive review of P.I. literature for targeted audiences and to support local committee efforts; inventorying P.I. materials and services with an eye toward diversity and inclusion; creating new and revised informational and educational material for professionals and professional associations; developing policies to utilize new media technologies that are guided by A.A. Traditions and raise awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous; GSO and Grapevine/LaVina to optimize online and social media presence to make sure A.A. stays relevant in today’s society as a solution to alcoholism.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee have any feedback on the above projects, or suggestions for ways to better utilize new media technology in keeping with our A.A. Traditions?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item G**

Agenda Topic	Review a draft plan to create video shorts based on A.A. pamphlets.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Last year, the Conference directed the trustees to develop a plan to produce video shorts based on current A.A. pamphlets that provide information about A.A. to the public and report back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information. The background includes storyboards along with the details of the draft plan. Three pamphlets were chosen that have the spirit of alcoholics “talking” with fellow alcoholics who may be seeking help with a drinking problem: “A Brief Guide to A.A.” (P-42), “Is A.A. for You?” (P-3), and “A Message to Teenagers” (F-9). Since pamphlet text is dense, excerpted text will be used, with minor editorial revisions, for the creation of video and GIFs. A final screen will include ways people can contact A.A. For Plan A, the first two pamphlets are being converted into a video text narrative (from 1-3:50 minutes in length) with the help of a freelance copywriter. Software being used could allow for movement and colorization, and stock music and/or voice-over talent can be selected through the production company. <i>Ballpark</i> cost for each Plan A video would be \$3,000 for video production and \$3,265 to add audio (voice-over and stock music). For Plan B, the storyboards include illustrated drawings, visually representing the message of “A Message to Teenagers.” For this concept, a narrator and stock music would be necessary to take us through the questions the illustrations represent. <i>Ballpark</i> cost for Plan B would be \$8,000 for video production and \$3,265 for audio.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about the draft plan for video shorts based on these pamphlets? Do they think video shorts like this could be helpful in reaching the still suffering alcoholic? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item H1**

Agenda Topic	Public Service Announcements (PSAs): Review the 2019 Report on the “Relevance and Usefulness of Video Public Service Announcements.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This is an annual item. Our current video PSAs remain useful according to the Comprehensive Media Plan subcommittee report. Also noted, audio PSAs are being updated to reflect the current ways people search for A.A. The following PSA titles were updated for search engine optimization (underlined text is the old title): Sobriety in A.A.: Since getting sober, <u>I have hope</u> Sobriety in A.A.: Opening <u>doors</u> to a life without drinking Sobriety in A.A.: We made <u>changes</u> to stop drinking Video and Audio PSAs are all online: https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/public-information-committees
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee think our PSAs are relevant and useful? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item H2**

Agenda Topic	Public Service Announcements (PSAs): Review the distribution and tracking information for the video PSA “Changes.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This is the practice when a new PSA is produced. There is a link in the background to view the detailed report with station airing details, time of day details and audience impression demographics. The PSA airs in different markets in the U.S. and Canada in English, French and Spanish. Combined, all of the U.S. and Canadian PSAs aired a total of 71,278 times with 584,893,597 impressions. (Note that the title of this PSA has been changed to “Sobriety in A.A.: We made changes to stop drinking” for search engine

	optimization.)
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item H3**

Agenda Topic	Public Service Announcements (PSAs): Review a report regarding the new financial reporting system for PSA media valuations.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The trustees' Public Information Committee has asked the trustees' Finance committee to look into the best ways to report in-kind donations such as TV PSAs. Our auditors have been asked to provide more information on how we must report the in-kind service to give further information to the Conference. The background includes a report from Connect 360 Media (our outside vendor) explaining how they come up with their valuation of gift-in-kind PSA media placement. For January 1-December 31, 2019 it was valued at \$20,843,307.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item H4**

Agenda Topic	Public Service Announcements (PSAs): Review a progress report on the development of two PSAs.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The entire background is one paragraph from the February 1, 2020 report of the trustees' Committee on Public Information: "The committee discussed the 2019 Advisory Action that two PSAs be developed at a cost not to exceed \$50,000 for each PSA, and that if full-face characters are shown, to include an 'actor portrayal' disclaimer on screen. The committee reviewed the Comprehensive Media Plan subcommittee report on the messaging and audience of each PSA. The committee looks forward to a progress report and/or professional storyboards to be reviewed at the August 2020 meeting."
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item I**

Agenda Topic	Discuss a request "to create a new form of communication" to address anonymity on social media.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This request came from Area 29 (Maryland) where it passed with substantial unanimity at their Assembly (with one dissenting vote). The submitters feel that even with the changes that were recently made to include language on digital anonymity in the "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" pamphlet (an idea that also came from this Area and was approved by the 2018 Conference) that it's not enough. In the cover letter from the Panel 68 Delegate, he mentions that they feel a new form of communication, beyond pamphlets and posters and service pieces is needed. And rather than dictate what form that communication should take, it is Area 29's intention to get the conversation started about what needs to be done. Attached to the submission letter is the original proposal on "Principles Before Posting" from the maker of the motion and results of a survey they took locally. Also highlighted in the background is a link to our current resources on anonymity: https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/anonymity-a-vital-spiritual-principle
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel there is a need for a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media? Why, or why not? And, if so, do they have any ideas?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item J**

Agenda Topic	Consider a request to develop a plan to create an A.A. podcast.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This proposal came from a member in Area 49 (South East New York) and a motion of support was passed at the Suffolk County Assembly to send it forward. The background includes the original motion from Area 49 and everything that follows here is excerpted/paraphrased from that motion: <i>A podcast is a digital form of radio. There are many podcasts about A.A. but not by A.A.W.S. or the General Service Board. This is a media not currently being used to reach the alcoholic. Suggested sobriety and service topics could include: experience with Steps/Traditions/Concepts; the Service Manual; experience, strength and hope from past trustees and delegates; different pieces of literature; and Grapevine and La Vina.</i> <i>This could be a way to better utilize our Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees and that would eliminate any concerns about breaking anonymity. It could also address the issue that communication is inconsistent through the service structure.</i> <i>The General Service Board Communications Audit reported that in most cases we are not using communication platforms that are relevant for the external audiences they are trying to reach. On pages 14-15 of the 2019 General Service Conference Final Report, there is mention of the popularity of “snack-sized content” and podcasts were listed as a popular means of communication.</i>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that a podcast needs to be created to better carry the message of A.A.? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item K**

Agenda Topic	Review “A.A. Triennial Membership Survey” report.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The first broad survey of A.A. was undertaken in 1968 and the most recent A.A. Membership Survey (from 2014) can be found online: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-48_membershipsurvey.pdf The background includes 15 pages of history and actions related to the A.A. Membership Survey, a 17 page Professional Methodology Review and suggestions for possible improvement of current processes and data. The way the survey data has historically been collected is by selecting a random sampling (between 1.0 and 1.5%) of groups in each of the 93 Areas, and then having a local member (perhaps a District Committee Member) attend a typical meeting of the group as a data collector, read a script, and ask members in attendance to complete a paper questionnaire. With an assumed sample size of 22 members per group, that results in a target sample of about 16,250 respondents. The General Service Board sought expert assistance with the objective of either confirming the current sampling methodology is the most appropriate means of selecting a sample for the survey, or identifying a more appropriate sampling protocol. The professional review notes that the current process makes appropriate use of stratification and clustering and employs a sample size more than adequate to generating estimates that are quite precise. Issues that merit attention are the question of whether the use of Areas as strata is optimal (what about urban vs. rural or meeting time instead); ways to simplify or augment the collection process (such as a survey people could take on their phone); the ways the members who carry out survey administration may affect the results collected;

	and inclusion of additional sources of data, maybe by asking the data collectors to supply contextual information about the meeting and/or by using community data (such as the Census) to provide additional context about how well or poorly meeting members reflect the population of their communities. Two sources of possible sampling error are discussed in detail. Coverage error: Without a list of members all we can use is a list of A.A. meetings, and there is widespread agreement that the list of meetings GSO possesses is not exhaustive (not all groups are listed). Non-response error: When members decline to participate or don't answer all the questions, the data doesn't have the full information it was supposed to obtain. But there is no way to precisely quantify how big of a problem these errors are. Other potential flaws offer room for improvement and are also detailed in the report. The questionnaire itself was outside the scope of the report, but it was noted that ensuring that it asks members about the number of different meetings they attend, whether they are filling it out at their home meeting, and how often they attend meetings could provide useful data. Also, making sure that terminology used for gender, race and ethnicity is up-to-date helps ensure that members observe their own attributes in the options available and aren't discouraged from completing it because it excludes them.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee have any ideas on how to improve the membership survey or concerns about any of the methodology?

Conference Committee: **Public Information — Item L**

Agenda Topic	Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Kits and Workbooks are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference (GSC). Between Conferences, ideas for changes to a Workbook or to the contents of a Kit may be reviewed by the appropriate trustees' Committee and implemented. Alternatively, the trustees' Committee may choose to forward an idea to the Conference Committee for review. The P.I. Committee Workbook is contained in the Kit and can also be ordered separately. The content list of the Kit is available online and includes links to digital versions of many items, including the Workbook: www.aa.org/pikit The background this year included a note that the trustees' P.I. Committee had reviewed suggestions from local committees regarding the current language and resources available in the Workbook and requested that a full revision of the P.I. Workbook be developed to serve the needs of local P.I. committees, with a progress report to be brought back to their August 2020 meeting.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly; if your group or committee has suggestions, please share them with the Delegate or Alternate Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Discuss General Service Conference <i>Final Report</i>.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This committee will discuss the 2019 General Service Conference <i>Final Report</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	What do you think of the Conference Report? Do you find it user friendly? How could the Conference Report be improved?

Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.)
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	This is an annual item for the committee to discuss. In 2019, the committee requested that GSO explore alternative methods of accessing and distributing the contact information contained in Directories, especially in light of the new database system being created and the Meeting Guide app and asked for a report to be brought back. The report found the following: The current directories available are the 2017-2018 editions, as it was decided in 2018 not to print a new edition during the implementation of the new database system. The purpose of directories is to provide A.A. members with contact information for groups, especially members who are travelling or who live in rural or remote areas. A 2015 survey of Intergroup/Central Offices showed that while some like to have them on hand, most use the internet now to find area meetings and contacts. There is an A.A. Near You section on aa.org that has contact information for local hotlines and websites, and the Meeting Guide app is now widely used. Looking at potentially printing again, it would have to wait until at least spring of 2021, as there have been challenges with the launch of the new database that will take some time to work through. Being mindful of the fact that not everyone uses technology, a suggested alternative is to use the leaflet <i>Central Offices, Intergroups and Answering Services for the U.S. and Canada</i> (F-25) more widely for those without computer or smart phone access. Historical costs of directories is in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that we should continue printing directories? Why, or why not? Would the suggested leaflet be adequate, or does your group have any other ideas?

Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Consider restoring the two paragraphs and the accompanying footnote in the Concept Eleven essay of The Twelve Concepts for World Service that were removed by an advisory action of the 66th General Service Conference.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2016, the Conference decided to remove two paragraphs from the Concept XI essay on page 58 of <i>Twelve Concepts for World Service</i> which related to distinctions between men and women workers at headquarters, along with adding an endnote to page 59 that it was removed and available upon request from GSO Archives Department. Members from Area 60, Western Pennsylvania, requested the General Service Conference return to the practice of not changing Bill W.'s writings and the policy of printing the Twelve Concepts as originally written by Bill W., as is stated in the preface to the Twelve Concepts. They specifically refer to restoring the two paragraphs which were removed. The letter shares additional historical information, quotes, and Advisory Actions they feel would be helpful in making a decision, which are listed in the background for reference. They refer to several other requests to change language that were not done recognizing the fellowship's feeling that Bill's writing be retained as originally published, as well as multiple footnotes that have been incorporated over the years in our various texts to point out where information is not factual or outdated rather than removing language. They also feel that this change opens the door to more changes to our texts and Bill's writings.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that the two paragraphs and footnote should be restored? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Consider amending a sentence in Article 4 of the current Conference Charter.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The trustees' Nominating Committee forwarded an agenda item to amend a sentence in Article 4 of the current Conference Charter as follows (with the proposed added text in bold): "It will be further understood, regardless of the legal prerogatives of the General Service Board, as a matter of tradition, that a three-quarters vote of all Conference members participating in the vote may bring about a reorganization of the General Service Board and the directors and staff members of its corporate services, if or when such reorganization is deemed essential." This came about after there was a proposal to reorganize the AAWS and General Service Boards in 2018. While no action was taken, it was noted that developing procedures for a partial or complete reorganization of any the Boards should be explored by a subcommittee. The memo on the suggested procedures is included in the background material, which included revising the wording in Article 4 as proposed. The background also includes a section from Concept Four which focuses on Trustees and others voting on their past performance.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think this addition to Article 4 is needed? Why, or why not?

Conference Committee: **Report & Charter — Item E1**

Agenda Topic	The A.A. Service Manual, 2020-2022 Edition: Review the draft and the agenda items that were forwarded to Publishing during the period of the redesign project.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2018, the Conference asked AAWS Publishing Department undertake a thorough evaluation, update, and redesign of the Service Manual. Multiple drafts have been created and refined, arriving at a format based on user-friendliness, readability, simplicity, and adaptability to the French and Spanish editions. Multiple proposed changes related to the Service Manual have been submitted since last year's Conference, as follows: 1. Consider removing the bulleted duties from the following pages in the A.A. Service Manual and Twelve Concepts for World Service: -On page S50, Chapter Six, The Delegate Duties: "Provide leadership in solving local problems involving the A.A. Traditions." -On page S31-S32, Chapter Three, The District and the D.C.M. Duties: "Brings Tradition problems to the Delegate." 2. Consider that the words "Agenda Item" along with a definition be included in the Glossary of General Service Terms in the first chapter of the A.A. Service Manual. 3. Consider that paragraphs 2 and 3 of the section "Sources of Agenda Items" in Chapter 7 of the A.A. Service Manual be updated to better state the path that a proposed agenda item takes to be included in the final agenda of a General Service Conference, and that the stated path be separated from the section "Sources of Agenda Items" with a new subtitle "The Path for an Idea to Become an Agenda Item" and a flowchart. Item 1 was submitted by an Archives Committee Chair in Area 26 Kentucky. It was felt that regarding Traditions, many groups claim Tradition Four allows them "to do what we want", and this often leads to the Delegate explaining "there is nothing I can do". If it is intended to give groups complete autonomy, reference to Tradition Problems should be eliminated from the Service Manual and Twelve Concepts. On the other hand, the letter points, measures could be taken so that GSO, GSC, trustees, delegates, and DCMs know what they can and cannot do.

	Items 2&3 were submitted by Area 34 Western Michigan. A proposed definition and alternate wording can be found in the background material.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that the bulleted duties regarding Traditions should be removed? Why, or why not? Does your group think that adding a definition of Agenda Item is needed? What do they think of updates regarding the source of agenda items and a potential flow chart?

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Discuss the report on the review of materials related to Bridging the Gap activities.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2019, the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities requested a review of all treatment and corrections committee literature related to Bridging the Gap and Temporary Contact activities. The focus of the review was intended to gauge how treatment and corrections material could be updated, combined, or broadened to encompass the full range of possibilities in which a temporary contact might be useful. The report is available in the background. Several items (Conference-approved literature, service material, and a Corrections Assignment Letter) were reviewed for currency and inclusion. To include as many people as possible who might request Temporary Contact services, the report suggests replacing words like “inmate” and “patients” with words like “alcoholics,” “newcomer,” “people,” “clients,” “participants,” and “incarcerated or confined alcoholics.” The report also encourages neutral pronouns (like they and their). The report suggests combining some service material and re-titling them to more clearly specify the temporary pre-release contact service that could work for a number of committees (including BTG, Treatment, Corrections, and H&I committees). A second goal would be to make the materials more accessible by simplifying the language to benefit alcoholics with different reading levels. Several samples of suggested changes to the text of combined service material and guidelines are included in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about the proposed suggestions regarding language? What do your group members think about merging already-existing literature into new pamphlets focused on Bridging the Gap work?

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Consider request to develop a Bridging the Gap Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The Bridging the Gap coordinator of District 10 in Utah (just south of Salt Lake City, extending from Wendover to Park City) submitted a request that a Bridging the Gap Workbook (combining materials from already existing A.A. workbooks) be developed. Workbooks for several other committees (like Archives, Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community, and Accessibilities) already exist. Currently, only a pamphlet regarding the Bridging the Gap is available. The background also includes a 20-page workbook being used in District 10 in Utah.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about creating a new Bridging the Gap Workbook? Does your group have any suggestions for content?

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In 2019, the Conference approved a proposal to update the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never too Late,” with revisions to the introduction, current and inclusive stories, references to online AA, and an updated “How Do I Find A.A.” section. A subcommittee is currently reviewing story submissions (44 stories were submitted,

	reflecting gender and regional diversity).
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly; if your group has suggestions regarding materials that should be added or deleted, please share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review contents of Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Every year, the Treatment and Accessibilities committee at the Conference reviews the Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook. Outdated information may be updated or removed by GSO staff members, who report those changes to the trustees. The Kit is available online at https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-167w_TF_Kit.pdf ; the current Workbook is available online at https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/treatment-committees/m-40i-treatment-committee-workbook . Typically, service kits are updated annually (each fall).
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee have any suggestions about items that should be added to or updated in the Treatment Committee Workbook or Kit?

Conference Committee: **Treatment and Accessibilities — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Review contents of Accessibilities Committee Kit and Workbook.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Every year, the Treatment and Accessibilities committee at the Conference reviews the Accessibilities Kit and Workbook. Outdated information may be updated or removed by GSO staff members, who report those changes to the trustees. The Kit is available online at http://www.aa.org/accessibilitieskit.org ; the current Workbook is available online at https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/m-48i_SNWorkbook.pdf . Typically, service kits are updated annually (each fall), but updates were delayed this year because of the implementation of a new GSO ERP (an "enterprise resource planning" system). Work on implementing suggested changes from 2019 is ongoing.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group or committee have any suggestions about items that should be added to or updated in the Accessibilities Workbook or Kit?

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item A1**

Agenda Topic	Review resumes of candidates for: West Central Regional Trustee
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Candidates have already been interviewed and will be elected by conference delegates according to the procedures laid out in Chapter 9 of the <i>AA Service Manual</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item A2**

Agenda Topic	Review resumes of candidates for: Western Canada Regional Trustee
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Candidates have already been interviewed and will be elected by conference delegates according to the procedures laid out in Chapter 9 of the <i>AA Service Manual</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
Historical Context; Why	The slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board has been reviewed and

is it on the Agenda?	recommended. The entire slate will be presented to the General Service Conference for disapproval, if any. The names of the slate of trustees and officers is included in the background material, and include seven non-alcoholic trustees, 11 alcoholic trustees, and three trustees to be elected at the Conference (refer to Agenda Topics A1 & A2).
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The slate of directors of AA World Services, Inc. has been reviewed and recommended. The entire slate will be presented to the General Service Conference for disapproval, if any. The names of the slate of directors of AAWS are included in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item D**

Agenda Topic	Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc. has been reviewed and recommended. The entire slate will be presented to the General Service Conference for disapproval, if any. The names of the slate of directors of AA Grapevine are included in the background.
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly, but you can share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Trustees — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Consider the revised “Procedures for a Partial or Complete Reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or AA Grapevine Boards.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In July 2019, the Trustees Committee discussed an additional committee consideration and memorandum from the 2019 Conference Committee on Trustees requesting that the trustees Committee on Nominating revise the procedures for a partial or complete reorganization of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or A.A. Grapevine Boards. Four suggestions offered by the 2019 Conference Committee on Trustees were reviewed. The suggestions include information about the procedure of the Nominating Committee. A suggestion regarding reconciliation of the Conference Charter to Concept Four would be revised to read “three-fourths of all Conference members participating in the vote.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group feel about these Procedures? Are they sufficient to guide the Fellowship through such a reorganization?

Conference Committee: **Archives — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Consider requests to develop a book on A.A. history from 1955 through the present.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	A proposal to create a new “definitive book on A.A. history” tracking the years 1955 to 1985 was forwarded to the Trustees Literature committee. Possible titles of the book are <i>Alcoholics Anonymous Continues to Age</i> or <i>A.A.: The Next 30 Years</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that there is a need for this book on A.A. history? Why, or Why not?

Conference Committee: **Archives — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Review Archives Workbook.
Historical Context; Why	Kits and Workbooks for CPC, Corrections, Public Information, Treatment Committee,

is it on the Agenda?	and Accessibilities and the Archives Workbook are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference. The Archives Workbook can be found online: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/archives-committees/m-44i-archives-workbook
What does the Delegate need to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this item at the Assembly; if your group has suggestions regarding materials that should be added or deleted, please share them with the Delegate via email or in person.

Conference Committee: **Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Discuss methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	At the International Convention, there are three “big meetings,” one every day of the convention. On Friday night, the meeting has traditionally (for the last four conventions) ended with the Lord’s Prayer (which can be found in the Bible in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 6). On Saturday night, the meeting has ended with the Serenity Prayer. And on Sunday morning, the meeting has ended with the Responsibility Statement. The scripts for meetings during the day on Friday and Saturday have allowed meeting coordinators to close with any of these choices (or the option of a moment of silence). There have been several concerns expressed about closing any of the meetings with the Lord’s Prayer.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group have any suggestions on how to close the Big Meetings at the International Convention?

Conference Committee: **Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Discuss upcoming 2020 International Convention.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous occurs once every five years; the next International will be held in Detroit, Michigan, from July 2 to 5.
What does the Delegate need to know?	How do members of your groups feel about the International Convention? What level of enthusiasm is there for the convention? Are there specific ideas or thoughts that they would like to communicate about the convention, it’s organization, and the program?

Conference Committee: **Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Regional Forums are held several times a year and are a service provided by GSO staff and the General Service Board with the intent of allowing the general AA membership (not just people involved in General Service) meet and interact with GSO staff and General Service Board members. This helps members put a face to their trusted servants. In order to encourage interest and attract first-time attendees, this committee discusses several ideas each year. Recent discussion has focused on compiling notes from first-time sharing at a Forum, developing a Regional Forum app, developing a micro-site (in addition to postal mailing of Forum flyers), increasing outreach to different populations (like young people and Spanish-speaking communities), encouraging local welcome committees to create Save the Date flyers, inviting AAWS/AA Grapevine directors to “non-service” AA events to increase awareness of the Forum, and placing information about Regional Forums in the <i>AA Grapevine</i> and <i>La Viña</i> .
What does the Delegate need to know?	Do members of your group know about Regional Forums? If not, what are some of the things that could attract members of your group to attend a Regional Forum?