

VII.

**POLICY &
ADMISSIONS**

AGENDA

Conference Policy/Admissions Committee

Sunday, April 19, 2020 – 3 - 6 p.m.

Monday, April 20, 2020 – 9 a.m. - Noon

Room: John Halstead I

Chairperson: Barb C.

Secretary: Mary C.

Conference Committee Members

Panel 69

Barb C.*
Lori C.
Alain G.
Kevin H.**
Ray M.

Panel 70

Kevin F.
Ray O.
Ron S.
Linda V.

*chairperson

**alternate chairperson

- ◆ Introductions – Barb C., Conference committee chairperson.
 - ◆ Review Conference committee Composition, Scope and Procedure – Barb C., Conference committee chairperson.
 - ◆ Review history of Conference committee – Mary C., secretary.
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- A. Consider a proposed process for approving observers to the U.S./Canada General Service Conference.
 - B. Consider implementing electronic voting for trustee elections.
 - C. Review G.S.O. general manager's report regarding General Service Conference site selection.

NOTE: 1989 Conference Advisory Action

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

- D. Consider continuing the review of dates for the General Service Conference with timing and year(s) to review as requested by the general manager.
- E. Consider a proposed process for how a Conference committee could review, discuss and act on proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee.
- F. Consider a proposed process for equitable distribution of Conference committees' workload.
- G. Review the Floor Action process.

2020 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

ITEM A: Consider a proposed process for approving observers to the U.S./Canada General Service Conference.

Background notes:

2019 Additional Committee Consideration of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions:

The committee requested that the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference develop a process for approving qualified representatives from other A.A. service structures to observe the U.S. and Canada General Service Conference that allows for these observers to be presented for General Service Conference consideration prior to the General Service Conference week for review by the 2020 General Service Conference.

From the February 1, 2020 minutes of the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference:

*The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2020 Conference Policy and Admissions Committee for consideration two separate proposed processes for how a Conference committee could review, discuss and act on proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee and the process for approving observers to the U.S./Canada General Service Conference.*

Background:

1. 2019 trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference Report on Agenda Items Not Forwarded – Approving Observers
2. Proposed Approving Observers Process

2019 Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference

February 1, 2020

Report on updating the Agenda Items Not Forwarded Process and Approving Observers

- Subcommittee:** David N., chair; Jimmy D., Mark E., and Patrick C. secretary
- Scope item A:** To continue developing the process of how a Conference committee could review, discuss, and act on proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee. In addition, provide a report that includes more information regarding the distribution of background and the January conference call between the trustee committee chair and the corresponding Conference committee.
- Scope Item B:** To consider updates to the process for approving qualified representatives from other A.A. service structures to observe the U.S. and Canada G.S.C that allows for a recommendation to admit observers to be presented for G.S.C. consideration prior to the Conference week.
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The subcommittee was appointed in July 2019 and met two times to review and discuss the updates needed to finalize a process.

At the November 2, 2019 trustees' Committee on the GSC meeting the subcommittee chair on agenda items not forwarded presented a progress report. The committee discussed the report and provided feedback and looked forward to reviewing a final subcommittee report with recommendations at the February 2020 meeting.

Subcommittee actions:

1. The subcommittee finalized the "Proposed Agenda Items Not Forwarded Process and Workflow" and updated the "Suggestions for January Conference Call" that are being submitted to the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference for review and discussion to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.
2. The subcommittee created a process document regarding "Approving Observers" that is being submitted to the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference for review and discussion to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

Proposed Agenda Items Not Forwarded Process:

The subcommittee discussed the topic of clarifying final updates to the process of “Proposed Agenda Items Not Forwarded to a Conference Committee” and determined that the following updates are needed to address the requests from the 2019 Conference Policy/Admissions Committee.

Overview of the updates to the proposed process document:

1. Clarified the process step regarding a review for accuracy of proposed agenda item submissions.
2. Added a process step regarding the inclusion of background and how it would be distributed for the proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee.
3. Clarified that the Conference committee’s action on these items would be captured in the committee’s report.
4. Included timing and procedural steps related to implementation of the process, if approved by the Conference.

Suggestions for January Conference Call document:

The subcommittee provided updates to Conference assignment “Suggestions for January Conference Call” document. The updates included a new section describing the background provided for the call and enhancements to the talking points section.

The document is planned to be provided to the Conference Committee on Policy and Admission in response to the request for more information about this trustee committee chair and corresponding Conference committee’s communication.

Proposed Approving Observers to the General Service Conference Process:

The subcommittee considered how observers’ requests could be recommended and approved to be presented for G.S.C. consideration prior to the Conference week.

As the subcommittee discussed an update to the process several items were considered including:

- Timing of the observer requests
- Recommendation, discussion and approval steps
- The use of the polling between Conference process to accommodate presenting for G.S.C. consideration prior to Conference week.

We trust that the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions will find the reports and background useful for discussion, and we thank you for this opportunity to be of service by reflecting our considerations back to you.

Process for Approving Observers to the Conference

February 1, 2020

Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference

The following is a process for approving qualified representatives from other A.A. service structures to observe the U.S. and Canada General Service Conference that allows for these observers to be presented for General Service Conference consideration and approval prior to the General Service Conference week requested.

1. The timing impact must be considered for each observer request. The goal is to ensure that all the steps of the process can be completed well before the opening session of the Conference for which the observers are requesting to be admitted.
2. Observers' requests received **by** October 1 will be considered for the upcoming General Service Conference. Observer requests received **after** October 1 will be considered for the following year's General Service Conference.
3. Requests to observe the General Service Conference are received by the Conference secretary and reviewed by the trustees' Committee on General Service Conference (TCGSC) which then makes a recommendation to the General Service Board (G.S.B).
4. Following the General Service Board's approval of a request from guest observer(s) to attend the General Service Conference the request for admissions to the Annual meeting of the General Service Conference is sent to the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee for review and discussion.

Note: It is important to wait and inform the guest after the full approval process is complete.

5. In accordance with its Scope and Procedure, the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee has been responsible for reviewing all requests for access to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference and making recommendations to the entire Conference. The current Scope of the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee states:

Admissions function: Is responsible for reviewing all requests for admissions to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference.

Therefore, the item is then added to the agenda of the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee. The Conference Policy/Admissions schedules a committee meeting **before** the Opening Session of the Conference for approving or disapproving (by vote) the

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

admittance of the guest observers to the Conference. The committee then makes a recommendation to the Conference body.

Example of a request received by October 1: If the TCGSC approves the request at their October meeting and if then the G.S.B. also approves the application at the October meeting, the request is forwarded to the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee for their action. Within the first two weeks of the following January, the Conference Policy and Admissions Committee, with the assistance of the committee secretary, will hold a conference call to address the request. If the committee approves the request then the committee secretary will immediately forward a memorandum to the Conference Coordinator asking that the polling of the entire Conference be initiated for their approval or rejection.

Note: It is important to remember that the timeline required to complete the “Process for Polling the GSC between Annual Meetings” could take anywhere from 3-4 weeks, not taking into account if a vote to reconsider happens to pass and a new poll needs to be initiated. The timing impact must be considered for each observer request.

6. The recommendation will be presented to the Conference members for review, discussion and potential approval using the “Process for Polling Conference Between Meetings.”
7. After the recommendation vote is completed the guest observers, along with the corresponding entity, are notified of the results.

2020 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

ITEM B: Consider implementing electronic voting for trustee elections.

Background notes:

The Conference first considered electronic voting in 2001. The 2002 Policy & Admissions Committee recommended a two-year trial of electronic voting at the Conference. This recommendation did not pass.

In 2012, Class A Trustee Terry Bedient requested that the General Service Conference again consider an electronic voting system to be utilized on all non-election votes for a trial period beginning with the 64th General Service Conference. He shared that “Though software programs are fully capable of handling trustee elections with multiple candidates and multiple ballots, it is suggested that the Conference first implement general voting which, if successful, could be *followed by election voting in subsequent years.*” (italics added)

A 2014 Advisory Action recommended that:

During a two-year trial period the General Service Conference include one day of electronic voting on all non-election votes, on the Thursday of the 2015 General Service Conference and on the Friday of the 2016 General Service Conference, and that the trustee’s Committee on the General Service Conference provide a report from data gathered from the 2015 and 2016 General Service Conferences, evaluating electronic voting to the 2017 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for consideration.

Subsequently, a 2017 Advisory Action recommended that:

The 2018 General Service Conference move ahead with electronic voting to be used for all Conference voting, with the exception of elections for regional trustees and trustees-at-large, which are conducted by ballot.

Note: Currently elections are held on Wednesdays when the General Service Conference is also hearing Committee reports so there no additional cost to implement electronic voting for elections.

2020 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

ITEM C: Review G.S.O. general manager's report regarding General Service Conference site selection.

Background notes:

2019 Additional Committee Consideration of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions:

The committee reviewed the report from G.S.O.'s general manager on site selection of the General Service Conference and looks forward to a progress report for review by the 2019 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

From the February 1, 2020 minutes of the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference:

*The committee **agreed to forward** a written report provided by the general manager regarding General Service Conference site selection to the 2020 Conference Policy and Admissions Committee for consideration. The committee requests when exploring venues outside New York City and State (other cities in U.S. and Canada) that future reports include more details on specific sites considered. The committee agreed the report would be more beneficial if it included the work being completed during the site selection process. The committee recommends that research be completed regarding addressing any legal limitations resulting from the Bylaws of the A.A.W.S. and AAGV Boards of hosting the General Service Conference outside the State of New York.*

.....
Current Conference Charter excerpt:

9. The General Service Conference Meetings: The Conference will meet yearly in the City of New York, unless otherwise agreed upon. Special meetings may be called should there be a grave emergency. The Conference may also render advisory opinions at any time by a mail or telephone poll in aid of the General Service Board or its related services.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

BYLAWS of The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. excerpts:

MEETINGS, NOTICES AND VOTE The second quarterly meeting of the Trustees of the Board shall take place on Saturday, immediately following the close of the General Service Conference.

All meetings of members and trustees shall take place in the City and County of New York, unless at a meeting of the Board, the trustees shall decide to hold a future meeting or meetings outside of the City of New York. The actual place and time of day of each meeting shall be determined by the chair.

BYLAWS of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. excerpt:

ARTICLE II MEMBERS AND MEETINGS OF MEMBERS: Section 3. Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting of the Members of the Corporation shall be held in the State of New York on the day immediately following the scheduled close of the General Service Conference.

BYLAWS of Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc. excerpt:

ARTICLE II MEMBERS AND MEETINGS OF MEMBERS: Section 3. Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting of the Members of the Corporation shall be held in the State of New York on the day immediately following the scheduled close of the General Service Conference.

Background:

1. General Manager's report on General Service Conference site selection
2. Advisory Actions regarding General Service Conference site selection

Memorandum

Date: January 29, 2020
To: 2020 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions
Copy: Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference
From: Greg T., General Manager
Re: Site selection for the General Service Conference

Review Dates for Future General Service Conferences

G.S.O. management would like to address the topic of the timing of review dates for future General Service Conference by the Conference Policy and Admissions Committee. During the 2019 Conference Policy and Admissions Committee meeting the General Manager shared with the members that what gave G.S.O. the best negotiating advantage for site selection is to issue requests for information (RFIs) and requests for proposals (RFPs) to hotels for two-year contracts, having some flexibility with dates and starting the process as soon as possible.

Historically, there is a 1985 Advisory Action that states:

The Conference Policy Committee routinely review the dates for the General Service Conference to be held two years hence.

That policy is currently tying the review dates to a specific timeframe. To that end, G.S.O. management believes that it would be more effective to have the Conference Policy and Admissions Committee review dates for future General Service Conferences on a biannual review schedule starting with this year, 2020, as follows:

- 2020 – no review of dates needed
- 2021 – Review dates for 2025 and 2026
 - RFI/RFP process could begin at end of 2021 and 2022
- 2022 – no review of dates
- 2023 – Review dates for 2027 and 2028
 - RFI/RFP process could begin at end of 2023 and 2024

To revise the timeframe, currently established by the 1985 Advisory Action, the General Manager recommends that the trustees' Committee on General Service Conference consider a proposed agenda item to be forwarded to the 2020 Conference Policy and Admissions Committee for discussion.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

The proposed agenda item is:

Consider continuing the review of dates for the General Service Conference with timing and year(s) to review as requested by the General Manager.

Correction of Archival Record

On January 2, 2020 the Conference Coordinator provided all Conference members the 70th GSC Preliminary List of Agenda Items. This list included the following Conference Policy and Admissions Committee item:

Review dates for the 2025 General Service Conference

If the trustees' Committee on General Service Conference agrees to forward the proposed agenda item to Conference Policy and Admissions Committee the Conference Coordinator will include a footnote on the 2020 G.S.C. Final List of Agenda Items to explain the removal of the preliminary agenda item to all Conference members.

Site Selection of the General Service Conference

In the first quarter of 2020, the General Manager authorized the Meetings, Events and Travel Services team to engage a consultant, Talley Management, to help in the effort to begin an RFI/RFP process to determine the most cost-effective and appropriate venues to hold the 2023 (73rd) and 2024 (74th) General Service Conference.

A 2019 Conference Policy and Admissions Committee Additional Committee Consideration included three proposed dates, in order of preference, for the 73rd and 74th General Service Conferences that do not conflict with any significant holidays. All Conference members will be notified of the final dates for these Conferences as soon as they are finalized by G.S.O. management.

Following a similar process used in past site selection searches, G.S.O. Management is planning to explore venues outside New York City and State (other cities in U.S. and Canada) for the 2025 General Service Conference. This is a preliminary step to gather information to bring back to the Board and the Conference.

The goals for the current RFP will continue to be:

- 1) A reduction or containment of total Conference total costs
- 2) An improvement in the suitability of sleeping rooms and meeting rooms, including the spaces for our general sessions and committees, with appropriate support resources, such as Wi-Fi and AV
- 3) Better and less expensive transportation connections than we currently have, especially to La Guardia and JFK airports

Conference Advisory Actions Regarding General Service Conference Site Selection

- 2017** *It was recommended that:*
General Service Office management submit a report on the process, implementation and status on the site selection of the General Service Conference for review by the 2018 Policy/Admissions Committee.
- 2008** *It was recommended that:*
The responsibility for General Service Conference site selection be delegated to General Service Office management, subject to approval of the General Service Board; and that a report be forwarded to the 2009 General Service Conference.
- 1991** *It was recommended that:*
The 1992 General Service Conference annual meeting be held in the city of New York. (Floor Action)
- 1970** *It was recommended that:*
The General Service Office have the right to choose the hotel for the 1971 General Service Conference without conferring further with the delegates to the Conference. (Delegates Only Meeting)
- 1969** *It was recommended that:*
Inasmuch as G.S.O. is now giving consideration to relocation of the office in New York, consideration might also be given to the relocation of the site of this annual meeting, with a view to returning to single-room accommodations, so that the advantages of private meditation, study, thought and rest might be restored. It was further suggested that the rising costs of the annual meeting might be controlled, or at least reduced, by a study of possible alternative hotel accommodations. (Delegates Only Meeting)
- 1956** *It was recommended that:*
The proposal that meetings of the General Service Conference be "rotated" from New York City in even years to a different geographical section in odd years be tabled for consideration at some future date.

2020 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

ITEM D: Consider continuing the review of dates for the General Service Conference with timing and years to review as requested by the general manager.

Background notes:

2019 Committee Consideration from the Conference Policy and Admissions Committee:

In reviewing the report from G.S.O.'s general manager on site selection for the General Service Conference, the committee noted the change of dates for the 71st G.S.C. that will take place in 2021 and that it had been necessary for the general manager to move forward and contract for the hotel for the 72nd General Service Conference prior to the selection of dates by the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee.

The 71st General Service Conference will take place from April 18-24, 2021 in Brooklyn, New York and the 72nd General Service Conference will take place from April 24-30, 2022 in Brooklyn, New York.

In order to provide additional flexibility to the General Service Office management in contracting the most cost-effective and appropriate venues for the General Service Conference, the committee agreed to select three proposed dates for the 73rd and 74th General Service Conferences. The committee selected the following dates in order of preference for the 73rd General Service Conference: April 23-29, 2023; April 30-May 6, 2023 and April 16-22, 2023. The committee selected the following dates in order of preference for the 74th General Service Conference: April 14-20, 2024; April 28-May 4, 2024 and May 5-11, 2024. The committee noted that these proposed Conference dates do not conflict with any significant holidays. The committee asks that all Conference members be notified of the final dates for the 73rd and 74th General Service Conferences as soon as they are finalized by G.S.O. management.

From the February 1, 2020 minutes of the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference:

*The committee **agreed to forward** a proposed agenda item to "Consider continuing the review of dates for the General Service Conference with timing and year(s) to review as requested by the general manager" to the 2020 Conference Policy and Admissions Committee for consideration.*

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Conference Advisory Action regarding review of dates for the General Service Conference:

1985 *It was recommended that:*

The Conference Policy Committee routinely review the dates for the General Service Conference to be held two years hence

Background:

1. Correspondence regarding review of dates for the General Service Conference by the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee
2. General Manager's report on General Service Conference site selection **SEE ITEM C.1**

From: Conference

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 3:00 PM

To: GMGSO-Greg T.; Conference

Cc: Cate W.; Staffcoord; L, Stephanie; Ibrahim, Lola

Subject: GM, TCGSC Chair and Conference Coordinator response to inquiry about reviewing GSC dates

Hello, Barb,

Thank you for your inquiry about what Conference dates the Conference Policy and Admissions Committee should review at this year's 70th GSC and future GSCs going forward.

During the 2019 Conference Policy and Admissions Committee meeting Greg Tobin, general manager, shared that what he felt gave G.S.O. the best negotiating advantage for site selection is issuing requests for proposals (RFPs) to hotels for 2-year contracts, having some flexibility with dates and starting the process as soon as possible. To that end, Greg believes that it is a good idea to alter the review of Conference dates for 2020 and going forward as follows:

- 2020 – no review dates needed
- 2021 – Review dates for 2025 & 2026. RFP process could begin at end of 2021 and 2022.
- 2022 – no review dates
- 2023 – Review dates for 2027 & 2028. RFP process could begin at end of 2023 and 2024.

Greg will communicate more about this topic in his 2020 Site Selection Report that will be presented to the trustees' Committee on General Service Conference at the February 2020 meeting.

Historically, there is a 1985 Advisory Action that states:

The Conference Policy Committee routinely review the dates for the General Service Conference to be held two years hence.

In the Site Selection Report, Greg plans to recommend a proposed agenda item to be forwarded to the Conference Policy and Admissions Committee to consider continuing the review of dates for the General Service Conference with timing and year(s) to review as requested by the General Manager.

We will communicate the 2020 Conference Policy and Admissions agenda change to Conference Members when we post the 2020 Final List of Agenda Items.

Best Regards,

Greg T., general manager

Cate W., trustees' Committee on General Service Conference, chair

Patrick C., Conference coordinator

From: Barb C.

Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 8:25 PM

To: Staffcoord

Subject: P/A question

Hi Mary,

Looking over the 70th GSC Policy/Admissions agenda items I have a question about the item “Review dates for the 2025 General Service Conference”

Last year we were asked to review dates for 2022, which we did. Talking to Greg T. during our P/A committee meeting at conference, he explained that what gave GSO the best negotiating advantage was issuing RFPs to hotels for 2 year contracts, having some flexibility with dates, and starting the process as soon as possible. To that end last year we also selected possible dates for 2023 & 2024 (the next 2 year “chunk”) listing 1st, 2nd & 3rd choices of weeks.

Had we not done that, this year I imagine we would have been asked to select dates for 2023. But we *did* do that, so I want to see if I understand how this may have impacted this process moving forward. Should dates be considered every other year at conference now, selecting 2 years’ worth (i.e. – not consider dates this year, next year consider 2025 & 2026)? Since we know 2021 & 2022 will be in Brooklyn, and 2023 & 2024 is TBA, would GSO really start considering/negotiating 2025 without also knowing 2026 and/or is it too soon to worry about 2025? Or maybe the 2 year RFPs isn’t a thing anymore? Or it’s just nice to let this committee do this every year and it’s “on the books” but GSO doesn’t need to start figuring out 2025 until after next years conference when 2026 is selected?

Happy* to do whatever is needed, just hoping to understand the “big picture” a bit more. Thanks for any insight you can share.

* truly – beyond happy. This stuff is so amazing to be a part of. I’ve loved every second!

In love and service,

Barb C.

Delegate – Panel 69 – Policy/Admissions
Area 47 Central NY

2020 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

ITEM E: Consider a proposed process for how a Conference committee could review, discuss and act on proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee.

Background notes:

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

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

The 2018 Conference Agenda Committee requested the trustees’ committee create a process for area delegate review of proposed agenda items that were not forwarded to a Conference committee and bring a report to the 2019 Conference Committee on Agenda.

2019 Additional Committee Consideration of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions:

The committee considered a process for how a Conference committee could review, discuss, and act on proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee and appreciates the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference’s work on developing a process thus far. The committee noted the inclusion of a rationale on items not forwarded that are listed on the grid of proposed agenda items. The committee requested that the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference continue developing the process outlined in their report and provide a report to the 2020 General Service Conference that includes more information regarding the distribution of background and the January conference call between the trustee committee chair and the corresponding Conference committee.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

From the February 1, 2020 minutes of the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference:

*The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2020 Conference Policy and Admissions Committee for consideration two separate proposed processes for how a Conference committee could review, discuss and act on proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee and the process for approving observers to the U.S./Canada General Service Conference.*

Background:

1. 2019 Report of trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference on Agenda Items Not Forwarded – Approving Observers **SEE ITEM A.1**
2. Proposed Agenda Items Not Forwarded Process
3. Workflow of Proposed Agenda Item Not Forwarded Process
4. NEW 1/2020 Suggestions for January Conference Call
5. 2019 January Conference Call Survey Results
6. 2018 Final Subcommittee Report on Agenda Items Not Forwarded Process and Proposed Process
7. 2016 Subcommittee Report on the Agenda Item Selection Process
8. 2018 Report on the Implementation and Effectiveness of the Conference Agenda Process Including Sharing from the 2018 Conference Committee Chairs
9. Historical Information Proposed Agenda Items Not Forwarded
10. Frequently Asked Questions on Group Conscience Consideration for Proposed Conference Agenda Items Revised 11/2019
11. Final Proposed Agenda Items Disposition List 2020
12. Proposed Agenda Items Not Forwarded to Conference 2020

Proposed Agenda Items Not Forwarded Process

February 1, 2020

Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference

Development of this process was prompted by the following historical actions:

- 2018 Conference Agenda Committee request for the trustees' committee to create a process for area delegate review of proposed agenda items that were not forwarded to a Conference committee and bring a report to the 2019 Conference Committee on Agenda.
- 2016 Conference Advisory Action that "The General Service Board develop a new policy and a plan that enhances the General Service Conference agenda review and selection process, providing the area delegate members of the Conference a role in the vetting and selection of proposed agenda items through the Conference process, to be brought to the 2017 General Service Conference."

The General Service Board has recognized the desire by the Conference for greater delegate participation in the agenda process. The following are actions that have already been or will be put in place to increase communication concerning agenda items:

- For over 20 years, the General Service Board has welcomed the chairpersons of Conference committees and the delegate chairperson at the quarterly Board Weekend prior to the General Service Conference.
- All Conference committee chairs are given a complete set of background for their corresponding Trustee Committee meeting at the January Board Weekend (with confidential information removed, i.e. Nominating resumes or works in progress). This background is sent to them prior to the Board Weekend when background is available for trustee committee members.
- Starting in 2016, trustees' committee chairs have spoken via conference call to Conference committee chairs both before and after board weekend, giving the chairs an opportunity to voice their views regarding potential agenda Items.

Starting in January 2019 the following action was requested by the 2018 Conference Committee on Agenda to increase delegate communication concerning agenda items:

- Before the January board weekend, the entire Conference committee will have a conference call with the corresponding Trustees' committee chair and staff secretary to review items submitted as agenda items and to talk about items still being considered by the trustees' committee.

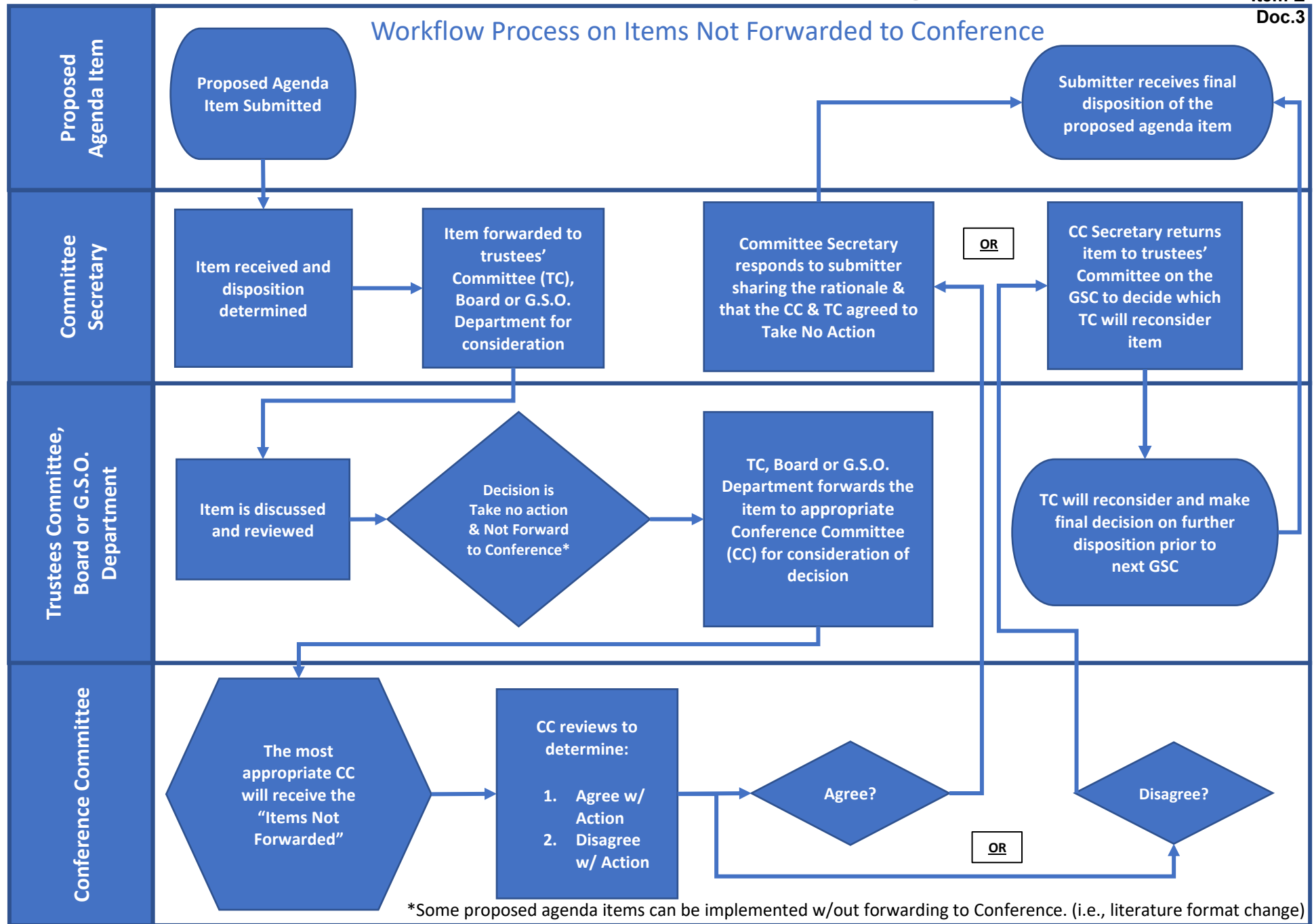
The Proposed Agenda Items Not Forwarded Process Steps

To continue to involve Delegates in the selection of agenda items, the following is the process regarding proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee. This process is meant to include the Delegates' voice in what is important to the Fellowship as well as provide the Fellowship with an opportunity to give feedback for consideration:

1. Any proposed agenda items that a trustee committee does not forward will be sent to the corresponding (or appropriate) Conference committee for review. A standing agenda item would be added to each Conference committee "to review those grid items that were not forwarded".
2. The original proposed agenda item submission sent in will be reviewed by the trustees' committee or boards' secretary for accuracy and, if deemed helpful for the trustees' or boards' discussion, appropriate additional background information can be included.
3. All proposed agenda items that are 'do not forward items', being sent to an appropriate Conference Committee, will have the background that the trustees or board members reviewed to discuss and make their decision (exclusive of any material deemed confidential i.e. Trustee or director candidate resumes). The background will be included in the full Conference background that is translated and posted annually for all Conference members.
4. The Conference committee is not being asked to act on the proposed agenda item, the committee is tasked with determining whether to agree with the trustee committee's decision to take no action or determine if the agenda item should be sent back for further work and consideration by the trustee committee. The disposition of these items after review would follow a process:
 - i. If the Conference committee agrees that no action will be taken; the secretary of the committee will respond to the group or individual that submitted the item that the Conference committee agreed with the trustee committee's decision to take no action with the rationale.
 - ii. If the Conference committee decides more discussion or research is indicated; the item will be returned to the trustees' Committee on General Service Conference (TCGSC) for reconsideration. The Conference committee will include their reasoning for sending the proposed agenda item back for further consideration. The trustees' Conference committee will use the Conference committee discussion to determine which trustees' committee will reconsider and make the final decision as to disposition of the item prior to the next Conference.
5. The Conference committee's actions regarding the review of the "proposed agenda items not forwarded" to a Conference committee will be captured in the committee reports.

Actions Needed to Implement the Proposed Process

1. At the February 2020 meeting the proposed process will be considered by the trustees' Committee on General Service Conference with a decision to be made if the committee would like to forward it for consideration by the 2020 Conference Committee on Policy & Admissions and, if recommended, then by the full 2020 Conference.
2. If approved by the 2020 Conference, process implementation would begin with the 2021 Conference. The implementation will be overseen by the trustees' Committee on General Service Conference.
3. Further, if the Conference approves the process in 2020, then the trustees' Committee on General Service Conference would need to perform a procedural step to send a proposed agenda item to each Conference Committee to consider an update to the committees' Composition Scope and Procedure (CSP). The proposal would include information detailing what a committee is to do with proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee. This would be a procedural action to bring the CSPs in line with the new process.
4. To evaluate the process, the trustee's Conference committee would be provided with the following information:
 - i. A list of Proposed Agenda Items Not Forwarded grouped by assigned committee
 - ii. The history of:
 - (a) # of Proposed Agenda Items Not Forwarded
 - (b) Average Agenda Items per Committee
 - (c) Average Time Needed by Committees
 - iii. A survey would be developed to obtain responses from delegates (Survey to be developed by the trustees' Conference Committee to poll delegates on how beneficial the process is, how much work it added to the committee process, etc.) if the draft process is approved by the 2020 Conference.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

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

The conference calls should be set up to take place no later than Tuesday, January 21, 2020. Committee chairs and secretaries will want to decide on the length of the call based on the number of agenda items that will be reviewed.

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

Background: The January Conference call stands alone as a discussion with no background except a list that includes:

- Preliminary Agenda Items already forwarded to a Conference committee

and a report that includes:

- Proposed Agenda items that a trustees' committee or board took no action
- Proposed Agenda items still under consideration at the winter board weekend

Conference Call Talking Points: The trustees' Committee Chair can explain to the participants that the purpose of this call is to share whether an agenda item should move forward to the Conference Committee or not. Members are not gathered to vote on or debate the merits of each agenda item. Conference committee secretaries are available and willing to provide points of information, as needed, during the calls.

The trustees' Committee chair will verbally review the following:

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

The January call meeting's primary focus is to obtain sharing on the proposed agenda items still under consideration by the trustees' Committee or appropriate Board at the winter board weekend.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Note: If the Final - Proposed Agenda Items Not Forwarded Process is approved the following language could be incorporated into the Conference Call Talking Points section of these suggestions for the 2021 January Conference calls. "That the proposed agenda items that a trustees' committee or appropriate board took no action will receive a full review and discussion during the second-look process completed by an assigned Conference committee."

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

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

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

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

Sharing Notes Template:

**Sharing from Members of the 2020 Conference Committee on _____
Regarding Proposed Agenda Items
Conference Call
January XX, 2020**

Attendees:

Proposed Agenda Item 1

- Thought Number 1
- Thought Number 2

Proposed Agenda Item 2

- Thought Number 1
- Thought Number 2

2019 January Conference Call Survey Questions

Q1 Did you participate in the January Conference Call?

Q2 Did you find the materials provided for this call allowed for an informed discussion?

Q3 Were you able to share about potential Conference agenda items during the call?

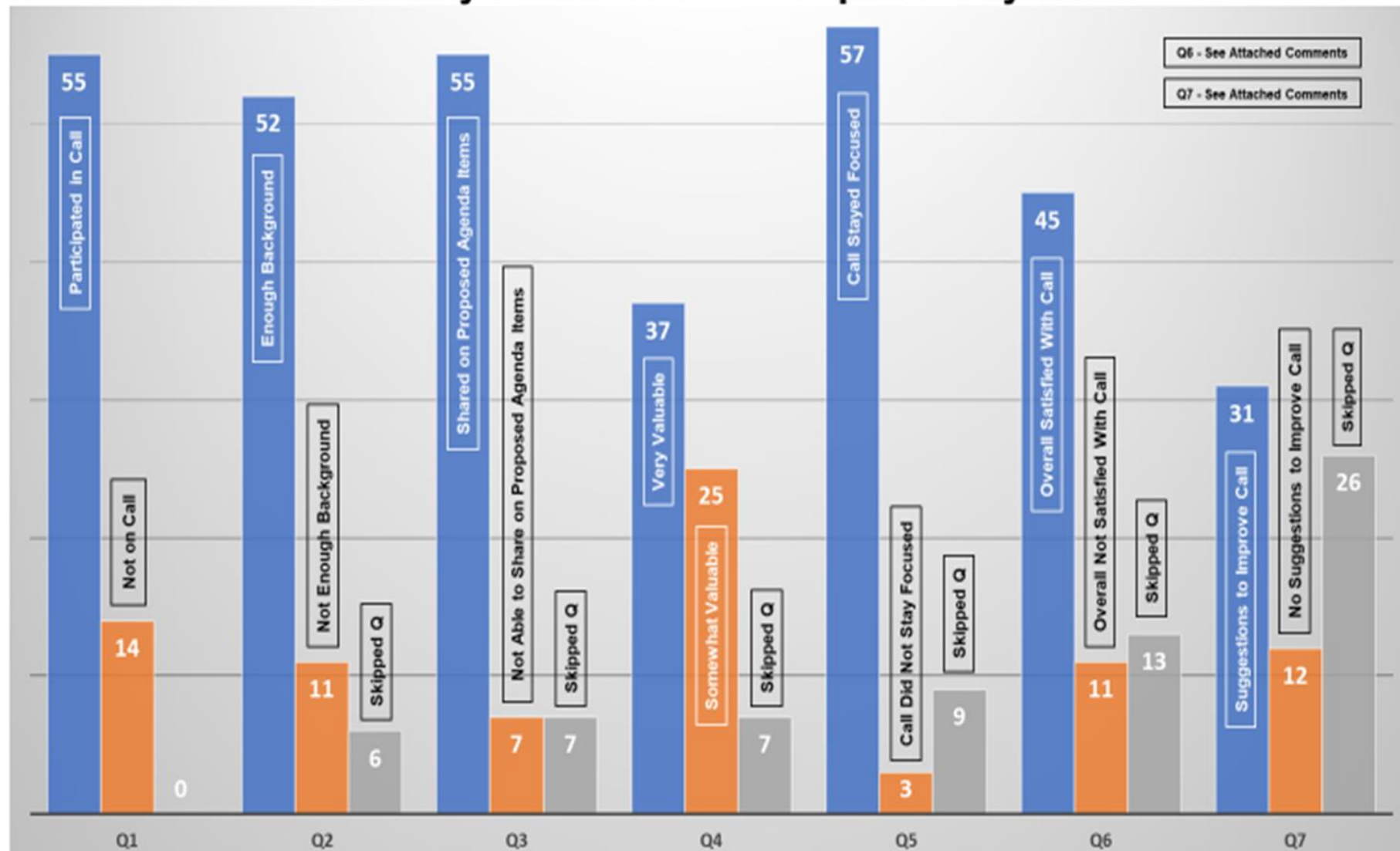
Q4 How valuable did you find this call between the Trustee Chair and Conference Committee?

Q5 Did your conference call stay focused on the proposed agenda items and agenda items still being discussed by the trustees?

Q6 Overall, how satisfied are you with this process for providing input into the Conference Agenda process?

Q7 What suggestions for improvement to this process do you have?

2019 January Conference Call Participant Survey Results



2019 January Conference Call Survey Participant Results - Q6 Comments

Q6	Answered	Satisfied- I listened mostly since others were making the same points I would have. Got some clarity on a couple points.
Q6	Answered	Moderately
Q6	Answered	Somewhat- as with all new things, maybe it starts out a bit clunky and gets better as we move ahead (future conferences). It was nice to feel included in the process!
Q6	Answered	satisfied but would like more background on the motive for the agenda item?
Q6	Answered	I found the conference call to be very informative and I was also able to connect with my other committee colleagues
Q6	Answered	I was brand new but gave me insight on things to come
Q6	Answered	I believe the process was very helpful
Q6	Answered	Moderately satisfied. I gave a little input on an item I'd submitted, but there wasn't a lot of delegate input overall.
Q6	Answered	I think it is important that the delegate's have input into the agenda process. This seems like a good start.
Q6	Answered	I thought it was worthwhile
Q6	Answered	Like I said, I didn't feel like our voice was heard. We voted unanimously in favor of every item on our grid, yet none made the agenda.
Q6	Answered	Very satisfied with the process. I believe it is a step toward becoming more informed.
Q6	Answered	As a committee chair, I was very satisfied. Communication with the chair of the trustees' committee after each board meeting was informative and I passed that information on to the members of my committee. As a committee member, I was extremely disappointed in the process. The committee chair has not communicate with the committee even once since the Conference. He has acted as a committee of one.
Q6	Answered	I think it was a step in the right direction. It helped the committee members get to know each other and that will be helpful when we meet in person. It was good to get an update and hear from trustees. It was empowering in some ways, however the information did not seem
Q6	Answered	Great step in the right direction!
Q6	Answered	Excellent idea. Please continue.
Q6	Answered	Very satisfied. I think it provided a good arena for discussion at a time when items were new and still pending. It gave me as a delegate, especially a first year delegate, a voice and an opportunity to learn more about what was in front of us prior to the release of the final list of
Q6	Answered	Very satisfied and we are moving in the right direction to get more Delegate input on setting the agenda.

2019 January Conference Call Survey Participant Results - Q6 Comments

Q6	Answered	It is a great start. I hope it will become a more integral part of the agenda selection process.
Q6	Answered	Not only did this call help to inform the delegate and the trustee, it was a great forum to begin the conference process. Everyone had the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas.
Q6	Answered	Very satisfied. But more can be done; such as having the Conference Committee Chair attend the corresponding Trustees meeting when all the agenda items are sorted out.
Q6	Answered	Yes, well worth the effort
Q6	Answered	I was very satisfied. I had time to ask questions and receive feedback from the Trustee of the committee and from the other Delegates on the panel. Very nice.
Q6	Answered	Impression was that we were all informed and prepared.
Q6	Answered	Somewhat
Q6	Answered	It served it's purpose.
Q6	Answered	I think the process is satisfactory without needing a January phone call.
Q6	Answered	I was very satisfied that we had input into the process. I was disappointed that none of the items that the majority of the Conference committee wanted to see included made it to the Final Conference agenda.
Q6	Answered	I went into it blind. I wasn't real satisfied.
Q6	Answered	It's a very good add.
Q6	Answered	I liked it --- as a Trustee I was introduced to the new delegates and believe this will be beneficial in May—
Q6	Answered	Very satisfied. I trust and hope this process will continue and improve the delegate participation of agenda item selection.
Q6	Answered	This is not a good use of our time.
Q6	Answered	Definitely a good idea, but the background should be shared.

2019 January Conference Call Survey Participant Results - Q6 Comments

Q6	Answered	Very satisfied. As a first year delegate, it helped me feel more comfortable with the agenda items and questions that might arise about them.
Q6	Answered	I was satisfied but have nothing to compare it to. Still, it was good.
Q6	Answered	I was satisfied, trustees chair stayed over the 1 hour because we were not finished. We covered and discussed everything and you know literature is always long.
Q6	Answered	I hope the exercise will prove to be valuable.
Q6	Answered	next time I will ask if I can hear the others persons.
Q6	Answered	I felt that there was discussion in the trustees committee about agenda items that we were not made aware of that could have helped us.
Q6	Answered	I'll let you know next year when I would be better prepared.

**2018 Subcommittee of the
Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference**

January 26, 2019

Final Report on Agenda Items Not Forwarded Process

Subcommittee: Cathy B., chair; Josh E., David N., and Patrick C. secretary

Scope item: To consider topics regarding area delegate review of agenda items, including consideration of:

1. A process for area delegate review of agenda items not forwarded;
2. A requested grid revision regarding agenda items not forwarded;
3. A 2-year process for proposed agenda items.

The subcommittee was appointed in July 2018 and initially met two times.

At the October 27, 2018 trustees' Committee on the GSC meeting the committee reviewed a preliminary report on a process for how the Conference Agenda Committee could review, discuss and act on Proposed Agenda Items Not Forwarded to a Conference committee.

The subcommittee was asked to develop a final version of the process and provide it for review at the January 2019 meeting. The subcommittee agreed that the next steps could be completed via email.

The subcommittee created the "Proposed Agenda Items Not Forwarded Process - Jan 2019 DRAFT" that is being submitted to the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference for review.

Proposed Agenda Items Not Forwarded Process

January 26, 2019

Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference

At the October 2018 trustees' Committee meeting, the subcommittee was asked to bring a draft process to handle agenda items not forwarded.

Development of this process was prompted by the following:

- 2018 Conference Agenda Committee request for the trustees' committee to create a process for area delegate review of proposed agenda items that were not forwarded to a Conference committee and bring a report to the 2019 Conference Committee on Agenda.
- 2016 Conference Advisory Action that "The General Service Board develop a new policy and a plan that enhances the General Service Conference agenda review and selection process, providing the area delegate members of the Conference a role in the vetting and selection of proposed agenda items through the Conference process, to be brought to the 2017 General Service Conference."

The General Service Board has recognized the desire by the Conference for greater delegate participation in the agenda process. The following are actions that have already been or will be put in place to increase communication concerning agenda items:

- For over 20 years, the General Service Board has welcomed the chairpersons of Conference committees and the delegate chairperson at the quarterly Board Weekend prior to the General Service Conference.
- All Conference committee chairs are given a complete set of background for their corresponding Trustee Committee meeting at the January Board Weekend (with confidential information removed, i.e. Nominating resumes or works in progress). This background is sent to them prior to the Board Weekend when background is available for trustee committee members.
- Starting in 2016, trustees' committee chairs have spoken via conference call to Conference committee chairs both before and after board weekend, giving the chairs an opportunity to voice their views regarding potential Agenda Items.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Starting in January 2019 the following action was requested by the 2018 Conference Committee on Agenda to increase delegate communication concerning agenda items:

Before the January board weekend, the entire Conference committee will have a conference call with the corresponding Trustees' committee chair and staff secretary to review items submitted as agenda items and to talk about items still being considered by the trustees' committee.

In order to continue to involve Delegates in the selection of agenda items, the following is the proposed process regarding Agenda Items Not Forwarded to a Conference committee. This process is meant to include the Delegates' voice in what is important to the Fellowship as well as provide the Fellowship with an opportunity to give feedback for consideration:

1. Any agenda items that a trustee committee does not forward will be sent to the corresponding (or appropriate) Conference committee for review. A standing agenda item would be added to each Conference committee "to review those grid items that were not forwarded". The Conference committee is not being asked to act on the agenda item, the committee is tasked with determining whether to agree with the trustee committee's decision to take no action or determine if the agenda item should be sent back for further work and consideration by the trustee committee. The disposition of these items after review would follow a process:
 - i. If the Conference committee agrees that no action will be taken; the secretary of the committee will respond to the group or individual that submitted the item that the Conference committee agreed with the trustee committee's decision to take no action.
 - ii. If the Conference committee decides more discussion or research is indicated; the item will be returned to the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference for reconsideration. The Conference committee will include their reasoning for sending the agenda item back for further consideration. The trustees' Conference committee will use the Conference committee discussion to determine which trustees' committee will reconsider and make the final decision as to disposition of the item prior to the next Conference.
2. Delegates would make their decision based on the background and information provided to the trustees' committee exclusive of any material deemed confidential (i.e. Trustee or director candidate resumes).

Proposed Agenda Items Not Forwarded Process

January 26, 2019

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Development of this process was prompted by the following:

- 2018 Conference Agenda Committee request for the trustees' committee to create a process for area delegate review of proposed agenda items that were not forwarded to a Conference committee and bring a report to the 2019 Conference Committee on Agenda.
- 2016 Conference Advisory Action that "The General Service Board develop a new policy and a plan that enhances the General Service Conference agenda review and selection process, providing the area delegate members of the Conference a role in the vetting and selection of proposed agenda items through the Conference process, to be brought to the 2017 General Service Conference."

The General Service Board has recognized the desire by the Conference for greater delegate participation in the agenda process. The following are actions that have already been or will be put in place to increase communication concerning agenda items:

- For over 20 years, the General Service Board has welcomed the chairpersons of Conference committees and the delegate chairperson at the quarterly Board Weekend prior to the General Service Conference.
- All Conference committee chairs are given a complete set of background for their corresponding Trustee Committee meeting at the January Board Weekend (with confidential information removed, i.e. Nominating resumes or works in progress). This background is sent to them prior to the Board Weekend when background is available for trustee committee members.
- Starting in 2016, trustees' committee chairs have spoken via conference call to Conference committee chairs both before and after board weekend, giving the chairs an opportunity to voice their views regarding potential Agenda Items

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Starting in January 2019 the following action was requested by the 2018 Conference Committee on Agenda to increase delegate communication concerning agenda items:

Before the January board weekend, the entire Conference committee will have a conference call with the corresponding Trustees' committee chair and staff secretary to review items submitted as agenda items and to talk about items still being considered by the trustees' committee.

In order to continue to involve Delegates in the selection of agenda items, the following is the proposed process regarding Agenda Items Not Forwarded to a Conference committee. This process is meant to include the Delegates' voice in what is important to the Fellowship as well as provide the Fellowship with an opportunity to give feedback for consideration:

3. Any agenda items that a trustee committee does not forward will be sent to the corresponding (or appropriate) Conference committee for review. A standing agenda item would be added to each Conference committee "to review those grid items that were not forwarded". The Conference committee is not being asked to act on the agenda item, the committee is tasked with determining whether to agree with the trustee committee's decision to take no action or determine if the agenda item should be sent back for further work and consideration by the trustee committee. The disposition of these items after review would follow a process:
 - i. If the Conference committee agrees that no action will be taken; the secretary of the committee will respond to the group or individual that submitted the item that the Conference committee agreed with the trustee committee's decision to take no action.
 - ii. If the Conference committee decides more discussion or research is indicated; the item will be returned to the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference for reconsideration. The Conference committee will include their reasoning for sending the agenda item back for further consideration. The trustees' Conference committee will use the Conference committee discussion to determine which trustees' committee will reconsider and make the final decision as to disposition of the item prior to the next Conference.
4. Delegates would make their decision based on the background and information provided to the trustees' committee exclusive of any material deemed confidential (i.e. Trustee or director candidate resumes).

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

5. Background for each item would be reviewed by the trustee committee secretary with any inaccuracies being corrected before inclusion in the Conference committee background.
6. In addition, a line would be added to each Conference Committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure describing the new annual process to review agenda items not forwarded.
7. The draft process would first need to be reviewed and approved by the 2019 Conference Committee on Policy & Admissions and then by the full 2019 Conference.
8. If approved by the 2019 Conference, implementation would begin with the 2020 Conference with the process overseen by the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference. In order to evaluate the process, the trustee's Conference Committee would be provided with the following information:
 - i. A list of Agenda Items Not Forwarded grouped by assigned committee
 - ii. The history of:
 - (a) # of Agenda Items Not Forwarded
 - (b) Average Agenda Items per Committee
 - (c) Average Time Needed by Committees
 - iii. Survey responses provided by delegates. (Survey to be developed by the trustees' Conference Committee to poll delegates on how beneficial the process is, how much work it added to the committee process, etc.) if the draft process is approved by the 2019 Conference.

Final Report
2016 Subcommittee on the Agenda Item Selection Process

Members: Bill N., Chair; Carole B., Richard B., Josh E., Peter Luongo⁺, Homer M., Bob W., Mary Clare L., Secretary.

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

The subcommittee of the whole of the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference on the Agenda Item Selection Process met on the evening of October 28, 2016 at the Hilton Rye Town Hotel.

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

The committee agreed that there was a need to increase communication and feedback between the committees of General Service Board and the committees of the General Service Conference.

As they discussed ways to move forward, the committee agreed on the following points:

- The Board heard the will of the Conference in the Advisory Action about providing the area delegate members an enhanced role in the vetting and selection of proposed agenda items. The Board agrees that additional consultation with those members will improve communication, trust and cooperation in the process of selection Conference committee agenda items.
- In keeping with the Concept III, the final responsibility for selection of Conference Agenda Items appropriately lies with the trustees’ of the General Service Board;

⁺Nonalcoholic

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

“the Trustees of the General Service Board (operation of course within the provisions of their own Chart and Bylaws) should be able at all times to decide when they will act fully on their own responsibility and when they will ask the Conference for its guidance, its approval of a recommendation, or for its actual decision and direction.” (*The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*, p. 13)

- Following review by the General Service Board, trustees’ committees or service corporation boards (A.A. World Services and AA Grapevine) may forward Agenda Items to Conference committees for their consideration.
- No single Conference committee has authority to select agenda items for all Conference committees.

The committee discussed measures that have already been put into place to enhance communication regarding Conference Agenda Items. For over 20 years, the General Service Board has welcomed the chairpersons of Conference committees and the delegate chairperson at the quarterly Board Weekend prior to the General Service Conference.

At their August 2014 meeting, the Board approved a recommendation stating:

“Delegate chairpersons are invited to sit with the trustee chairperson at the meeting of their corresponding trustees’ committee and participate in the meeting. The trustees’ committees welcome input from the delegate chair of their corresponding Conference committee; however, they are not voting members of the corresponding trustees’ committee.

“Delegate chairpersons of other Conference committees are welcome to attend meetings of trustees’ committees that are of interest, along with other non-committee members, with participation at the discretion of the trustees’ Committee chair.”

Following the 2016 General Service Conference, the trustees acted to continue to improve communication between area delegates and the trustees’ committees. They approved a recommendation that there be regular communication between the chairs of each trustees’ Committee and their corresponding Conference committee chair, and between the AAGV board and the chair of the Conference Committee on the Grapevine. Starting in 2016, trustees’ committee chairs have spoken via conference call to Conference committee chairs both before and after board weekend, giving the chairs an opportunity to voice their views regarding potential Agenda Items.

In addition, the Board recommended that the 2014 policy regarding Conference committee chairs be amended to state that:

All Conference committee chairs will be given a complete set of background for their corresponding Trustee Committee meeting at the January Board

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Weekend (with confidential information removed, i.e. Nominating resumes or works in progress) and that this background be sent to them prior to the Board Weekend when background is available for Trustee committee members. This applies to the Chair of the Conference Committee on the AA Grapevine for his/her attendance at the GV board meeting where she/he will have a complete set of background, except for confidential information, and this will be sent out prior to the Conference as well.

The subcommittee, in addition to noting these actions already taken to give area delegates a voice in the selection process, considered an additional role for the area delegate members of the Conference. Before the January board weekend, the entire Conference committee could have a conference call with the trustees' committee chair and staff secretary to review items submitted as agenda items and to talk about items still being considered by the trustees' committee. This way, Conference committee members would get a verbal report on the disposition of items submitted to the trustees' committee, and could share regarding those items. This would allow all Conference committee members to offer feedback on proposed Agenda items. Their feedback could be brought to the trustees' committee meeting as background for the discussion.

Each year the trustees' committee provides a report to the General Service Conference, which is discussed with the Conference committee at the Joint meeting in April. This report would include a description of each of the items, fully explaining the status of each item. For those items that were not forwarded to the General Service Conference, the rationale of the trustees' committee for not forwarding it would be included.

###

**Report on the Implementation and Effectiveness
of the Conference Agenda Process
Including Sharing from the 2018 Conference Committee Chairs**

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

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

This report includes sharing gathered from the 2018 Conference committee chairs through a questionnaire. The report contains two attachments: the “2016 Trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference Report on the Agenda Item Selection Process”: and a piece called “Frequently Asked Questions on Group Conscience Consideration for Proposed Conference Agenda Items.”

QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

In early January 2018, the following anonymous questionnaire was provided to the 13 Conference committee chairs and the delegate Conference chair. Eleven people out of 14 responded to the questionnaire.

Below are the questions and responses.

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

YES – 8 responded yes, and 3 offered these comments:

- Our conversation covered items before the trustees committee which related to my Committee
- Hon. Ivan Lemelle⁺ kept Peggy M. and myself very well-informed
- It has been very helpful to hear what is being discussed prior & post meetings. It is also nice to be asked for input and shared experience on topics being discussed and/or considered.

⁺Nonalcoholic

NO – 2 responded no, and 1 offered this comment:

- Only one phone call after one of the quarterly board meetings, but no other contact

NO ANSWER – 1 did not answer yes or no, but offered this comment:

- The Delegate Chair did I don't remember if the Trustees Chair did. Same with my Secondary Committee. However I did have correspondence with the new chair in my secondary committee

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

YES – 8 responded yes, and 3 offered these comments:

- Once.
- We shared thoughts on how things went and where they might possibly be headed
- It has been very informative and enlightening to hear both sides of the discussions from the board meetings.

NO – 2 responded no, and offered these comments:

- Progress was revealed by agenda and background for each subseq quarterly meeting
- I don't think so

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

YES – 8 responded yes, and 5 offered these comments:

- In a general way.
- I did go to the Dashboard prior to the calls to see what was there. plus re-read the latest board minutes.
- Not knowing if an idea should be brought before the committee for discussion and getting input and additional history from Joel has been very helpful.
- We didn't actually speak, our communication was by email.
- Very few decisions were made about agenda items for our committee. I know other committees made decisions, though I'm unsure what role the delegate chair played in them.

NO – 2 responded no.

NO ANSWER – 1 did not answer yes or no, but offered this comment:

- No, I didn't

4. How valuable did you find these conversations?

VERY VALUABLE – 6 responded “very valuable,” and 2 offered these comments:

- Being able to have this connection with the Trustee is very valuable in making me feel a part of this process
- These calls have helped in the aspect that I feel we are "a part of the pre & post conference experience".
- Good to be in the communications loop.

SOMEWHAT VALUABLE – 2 responded “somewhat valuable,” and offered these comments:

- The calls could be much more useful if done regularly and proactively.
- More helpful than valuable.

NO RATING – 3 did not offer a rating, and 1 offered this comment:

- When I did have a conversation with the new chair for my secondary committee it was nice....but necessary, I don't know, I found out everything I needed through the draft minutes and my Regional Trustee communications.

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

YES – 5 responded yes, and 4 offered these comments:

- Rotation was the only concern, as half would be out of the loop. I will be communicating with the committee following the January board weekend
- No calls to my corresponding committee chair - several to GSO Jeff W.
- Early on after the end of conference we discussed one item pertaining to Policy & Admissions. However we have not discussed things since. I didn't think we were allowed until 60 days before the GSC.
- I provided the committee with the written updates that the chair shared with me.

NO – 6 responded no, and 4 offered these comments:

- If I had had a call more recently, I would have had fresh content to include in a conference call closer to the GSC.
- My committee really just began on January 1st.
- I don't really understand this question.
- Until last month the committee was incomplete.

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

All 11 respondents replied, and offered these comments:

- Other than an item that came out of our committee last year and was sent to the Trustees Committee on Nominating, we have had no other opportunity to provide input.
- I have had little input on the process.
- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- I am satisfied with the way its currently set up. Anything that can be done to get more Delegate involvement will always be appreciated.
- Reasonably satisfied. I think it would be helpful for clearer communication encouraging Committee Delegate Chairs to make telephone calls/follow-up after board weekends re progress.
- I am a panel 67...so maybe this is why I'm feeling like i missed something???
- Overall, I feel it is a good thing. As a Delegate I feel more involved and have been able to provide sharing from the committee as well as my area. We have the opportunity to be united in our efforts and aware of the process that takes place.
- I'm not sure I felt I had any input in the conference agenda process. Hearing about what the trustees committee was working on, didn't give me any sense of providing input.
- It seems the delegates could be more hands on. They currently are allowed peeks at the process, but, outside of my phone conversations with the Trustee Chair, I don't feel I've really contributed yet.
- Very good.

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

9 respondents replied, and offered these comments:

- Make it a part of the annual agenda setting process to have a phone call sometime between the Dec 15 deadline and the Feb 15 distribution which includes the Conference Committee Chair, the Trustee Chair, and the committee staff secretary for the committee to discuss the potential agenda items.
- Keep up the good work
- None at this time.
- I would like to see a more clearly spelled out process for Delegate Chairs and Trustees to follow, so all Committee Chairs and Committee Members are able to be informed. Not sure how that is set up? Perhaps it can be discussed in January.
- Reasonably satisfied. I think it would be helpful for clearer communication encouraging Committee Delegate Chairs to make telephone calls/follow-up after board weekends re progress.
- Provide guidelines for Delegates on how and what they can communicate with their conference committee members and when.
- I don't believe I was every invited to offer my thoughts on the selection of agenda items. So I guess I'd encourage that that be a direct invitation from the chair.
- This survey needs to be done after the January board meeting. That will be when I feel I will be able to contribute the most, but have no idea how that will actually go.
- None at this time.



HISTORICAL INFORMATION



Proposed Conference Agenda Items – Not Forwarded
October 27, 2018

1

ANALYZING THE INFORMATION

Some of the reasons items were not forwarded :

- Recent consideration of same idea (within 2 years)
- Took no action, but continue to explore
- No widely expressed need
- Project already in development stage or authorized
- Concern had previously been researched and addressed
- Forwarded internally for future consideration or to be acted upon
- Proposal in conflict with principles of trust and participation reflected in our Concepts and the Conference Charter

2

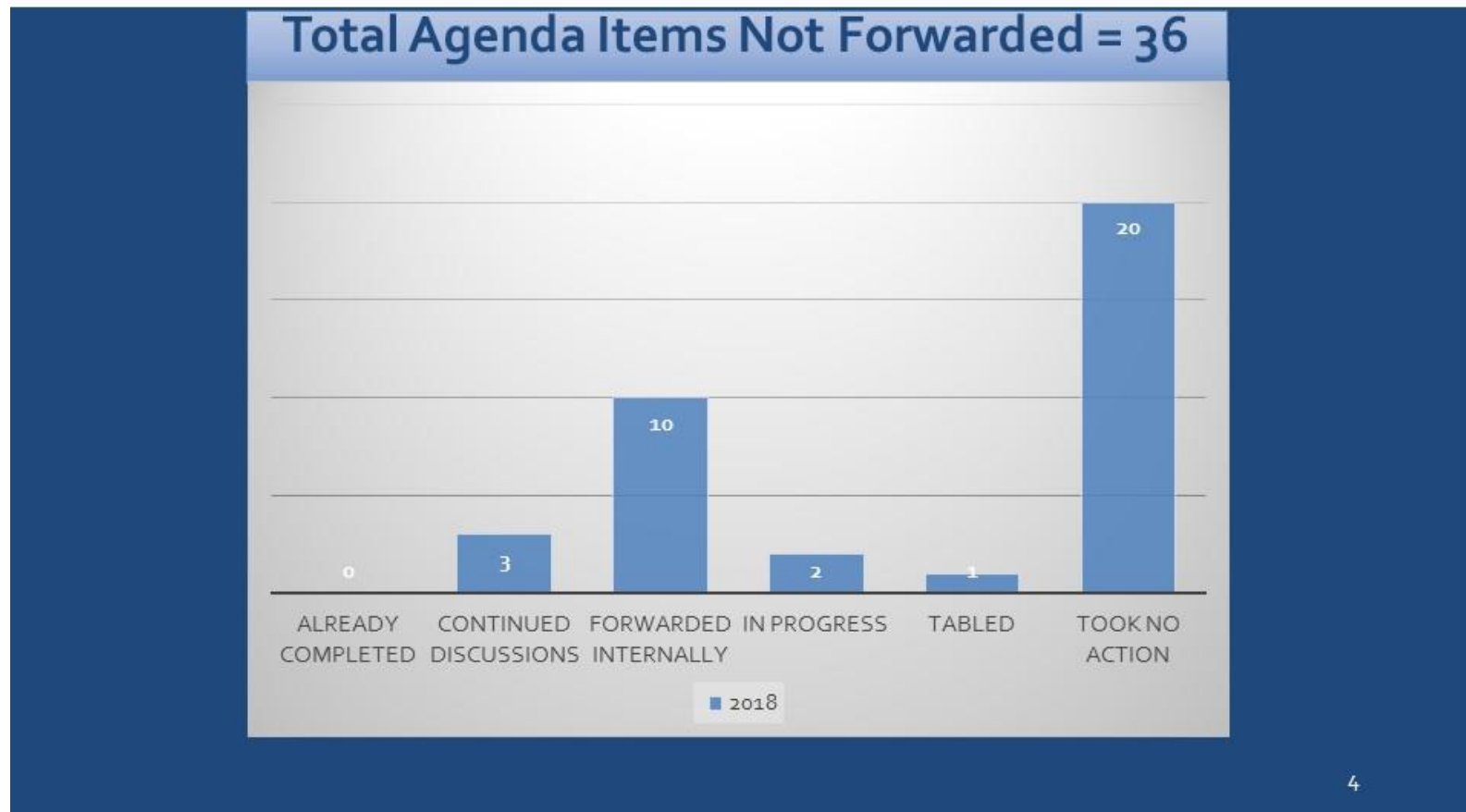
ANALYZING THE INFORMATION

Things to consider regarding a Conference committee's review:

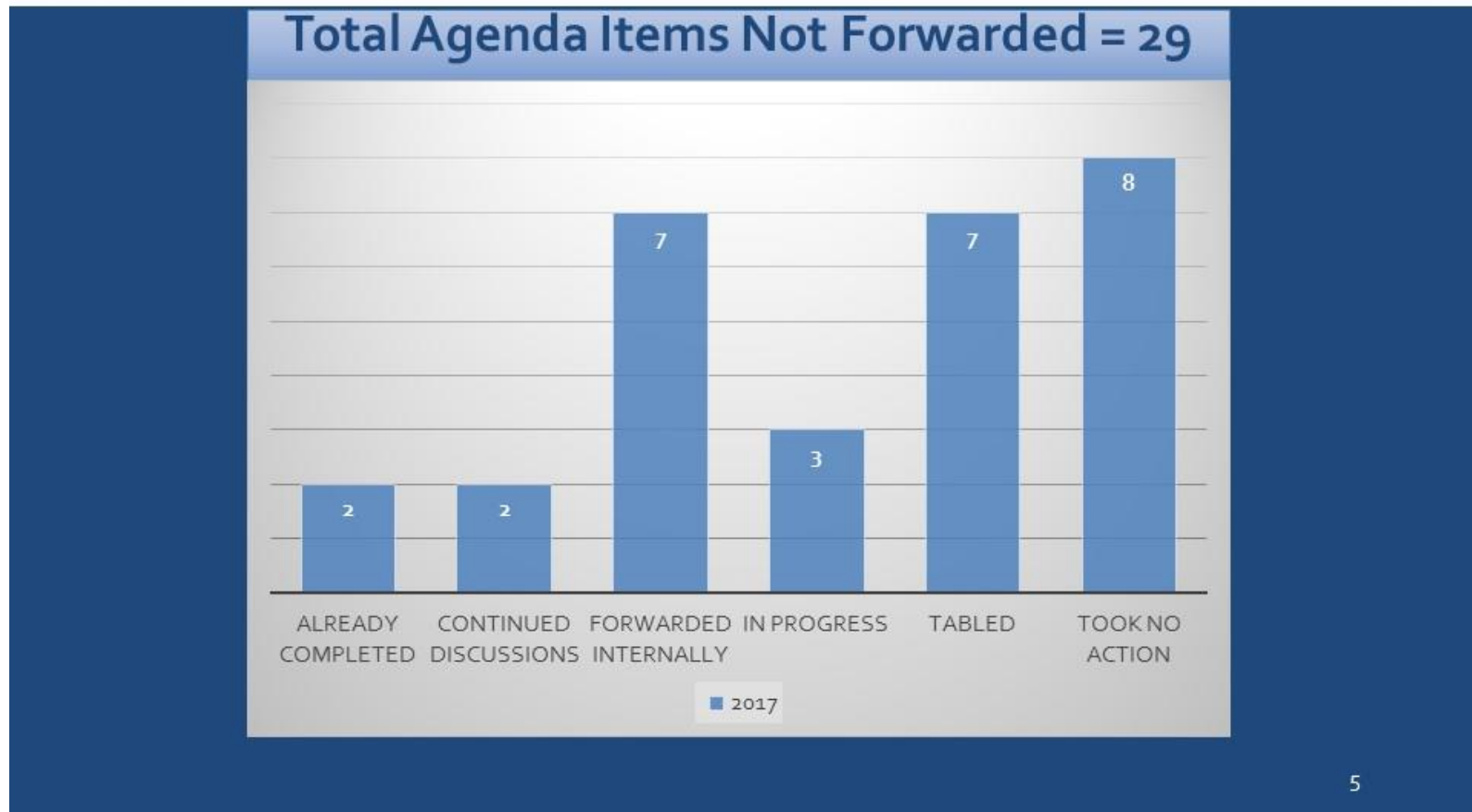
- Time needed by staff and Publishing to get the items ready for conference
 - ❖ Timing is a major concern for the committee and for staff in having to determine and provide appropriate background and Publishing to have to translate it all.
- Additional workload and time spent in committee
 - ❖ Four year average per year is 29 proposed conference agenda items – not forwarded for one committee to review and discuss and decide on next action.
- Potential for less of a full group conscience and giving one conference committee a wide-ranging authority.
- In the end, items not forwarded don't die, they can be resubmitted.

3

PROPOSED CONFERENCE AGENDA ITEMS – NOT FORWARDED (2018)

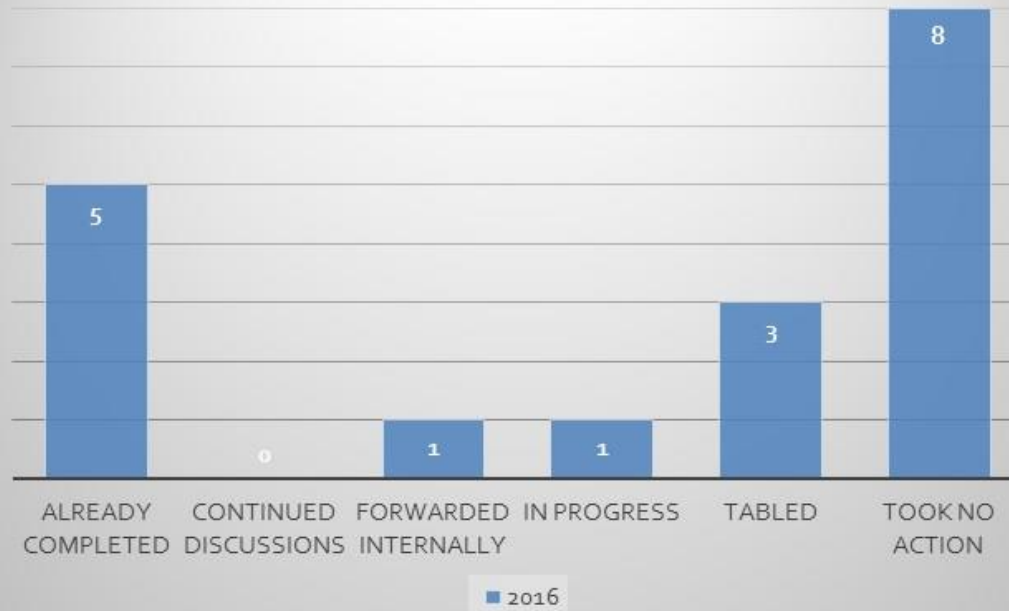


PROPOSED CONFERENCE AGENDA ITEMS – NOT FORWARDED (2017)



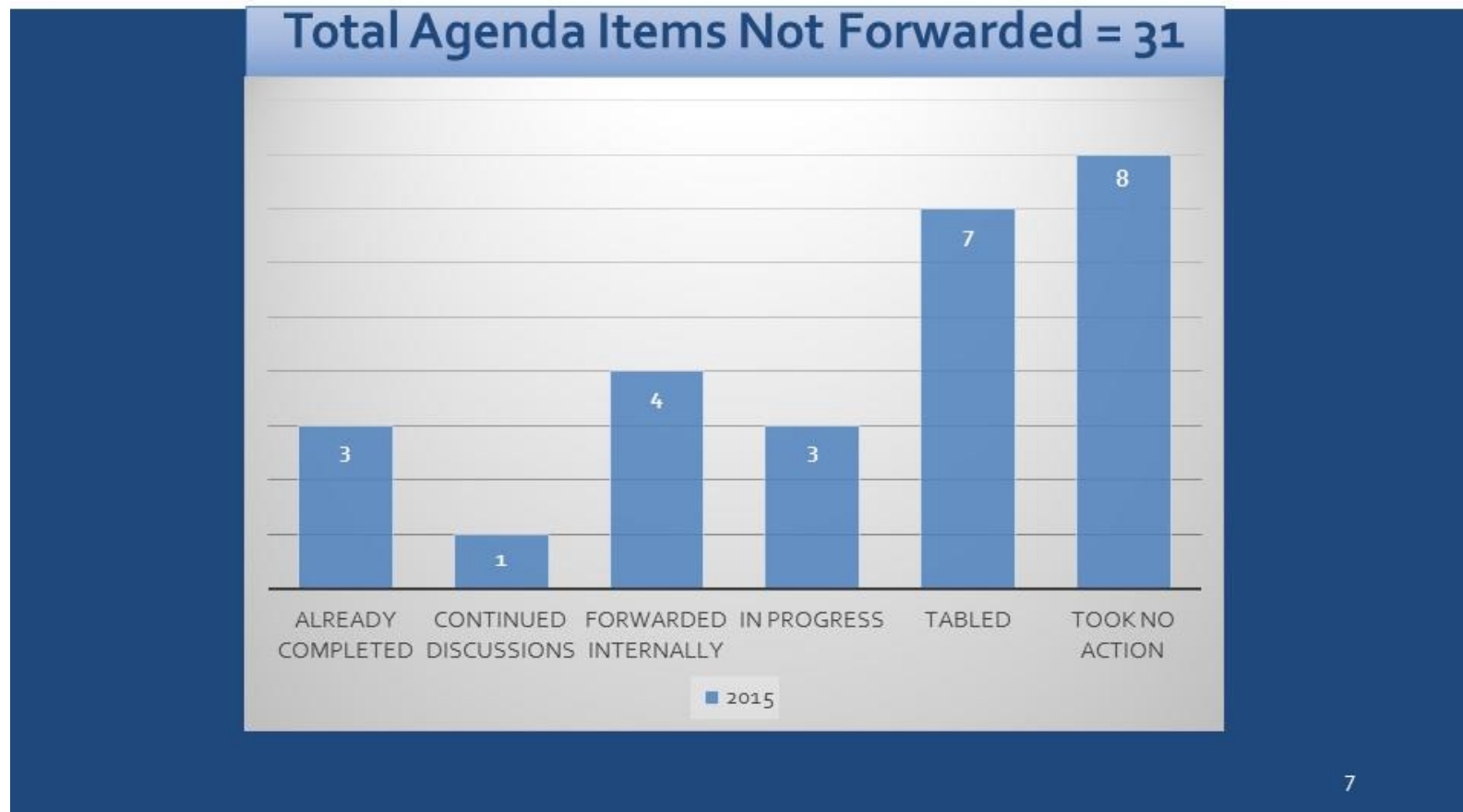
PROPOSED CONFERENCE AGENDA ITEMS – NOT FORWARDED (2016)

Total Agenda Items Not Forwarded = 19



6

PROPOSED CONFERENCE AGENDA ITEMS – NOT FORWARDED (2015)



Frequently Asked Questions on Group Conscience Consideration for Proposed Conference Agenda Items

This overview is general and includes many but not necessarily all of the possible routes a proposed agenda item follows in the trustee, G.S.O. and Grapevine review process. There is no “one size fits all” procedure and, on a case by case basis over time, there may occasionally be inconsistencies. The trustees, corporate directors and staff bring together years of experience in A.A. service in making decisions about the appropriate process or disposition of proposed Conference agenda items.

Sources of agenda items are described in *The A.A. Service Manual* on page S53 of the current edition as “...individual A.A. members, groups, delegates, trustees, area assemblies, area committee members, and directors and staff members of A.A.W.S. and the Grapevine.”

Routing of proposals

Q. Are all proposed Conference agenda items sent to the Conference Coordinator?

A. No. Items are often sent to other G.S.O staff members who are secretaries to trustees’ committees or directly to the Grapevine. Also, there may be on-going projects in trustees’ committees that are not forwarded through the Conference Coordinator.

Q. Does G.S.O. keep a master list of all proposed items submitted for possible Conference consideration?

A. In keeping with a 2016 Advisory Action, a list of agenda items proposed submitted to G.S.O. has been posted on the Dashboard for Conference member reference.

Q. What happens when a proposed Conference agenda item arrives at the Conference Coordinator’s desk?

A. The Conference Coordinator acknowledges receipt of the proposed agenda item and lets the sender know which of the following options is most appropriate and, if necessary, an explanation of why and how the proposed agenda item is being directed

1. **Forwarding to a Trustees’ Committee via a G.S.O. Staff Member or Department Head:**

- If the subject of the proposal is related to a staff committee assignment, e.g. CPC, Literature, etc., or Department, i.e. Archives, Finance, etc., the item will usually be forwarded to the appropriate trustees’ committee and the sender will also be notified of any actions taken.

2. Forwarding to G.S.O.'s Publications Director or Group Services Staff person:

- If the suggestion is related to service material, the Literature Catalog, Publications Department procedures, etc. it is usually forwarded to G.S.O.'s Publication Director or Group Services staff person for gathering of experience or background material prior to consideration/review by A.A. World Services, Inc.

3. Forwarding to A.A. World Services, Inc.:*

The following topics are the responsibility of the A.A. W.S., Inc. Board:

- Suggestions related to the general oversight of the G.S.O.
- Suggestions for format changes to A.A. literature, literature pricing policies, matters concerning the literature catalog, shipping and invoicing practices.
- Any matters related to the G.S.O. A.A. Website

4. Forwarding to Chair of the General Service Board;

- Matters related to Board Decisions/Procedures or to the general oversight of G.S.O and the A.A. Grapevine are forwarded to the Chair of the General Service Board; the chair may answer directly or route the matter to a trustees' committee, another board, the full board, or they might be forwarded to the G.S.O. General Manager – a decision on where an item of this nature goes depends on the particular issue addressed.

5. Forwarding to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board/AA Grapevine Publisher:*

- Matters relating in any way to the Grapevine or La Viña are forwarded to the AA Grapevine Publisher for disposition and an explanation of how the proposed agenda item will be handled.

***Note:** The A.A.W.S. and Grapevine Boards can forward proposed items directly to a Conference Committee if they wish Conference guidance, advice or direction.

Q. What happens when it is unclear what committee should address a proposed item or where an item should be routed?

A. When it is unclear where a proposed item belongs, it is most frequently forwarded to the trustees' Committee on the Conference for direction.

Q. When might a staff member assume direct responsibility for responding to a proposal?

A. The staff member is responsible for following up on items not being forwarded for consideration. The following are examples of instances when items have not been forwarded for consideration:

1. When the matter proposed is not suitable for Conference consideration or is clearly an outside issue; for example, a proposed item from a number of years ago asked that for environmental reasons the Conference discuss banning Styrofoam cups from A.A. meetings.
2. When there has not been a widely expressed need emanating from the Fellowship regarding a proposal, a staff member may respond after consultation with the chair of the appropriate trustees' committee and with other G.S.O. staff with the suggestion that wider, local sharing take place prior to the proposed item moving forward. Such a response is not a rejection of the item – it is encouragement for further discussion. The sender may choose to follow this suggestion or not, and is free to resubmit the item. Example: a district proposed that the word “disease” be removed from A.A. pamphlets. There was an area assembly taking place prior to the deadline for agenda items to come to G.S.O. and the staff member suggested that the matter be discussed at this assembly; this occurred and the issue failed to achieve substantial unanimity and the district declined to have the item moved forward for further consideration.
3. When Advisory Actions related to the proposed item already exist, the staff person may respond to the sender with this information – again, this is not a rejection, but a clarification that the matter proposed has been addressed by at least one previous Conference. The sender is free to resubmit the item. Example: an individual member requested that a 4th Step workbook be developed. A staff member forwarded research as to how this matter was addressed by previous Conferences.
4. When a proposal comes in that is so singular in nature or peculiar that it is not appropriate to pass it along to a trustees' committee, the staff member will let the sender know that their letter will be kept on file for future reference – this does not happen often. Example: an individual member wanted a pamphlet developed to explain the difference between “friendship” and “fellowship.” This is a singular proposal and the sender was asked to seek wider discussion on the matter and notified that their letter would be kept on file for future reference if further interest in the development of such a pamphlet was expressed.

Q. Can the G.S.O. staff pass along agenda items directly to a Conference committee?

A. Before being placed on the agenda of a Conference committee, each item is reviewed by a trustees' committee. Items for Conference committees without a corresponding

trustees' committee are frequently reviewed by either the trustees' Literature Committee or the trustees' Committee on the Conference. There are times when the service committees, Cooperation With the Professional Community, Corrections, Public Information and Treatment and Accessibilities, have very light agendas for an upcoming Conference. Occasionally, in the past, Conference committee secretaries have added one or two discussion agenda items to flesh out the agendas – this has often proven beneficial because the topics get discussed at many pre-Conference events. The policy now is that one or two discussion topics may be added only if, after consultation with the trustees' and Conference chairs of the particular committee, they deem the discussion topics appropriate and useful.

Trustees' Committees

Q. Prior to the trustees' committee meeting, do the committee members receive background related to the item so they can make an informed decision?

A. Yes. Members of the trustees' committees receive extensive background material and subcommittee reports several weeks before their quarterly meetings. If background was not provided with the original agenda submission, the staff secretary may write to the sender and ask that pertinent background be supplied. In addition, the staff secretary will gather pertinent background from G.S.O. resources.

Q. Do the trustees thoroughly discuss each proposed item?

A. Yes, they do. Occasionally, they have studied the background and thought about the issue in advance of their quarterly meeting, and they will find themselves in general agreement to either move the item forward to a Conference Committee or not or to send the item in another direction in which case there may not be a lengthy discussion.

Q. What options does a trustees' committee have in disposing of a proposed Conference agenda item it is considering?

A. Here are some options:

- The committee can agree to forward the item to a Conference committee for consideration.
- The committee can approve implementation of the suggestion, and, when appropriate, choose not to seek Conference ratification of this decision. Example: three areas requested that a trustees' committee be assigned or formed to oversee the annual revision of The A.A. Service Manual. The committee agreed this was a good idea but one that needed to be addressed by the Chair of the General Service Board. It was forwarded to the Chair and after further consultation, it was decided to place oversight of this document with the trustees' Literature Committee.
- The committee can take no action on the item which means that, for any number of reasons, they do not feel Conference or further trustees' consideration is

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warranted at this time. The committee secretary is often asked to explain to the sender the reasons the committee made this decision. Often suggestions like the suggestion to publish the Fourth Edition of the Big Book are considered over many years before the concept is accepted by the trustees, and, eventually, the Conference.

- The committee can forward the item to another committee, to A.A.W.S. or the Grapevine Board, to G.S.O. or to the General Service Board if it believes more information is needed before making a decision, or if it believes that the item would be more appropriately handled by another group conscience.
- The committee can form a subcommittee to examine the matter more fully before making a decision.
- The committee can table the matter until its next committee meeting.

Q. Do the trustees' committees give more weight to an area's agenda submission than to other's submissions?

A. There is no absolute "yes" or "no" to this question. Every effort is made to act fairly and on principle on all items submitted. The trustees' most important consideration is the subject matter. The procedures outlined above have been in place for many years, over all have been accepted by the Fellowship and are consistent with the Conference Charter and Concepts. The committee members must determine if their informed group conscience feels the proposed agenda submission should be placed on the Conference agenda. Having said that, the trustees recognize that a proposal that has been put forward by an area assembly has been widely discussed, has received substantial unanimity at an area assembly and, therefore, has the overall support of groups who attended and voted at the area assembly.

Q. Shouldn't an area's submission take precedence over everyone else's proposals?

A. Based on the guidance in the Concepts, the Conference Charter and the A.A. Service Manual, the trustees' committees and the General Service Board are charged with taking each proposal primarily on its merits not its source. Nowhere is it stated that, in terms of proposing Conference agenda items, an area is more important than an individual A.A. member, group, district or anyone else eligible to submit items for consideration. As human beings, though, the trustees' committee members cannot but note, for example, that an item is coming from an area assembly, a past delegate or a trustee and, possibly, have some tendency to consider an item from these sources a bit differently. The procedure is not an exact science but, again, every effort is made to act fairly and on principle, to seek God's will for us and have the courage to carry it out in order to safeguard, support and serve the Conference process.

Revised July 2019

Here is the final list of items that were submitted for the 2020 Conference Agenda and their disposition.

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
1	3/14/19	Consider developing a book titled A.A. Comes of Age II to chronicle the history since the writing of the first book to now.	Trustees' Committee on Archives	Forwarded to Conference Archives: The committee tabled discussion on the request to develop a book A.A. Comes of Age II until the February 2020 meeting. On 12-14-19 the disposition was changed from Trustees' Literature Committee to Trustees' Archives Committee as the request for new literature does not represent recovery literature, but archival material. Per Greg T., GM, Cate W., Trustees' Chair on Conference and Patrick C. Conference Coordinator. The trustees' committee considered a request to "Develop a definitive book on A.A. history from 1955-1985, working title, Alcoholics Anonymous Continues to Age or A.A., The Next 30 Years." The committee also considered a second request to "Develop a book titled, A.A. Comes of Age II." The committee noted the similarities between the two requests and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Archives a request to consider the development of a book on A.A. history from 1955 through the present.
2	5/6/19	Consider removing the bulleted duties from the following pages in The A.A. Service Manual and Twelve Concepts for World Services: 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	A.A.W.S. Publishing Department	Forwarded to G.S.O.'s Publishing Department: For consideration in the thorough evaluation, update, and redesign of the Service Manual recommended by the 2018 Conference.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
3	6/18/19	Consider an amendment to the title of the booklet, Living Sober, to read: Living Sober: How to not take the first drink.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Forwarded to Conference Literature: The committee tabled discussion on the request for adding a subtitle to Living Sober until the February 2020 meeting. The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature a request to add a subtitle to the booklet Living Sober.
4	6/23/19	That literature be developed sharing experience, strength and hope on meditation.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Under consideration by trustees' committee: The committee tabled the discussion on the request for a developing literature sharing experience, strength and hope on meditation until the February 2020 meeting. The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to continue discussions to consider developing literature sharing experience, strength and hope on meditation at their August 2020 meeting. The committee noted that Grapevine is in the process of developing a similar item.
5	6/3/19	Consider a proposed addendum to a Fifth Edition forward, of the book Alcoholics Anonymous, at the time it is published. The addendum of gender terms is written with the intent that all who are seeking answers (help) for a drinking problem are encouraged to give Alcoholics Anonymous a try.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Forwarded to Conference Literature: The committee reviewed requests for proposed Conference agenda items related to the possible development of a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee recognized the priority of addressing whether or not a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, might be developed before addressing items related to content and format changes. The committee will continue discussions at the February 2020 meeting. The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature requests to develop a Fifth Edition of the book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>.

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Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
6	7/11/19	That the AA Grapevine Board, in cooperation with the Grapevine Editorial Advisory Board, develop a new pamphlet which would describe how the A.A. Grapevine can be utilized to carry A.A.s message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic.	A.A. Grapevine	Forwarded to Conference Grapevine: The AAGVB decided at its December 7, 2019 board meeting to move the proposed agenda item forward to the 2020 Conference Grapevine Committee.
7	7/18/19	That the words of the opposite sex be removed from the paragraph in Chapter 12 of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions which currently reads: Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made —spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. be changed to: Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate with whom the fullest possible union can be made - spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Forwarded to Conference Literature: The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature the request to revise a paragraph in the chapter on Step Twelve of the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.
8	8/19/19	Consider a request to discontinue and retire the pamphlet "Alcoholics Anonymous in your Community." (P-31).	Trustees' Committee on C.P.C./Treatment & Accessibilities	Forwarded to Conference Committee on C.P.C.: The trustees' committee agreed to forward a request to discontinue the pamphlet "A.A. in Your Community" to the 2020 Conference Committee on C.P.C. The trustees' committee noted the current distribution of the pamphlet and suggested that the Conference C.P.C. Committee consider revising this pamphlet.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
9	8/30/19	That the General Service Conference consider creating a 5th Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous with the removal of the Chapters 'To Wives', 'The Family Afterward', and 'To Employers'.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Took No Action: The committee reviewed requests for proposed Conference agenda items related to the possible development of a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee recognized the priority of addressing whether or not a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, might be developed before addressing items related to content and format changes. The committee will continue discussions at the February 2020 meeting. The trustees' Literature Committee considered a request to develop a Fifth Edition of the book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> with the removal of the chapters "To Wives," "The Family Afterward," and "To Employers" and took no action. While the committee took no action on this specific proposed agenda item, the committee noted that the item touches on what it considers to be an expressed, broader need that is reflected in similar requests. The committee is exploring this need through subcommittee efforts and by seeking wider group conscience discussions. The committee noted that the background provided will be helpful in these discussions related to the agenda item to consider if a common solution can address 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

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
10	8/26/19	Consider a motion to develop a 5th edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Forwarded to Conference Literature: The committee reviewed requests for proposed Conference agenda items related to the possible development of a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee recognized the priority of addressing whether or not a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, might be developed before addressing items related to content and format changes. The committee will continue discussions at the February 2020 meeting. The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature requests to develop a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous.
11	9/5/19	Consider removing the words "He", "His" and "Him" from Steps Three, Seven and Eleven and replace them with the word God.	Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference	Took No Action: The committee discussed a proposed agenda item to "Consider removing the words 'He His and Him' from Steps Three, Seven and Eleven and replace them with the word God" and took no action. The committee understands that changing the Steps is a major undertaking. The committee agreed there is no widely expressed need for this change.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
12	9/5/19	Consider to allow Jewish Rabbis and Muslim leaders and Indian Ancient Vedas scholars et al to have diverse spiritual language in the Fifth Edition Big Book rather than the current predominantly Judeo Christian language.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Took No Action: The committee reviewed requests for proposed Conference agenda items related to the possible development of a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee recognized the priority of addressing whether or not a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, might be developed before addressing items related to content and format changes. The committee will continue discussions at the February 2020 meeting. The trustees' Literature Committee considered a request allowing Jewish Rabbis and Muslim leaders and Indian Ancient Vedas scholars et al to have diverse spiritual language in the Fifth Edition Big Book rather than the current predominantly Judeo-Christian language and took no action. While the committee took no action on this specific proposed agenda item, the committee noted that the item touches on what it considers to be an expressed, broader need that is reflected in similar requests. The committee is exploring this need through subcommittee efforts and by seeking wider group conscience discussions. The committee noted that the background provided will be helpful in these discussions related to the agenda item to consider if a common solution can address proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
13	9/24/18	That the General Service Conference authorize the Grapevine Executive Editor/Publisher to hire and oversee a writer to research and draft for publication the story of the Grapevine (including LaVina) from inception until present with inclusion of a chapter in the spirit of "A Vision For You."	A.A. Grapevine	Took No Action: The AA Grapevine Board reviewed this request and will continue this discussion at their July 2019 board meeting. The AA Grapevine Board reviewed this request with appreciation and decided not to move forward with this request because no expressed need has been indicated as well as staffing and financial constraints for a project of this magnitude.
14	10/15/18	Consider translating the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous into plain language – at a fifth grade or similar reading level.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Forwarded to Conference Literature: The trustees' Literature committee formed a subcommittee on Researching Issues, Possible Tools and Access to the Book, Alcoholics Anonymous to review previously submitted requests for literature development related to the items included in the Board chair's request in order assess the problems and needs being addressed in the related requests and possible common solutions. The committee looks forward to a subcommittee progress report at the February 2020 meeting. At the February 2020 meeting, the trustees' Literature Committee discussed the current (subcommittee) interim report and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Literature Committee the following agenda item to "Consider if proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, can be addressed with a common solution."

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
15	10/27/18	Consider an individualized workbook to accompany the Big Book.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Forwarded to Conference Literature: The trustees' Literature committee formed a subcommittee on Researching Issues, Possible Tools and Access to the Book, Alcoholics Anonymous to review previously submitted requests for literature development related to the items included in the Board chair's request in order assess the problems and needs being addressed in the related requests and possible common solutions. The committee looks forward to a subcommittee progress report at the February 2020 meeting. At the February 2020 meeting, the trustees' Literature Committee agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Literature Committee the following agenda item to "Consider if proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, can be addressed with a common solution."

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Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
16	11/7/18	Consider the development of a contemporary and comprehensive new work book to study the Twelve Steps, Traditions, and Concepts.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Took No Action: The committee tabled discussion on the request to develop a contemporary and comprehensive new workbook to study the Twelve Steps, Traditions and Concepts until the 2020 February meeting. The trustees' Literature Committee considered the development of a contemporary and comprehensive new workbook to study the Twelve Steps, Traditions, and Concepts and took no action. While the committee took no action on this specific proposed agenda item, the committee noted that the item touches on what it considers to be an expressed, broader need that is reflected in similar requests. The committee is exploring this need through subcommittee efforts and by seeking wider group conscience discussions. The committee noted that the background provided will be helpful in these discussions related to the agenda item to consider if a common solution can address proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
17	11/14/18	We ask for immediate removal [cease active use] of the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services YouTube Channel.	Trustees' Committee on Public Information	Took No Action: The A.A.W.S. board has agreed to forward the Proposed Agenda item for the removal of the A.A.W.S YouTube channel, to the trustees' Committee on Public Information for consideration. The committee discussed the request and tabled the item to the July 2019 meeting. The committee noted that the A.A.W.S. YouTube account is still in its infancy and that more information may be needed before determining its usefulness and effectiveness. The committee discussed the request from an Area for "the immediate removal (cease active use) of the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services YouTube Channel" and took no action. The committee noted that the A.A.W.S. account is still in its infancy and it is too early to determine the usefulness and effectiveness of this platform to communicate about A.A.
18	12/10/18	Consider that the book, Language of the Heart, be translated into a Spanish audiobook/audio format.	A.A. Grapevine	Approved by AA Grapevine Board: In progress: The AA Grapevine Board reviewed this request and referred it to their Ad hoc subcommittee on Book translations for further consideration. The AA Grapevine Board reviewed this request and is moving forward with the production of Language of the Heart translation into a Spanish audiobook/audio format.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
19	12/14/18	The General Service Conference consider ceasing the development of new literature and focus on making all our current literature accessible in all possible formats.	A.A. World Services	Took No Action: On January 24, 2019 the A.A. World Services Board reviewed the proposed agenda item and forwarded it to the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference. The trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference met on January 26, 2019, and considered item. Due to the broad implications of this request the committee forwarded it to the trustees' Literature Committee " The trustees' Literature Committee plans to review at the July 2019 meeting. From the July 2019 report: The committee discussed ceasing development of new literature and focus on making all our current literature accessible in all possible formats. The committee recognized the need to continue making current literature accessible in all possible formats. The committee requested the staff secretary gather background information to further assess availability of literature items in all formats with respect to accessibility, starting with all Conference-approved books, The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service and recovery pamphlets and provide a progress report at the November 2019 meeting. The committee took no action on ceasing development of new literature noting that new literature is developed in response to Advisory Actions from the General Service Conference. The trustees' Literature Committee discussed making current literature accessible in all possible formats and requested that the G.S.O. Publishing department develop a strategy to achieve this outcome and provide a progress report at the August 2020 committee meeting.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
20	12/14/18	Request that the General Service Conference consider the production of an audio format (preferably CD) of the Spanish language book El Lenguaje del Corazón.	A.A. Grapevine	Approved by AA Grapevine Board: In progress: The AA Grapevine Board reviewed this request and referred it to their Ad hoc subcommittee on Book translations for further consideration. The AA Grapevine Board reviewed this request and is moving forward with production of an audio format of the Spanish language book El Lenguaje del Corazón.
21	10/3/19	Consider to have Archives prepare a book containing all discontinued pamphlets.	Trustees' Committee on Archives	Took No Action: The committee discussed a proposal to produce a book containing all discontinued A.A. pamphlets and took no action. The committee noted that copies of retired pamphlets are available directly from the Archives Department, upon request. It was also noted that there is no widely expressed need for this material.
22	10/6/19	Recommendation that the General Service Office direct the appropriate Committee(s) to create and facilitate a targeted PSA to educate seniors about alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous for play on national television and radio stations across America.	Trustees' Committee on Public Information	Took No Action: The committee discussed a request from an area to create and facilitate a targeted PSA to educate seniors about alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee asked that further discussion about this item and PSA messaging be forwarded to the Comprehensive Media Plan subcommittee with a report back at the 2020 February meeting. The committee discussed a request to create and facilitate a targeted PSA to educate seniors about alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous and took no action. The committee noted the Comprehensive Media Plan subcommittee report that while it would be important to include seniors in a PSA messaging, they would not want to limit the messaging to one demographic.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
23	10/15/19	That the Conference Corrections committee review corrections related literature intended for use by members in correctional facilities and take action to removing the words "inmate" and "offender" from A.A.W.S. literature and replace these words with more inclusive terms.	Trustees' Committee on Corrections	Under consideration by trustees' committee: The trustees' committee had a wide-ranging discussion on language options to refer to incarcerated individuals in A.A. literature for Corrections, including discussion on a request forwarded from an area to "review Corrections related literature for use by members in correctional facilities and take action to removing the words "inmate" and "offender" from A.A.W.S. literature and replace these words with more inclusive terms." The committee considered the alternatives provided in the request, noting the relevance of providing the appropriate language for the appropriate audience. The committee suggested that a plan be considered by the trustees' Corrections Committee in August for a full review of the corrections literature with a focus on identifying the appropriate language based on the audience the corrections literature is trying to reach. The committee requested that the full background from the request received and a complete list of corrections literature, including service material, be brought to the August 2020 meeting of the committee.
24	10/15/19	Consider that a pamphlet be published by the General Service Office explaining YPAA (Young People of Alcoholics Anonymous) events, bid committees, state, regional and international conventions, also the ICYPAA Advisory Council.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Under consideration by trustees' committee: The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed the request to develop a pamphlet about Young People of Alcoholics Anonymous (Y.P.A.A.) and agreed to continue discussion at their August 2020 meeting. The committee requested that the staff secretary reach out to the submitter for more information as to the goal and purpose of the request.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
25	10/17/19	A revised version of the pamphlet, "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings" be considered to replace the current version. This revision seeks to clarify and make more concise the message conveyed, rendering this piece a more effective tool for use by A.A. members cooperating with non-A.A. persons and entities. The current version is 24 pages in length, and while the information contained therein is valuable, a concise piece may be a more effective and practical tool.	Trustees' Committee on Public Information	Under consideration by trustees' committee: The committee reviewed a request to consider a revised version of the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings." The committee asked that discussion on a revision to the pamphlet be continued at the August 2020 meeting. The committee also asked that a review of all Public Information pamphlets be included for discussion with a comprehensive review of the usefulness and relevancy of these pamphlets for P.I. committees and carrying the A.A. message to the public.
26	11/5/19	Consider that the language in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group", Page 13, concerning open meetings be revised to omit the text "Non-alcoholics may attend open meetings as observers."	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Forwarded to Conference Literature: The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature requests to revise text related to open meetings in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group."
27	11/11/19	Consider a request that our trusted servants at Grapevine Inc. change the language of the first sentence of the "A.A. Preamble" as follows: "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety."	A.A. Grapevine	Forwarded to Conference Grapevine: The AAGVB decided at its December 7, 2019 board meeting to move the proposed agenda item forward to the 2020 Conference Grapevine Committee.
28	11/9/19	Publish the hard copy (M-23) and the anonymity-protected electronic versions of the Conference Final Report within 45 days of the annual General Service Conference.	Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference	Took No Action: The trustees' committee considered a proposed agenda item to "Publish the hard copy (M-23) and the anonymity-protected electronic versions of the Conference Final Report within 45 days of the annual General Service Conference" and took no action. The committee noted that the background included supportive reasons for the timely development of these reports. However, the committee considered it not prudent to tie the publication of the Conference Final Report to a specific deadline.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
29	11/9/19	Make the publication (M-39) Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous available to the Fellowship by providing an anonymity-protected, searchable (digital) database to be updated annually at the close of the Conference.	Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference	Took No Action: The trustees' committee considered a proposed agenda item to "Make the publication (M-39) Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous available to the Fellowship by providing an anonymity-protected, searchable (digital) database to be updated annually at the close of the Conference," and took no action. The committee noted a searchable PDF version of this document is currently available to all Conference members. Discussion included the idea of posting it on the A.A. website, but the committee agreed this is not a public-facing document for carrying the A.A. message to the general public.
30	11/13/19	Consider a request that the second paragraph in the section on page 17 of the pamphlet "P-2 Frequently Asked Questions About AA" be removed completely or at least modified to read as the second paragraph on page 7 of the pamphlet F3 Self-Support Where Money & Spirituality Mix under the section titled "What does membership in AA cost?"	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Forwarded to Conference Literature: The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature a request to revise the pamphlet "Frequently Asked Questions About A.A."
31	11/14/19	Consider the relevance and applicability of the passage in the essay portion of Concept Twelve, Warranty Two, (A.A. Service Manual, p.65) which states that neither the groups nor AA as a whole should function as a "money charity" via the practice of "selling of our books at cost or less."	Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee	Under consideration by trustees' committee: At the February 2020 meeting, the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee reviewed but did not forward the agenda item to the Conference Finance Committee. The committee is requesting information from the Archives department. The background originally submitted for this agenda item is being reviewed for clarity before sending to the Conference Finance Committee. Discussion will continue at the trustees' August 2020 meeting.
32	11/13/19	Consider request to revise the pie chart percentages, on page 12, in the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix."	Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee	Forwarded to Conference Finance: The committee reviewed and agreed to forward the agenda item to the Conference Finance Committee.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
33	11/18/19	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.	A.A.W.S. Publishing Department	Forwarded to G.S.O.'s Publishing Department: For consideration in the thorough evaluation, update, and redesign of the Service Manual recommended by the 2018 Conference.
34	11/18/19	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.	A.A.W.S. Publishing Department	Forwarded to G.S.O.'s Publishing Department: For consideration in the thorough evaluation, update, and redesign of the Service Manual recommended by the 2018 Conference.
35	11/21/19	Consider a request to study the feasibility of scheduling the international conventions to correspond with A.A.'s anniversary in June versus July.	Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums	Under consideration by trustees' committee: The trustees' committee considered requests to discuss alternate dates for the International Convention. The committee noted that the Site Selection Guidelines for the 2035 International Convention had been updated in October 2018 to include all weekends in the month of July, and suggested that the weekends in the month of June be included as options for interested cities wishing to bid for the 2035 International Convention. The committee requested that the revised Guidelines be brought back to the August 2020 meeting of the committee for review. The trustees' committee also noted that the review process of the Site Selection Guidelines includes further review prior to the beginning of the 2035 International Convention site selection process in 2022.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
36	11/25/19	Consider a motion that Alcoholics Anonymous create an approved A.A. dictionary to compliment the Big Book.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Took No Action: The trustees' Literature Committee considered a request to create a dictionary to complement the Big Book and took no action. While the committee took no action on this specific proposed agenda item, the committee noted that the item touches on what it considers to be an expressed, broader need that is reflected in similar requests. The committee is exploring this need through subcommittee efforts and by seeking wider group conscience discussions. The committee noted that the background provided will be helpful in these discussions related to the agenda item to consider if a common solution can address proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.
37	11/26/19	Consider a request to study the French translation of the title of pamphlet FP-5 to better reflect the message it carries.	A.A.W.S. Publishing Department	Forwarded to G.S.O.'s Publishing Department
38	12/3/19	Consider a request that G.S.O. should not make any suggestions about percentage contributions to service entities in the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix". Instead, it is proposed that the one pie chart, without filled-in percentages (top illustration), be retained and the following text be added to p. 7 and p. 13: "Duties of the entities notated above are described on page 7 of this pamphlet. Performance of these service duties vary from area to area. Please be sure to inquire which services these entities provide in YOUR area and contribute accordingly."	Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee	Forwarded to Conference Finance: The committee reviewed and agreed to forward the agenda item to the Conference Finance Committee.
39	12/3/19	Consider a motion that a Bridging the Gap Workbook be created to assist A.A. members who have an interest in Bridging the Gap responsibilities in their Districts and Areas.	Trustees' Committee on C.P.C./Treatment & Accessibilities	Forwarded to Conference Treatment and Accessibilities: The trustees' committee considered a request to create a Bridging the Gap Workbook and agreed to forward the request to the 2020 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities. The committee noted that some local A.A. communities do not participate in Bridging the Gap or Temporary Contact activities due to limited access of shared experience in this service area.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

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40	12/4/19	Consider a motion that a podcast be created to better carry the A.A. message.	Trustees' Committee on Public Information	Forwarded to Conference P.I.: The committee discussed a request that a podcast be created to better carry the A.A. message and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information a request to develop a plan that a podcast be created to better carry the A.A. message.
41	12/5/19	That the General Service Conference reconsider making a final decision regarding the Google AdWords/Google NonProfits campaign before providing sufficient information to be passed onto the Groups, thereby allowing the Groups an opportunity to provide feedback.	Trustees' Committee on Public Information	Took No Action: The committee discussed a request to consider that A.A.W.S. not make a final decision regarding the Google AdWords/Google Nonprofits campaign before providing sufficient information to the groups and allowing the groups an opportunity to provide feedback and took no action. The committee noted that the concerns mentioned in the request were included in discussions by the 2019 General Service Conference and that A.A.W.S. is following out the actions as directed by the 2019 General Service Conference. The committee noted that a full Google AdWords/Grant report was provided in the 2019 Public Information background. The committee noted that further discussions on this subject will continue within the context of A.A.'s Twelve Traditions. Per the 2019 Advisory Actions the trustees' Public Information Committee is forwarding a report on Google AdWords/Grants to the 2020 Conference Public Information Committee.
42	12/6/19	Discuss the methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention.	Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums	Forwarded to Conference IC/RF: The trustees' committee agreed to forward to the Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums a request to discuss methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Conventions.
43	12/5/19	Consider that all literature packages (BP-61, SBP-24, BP-22, BP-23, & BP-64) be made available for purchase in French.	A.A.W.S. Publishing Department	Forwarded to G.S.O.'s Publishing Department

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CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

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44	12/9/19	Consider that the pamphlet Questions and Answers on Sponsorship be updated to remove the suggestion that sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex. Specifically, 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."	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Forwarded to Conference Literature: The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature a request to revise the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" regarding changing the suggestion that sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex.
45	12/13/18	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..."	A.A. Grapevine	Forwarded to Conference Grapevine: The AA Grapevine Board reviewed this request and took no action in 2019. Because the Preamble appears widely in Conferenced-approved A.A. literature that's published by A.A.W.S., the AA Grapevine Board requested that the A.A.W.S Board include the Preamble in their review of literature regarding inclusivity. Archivist note 11/20/19: The AAGV Board's original intent was to forward this request to include the A.A. Preamble in a review of literature regarding inclusivity to the Trustees' Literature Committee, not the A.A.W.S. Board. 12/7/19: The AAGV Board decided to rescind the request to the Trustee's Literature Committee. The board discussed the 2019 proposed agenda item again at the December 7, 2019 AAGVB meeting. The AAGVB decided at its December 7, 2019 board meeting to move the proposed agenda item forward to the 2020 Conference Grapevine Committee.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

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46	12/5/19	Consider a request that the The AA Service Manual combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service be created in a large print French version.	A.A.W.S. Publishing Department	Forwarded to G.S.O.'s Publishing Department
47	12/5/19	Consider a revision to the French PI workbook at the bottom on page 14 as follows: Jean S. animateur Dre Claire Leblanc, please, would you replace "L'Opinion des Médecins » by "CONFÉRENCIER" Marie P. et Pierre M. please would you add: OBSERVATEURS	Not Forwarded	Under consideration: Forwarded to the G.S.O. Staff member on the PI Assignment. It is not a policy item for General Service Conference.
48	12/9/19	That the 69th Conference recommendation submitted by the Conference Public Information Committee and passed by the 69th General Service Conference listed in the Final Report on page 34 item 26 that reads "26. A.A. World Services, Inc. apply for Google Ad/Words/Grants, for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public", be rescinded and that implementation not be done.	Trustees' Committee on Public Information	Took No Action: The committee discussed a request and took no action to rescind an Advisory Action that A.A.W.S, Inc. apply for Google Ad/Words/Grants. The committee noted that A.A.W.S. is following the direction as reflected in the 2019 General Service Conference Advisory Actions. The committee noted that further discussions on this subject will continue within the context of A.A.'s Twelve Traditions. Per the 2019 Advisory Action the trustees' Public Information Committee is forwarding a report on Google AdWords/Grants to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information.
49	12/10/19	That the book Daily Reflections be published in large print in Spanish.	A.A.W.S. Publishing Department	Forwarded to G.S.O.'s Publishing Department

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CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

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50	12/10/19	Consider inviting members whose access to A.A. is challenged by a particular condition, disability or barrier to participate in the process of discussion, review, and implementation of actions, policies or procedures intended to overcome those barriers as members of focus groups, subcommittees, or the trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities/Remote Communities Committee.	Trustees' Committee on C.P.C./Treatment & Accessibilities	Forwarded to A.A.W.S.: The trustees' committee discussed a proposed agenda item to "Consider inviting members whose access to A.A. is challenged by a particular condition, disability or barrier to participate in the process of discussion, review, and implementation of actions, policies or procedures intended to overcome those barriers as members of focus groups, subcommittees, or the trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities/Remote Communities Committee." The committee noted the benefits of discussing this item. Rather than forward it to the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities, the committee agreed to forward it to A.A.W.S. because it is within the purview of the G.S.O. Publishing department.
51	12/10/19	Review the Floor Action Process to guard against circumvention of the Conference Process.	Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference	Forwarded to Conference Policy/Admissions: The trustees' committee agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Policy and Admissions Committee a proposed agenda item to "Review the Floor Action process to guard against circumvention of the Conference process."

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CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

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52	12/10/19	Consider developing a definitive book on A.A. history from 1955-1985 be considered, with a possible working title of "Alcoholics Anonymous Continues to Age" or "A.A., The Next 30 Years".	Trustees' Committee on Archives	Forwarded to Conference Archives: The trustees' committee considered a request to "Develop a definitive book on A.A. history from 1955-1985, working title, Alcoholics Anonymous Continues to Age or A.A., The Next 30 Years." The committee also considered a second request to "Develop a book titled, A.A. Comes of Age II." The committee noted the similarities between the two requests and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Archives a request to consider the development of a book on A.A. history from 1955 through the present.
53	12/10/19	To create a new form of communication specifically addressing the use of social media and anonymity.	Trustees' Committee on Public Information	Forwarded to Conference P.I.: The committee discussed a request to create a new form of communication specifically addressing the use of social media and anonymity. The committee agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information a request to create a new form of communication specifically addressing the use of anonymity on social media.
54	12/10/19	Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc (AAGV) develop a digital service material piece in looped audio/visual format and make available for use and download by groups, GVrs, district & area Grapevine Committees and workshop presenters. This service material could be used in displays via tablet, smart phone or laptop to assist trusted servants in carrying the message of AA GV and therefore reach more alcoholics who still suffer. The looped presentation might include all things Grapevine: history, ways to subscribe, how to submit personal stories, etc.	A.A. Grapevine	Took No Action: The Board took no action as this matter is currently under management's review and will be discussed further at future AAGVB meetings.
55	12/11/19	Create a pamphlet geared towards mental health professionals specifically that would educate them about AA with the hope that they may be better qualified to help a person who has a desire to stop drinking.	Trustees' Committee on C.P.C./Treatment & Accessibilities	Forwarded to Conference Committee on C.P.C.: The trustees' committee discussed the broad scope of this professional setting and agreed to forward a request to create a pamphlet for mental health professionals to the 2020 Conference Committee on C.P.C.

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56	12/11/19	That the General Service Conference consider presenting the A.A. program of recovery as outlined in the book Alcoholics Anonymous in a digital format, (such as but not limited to podcasts), to be made available online, in accordance with all AA Traditions.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Under consideration by trustees' committee: The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed the request to present the A.A. program of recovery in digital formats and agreed to continue discussion at the August 2020 meeting of the trustees' Literature Committee. The committee requested that the staff secretary reach out to the submitter for more information as to the goal and purpose of the request.
57	12/11/19	Consider a request for General Service Conference 2020 to host a panel discussing the exclusionary language in Grapevine Inc. Examples include: the Preamble's use of "men and women," the use of language such as "transgendered" in countless pamphlets, including "Sober and Out;" lack of transgender stories in The Grapevine, our meeting in print; and more.	Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference	Forwarded to Conference Agenda: The trustees' committee agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Agenda Committee a proposed agenda item to "Consider a request for General Service Conference 2020 to host a panel discussing the exclusionary language in Grapevine Inc. Examples include: the Preamble's use of 'men and women,' the use of language such as 'transgendered' in countless pamphlets, including Sober and Out; lack of transgender stories in The Grapevine, our meeting in print; and more" for discussion as part of all the suggested Themes, Presentation/Discussion, and Workshop ideas for the 2021 Conference. The committee suggests the Conference committee consider broadening the focus of the exclusionary language topic.
58	12/11/19	In order to maintain the historical integrity of our Fellowship, we are requesting that the General Service Conference return to the practice of not changing Bill W.'s writings.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Under consideration by trustees' committee: The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to continue discussions on the consideration to return to the practice of not changing Bill W.'s writings at their August 2020 meeting.
59	12/11/19	Consider a deletion from page 13 in our pamphlet The A.A. Group... where it all begins (P-16) of the sentence: "Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers." The amended two paragraphs quoted would then read thus: Closed meetings are for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and "have a desire to stop drinking." Open meetings are available to anyone interested in Alcoholics Anonymous' program of recovery from alcoholism.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Under consideration by trustees' committee: The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature requests to revise text related to open meetings in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group."

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60	12/11/19	Consider a motion to request that an agenda item for the 70th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous be added to request that the Grapevine Inc. change the language of the AA Preamble to read: "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self- supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety."	A.A. Grapevine	Took No Action: The Board reviewed this request and took no action. This request will be used as background. Note: Similar proposed agenda items were forwarded to the Conference Grapevine Committee.
61	12/11/19	That the Trustees' Literature Committee add to its agenda to consider publishing a Fifth Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, with updated stories to more broadly reflect our current fellowship, as well as updates or additions to Appendices III and V.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Forwarded to Conference Literature: The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature requests to develop a Fifth Edition of the book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> .
62	12/12/19	That the Conference form a study committee to audit the first 164 pages of the Big Book with the purpose of identifying changes that can be made to make the Big Book more reflective of the A.A. membership composition.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Forwarded to Conference Literature: The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature the request to audit of the first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous.
63	12/12/19	That work begins on the development of a fifth edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Forwarded to Conference Literature: The committee reviewed requests for proposed Conference agenda items related to the possible development of a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee recognized the priority of addressing whether or not a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, might be developed before addressing items related to content and format changes. The committee will continue discussions at the February 2020 meeting. The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature requests to develop a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous.

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64	12/12/19	Consider and recommend to the General Service Board/AA Grapevine Board of Directors and Editorial Board that the AA Preamble be revised as follows: From "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who..." To "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who..."	A.A. Grapevine	Took No Action: The Board reviewed this request and took no action. This request will be used as background. Note: Similar proposed agenda items were forwarded to the Conference Grapevine Committee.
65	12/12/19	Consider and recommend to the General Service Board that for all A.A. International Conventions planned and Host Cities to be considered, the Host Cities will be provided dates in addition to, or that do not include, a July Fourth weekend.	Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums	Under consideration by trustees' committee: The trustees' committee considered requests to discuss alternate dates for the International Convention. The committee noted that the Site Selection Guidelines for the 2035 International Convention had been updated in October 2018 to include all weekends in the month of July, and suggested that the weekends in the month of June be included as options for interested cities wishing to bid for the 2035 International Convention. The committee requested that the revised Guidelines be brought back to the August 2020 meeting of the committee for review. The trustees' committee also noted that the review process of the Site Selection Guidelines includes further review prior to the beginning of the 2035 International Convention site selection process in 2022.
66	12/12/19	To help carry the message of the importance of A.A. service, and to reinforce the idea that service is for every A.A. member; it is recommended 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.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Forwarded to Conference Literature: The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature a request to revise the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" regarding changes to expand the section on service sponsorship and including service sponsorship in the pamphlet title.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
67	12/13/19	Consider that one phrase be reconsidered in future printings of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. In 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" (66).	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Under consideration by trustees' committee: The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature the request to revise paragraph six in Step Six of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.
68	12/14/19	Consider a request that the Grapevine reproduce the "Best of the Grapevine" books volumes I, II, and III. It is being asked that this matter be discussed at the 2020 Annual Service Conference, with the focus on exploring ways to keep the books available to the fellowship.	A.A. Grapevine	Took No Action: The Board reviewed this request and took no action. The books are currently in production.
69	12/10/19	That the General Service Board take a Concept Seven action to veto and/or stop the GSC Advisory Action which originally authorized AA to receive a Google Ad Words grant of any amount of money a month.	Trustees' Committee on Public Information	Took No Action: The committee discussed the request and took no action. The committee discussed the Tradition Seven proposal that the General Service Board take a "Concept Seven" action to veto and/or stop the 2019 Advisory Action which authorized A.A. to receive a Google AdWords/Grant. The committee noted that the Google Grant is an in-kind donated service of ad space available to all nonprofits and that the concerns mentioned in the request were included in discussions by the 2019 General Service Conference. The committee noted that further discussions on this subject will continue within the context of A.A.'s Twelve Traditions. Per the 2019 Advisory Action the trustees' Public Information Committee is forwarding a report on Google AdWords/Grants to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information.
70	12/15/19	Consider adding the G.S.R. Preamble to the pamphlet G.S.R.: Your Groups Link to A.A. As A Whole (P-19).	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Forwarded to Conference Literature: The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature a request to revise the pamphlet "G.S.R.: Your Group's Link to A.A. as a Whole."

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CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
71	12/13/19	Consider a request to change the wording of the preamble from "...fellowship of men and women..." to "...a fellowship of people..."	A.A. Grapevine	Took No Action: The Board reviewed this request and took no action. This request will be used as background. Note: Similar proposed agenda items were forwarded to the Conference Grapevine Committee.
72	12/15/19	Consider a request for broader communication to Fellowship regarding the plan for usage of Google AdWords, and further consideration of potential conflicts between our Traditions and spiritual principles before any large-scale implementation.	Trustees' Committee on Public Information	Took No Action: The committee discussed the request for broader communication to the Fellowship regarding the plan for the usage of Google AdWords, and further consideration of potential conflicts between our Traditions and spiritual principles before any large-scale implementation and took no action. The committee noted that the concerns mentioned in the request were included in discussions by the 2019 General Service Conference and that a full Google AdWords/Grant report was provided in the 2019 Public Information background. The committee noted that further discussions on this subject will continue within the context of A.A.'s Twelve Traditions. Per the 2019 Advisory Action the trustees' Public Information Committee is forwarding a report on Google AdWords/Grants to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information.
73	12/15/19	Consider a request that has to do with "social media" on the 11th Tradition heading. [Suggested changes to Tradition 11 are...] To read: "...the press, radio, television, films, and social media."	Trustees' Committee on Public Information	Took No Action: The committee reviewed a request that Tradition Eleven read: "...press, radio, television, films, and social media" and took no action. The committee noted that the 2013 General Service Conference explored this topic in depth and the challenges of changing the wording of the Traditions in keeping with the process described in the Conference Charter - Appendix C. The committee asked that the staff secretary include some additional information to the submitter.

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Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
74	12/15/19	Consider that the Alcoholics Anonymous Preamble be changed to, "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism."	A.A. Grapevine	Took No Action: The Board reviewed this request and took no action. This request will be used as background. Note: Similar proposed agenda items were forwarded to the Conference Grapevine Committee.
75	12/15/19	Consider that the General Service Conference Grapevine Committee be renamed to the Grapevine and La Viña Committee.	A.A. Grapevine	Forwarded to Conference Grapevine: The A.A. Grapevine Board reviewed agenda item request and agreed to forward the following to the 2020 General Service Conference Committee on Grapevine.
76	12/15/19	Consider that pages three through 41 of the Alcoholics Anonymous pamphlet "The A.A. Group" (P-16), be included in the appendix of the next printing of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Forwarded to Conference Literature: The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature requests to develop a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous.
77	12/11/19	Return to the policy of printing the Twelve Concepts for World Service as originally written by Bill W. in 1962, as stated in the Preface to the Twelve Concepts by returning to Concept 11 the two paragraphs and the accompanying footnote that was deleted by the 66th General Service Conference.	Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference	Forwarded to Conference Report & Charter: The trustees' committee agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Report and Charter Committee for consideration a proposed agenda item to "Return to the policy of printing the Twelve Concepts for World Service as originally written by Bill W. in 1962, as stated in the Preface to the Twelve Concepts by returning to Concept 11 the two paragraphs and the accompanying footnote that was deleted by the 66th General Service Conference."
78	10/19/19	That the General Service Conference consider the creation of a service committee help desk and service committee guidance documents for Bridging the Gap.	A.A. World Services	Forwarded to A.A.W.S.: Due to ongoing focus on the implementation of the ERP system as well as the number of items under review by the A.A.W.S. board, we were unable to address this request in a timely manner. This item will be on our March 2020 agenda for discussion.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
79	10/25/19	Discuss distribution of the electronic anonymity-protected version of the Conference Final Report by posting to the A.A. website.	Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference	Took No Action: The trustees' committee considered a proposed agenda item to "Discuss distribution of the electronic anonymity-protected version of the Conference Final Report by posting to the A.A. website" and took no action. The committee felt there are sufficient avenues for distribution of the Conference Final Report by the Conference delegates. The committee agreed this is not a public-facing document for carrying the A.A. message to the general public.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background
Items Proposed for the Agenda of the 2020 General Service Conference that were
NOT FORWARDED TO A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

POLICY/ADMISSIONS
Item E
Doc. 12

As of 2/13/2020 45 Items

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
2	5/6/19	Consider removing the bulleted duties from the following pages in The A.A. Service Manual and Twelve Concepts for World Services: 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	A.A.W.S. Publishing Department	Forwarded to G.S.O.'s Publishing Department: For consideration in the thorough evaluation, update, and redesign of the Service Manual recommended by the 2018 Conference.
4	6/23/19	That literature be developed sharing experience, strength and hope on meditation.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Under consideration by trustees' committee: The committee tabled the discussion on the request for a developing literature sharing experience, strength and hope on meditation until the February 2020 meeting. The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to continue discussions to consider developing literature sharing experience, strength and hope on meditation at their August 2020 meeting. The committee noted that Grapevine is in the process of developing a similar item.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
9	8/30/19	That the General Service Conference consider creating a 5th Edition of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> with the removal of the Chapters 'To Wives', 'The Family Afterward', and 'To Employers'.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Took No Action: The committee reviewed requests for proposed Conference agenda items related to the possible development of a Fifth Edition of the book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>. The committee recognized the priority of addressing whether or not a Fifth Edition of the book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>, might be developed before addressing items related to content and format changes. The committee will continue discussions at the February 2020 meeting. The trustees' Literature Committee considered a request to develop a Fifth Edition of the book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> with the removal of the chapters "To Wives," "The Family Afterward," and "To Employers" and took no action. While the committee took no action on this specific proposed agenda item, the committee noted that the item touches on what it considers to be an expressed, broader need that is reflected in similar requests. The committee is exploring this need through subcommittee efforts and by seeking wider group conscience discussions. The committee noted that the background provided will be helpful in these discussions related to the agenda item to consider if a common solution can address 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 <i>Alcoholics</i>
11	9/5/19	Consider removing the words "He", "His" and "Him" from Steps Three, Seven and Eleven and replace them with the word God.	Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference	Took No Action: The committee discussed a proposed agenda item to "Consider removing the words 'He His and Him' from Steps Three, Seven and Eleven and replace them with the word God" and took no action. The committee understands that changing the Steps is a major undertaking. The committee agreed there is no widely expressed need for this change.

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Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
12	9/5/19	Consider to allow Jewish Rabbis and Muslim leaders and Indian Ancient Vedas scholars et al to have diverse spiritual language in the Fifth Edition Big Book rather than the current predominantly Judeo Christian language.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Took No Action: The committee reviewed requests for proposed Conference agenda items related to the possible development of a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee recognized the priority of addressing whether or not a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, might be developed before addressing items related to content and format changes. The committee will continue discussions at the February 2020 meeting. The trustees' Literature Committee considered a request allowing Jewish Rabbis and Muslim leaders and Indian Ancient Vedas scholars et al to have diverse spiritual language in the Fifth Edition Big Book rather than the current predominantly Judeo-Christian language and took no action. While the committee took no action on this specific proposed agenda item, the committee noted that the item touches on what it considers to be an expressed, broader need that is reflected in similar requests. The committee is exploring this need through subcommittee efforts and by seeking wider group conscience discussions. The committee noted that the background provided will be helpful in these discussions related to the agenda item to consider if a common solution can address proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
13	9/24/18	That the General Service Conference authorize the Grapevine Executive Editor/Publisher to hire and oversee a writer to research and draft for publication the story of the Grapevine (including LaVina) from inception until present with inclusion of a chapter in the spirit of "A Vision For You."	A.A. Grapevine	Took No Action: The AA Grapevine Board reviewed this request and will continue this discussion at their July 2019 board meeting. The AA Grapevine Board reviewed this request with appreciation and decided not to move forward with this request because no expressed need has been indicated as well as staffing and financial constraints for a project of this magnitude.
16	11/7/18	Consider the development of a contemporary and comprehensive new work book to study the Twelve Steps, Traditions, and Concepts.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Took No Action: The committee tabled discussion on the request to develop a contemporary and comprehensive new workbook to study the Twelve Steps, Traditions and Concepts until the 2020 February meeting. The trustees' Literature Committee considered the development of a contemporary and comprehensive new workbook to study the Twelve Steps, Traditions, and Concepts and took no action. While the committee took no action on this specific proposed agenda item, the committee noted that the item touches on what it considers to be an expressed, broader need that is reflected in similar requests. The committee is exploring this need through subcommittee efforts and by seeking wider group conscience discussions. The committee noted that the background provided will be helpful in these discussions related to the agenda item to consider if a common solution can address proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
17	11/14/18	We ask for immediate removal [cease active use] of the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services YouTube Channel.	Trustees' Committee on Public Information	Took No Action: The A.A.W.S. board has agreed to forward the Proposed Agenda item for the removal of the A.A.W.S YouTube channel, to the trustees' Committee on Public Information for consideration. The committee discussed the request and tabled the item to the July 2019 meeting. The committee noted that the A.A.W.S. YouTube account is still in its infancy and that more information may be needed before determining its usefulness and effectiveness. The committee discussed the request from an Area for "the immediate removal (cease active use) of the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services YouTube Channel" and took no action. The committee noted that the A.A.W.S. account is still in its infancy and it is too early to determine the usefulness and effectiveness of this platform to communicate about A.A.
18	12/10/18	Consider that the book, Language of the Heart, be translated into a Spanish audiobook/audio format.	A.A. Grapevine	Approved by AA Grapevine Board: In progress: The AA Grapevine Board reviewed this request and referred it to their Ad hoc subcommittee on Book translations for further consideration. The AA Grapevine Board reviewed this request and is moving forward with the production of Language of the Heart translation into a Spanish audiobook/audio format.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
19	12/14/18	The General Service Conference consider ceasing the development of new literature and focus on making all our current literature accessible in all possible formats.	A.A. World Services	Took No Action: On January 24, 2019 the A.A. World Services Board reviewed the proposed agenda item and forwarded it to the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference. The trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference met on January 26, 2019, and considered item. Due to the broad implications of this request the committee forwarded it to the trustees' Literature Committee " The trustees' Literature Committee plans to review at the July 2019 meeting. From the July 2019 report: The committee discussed ceasing development of new literature and focus on making all our current literature accessible in all possible formats. The committee recognized the need to continue making current literature accessible in all possible formats. The committee requested the staff secretary gather background information to further assess availability of literature items in all formats with respect to accessibility, starting with all Conference-approved books, The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service and recovery pamphlets and provide a progress report at the November 2019 meeting. The committee took no action on ceasing development of new literature noting that new literature is developed in response to Advisory Actions from the General Service Conference. The trustees' Literature Committee discussed making current literature accessible in all possible formats and requested that the G.S.O. Publishing department develop a strategy to achieve this outcome and provide a progress report at the August 2020 committee meeting.

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Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
20	12/14/18	Request that the General Service Conference consider the production of an audio format (preferably CD) of the Spanish language book El Lenguaje del Corazón.	A.A. Grapevine	Approved by AA Grapevine Board: In progress: The AA Grapevine Board reviewed this request and referred it to their Ad hoc subcommittee on Book translations for further consideration. The AA Grapevine Board reviewed this request and is moving forward with production of an audio format of the Spanish language book El Lenguaje del Corazón.
21	10/3/19	Consider to have Archives prepare a book containing all discontinued pamphlets.	Trustees' Committee on Archives	Took No Action: The committee discussed a proposal to produce a book containing all discontinued A.A. pamphlets and took no action. The committee noted that copies of retired pamphlets are available directly from the Archives Department, upon request. It was also noted that there is no widely expressed need for this material.
22	10/6/19	Recommendation that the General Service Office direct the appropriate Committee(s) to create and facilitate a targeted PSA to educate seniors about alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous for play on national television and radio stations across America.	Trustees' Committee on Public Information	Took No Action: The committee discussed a request from an area to create and facilitate a targeted PSA to educate seniors about alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee asked that further discussion about this item and PSA messaging be forwarded to the Comprehensive Media Plan subcommittee with a report back at the 2020 February meeting. The committee discussed a request to create and facilitate a targeted PSA to educate seniors about alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous and took no action. The committee noted the Comprehensive Media Plan subcommittee report that while it would be important to include seniors in a PSA messaging, they would not want to limit the messaging to one demographic.

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Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
23	10/15/19	That the Conference Corrections committee review corrections related literature intended for use by members in correctional facilities and take action to removing the words "inmate" and "offender" from A.A.W.S. literature and replace these words with more inclusive terms.	Trustees' Committee on Corrections	Under consideration by trustees' committee: The trustees' committee had a wide-ranging discussion on language options to refer to incarcerated individuals in A.A. literature for Corrections, including discussion on a request forwarded from an area to "review Corrections related literature for use by members in correctional facilities and take action to removing the words "inmate" and "offender" from A.A.W.S. literature and replace these words with more inclusive terms." The committee considered the alternatives provided in the request, noting the relevance of providing the appropriate language for the appropriate audience. The committee suggested that a plan be considered by the trustees' Corrections Committee in August for a full review of the corrections literature with a focus on identifying the appropriate language based on the audience the corrections literature is trying to reach. The committee requested that the full background from the request received and a complete list of corrections literature, including service material, be brought to the August 2020 meeting of the committee.
24	10/15/19	Consider that a pamphlet be published by the General Service Office explaining YPAA (Young People of Alcoholics Anonymous) events, bid committees, state, regional and international conventions, also the ICYPAA Advisory Council.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Under consideration by trustees' committee: The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed the request to develop a pamphlet about Young People of Alcoholics Anonymous (Y.P.A.A.) and agreed to continue discussion at their August 2020 meeting. The committee requested that the staff secretary reach out to the submitter for more information as to the goal and purpose of the request.

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Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
25	10/17/19	A revised version of the pamphlet, "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings" be considered to replace the current version. This revision seeks to clarify and make more concise the message conveyed, rendering this piece a more effective tool for use by A.A. members cooperating with non-A.A. persons and entities. The current version is 24 pages in length, and while the information contained therein is valuable, a concise piece may be a more effective and practical tool.	Trustees' Committee on Public Information	Under consideration by trustees' committee: The committee reviewed a request to consider a revised version of the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings." The committee asked that discussion on a revision to the pamphlet be continued at the August 2020 meeting. The committee also asked that a review of all Public Information pamphlets be included for discussion with a comprehensive review of the usefulness and relevancy of these pamphlets for P.I. committees and carrying the A.A. message to the public.
28	11/9/19	Publish the hard copy (M-23) and the anonymity-protected electronic versions of the Conference Final Report within 45 days of the annual General Service Conference.	Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference	Took No Action: The trustees' committee considered a proposed agenda item to "Publish the hard copy (M-23) and the anonymity-protected electronic versions of the Conference Final Report within 45 days of the annual General Service Conference" and took no action. The committee noted that the background included supportive reasons for the timely development of these reports. However, the committee considered it not prudent to tie the publication of the Conference Final Report to a specific deadline.
29	11/9/19	Make the publication (M-39) Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous available to the Fellowship by providing an anonymity-protected, searchable (digital) database to be updated annually at the close of the Conference.	Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference	Took No Action: The trustees' committee considered a proposed agenda item to "Make the publication (M-39) Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous available to the Fellowship by providing an anonymity-protected, searchable (digital) database to be updated annually at the close of the Conference," and took no action. The committee noted a searchable PDF version of this document is currently available to all Conference members. Discussion included the idea of posting it on the A.A. website, but the committee agreed this is not a public-facing document for carrying the A.A. message to the general public.

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Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
31	11/14/19	Consider the relevance and applicability of the passage in the essay portion of Concept Twelve, Warranty Two, (A.A. Service Manual, p.65) which states that neither the groups nor AA as a whole should function as a “money charity” via the practice of “selling of our books at cost or less.”	Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee	Under consideration by trustees' committee: At the February 2020 meeting, the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee reviewed but did not forward the agenda item to the Conference Finance Committee. The committee is requesting information from the Archives department. The background originally submitted for this agenda item is being reviewed for clarity before sending to the Conference Finance Committee. Discussion will continue at the trustees' August 2020 meeting.
33	11/18/19	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.	A.A.W.S. Publishing Department	Forwarded to G.S.O.'s Publishing Department: For consideration in the thorough evaluation, update, and redesign of the Service Manual recommended by the 2018 Conference.
34	11/18/19	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.	A.A.W.S. Publishing Department	Forwarded to G.S.O.'s Publishing Department: For consideration in the thorough evaluation, update, and redesign of the Service Manual recommended by the 2018 Conference.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
35	11/21/19	Consider a request to study the feasibility of scheduling the international conventions to correspond with A.A.'s anniversary in June versus July.	Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums	Under consideration by trustees' committee: The trustees' committee considered requests to discuss alternate dates for the International Convention. The committee noted that the Site Selection Guidelines for the 2035 International Convention had been updated in October 2018 to include all weekends in the month of July, and suggested that the weekends in the month of June be included as options for interested cities wishing to bid for the 2035 International Convention. The committee requested that the revised Guidelines be brought back to the August 2020 meeting of the committee for review. The trustees' committee also noted that the review process of the Site Selection Guidelines includes further review prior to the beginning of the 2035 International Convention site selection process in 2022.
36	11/25/19	Consider a motion that Alcoholics Anonymous create an approved A.A. dictionary to compliment the Big Book.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Took No Action: The trustees' Literature Committee considered a request to create a dictionary to complement the Big Book and took no action. While the committee took no action on this specific proposed agenda item, the committee noted that the item touches on what it considers to be an expressed, broader need that is reflected in similar requests. The committee is exploring this need through subcommittee efforts and by seeking wider group conscience discussions. The committee noted that the background provided will be helpful in these discussions related to the agenda item to consider if a common solution can address proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
37	11/26/19	Consider a request to study the French translation of the title of pamphlet FP-5 to better reflect the message it carries.	A.A.W.S. Publishing Department	Forwarded to G.S.O.'s Publishing Department
41	12/5/19	That the General Service Conference reconsider making a final decision regarding the Google AdWords/Google NonProfits campaign before providing sufficient information to be passed onto the Groups, thereby allowing the Groups an opportunity to provide feedback.	Trustees' Committee on Public Information	Took No Action: The committee discussed a request to consider that A.A.W.S. not make a final decision regarding the Google AdWords/Google Nonprofits campaign before providing sufficient information to the groups and allowing the groups an opportunity to provide feedback and took no action. The committee noted that the concerns mentioned in the request were included in discussions by the 2019 General Service Conference and that A.A.W.S. is following out the actions as directed by the 2019 General Service Conference. The committee noted that a full Google AdWords/Grant report was provided in the 2019 Public Information background. The committee noted that further discussions on this subject will continue within the context of A.A.'s Twelve Traditions. Per the 2019 Advisory Actions the trustees' Public Information Committee is forwarding a report on Google AdWords/Grants to the 2020 Conference Public Information Committee.
43	12/5/19	Consider that all literature packages (BP-61, SBP-24, BP-22, BP-23, & BP-64) be made available for purchase in French.	A.A.W.S. Publishing Department	Forwarded to G.S.O.'s Publishing Department
46	12/5/19	Consider a request that the The AA Service Manual combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service be created in a large print French version.	A.A.W.S. Publishing Department	Forwarded to G.S.O.'s Publishing Department
47	12/5/19	Consider a revision to the French PI workbook at the bottom on page 14 as follows: Jean S. animateur Dre Claire Leblanc, please, would you replace "L'Opinion des Médecins » by "CONFÉRENCIER" Marie P. et Pierre M. please would you add: OBSERVATEURS	Not Forwarded	Under consideration: Forwarded to the G.S.O. Staff member on the PI Assignment. It is not a policy item for General Service Conference.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
48	12/9/19	That the 69th Conference recommendation submitted by the Conference Public Information Committee and passed by the 69th General Service Conference listed in the Final Report on page 34 item 26 that reads "26. A.A. World Services, Inc. apply for Google Ad/Words/Grants, for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public", be rescinded and that implementation not be done.	Trustees' Committee on Public Information	Took No Action: The committee discussed a request and took no action to rescind an Advisory Action that A.A.W.S, Inc. apply for Google Ad/Words/Grants. The committee noted that A.A.W.S. is following the direction as reflected in the 2019 General Service Conference Advisory Actions. The committee noted that further discussions on this subject will continue within the context of A.A.'s Twelve Traditions. Per the 2019 Advisory Action the trustees' Public Information Committee is forwarding a report on Google AdWords/Grants to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information.
49	12/10/19	That the book Daily Reflections be published in large print in Spanish.	A.A.W.S. Publishing Department	Forwarded to G.S.O.'s Publishing Department
50	12/10/19	Consider inviting members whose access to A.A. is challenged by a particular condition, disability or barrier to participate in the process of discussion, review, and implementation of actions, policies or procedures intended to overcome those barriers as members of focus groups, subcommittees, or the trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities/Remote Communities Committee.	Trustees' Committee on C.P.C./Treatment & Accessibilities	Forwarded to A.A.W.S.: The trustees' committee discussed a proposed agenda item to "Consider inviting members whose access to A.A. is challenged by a particular condition, disability or barrier to participate in the process of discussion, review, and implementation of actions, policies or procedures intended to overcome those barriers as members of focus groups, subcommittees, or the trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities/Remote Communities Committee." The committee noted the benefits of discussing this item. Rather than forward it to the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities, the committee agreed to forward it to A.A.W.S. because it is within the purview of the G.S.O. Publishing department.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
54	12/10/19	Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc (AAGV) develop a digital service material piece in looped audio/visual format and make available for use and download by groups, GVrs, district & area Grapevine Committees and workshop presenters. This service material could be used in displays via tablet, smart phone or laptop to assist trusted servants in carrying the message of AA GV and therefore reach more alcoholics who still suffer. The looped presentation might include all things Grapevine: history, ways to subscribe, how to submit personal stories, etc.	A.A. Grapevine	Took No Action: The Board took no action as this matter is currently under management's review and will be discussed further at future AAGVB meetings.
56	12/11/19	That the General Service Conference consider presenting the A.A. program of recovery as outlined in the book Alcoholics Anonymous in a digital format, (such as but not limited to podcasts), to be made available online, in accordance with all AA Traditions.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Under consideration by trustees' committee: The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed the request to present the A.A. program of recovery in digital formats and agreed to continue discussion at the August 2020 meeting of the trustees' Literature Committee. The committee requested that the staff secretary reach out to the submitter for more information as to the goal and purpose of the request.
58	12/11/19	In order to maintain the historical integrity of our Fellowship, we are requesting that the General Service Conference return to the practice of not changing Bill W.'s writings.	Trustees' Committee on Literature	Under consideration by trustees' committee: The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to continue discussions on the consideration to return to the practice of not changing Bill W.'s writings at their August 2020 meeting.
60	12/11/19	Consider a motion to request that an agenda item for the 70th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous be added to request that the Grapevine Inc. change the language of the AA Preamble to read: "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self- supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety."	A.A. Grapevine	Took No Action: The Board reviewed this request and took no action. This request will be used as background. Note: Similar proposed agenda items were forwarded to the Conference Grapevine Committee.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
64	12/12/19	Consider and recommend to the General Service Board/AA Grapevine Board of Directors and Editorial Board that the AA Preamble be revised as follows: From "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who..." To "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who..."	A.A. Grapevine	Took No Action: The Board reviewed this request and took no action. This request will be used as background. Note: Similar proposed agenda items were forwarded to the Conference Grapevine Committee.
65	12/12/19	Consider and recommend to the General Service Board that for all A.A. International Conventions planned and Host Cities to be considered, the Host Cities will be provided dates in addition to, or that do not include, a July Fourth weekend.	Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums	Under consideration by trustees' committee: The trustees' committee considered requests to discuss alternate dates for the International Convention. The committee noted that the Site Selection Guidelines for the 2035 International Convention had been updated in October 2018 to include all weekends in the month of July, and suggested that the weekends in the month of June be included as options for interested cities wishing to bid for the 2035 International Convention. The committee requested that the revised Guidelines be brought back to the August 2020 meeting of the committee for review. The trustees' committee also noted that the review process of the Site Selection Guidelines includes further review prior to the beginning of the 2035 International Convention site selection process in 2022.
68	12/14/19	Consider a request that the Grapevine reproduce the "Best of the Grapevine" books volumes I, II, and III. It is being asked that this matter be discussed at the 2020 Annual Service Conference, with the focus on exploring ways to keep the books available to the fellowship.	A.A. Grapevine	Took No Action: The Board reviewed this request and took no action. The books are currently in production.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
69	12/10/19	That the General Service Board take a Concept Seven action to veto and/or stop the GSC Advisory Action which originally authorized AA to receive a Google Ad Words grant of any amount of money a month.	Trustees' Committee on Public Information	Took No Action: The committee discussed the request and took no action. The committee discussed the Tradition Seven proposal that the General Service Board take a "Concept Seven" action to veto and/or stop the 2019 Advisory Action which authorized A.A. to receive a Google AdWords/Grant. The committee noted that the Google Grant is an in-kind donated service of ad space available to all nonprofits and that the concerns mentioned in the request were included in discussions by the 2019 General Service Conference. The committee noted that further discussions on this subject will continue within the context of A.A.'s Twelve Traditions. Per the 2019 Advisory Action the trustees' Public Information Committee is forwarding a report on Google AdWords/Grants to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information.
71	12/13/19	Consider a request to change the wording of the preamble from "...fellowship of men and women..." to "...a fellowship of people..."	A.A. Grapevine	Took No Action: The Board reviewed this request and took no action. This request will be used as background. Note: Similar proposed agenda items were forwarded to the Conference Grapevine Committee.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
72	12/15/19	Consider a request for broader communication to Fellowship regarding the plan for usage of Google AdWords, and further consideration of potential conflicts between our Traditions and spiritual principles before any large-scale implementation.	Trustees' Committee on Public Information	Took No Action: The committee discussed the request for broader communication to the Fellowship regarding the plan for the usage of Google AdWords, and further consideration of potential conflicts between our Traditions and spiritual principles before any large-scale implementation and took no action. The committee noted that the concerns mentioned in the request were included in discussions by the 2019 General Service Conference and that a full Google AdWords/Grant report was provided in the 2019 Public Information background. The committee noted that further discussions on this subject will continue within the context of A.A.'s Twelve Traditions. Per the 2019 Advisory Action the trustees' Public Information Committee is forwarding a report on Google AdWords/Grants to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information.
73	12/15/19	Consider a request that has to do with "social media" on the 11th Tradition heading. [Suggested changes to Tradition 11 are...] To read: "...the press, radio, television, films, and social media."	Trustees' Committee on Public Information	Took No Action: The committee reviewed a request that Tradition Eleven read: "...press, radio, television, films, and social media" and took no action. The committee noted that the 2013 General Service Conference explored this topic in depth and the challenges of changing the wording of the Traditions in keeping with the process described in the Conference Charter - Appendix C. The committee asked that the staff secretary include some additional information to the submitter.
74	12/15/19	Consider that the Alcoholics Anonymous Preamble be changed to, "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism."	A.A. Grapevine	Took No Action: The Board reviewed this request and took no action. This request will be used as background. Note: Similar proposed agenda items were forwarded to the Conference Grapevine Committee.

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Item	Date Received	Proposed Item	Forwarded to	Status
78	10/19/19	That the General Service Conference consider the creation of a service committee help desk and service committee guidance documents for Bridging the Gap.	A.A. World Services	Forwarded to A.A.W.S.: Due to ongoing focus on the implementation of the ERP system as well as the number of items under review by the A.A.W.S. board, we were unable to address this request in a timely manner. This item will be on our March 2020 agenda for discussion.
79	10/25/19	Discuss distribution of the electronic anonymity-protected version of the Conference Final Report by posting to the A.A. website.	Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference	Took No Action: The trustees' committee considered a proposed agenda item to "Discuss distribution of the electronic anonymity-protected version of the Conference Final Report by posting to the A.A. website" and took no action. The committee felt there are sufficient avenues for distribution of the Conference Final Report by the Conference delegates. The committee agreed this is not a public-facing document for carrying the A.A. message to the general public.

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2020 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

ITEM F: Consider a proposed process for equitable distribution of Conference committees' workload.

Background notes:

2017 Conference Advisory Action

It was recommended that:

The trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference develop a plan for the equitable distribution of the workload of Conference committees by combining and/or creating committees for review by the 2018 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

2018 Additional Committee Consideration of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions:

The committee reviewed the trustees' General Service Conference Committee's Report on Equitable Distribution of the Workload of Conference Committees. The committee encourages the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference to continue reviewing options in order to create a workable plan for equitable distribution of the workload of Conference committees by combining and/or creating committees. The committee looks forward to a plan or progress report on this important process for review by the 2019 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

2019 Additional Committee Consideration of the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions:

The committee noted that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee scheduled a Presentation/Discussion on the Equitable Distribution of the Workload of Conference Committees at the 69th General Service Conference. The committee looks forward to receiving a plan or progress report on this important process for review by the 2020 General Service Conference from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

From the February 1, 2020 minutes of the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference:

*The committee **agreed to forward** a proposed process for equitable distribution of workload including a scoring tool to the 2020 Conference Policy and Admissions Committee for consideration.*

Background:

1. 2019 trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference Report on Equitable Distribution of Workload
2. Standardized G.S.C. Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form
3. Process Timeline and Workflows
4. Scope and Procedures for trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference Subcommittee
5. Scoring Tool and Methodology
6. Cathy B. 69th General Service Conference Equitable Workload Distribution Presentation
7. Transcription of 69th General Service Conference Equitable Distribution of Workload Presentation and Discussion

Report from 2019 trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference on Equitable Distribution of Workload: Proposed Process for Equitable Distribution of Workload and Scoring Tool

February 1, 2020

Subcommittee: Josh E., chair; Carole B., Deborah K., Peter Luongo, and Patrick C. secretary

Scope item: The committee reviewed sharing from the 69th G.S.C. presentation/discussion on the Equitable Distribution of Workload of Conference Committees. The committee will consider any actionable items from the sharing and determine if any additional meetings should be facilitated for further discussion on the topic. A plan or progress report will be provided for review.

Introduction

The subcommittee was appointed in July 2019 and met five times to review, discuss and develop documents to present a proposed process for how to move to a model of equitable distribution of workload of Conference committees. The options discussed by the subcommittee progress from staying the course, but improving implementation and understanding of the current process. To an expanded and innovative Conference committee structure and tools to deliver on the idea of equity in the General Service Conference agenda item workload.

The subcommittee agreed to define the term equitable workload as broader than a simple equal distribution of the number of agenda items. Imagine if we move from equitable workload, to equal. Equitable means everyone gets their fair share of something, it's an adjective meaning fair or impartial. Something that is equitable does not unduly benefit one person more than any other person. Equal on the other hand has a broader meaning than equitable. Equal means even or balanced. The phrase equal rights refer to the idea that all people are entitled to the same basic treatment under most circumstances. The subcommittee believes the goal is to ensure that the Conference committees receive an equitable distribution of agenda items that require a depth and substance of discussion.

The subcommittee has determined that this report should begin with an overview of the various options it reviewed and discussed. Then include an overview of the final agreed upon Proposed Process for Equitable Distribution of Workload and Scoring Tool that the subcommittee wishes to present to the trustees' Committee on General Service Conference review and discussion and potential forwarding to Conference.

Overview of Various Options Reviewed and Discussed

Option 1 – Stay the course. The Current Committee System and why it is an equitable workload.

The goal was to prove that we have a system that works. It is believed we have a good system but need more communication. It was determined we could improve following our own descriptions of the process. Several documents were reviewed to understand the current process for submission of proposed agenda items.

- Agenda Item Submission Process from page S-57 of the *Service Manual*
- A document titled; “Evolution of a Conference Advisory Action”
- A document titled; “FAQs on Group Conscience Consideration for Proposed Conference Agenda Items”

It is important to follow our own guidance. Here are some ideas to improve the current process or questions we may need to be asking:

1. The process, as it is, requires more dialog.
2. We should largely keep things the same but, help the agenda item writers and agenda makers with guidelines for submitting proposed agenda items.
 - a. Sharing experience and developing a five-point checklist on how to submit an agenda item effectively.
 - b. We could give clear instructions to the Fellowship with a format and examples.
 - c. What outcome does the submitter hope to achieve with the item?
3. The evaluators, trustees’ committees, boards, departments and staff, might need to do a better job on how each agenda item should be routed.
4. Determine if the item has meat and weight.
5. Are we asking, when considering an agenda item, does this rise to policy? Or is it a discussion or presentation topic?
6. Does the GSO/GV Staff or trustees bring to the attention of the submitter when the proposed item does not appear to rise to the level policy for further clarification?
7. Do we need more information about the proposed agenda item? Such as, what challenge or barrier will this policy solve? Is there local experience that can be shared regarding overcoming the challenge or barrier? How did the proposal come about?

Option 2 – Maintain our existing Delegates Committee structure

The idea is that each year we can flexibly rearrange our existing committee structure to manage the workload. (i.e., add Conference committees such as a second literature committee, as needed per year)

Option 3 - Reorganize the Delegates Committee structure

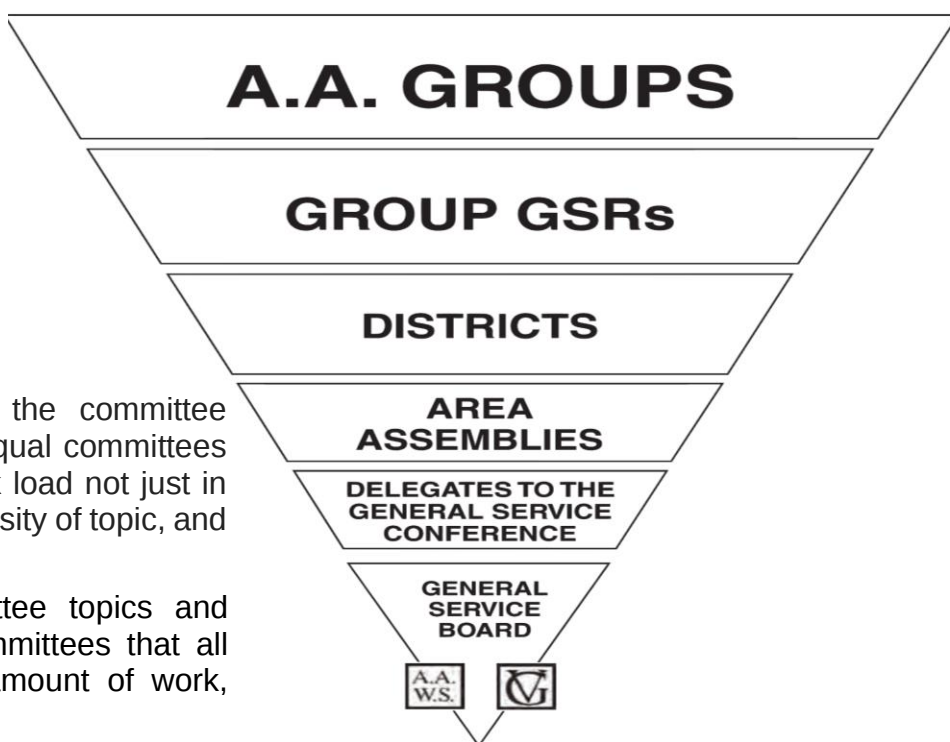
Our committee system has changed and grown over the years. As the General Service Board created committees to cover specific topics comparable committees were created at the Conference. One of the organic side effects of organizing committees by topic was some delegates felt left out of decisions on subjects of great importance to their Area.

Historically we see all agenda items as equal and have discussed equitable workload in terms of time and quantity, rather than inclusivity, equality. Imagine if each Delegates committee was sent a diverse set of business with multiple topics and they were equally spread across all the committees. Imagine each committee covering questions of finance, literature, and policy alongside an archives item or something from Grapevine. The committees themselves would then become more equal in their workload.

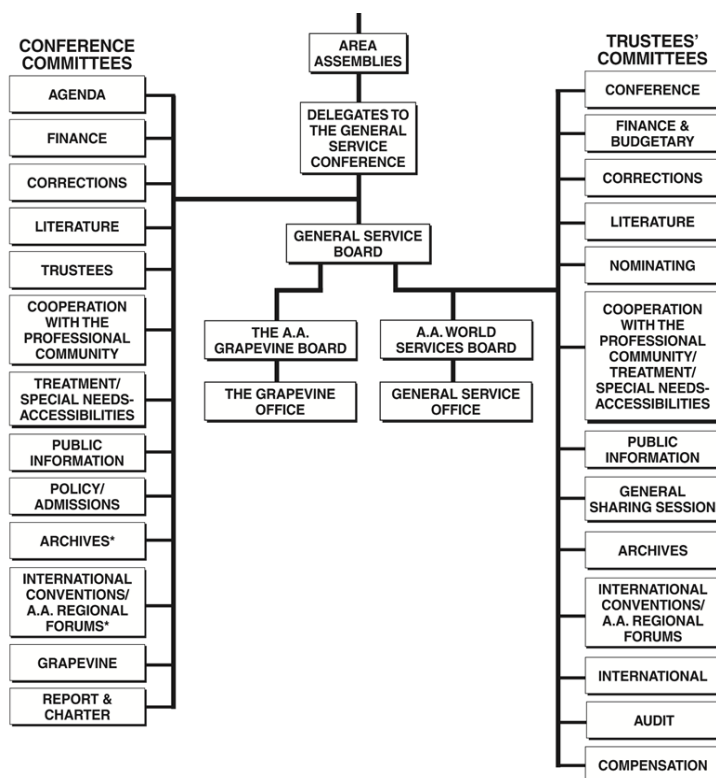
*“Use **equitable** for a sense of fairness. Use **equal** in other contexts where two things are the same...”*

- Our goal would be to adapt the committee structure to be a set of totally equal committees that each handle the same work load not just in time, but in amount of work, diversity of topic, and difficulty of subject matter.
- Eliminate individualized committee topics and replace them with a set of committees that all have the same work load in amount of work, diversity of topic, and difficulty.

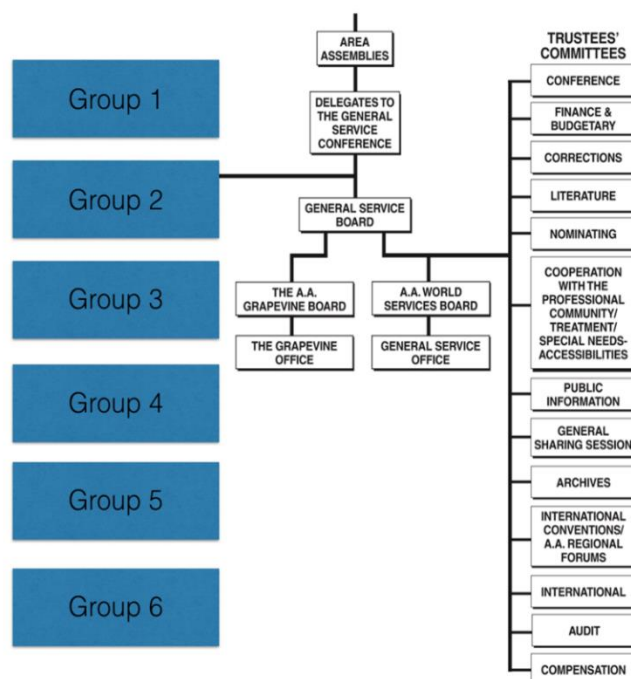
STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE (U.S. and Canada)



We move from 13 specialized committees ...

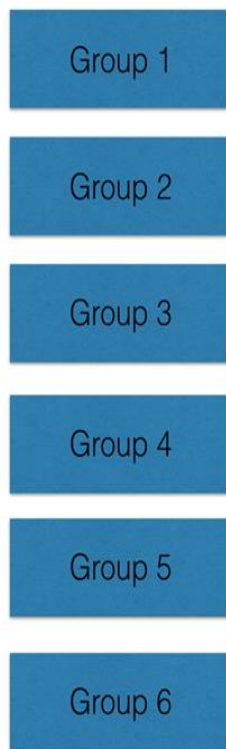


...to 6 uniformly equal committees of Delegates discussing all manner of topics of importance to A.A. as a whole.



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- This type of structure already exists in Great Britain and has successfully served them for many years.
- It would include more Delegates, in more conversations, about a more diverse range of topics and ultimately more decisions about what gets discussed at the floor of the Conference.
- It would allow for a broader representation of areas and regions in each conversation by increasing the overall numbers of delegates in each committee.
- More experience could be drawn on in each conversation



- 15 - 16 Delegates each
- Set a specific maximum number of items, say 8 or 10 each.
- Distribute the items from each Trustees committee equally across all 6 committees
- Each committee would have the same comp, scope and procedure.

Final Agreed Upon Option - Overview of the Proposed Process for Equitable Distribution of Workload and Scoring Tool

The subcommittee has determined to present the following agreed upon process for the trustees' Committee on General Service Conference review and discussion. The subcommittee felt that the following foundational ideas are important:

- Keep the current committee structure intact.
- Move additional items onto a committee for equity.
- Add additional primary committees as needed. For example; having a second PI or Literature committee.

The following documents are provided for your review and discussion of a Proposed Process for Equitable Distribution of Workload and Scoring Tool:

1. A standardized G.S.C. Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form
2. Process timeline including a change in the submission deadline to Sept 15
3. A workflow of the Conference assignment disposition of proposed agenda items
4. A workflow of the Proposed Process for Equitable Distribution of Workload and Scoring Tool
5. Scope and Procedures for a new TCGSC's Subcommittee on G.S.C. Committee Workload
6. Scoring Tool and Methodology: To Standardize the Evaluation of a Proposed Agenda Item.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

POLICY/ADMISSIONS
Item F
Doc. 2

General Service Conference (G.S.C.) Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form

Annual deadline for submissions for a General Service Conference is September 15*.

What types of proposals, suggestions or ideas rise to the level of needing a General Service Conference “action” or “decision”?

Proposals that are important to the future of Alcoholics Anonymous, policy decisions or request for changes to Conference-approved literature and items that might require the collective conscience of the Fellowship. The trustees, corporate directors and staff bring together years of experience in A.A. service in making decisions about the appropriate process or disposition of proposed Conference agenda items. Warranty six reminds us “that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government...” *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* page 72.

The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service states on page S57 that:

The final agenda for any Conference consists of items suggested by individual A.A. members, groups, delegates, trustees, area assemblies, area committee members, and directors and staff members of A.A.W.S. and the Grapevine. The Conference considers matters of policy for A.A. as a whole, and there are tried-and-true procedures for placing an item on the agenda in the most effective way — or, when the suggestion does not concern overall policy, for routing it to the most appropriate part of the service structure.

If a G.S.R. has an idea for an agenda item, chances are that he or she will want to discuss it first with the group, then at a district or area meeting, which can then forward it to the staff member at G.S.O. currently serving as Conference coordinator. An A.A. who is not part of the general service structure can give the idea to the group's G.S.R. or write directly to the Conference coordinator.

The following is from a process overview document “FAQs on Group Conscience Consideration for Proposed Conference Agenda Items.”

- Q. What happens when a proposed Conference agenda item arrives at the Conference Coordinator's desk?
- A. The Conference Coordinator acknowledges receipt of the proposed agenda item and lets the sender know which of the following options is most appropriate and, if necessary, an explanation of why and how the proposed agenda item is being directed. Some of the possible routes are:
1. Forwarding to a Trustees' Committee via a G.S.O. Staff Member or Department Head;
 2. Forwarding to G.S.O.'s Publications Director or Group Services Staff person;
 3. Forwarding to A.A. World Services, Inc.;
 4. Forwarding to Chair of the General Service Board;
 5. Forwarding to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board/AA Grapevine Publisher.
- Q. What happens when it is unclear what committee should address a proposed item or where an item should be routed?
- A. When it is unclear where a proposed item belongs, it is most frequently forwarded to the trustees' Committee on the Conference for direction.

If a proposed agenda item does not rise to the level of a Conference action the topic could be programmed during Conference in a different way like a presentation/discussion or workshop.

This overview is general and includes many but not necessarily all of the possible routes a proposed agenda item follows in the trustee, G.S.O. and Grapevine review process. There is no “one size fits all” procedure and, on a case-by-case basis over time, there may occasionally be inconsistencies.

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(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

2 of 3

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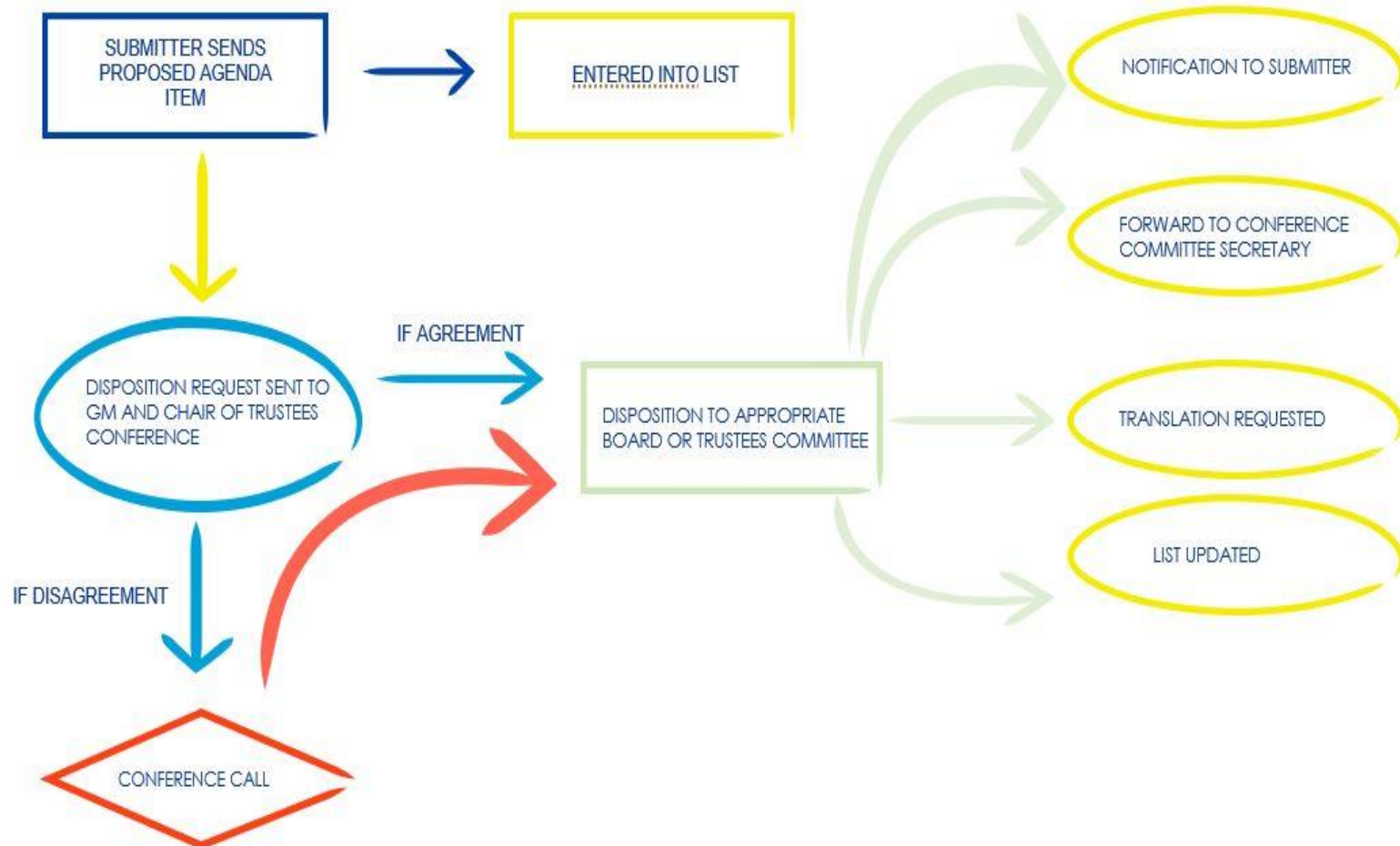
(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?
(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.
(7) Final comments:

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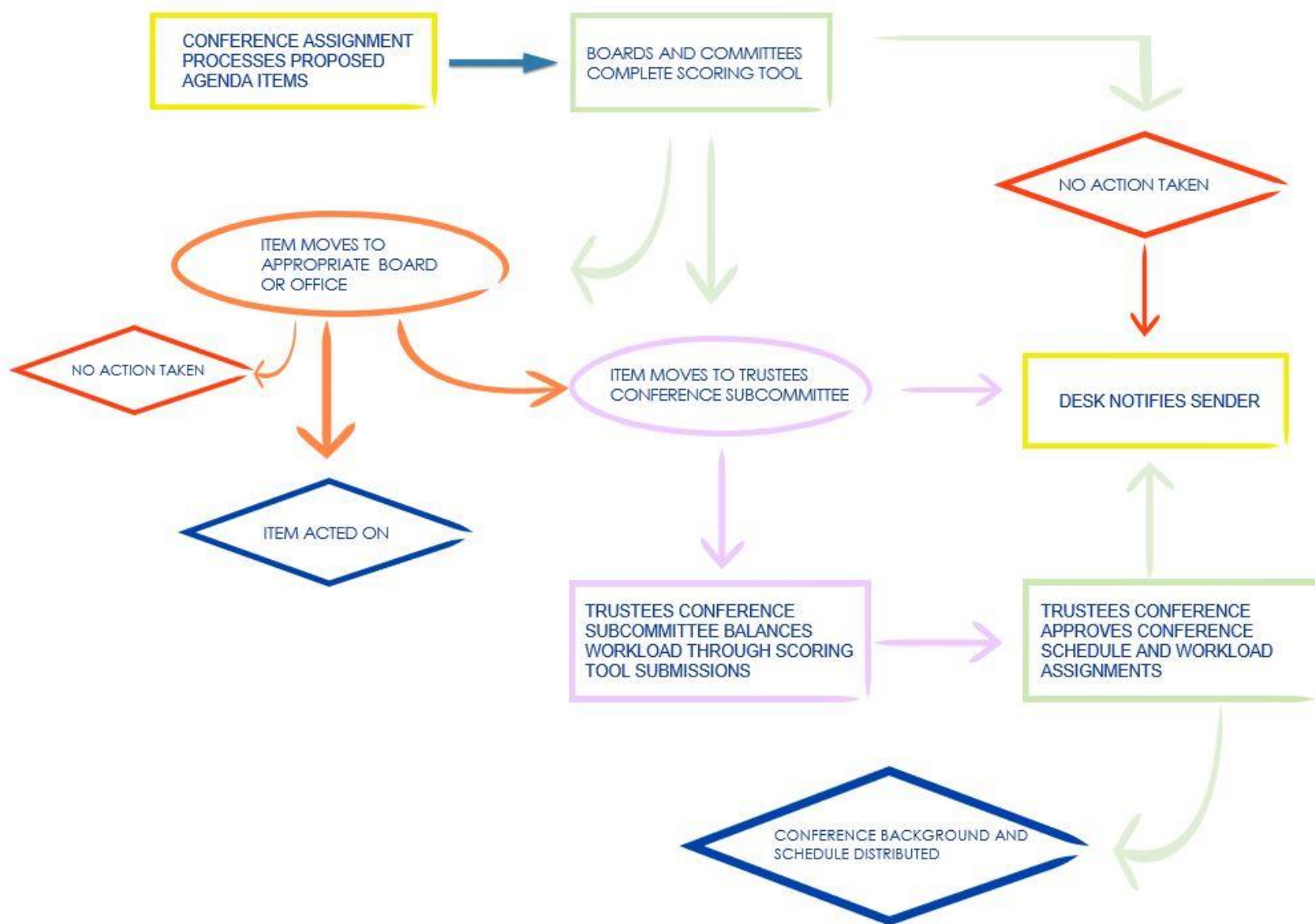
Process Timeline & Workflows

APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE			GENERAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING		NEW DEADLINE FOR PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS IS SEPT 15	GENERAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING			GENERAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING	CONSOLIDATED CONFERENCE BACKGROUND IS POSTED FEB 15	
	CONFERENCE ASSIGNMENT PROCESSES PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS			CONFERENCE ASSIGNMENT PROCESSES PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS							
			BOARD OR COMMITTEES COMPLETE SCORING TOOL			BOARD OR COMMITTEES COMPLETE SCORING TOOL			FINAL CONFERENCE AGENDA APPROVED AND POSTED		
							TRUSTEES CONFERENCE SUBCOMMITTEE WORKS THROUGH SCORING SUBMISSIONS FOR FOLLOWING CONFERENCE				
			CONFERENCE SCHEDULE DRAFT			CONFERENCE SCHEDULE DRAFT		CONFERENCE SCHEDULE DRAFT	CONFERENCE SCHEDULE APPROVED		

CONFERENCE ASSIGNMENT PROCESSES PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS



CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background



Scope and Procedures for TCGSC Subcommittee on G.S.C. Committee Workload

The purpose of the trustees' Committee on General Service Conference (TCGSC) Subcommittee on General Service Conference (G.S.C.) Committee Workload is to ensure that there is a reasonable attempt to distribute the workload for conference committees equitably across the standing committees. Prior to the formation of this subcommittee, little consideration has been given to the complexity and time-demand of individual agenda items. Experience shows that the number of items assigned to a committee, is itself, an insufficient indication of the workload demand on a committee during conference week.

Each agenda item is first handled by Staff assigned to the Conference desk, who assigns the item to the appropriate corporate board or trustees committee or G.S.O. department for review, in consultation with the Chair of TCGSC, and GM. This committee or board uses a scoring tool to evaluate the item and assign an estimate of the complexity and thus, time demand that each item would place on a G.S.C. committee.

What follows are procedures for the TCGSC Subcommittee to equitably distribute the workload for committees.

The TCGSC Subcommittee,

- Receives conference agenda items from designated Boards and Committees **after** the Boards and Committees have applied the scoring tool to each agenda item;
- Reviews the number of agenda items assigned to each committee,
- Tallies and analyzes the number of items for each committee **by its time estimate**,
- Reassigns agenda items from committees with excessive workloads to those with additional work capacity

Scoring Tool and Methodology: To Standardize the Evaluation of a Proposed Agenda Item

There are two ideas represented in this proposed Scoring tool and methodology:

1. The first idea is to document what the reviewing bodies evaluation process is for a proposed agenda item.
2. The second idea is to document that the evaluation takes place against a clearly defined standard which is outlined in the tool.

The Scoring Methodology:

A new Scoring tool is to be completed by the assigned appropriate reviewing trustees' committee, corporate board or G.S.O. department. The goal is for them to in make an initial determination about an individual proposed agenda item's discussion time estimation and possible routing.

Then all the completed Scoring Tools will be sent to a new trustees' Committee on General Service Conference Subcommittee for the equitable distribution of workload review, discussion and decision.

The Scoring tool:

Scoring: Below you will find an example of a completed tool. This tool is designed to facilitate the process of routing proposals.

Once a proposed agenda item is received, the first portion of the tool is completed by the Conference Assignment and forwarded along with submitter's proposal to the appropriate reviewing trustees' committee, corporate board or G.S.O. department for review and discussion.

After the cut-off date for submission of items, the total proposed agenda items is reviewed, and the equitable disposition of each is decided, through assignment to the committees by a new subcommittee that would be appointed by the trustees' Committee on General Service Conference.

For illustration purposes a proposed agenda item that was not forwarded to conference is presented and evaluated.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

Proposed Conference Agenda Items Routing

Proposed Agenda Item: *Trustee committees of the General Service Board shall only be chaired by Class B Trustees.*

Reviewing Body: *Trustees Nominating Committee*

The proposed item is:

	Y	N (If checked provide reason)
Policy focused	X	
Clearly written	X	
Specific	X	
Has been previously proposed	X	No previous submission

The proposed item is submitted with rationale/background with the following elements:

The problem that this proposed item is addressing

AA's should be in charge of the future of AA.

The intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved

A visible statement that the future of AA is in the hands of the Fellowship.

The unintended/unexpected outcomes if this proposed agenda item is approved

A diminished role for Class A Trustees, difficulty recruiting Class A Trustees, difficulty retaining Class A Trustees. Raises the question of why does AA need Class A Trustees?

The proposed item is submitted by: **An A.A. Area Delegate**

The proposed item reflects a group-conscience: Yes _____ No Unclear

Time estimate:

☐ Low ☐ Average ☒ More than Average ☐ Substantial

Possible Routing:

☐ Report & Charter	☐ Agenda
☐ Finance	☐ Literature
☒ Trustees	☐ CPC
☐ Treatment/Accessibilities	☐ Public Information
☐ Policy/Admissions	☐ Grapevine
☐ Corrections	☐ Archives
☐ Int'l Conv/Reg Forums	



69th General Service Conference

Equitable Workload Distribution Presentation and Discussion

May 21, 2019



Agenda

To set up this discussion we will go over:

1. Timeline of what got us here
2. What's been looked at thus far
3. Where we are at now

Evolution of Committees

1951 GSC

- Advisory Committee on Budget
- Agenda Committee
- Conference Report
- New Trustees

1952 GSC

- Agenda Committee
- Conference report
- Finance
- Literature
- Policy
- Trustees

1966 GSC

- Agenda/Admissions
- Conference Report & Charter
- Finance
- Grapevine
- Institutions
- Literature
- Policy
- Public Information
- Trustees

1978 GSC

- Agenda
- Conference Report & Charter
- Cooperation With the Professional Community
- Correctional Facilities
- Finance
- Grapevine
- Literature
- Policy & Admissions
- Public Information
- Treatment Facilities
- Trustees

1999 GSC

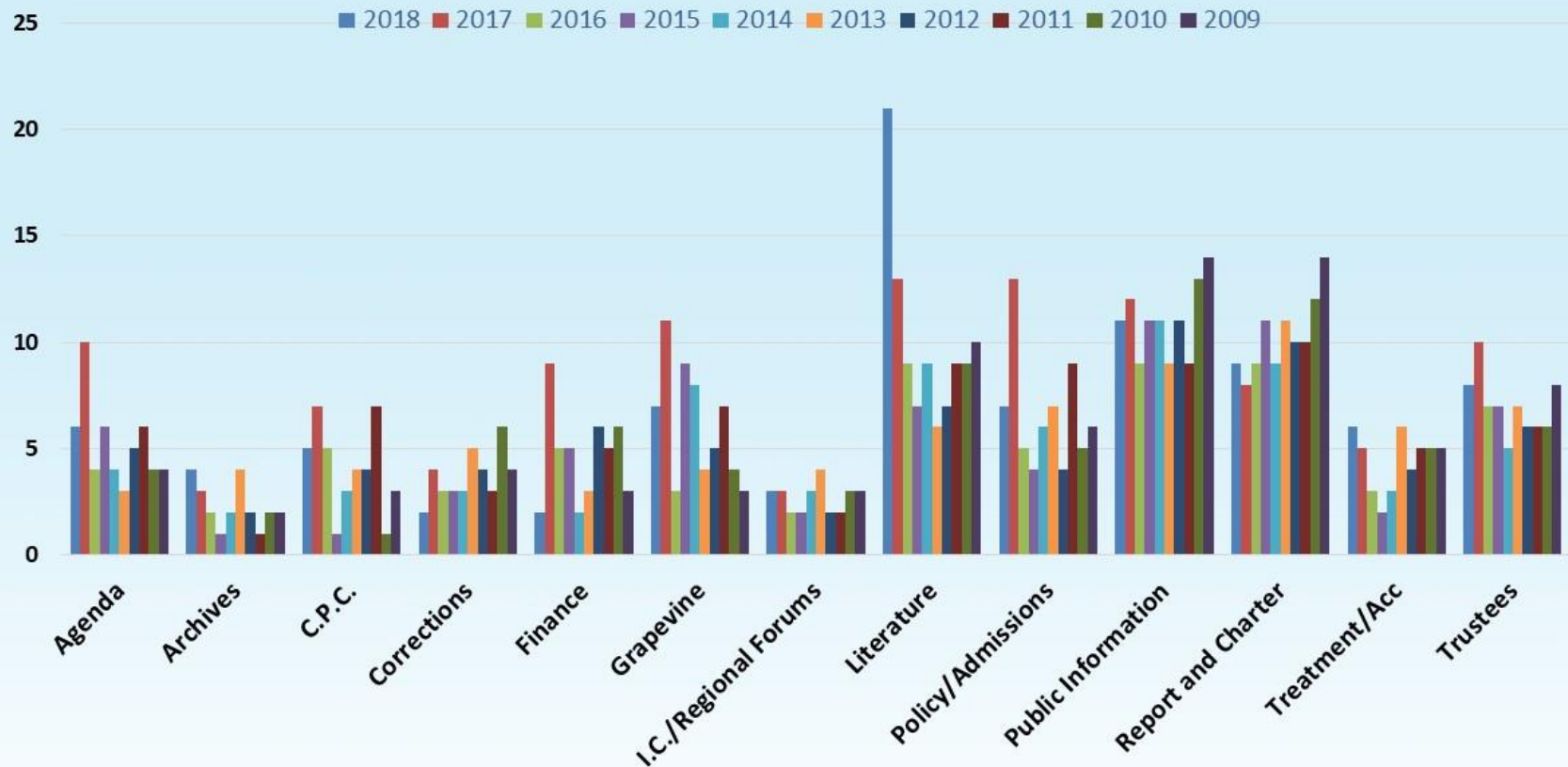
- Agenda
- Archives (Secondary)
- Conference Report & Charter
- Cooperation With the Professional Community
- Correctional Facilities
- Finance
- Grapevine
- IC/RF (secondary)
- Literature
- Policy & Admissions)
- Public Information
- Treatment Facilities
- Trustees

How We Got Here



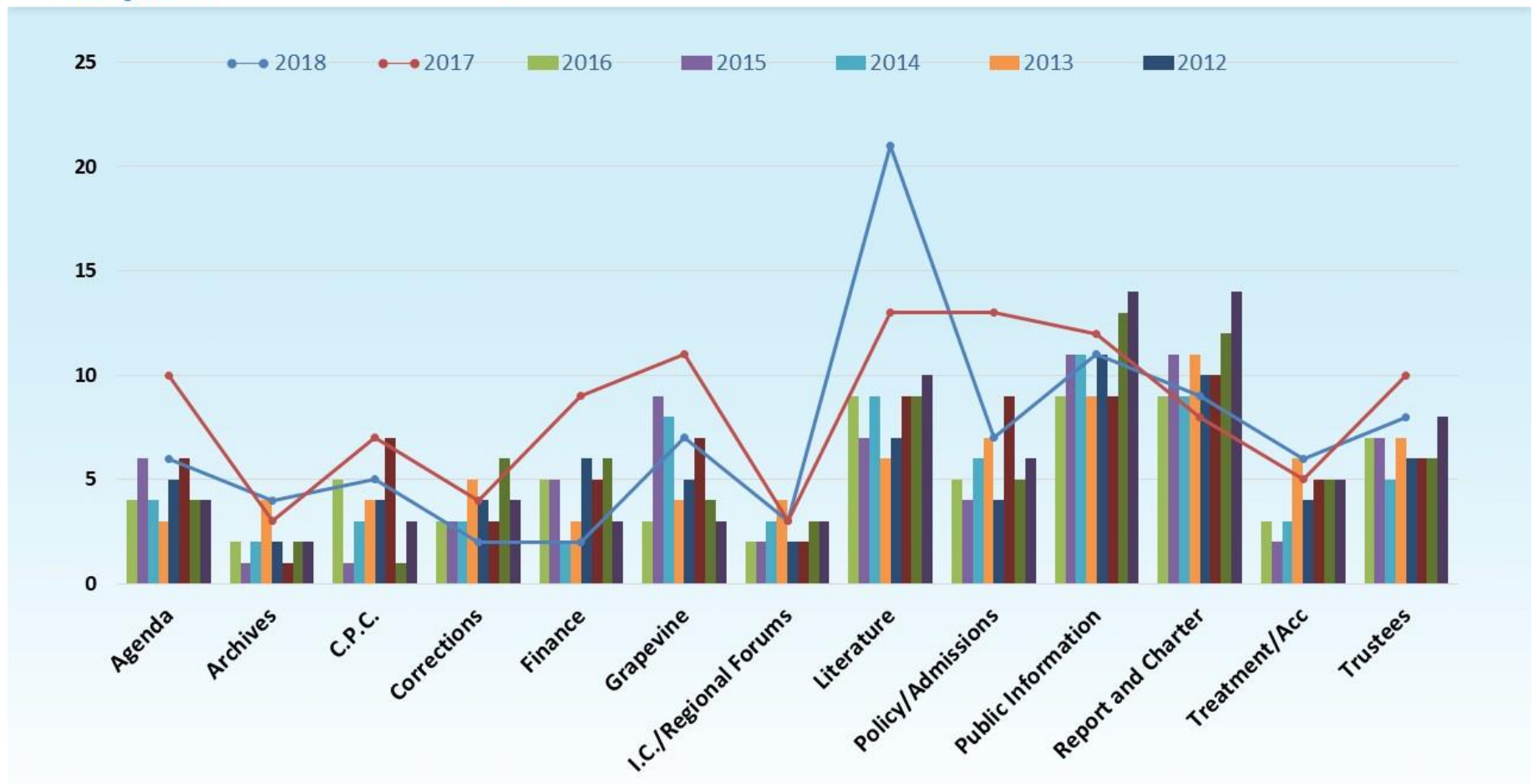


Agenda Items Over the Years



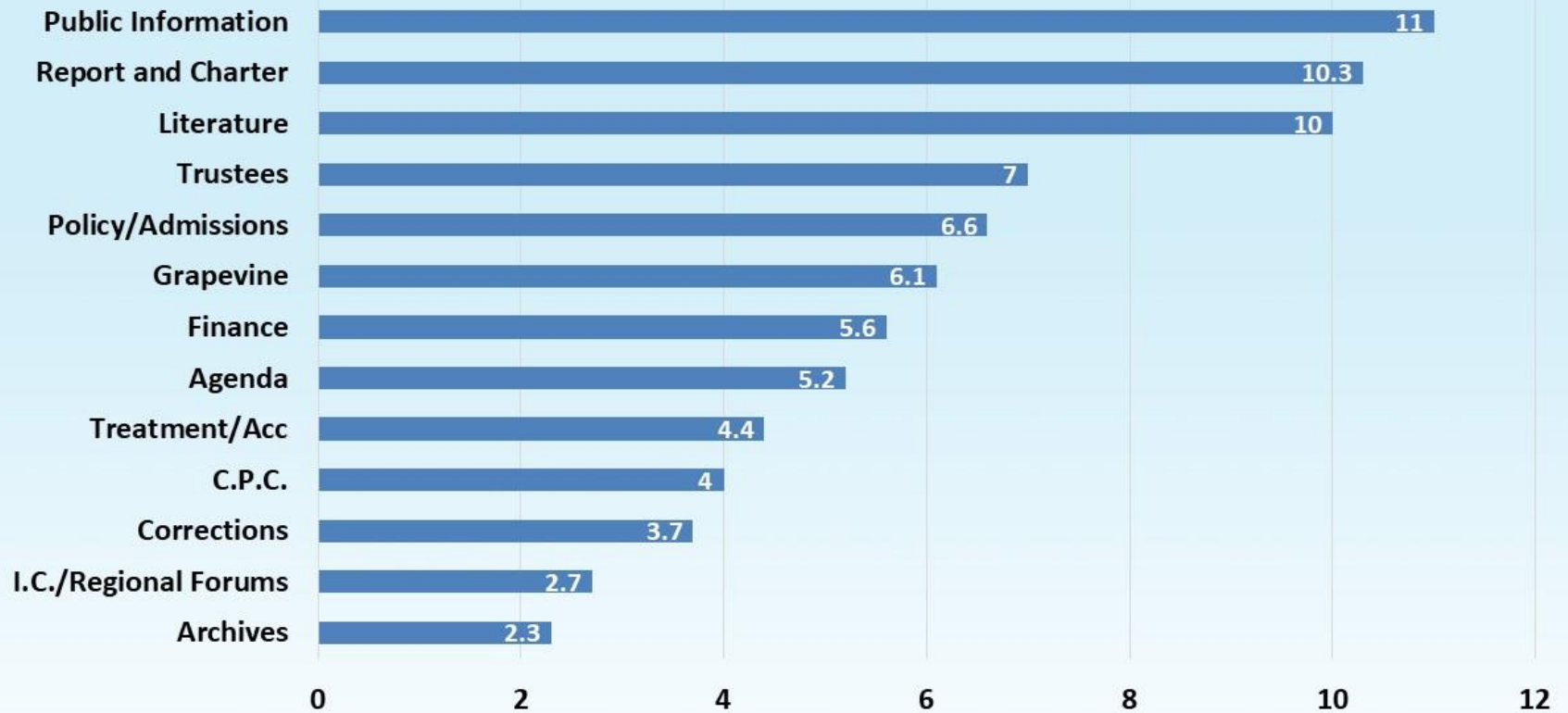


Agenda Items Over the Years



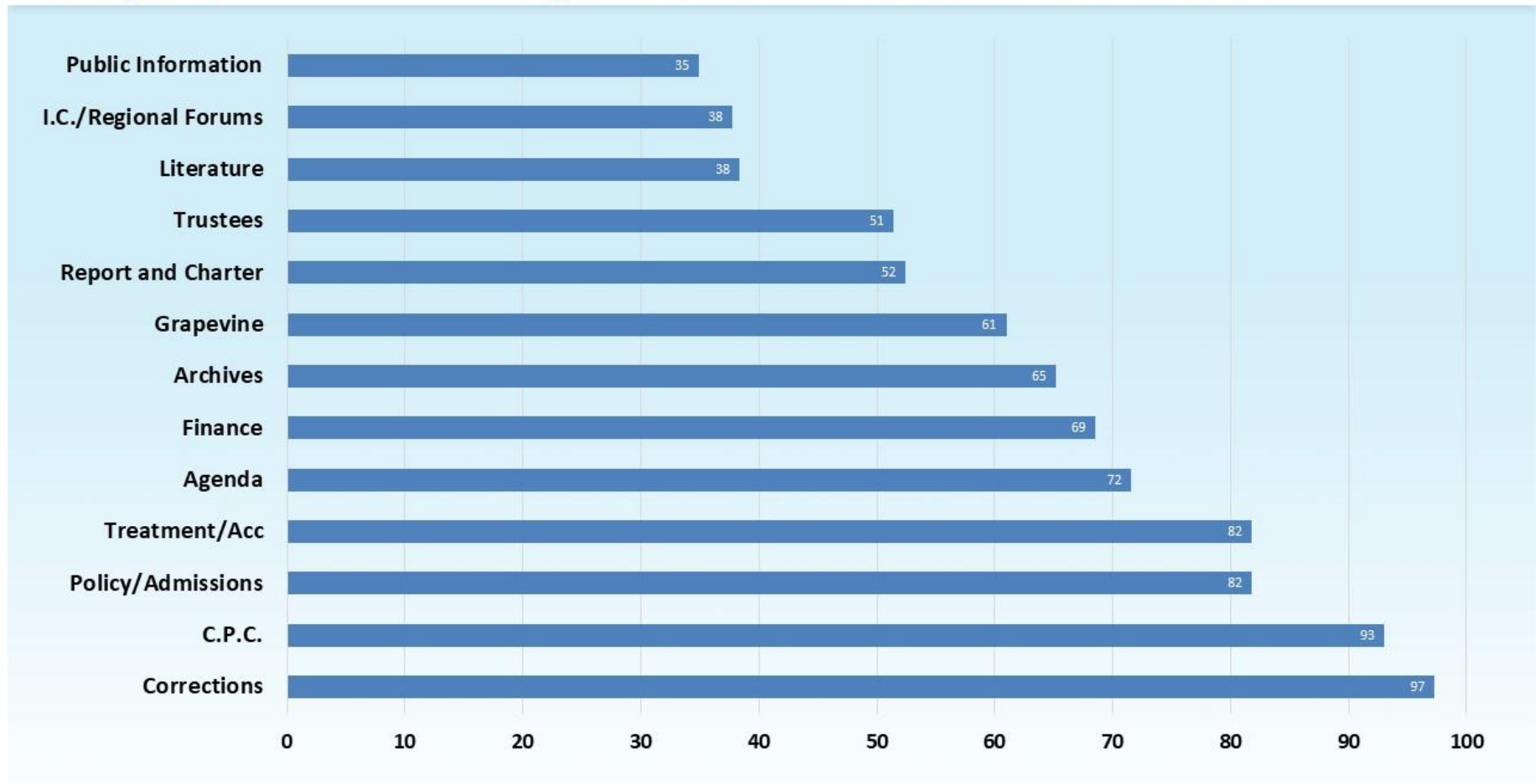


Average Number of Agenda Items



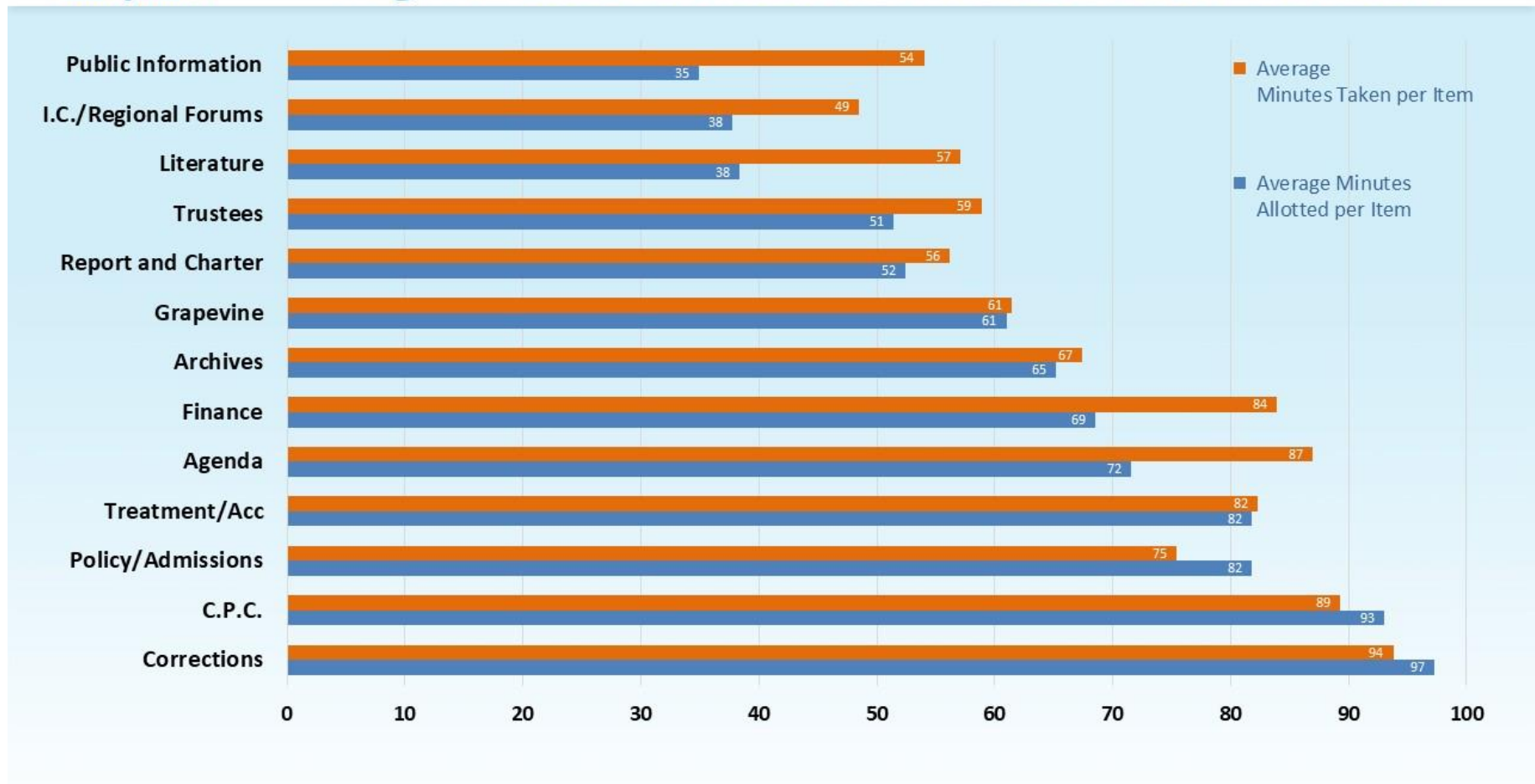


Avg Minutes Allotted To Each Item



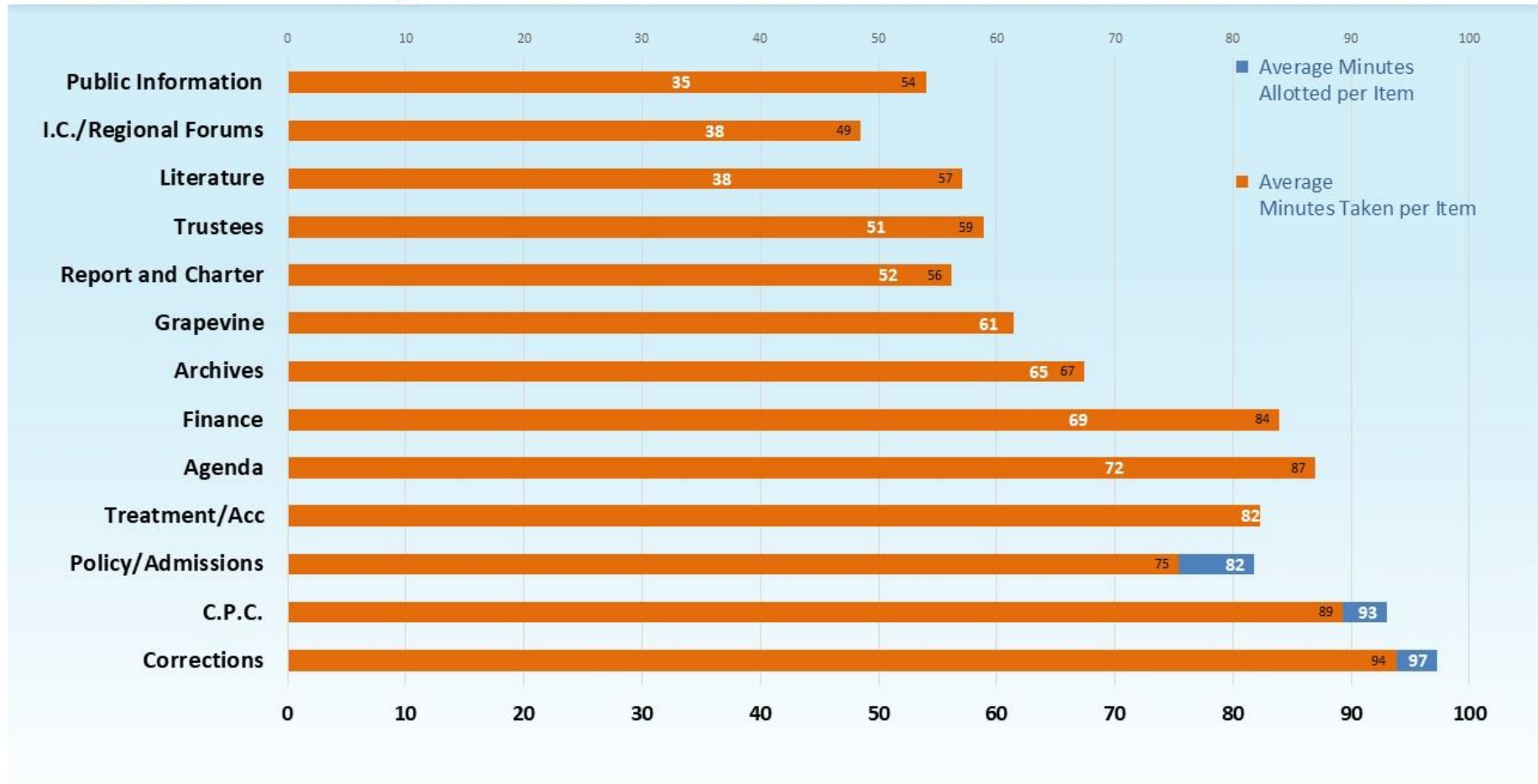


Avg Minutes Allotted vs Minutes Taken Per Item



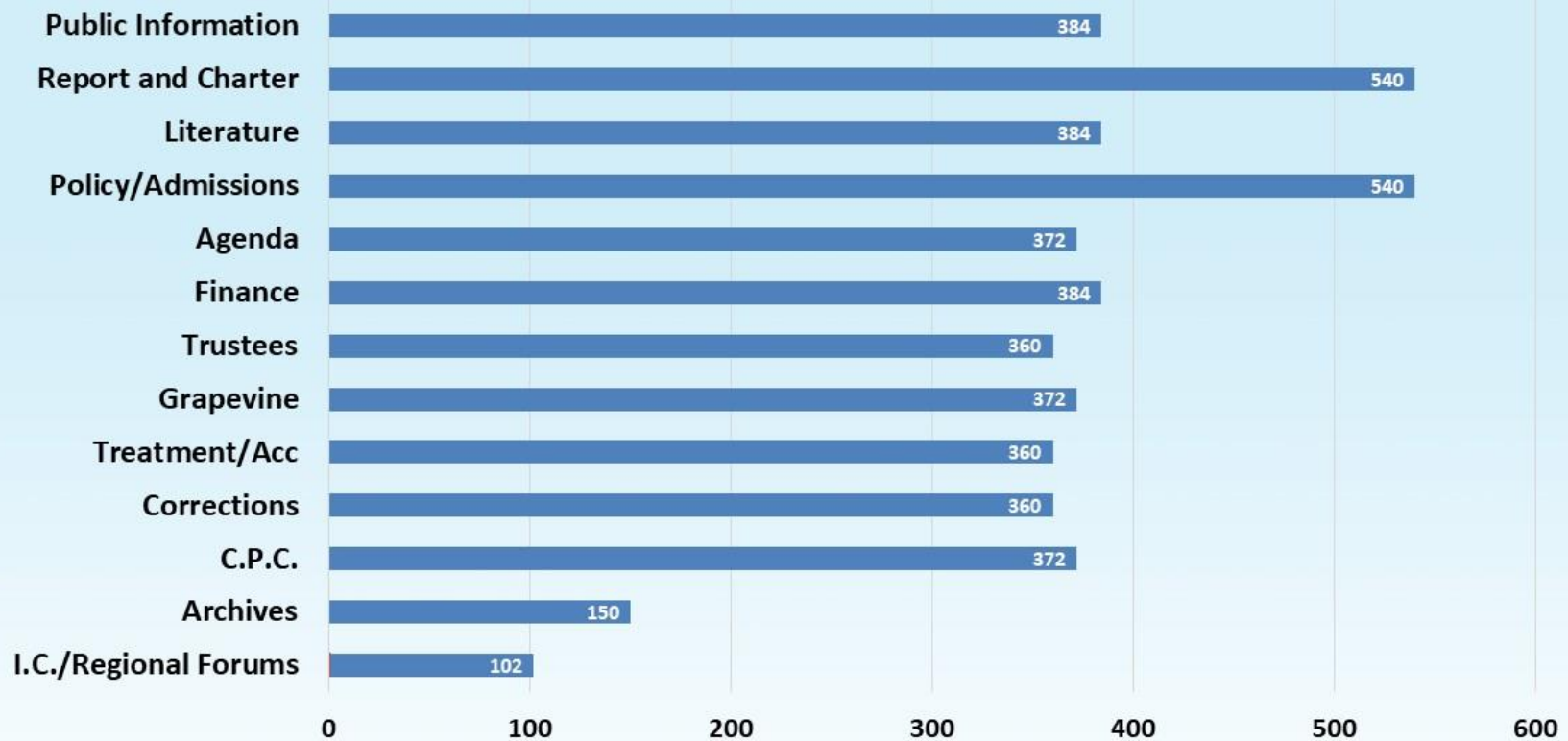


Avg Minutes Allotted vs Minutes Taken Per Item



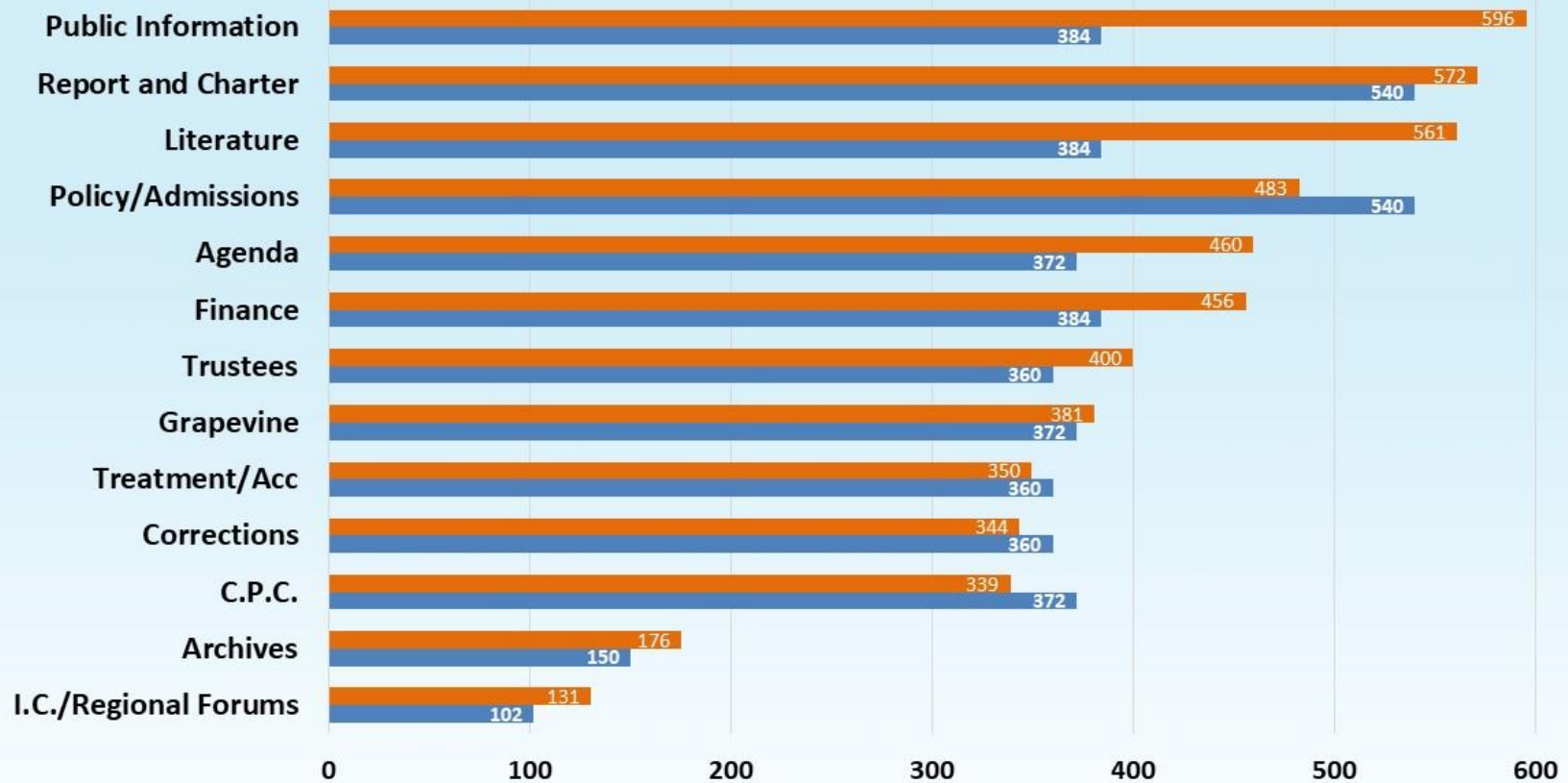


Average Minutes Allotted Per Committee



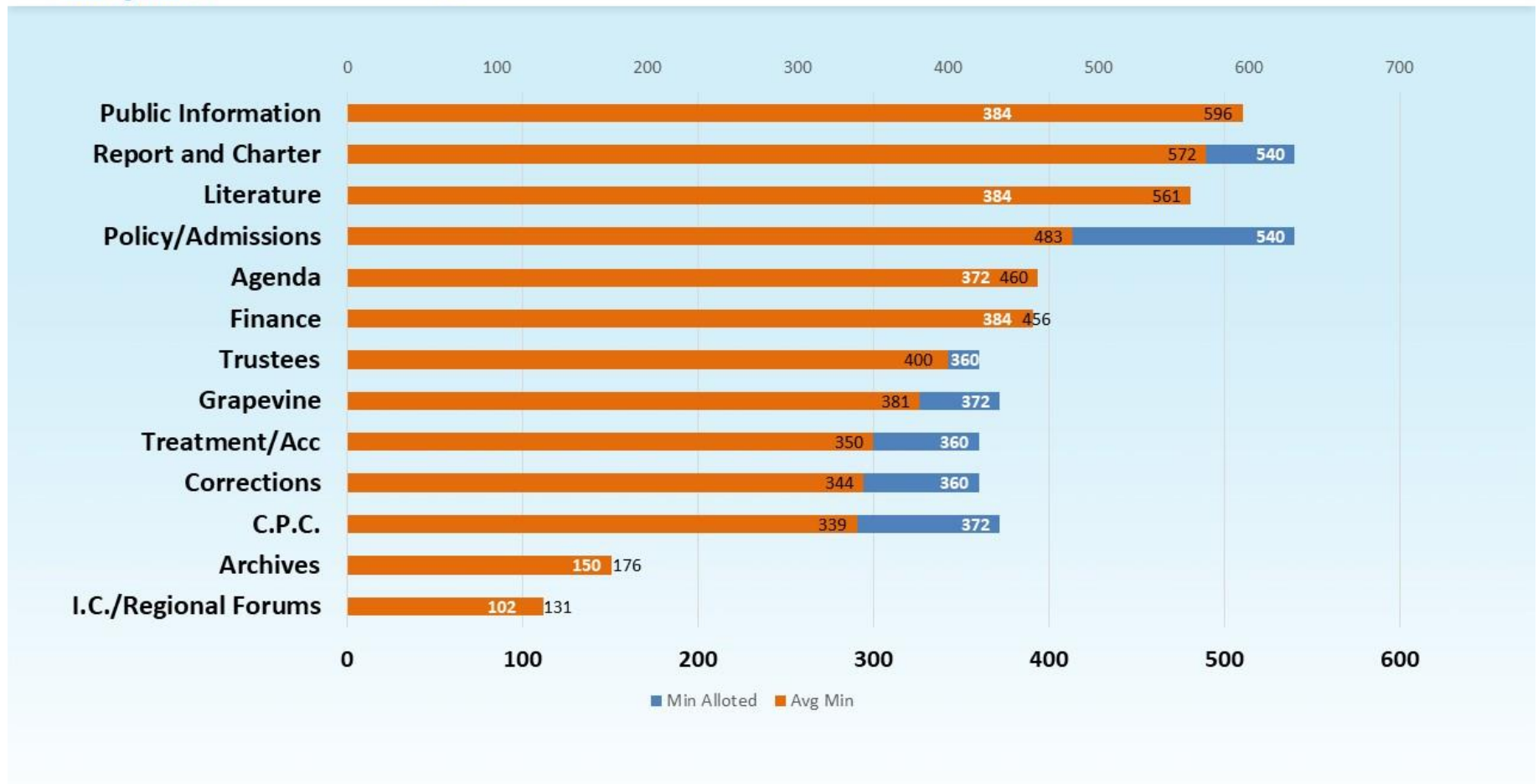


Average Minutes Allotted vs Taken Per Committee





Average Minutes Allotted vs Taken Per Committee



What's Been Considered

- **Creating a second Literature committee;**
- **Creating a second Public Information committee;**
- **Initiating some sort of committee dealing with A.A. online, including social media;**
- **Combining the Agenda and Policy and Admissions committees;**
- **Combining the Agenda and Report and Charter committees;**
- **Splitting Treatment & Accessibilities committee and moving the Treatment function to the Cooperation with the Professional Communities committee;**
- **Keep structure as is but allow items submitted to be forwarded to any committee.**

Concerns with Restructuring

Possible consequences required with any restructure:

- **Combining committees might create too heavy of a workload for the combined committees;**
- **Merging committees would require:**
 - **Revising Composition, Scope and Procedures;**
 - **Updating Service Manual and other literature;**
 - **Additional responsibilities for Staff, etc.**
- **Significant changes to Conference committees would affect their relationship with the corresponding Trustee committees;**



Where We Are Now

Last year the Conference Committee on Policy & Admissions reviewed the trustees' GSC Committee's Report on Equitable Distribution of the Workload of Conference Committees.

The committee encouraged the trustees' GSC Committee to continue reviewing options in order to create a workable plan for equitable distribution of the workload of Conference committees by combining and/or creating committees.

Let's Discuss

- What exactly is the problem we are trying to solve? Have we fully understood the problem we are trying to address?
- Are the committees we have the right committees to function effectively?
- Do we want the committees to have an equal workload and if so, how is that possible considering the different nature of agenda items?
- Is this issue overlaying another issue – are proposed agenda items being sent too soon to conference committees? Would this item benefit from review?
- Do we need to include the topic of workload changes on the assignments at G.S.O. and how has this inadvertently impacted the trustees' and conference committee workload?



Thank You

For your service and support in and of A.A.



Transcription of General Service Conference Session

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Presentation/Discussion: Equitable Distribution of Workload

Moderator, Josh E.

Presenter, Cathy B.

Michele Grinberg: All right, let's come on in and get started. I hope you enjoyed the workshop. I personally want to thank ---- for all the work they did in getting us organized. Wasn't that great? We'll look forward to your feedback in the evaluations to see what you think. So, at this time I have the pleasure of turning the podium over to Josh E.. Josh is a Grapevine director, and he will moderate the presentation.

JE: Good afternoon and good evening. My name is Josh E. and I am an alcoholic.

Audience: Hi, Josh.

JE: It is my great pleasure to serve you all as a non-trustee director on AA Grapevine Inc. and also on the Trustees Conference Committee, which took up this subject this year, and the year before, and a little bit the year before that. And so, I'm grateful for the invitation to help moderate the conversation today, but particularly excited to introduce Cathy B., Southeast Regional Trustee, to give our presentation on Equitable Distribution of Workload.

CB: Hi, everybody, my name is Cathy, and I am an alcoholic.

Audience: Hi, Cathy.

CB: I am here today just to kind of set up a discussion on this topic. A topic that's been tossed around a lot lately. And how we're going to do that is, let's see if it works here, good. And I want to

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thank Julie for coming with my PowerPoint, I am so relieved. So, to set up this discussion we're going to go over, I'm going to let you know a timeline of what got us here, what's been looked at so far, and where we're at now. So, to do that, start out with how did all the committees start out, right? So, at the first General Service Conference there were only four committees. Now, throughout the years the names of the committees have been changed, and more committees have been added to meet our needs as the fellowship has grown. But by the 1990s we had reached our current number of 13 committees. Now, the discussion surrounding an equal distribution of the workload at conference committees isn't new. In the '60s the admission function was moved from the Agenda to the Policy Committee giving us our present-day Policy and Admissions Committee. Then in the 1990s the two secondary committees were formed. So, at the 2013 General Service Conference we had a recommendation to combine the Agenda and Policy Committees, and Policy and Admission Committees. However, after a long discussion the sense of the committee was that merging those two wouldn't really provide that much benefit to the process. And that the time currently allotted for each committee's deliberation seemed appropriate. It was also pointed out that joining the two committees may create too heavy of a workload for the resulting single committee. Finally, the complications involved in merging the committees was considered, these included updating the AA Service Manual, as well as the other literature, the additional responsibilities of staff, and the change in the composition and scope of committees.

So, that brings us up to our more recent history where there's been an increasing focus on the workload of the committees and how we might address the fact that there are some committees who end up with a disproportionate amount of agenda items. So, in order to give more, give committees more time for discussion it was suggested that the Conference Committee have a conference call sometime before conference to deal with those housekeeping items, such as voting, breaks, and prioritizing the agenda items. So, in 2017 the conference approved the recommendation to the Trustees Conference Committee to develop a plan for equitable distribution of workload, and report back in 2018. So, the Trustees Committee asked the committee staff secretary to create a workable plan, and a report of the progress with the history and the options was forwarded to last year's conference. The Policy and Admission Committee and the Trustees Committee requested more time to create a plan by combining and creating committees. So, the Trustee Committee also cautioned

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that if there would be a significant change in the number, comp, and scope of conference committees it might be better to include both a conference and a Trustee Committee structure, seeking approval from the General Service Board before proposing any major changes. So, in July of last year the subcommittee was formed to review the number of items, equitable workload being one of those items, and the subcommittee was David N., Josh, and I. So, initially we looked at updating the updated information that had been generated for the last subcommittee, that I believe was in 2016, including data about the number of agenda items, the time allotted per agenda item, how long the committees were in session, to allow them to deal with their workload right?

So, we get into some of the charts. Now this chart, you're going to see the number of agenda items per committee over the last ten years, that's from 2008. What I noticed on this chart was that the number of items was different pretty much every year for each committee. In this next chart, what's been done, the last two years have been highlighted with the solid lines, as opposed to the columns. And so, in 2017 and 2018 it shows a little more dramatic increase for a few committees, particularly Literature. So, here we see the average number of agenda items handled by each committee, and this is an average over the last ten years. So, if we take that average number and we determine how long each committee can spend on each item this is where you'll see the difference in the amount of time the committee has for the discussion. Of course, not all agenda items are created equal and this is just an average. Public Information and Literature average around 36 to 37 minutes per item. While the Cooperation with Professional Community and the Corrections have over 90 minutes on average.

So, let's add the data of how much time was actually spent by each committee on each item which is the orange, or the top bar. Now, that data is stacked, what you can see is it clearly shows that all but three committees, those on the bottom, are spending more time on each agenda item than what the number of agenda items and time allotted suggest. Finally, let's look at the average time allotted per committee. Again, this is over the last ten years, and the Report and Charter and the Policy and Admission, those two, have more time because those two committees don't have a corresponding Trustee Committee, and therefore they don't have the Joint Committee on Sundays and they can use that time to dig into their agendas.

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Again, if we add the average amount of time that was actually spent in committee, you can see while some committees don't use all the time some need more time to complete their work. But, because I love charts I did one more chart, and I overlaid that data. And so, you can see that by the blue bar showing at the end it does indicate that a majority of the committees do actually complete their work in the time allotted, or else there wouldn't be so much blue at the end. So, now we're down to, with that information the first subcommittee explored several combinations, including such options as creating a second Literature Committee, creating a second Public Information Committee, initiating some sort of a committee dealing with AA online, including social media, combining the Agenda and Policy and Admissions Committees, combining the Agenda and Report and Charter Committees, splitting the Treatment and Accessibilities Committee and moving the treatment function to the Cooperation with Professional Communities Committee. Or this is one I really like, let's just keep the structure as is but allow the items submitted to be forwarded to any committee. However, there has been concerns with that kind of restructuring, which we kind of mentioned before, combining the committees might create too heavy of a workload for the combined committee. Merging the committees would require revising the composition, scope, and procedures, updating the service manual and other literature, and the additional responsibilities for staff. And of course, then any of the significant change to the conference committees would affect their relationship with the corresponding Trustee Committees. So, last year the conference committee on Policy and Admissions reviewed the trustee's committee report on this issue and encouraged them to continue reviewing the options. So, enter this year's subcommittee, namely David, Josh, and I. So, after reviewing the data and considering what had previously been done, as well as the scope of the project itself, we came back to our full committee with a couple of suggestions. However, our conclusion was that this topic just needs more than three sets of eyes on it. So, we suggested forming a larger workgroup, perhaps an ad hoc committee of the General Service Board. We also asked if the committee working on this should include members such as staff, management, or conference committee chairs. Ultimately, it was decided to devote time, right here, during the conference, to allow the input and get some suggestions from all of you.

So, here are some, I've got to forward that, let's see and, there we go, throw that right away. Let's throw it away, and let's discuss. Now, here are a few questions to consider: what exactly is the

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problem we are trying to solve? Have we fully understood the problem we were trying to address? Do we have the right committees for today's work? Do we want the committees to have an equal workload and if so, how is that possible, considering the different nature of agenda items and the source of those agenda items. Is this issue overlaying another issue? Which is maybe our proposed agenda items being sent too soon to the conference committees? And would this item benefit from review? And finally, do we need to include the topic of workload changes on the assignments at GSO? And how has this inadvertently impacted the Trustees and Conference Committees' workload? So, those were the questions, and I hope you guys have some bold ideas to bring to the mics even though you used so many of them in the workshops just now. Thank you.

Applause

JE: Thank you very much, Cathy. And at this time microphones will be opened for your thoughts. We're going to go until 5:55. And if you could start to lineup at the microphone. We will go in order starting with microphone two and Carole.

CB: Thank you, Josh. My name is Carole B., and I'm an alcoholic, and I am a General Service Trustee. And I think I'm, trying to figure out which question I'm answering, but we'll fill in the blank. I'm wondering if this structure still serves us. Does the committee structure still serve us? Because this is my sixth conference as a director or trustee and I did two as a delegate, so this is my eighth conference. And we say trust the committee process, we have a document that says trust the committee process, yet when things come out of committee, we insisted on a, which I think people have some really good ideas, and they're not being able to frontload the committees with those. So, I'm wondering if there's another way to get the, some of the information to the people on the committee. So, I'm wondering if we just get along the lines of the committee process. The other thing I want to mention is that I wonder if the Trustees Committees are doing a good job of, and I may be totally out of line here, but I wonder if the Trustees Committees are doing a good job of fully understanding the problem. And maybe the writer of the agenda item doesn't fully understand the problem, and we're quickly jumping to a solution. And so, is this an underlying issue? Thank you.

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JE: Thank you, Carole. Microphone three, Roger.

RW: Hi. Roger W., Area 26, Delegate Kentucky, Panel 68, and fifth year delegate. I want to share some experience, strength, and hope. Few of you know that I served as a delegate to the Great Britain General Service Conference for three years, because it's a three-year term. And so, I have that experience from when I was stationed in Europe. And Great Britain has six committees. And I know that the subcommittees already studied this but I can tell you that I was there. And it's one of the things that I liked about how they did it. I didn't like their accent, and I didn't like a lot of the things they did, but this was good. The committees, the names of the committees are Committee One, Committee Two, Three, Four, Five, Six. Interesting, and right behind the communications audit is that there are three committees that are internal, internal communication, and three that are external. Internal communication communicates with the fellowship, like it would be a Grapevine, agenda, policy, finance, those kinds of things, types of agenda items. External would be PI, CPC, Treatment, Accessibilities, Corrections etc. Regardless of what came in on the agenda it allowed for the workload to be generally equitable across all six committees. Each committee had generally the same number of things to discuss and make recommendations about, but I take your point about how that would be different as far as the Joint Trustees Committees. But, you know, we need to do something obviously, we've been studying this for a while. The Literature Committee is overwhelmed and I think it's obvious to everybody at this conference that the topics don't always equal importance of service work. Just because you have more topics, other people have less topics, but they're just as important to carry the message. So, that's my experience, and I'm happy to share that with anybody on the Board.

JE: Thanks very much. Microphone two, Rick please.

RW: Good afternoon, everybody. I'm Rick W., I'm an alcoholic. G.S.O. staff member and thank you for this presentation. As secretary to the committee wrestling with this topic not very successfully. So, there are a couple of ideas, a couple of thoughts come to mind, one of them was that something was flashed up about how it will affect the workload of staff, what will it do to the comp., scope and procedure, changes to literature. And I think those really should be secondary considerations. I think

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we should fit the staff to fit the structure that works for us, rather than trying to fit the structure that works to the already established staff structure. That is sort of secondary to what we're really trying to do. And one of the other questions that I have, I consider the conference as, you know we make, the conference makes advisory actions to the trustees and for the fellowship. If we really are advising the trustees how much detail do we need to get into, and should items be submitted directly to the conference, or should they be submitted to the General Service Board for their consideration. And then the General Service Board brings those questions about which they want to consult, and which they need a wider conscience, to us. I think sometimes we get bogged down in some of the weeds, in some of the detailed things that we do here at conference that we might not to.

JE: Thank you. Microphone three, Thomas please.

Thomas: Thomas, alcoholic, Area 5, Panel 69, L.A. It is my understanding that the assignment of delegates to the committees, though the committees have specific names, is at random, not with regard to any particular expertise. So, regardless of the name of the committee at the board weekend when the agenda is settled the agenda items can be distributed to the committees just based upon their understanding of workload and attempt to even it out. And then when the committees meet, the first hour they can determine whether they think they're going to cover everything or not cover everything and maybe there can be a little Dropbox where something can be sent back and reassigned, or some work can be sent that they have time to consider some of the things that may be sent back. Thank you.

JE: Thank you. Microphone one, David.

DK: Thank you, mister chair. David N., alcoholic and General Service Trustee. I'm curious to hear from this group of people whether this truly is a problem, or if there is something else we should be thinking about. I was a delegate during 2009-2010, I served with Deborah A. who was the chair of Report and Charter. We took great pride in the fact that we met longer than any other committee. Great pride. 18 hours, wasn't it? 18 something? Great pride. And quite frankly, I've not heard that often that a committee says, "Oh you shouldn't of made us work that hard". More often than not I've

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heard committees say, "Give us more, make us work harder". So, I'm just questioning, is this the problem that we need to address, or is there some other problem. And as Cathy's first question says, is there some other problem that we should be addressing? I'd be interested in hearing about that from this group of delegates, thank you.

CB: (Cathy B.). Thanks.

JE: Mic two, Rich.

Rich: Hello mister chair, before I get on to what I want to ask, I happened to be at that conference for Report and Charter, and I'm going to tell you, it was a pain in the neck that they took that long. I've been bugging Deborah K. about that ever since then, I still got a resentment about it. Now that's out of the way. I have a, I'm a conference chair and Patrick and I have had some interesting discussions throughout going over agenda items. I hear agenda I automatically think Agenda Committee. So, there was one particular item we don't need to get into because they're going through it in the committee, and that should go to Agenda, because it says agenda. And I'm a simpleton, you know. Then we had to bring Mary C., we had to bring her expertise in. She read the policy scope and procedure. I think we need to look a little bit at some of these things because some of this stuff in the language make it more simple. Some things I think we can look at the policy scope, like I just heard Rick W. say, we should make agenda items more so into agenda. You know, just my own thoughts. Because it says agenda. You know, and policy and admissions is Policy. So, I just think we're, like Rick W. said, there's different ways of looking at these things, you know. And we had discussions over the weeks about this, you know. Just some thoughts on it, that's all. Thank you.

JE: Thank you very much. Microphone three, Marge.

MM: Marge M. Panel 68, Area 23, Southern Indiana, Literature Committee. I have two things, I'll start out with the one that sounds less like a scold. I've thought last year and this year, because last year I think we had 18 items, this year it was easy, we only had 17. And I love that everybody feels sorry for us, even if we finish on time, which we have the last two years. But, if there were some flexibility to

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each of the schedules so that should a committee need more than two mornings and an hour on Sunday to get the job done, we've met at eight o'clock, instead of nine, both years and that was very helpful, otherwise we would not have finished. But some scheduled flexibility so that we're not packed end to end to end to end with things we really need to be at. Although I love all the information we get. There might be some wiggle room available. The other thing, I hope I don't sound like a scold, but not all of us come really prepared. Not all of us have spent time on the issues or the items for our committee. And not in the last two years because we're, the people on the committee these two years have been so wonderful, but the year before they had a terrible time because there were people who had not read the material, so they had to stop and allow the people to read. And I mean talk about stretching the time out for the committee work. So, the more prepared we are, and I know it sounds like, "Duh Marge, everybody knows that", but obviously they don't because sometimes we have people come without reading the background and that's essential, that's what allows us to move along.

JE: Thank you very much. Yeah, microphone one, Dee.

Dee: My name is Dee, and I'm an alcoholic, Panel 68, Area 3, Arizona. So, I had a couple of thoughts, this is actually a problem at our area too, there's some many topics that come out and we do that. And I actually made a kind of bold statement like our process is broken. That we're not able to get through all the topics but we do the best that we can and assign them. And so we're doing an ad hoc committee to re-evaluate our current assembly processes and how much time we actually give to the topics. Our groups are doing a great, great job, and we have a committee process that kind of models the conference process. However, we're about six to seven topics per committee is all our home groups can sit through. So, I would suggest maybe a little longer time here at this, that there's some things we may be able to cut out, although the presentations are very good. I think the committee work is the most important thing and maybe we can go from nine hours to twelve hours. Some of the orientation can be possibly pushed out to our regions. So, regional orientation for the delegates on the conference and something a little more structured than what we do now. I'm very proud the Pacific Region does a good job of that, but we can always do a little bit more. Area access to the conference material and the background material as it comes in let us start working a little

CONFIDENTIAL A.A. GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE MATERIAL

further in advance, instead of trying to jam it all into six weeks. Review the committee structures for function and not only just by type that we do now. Do the Trustees Committees have enough time to do the work in between and suggestions that we develop something where our areas have more continuity. You do not do it as good as we do it in Arizona.

JE: Thank you for that. Microphone two, Mark.

ME: Thank you, Josh. Mark E., East Central Regional Trustee, member amongst other things of the Trustees Literature Committee for the past two years. And frankly feeling a tad guilty for the amount of work that we gave to the Conference Committee on Literature for this reason, we on the Trustees Committees could very possibly change how we consider some items that we pass on to the conference. What I'm trying to say is often times what seems the prudent step to take is that's kind of serious or that's interesting or it's worthy of conference consideration, let's give it to the conference. When in fact some items could well have been sent back to the originator for clarification, or work, or whatever. And I can tell you also that trustees committees are overloaded as well, because if the conference committee of Literature is getting 16 or 18 items we're going through more than that. And there's a tremendous amount of work on our part, too. So, a lot of it I believe is up to the trustees committees to be more prudent in selecting what ends up coming to conference. That might cause some issues in the fellowship but I think that's something that we might consider. Thank you.

JE: Thank you. Mic three, Dave.

DR: Dave R., Panel 68, Area 25, Kansas. First of all, David was asking here for delegates, and no, I did not feel overwhelmed by the workload, it was a nice amount and we had fun with it. I think it hasn't really been said, I feel it kind of needs to be said, this is a moving target. And we maybe need to keep that in mind because what we do now and what problem we solve today may not be the problem ten years, fifteen years, twenty years down the road. So, we're not going for a permanent solution, I don't think. A couple of pieces of information, just to throw in incase they are any good. I did ask my past delegates about their thoughts on this and one of them served, I think it was Panel 60 or Panel 62, I believe on Corrections and he said, "We didn't have anything to do except review

CONFIDENTIAL A.A. GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE MATERIAL

the workbook and so we kind of made up some stuff so we felt like we'd done something". And so, he admitted it. And you know, it's kind of the opposite end of that problem that maybe sometimes those things, he was a little miffed because those things wound up going nowhere and never coming back. What I'm wondering is if sometimes they do when maybe they weren't really needed. So, it might be, you know if we have some, not really a good thing. Last thing, the idea of throwing all the items, randomly assign them to committees, I actually did that in my area. I went out into the districts and did sound offs, I call them sound off sessions, I mixed up all the items and assigned six or seven to each, and I just called it group one, two, three, four, five, six up through twelve, and gave them to them with some background and information to mull over and give me input on, and it worked wonderfully.

JE: Microphone one, Kathi.

KF: Hi, Kathi F., Pacific Regional Trustee. First of all, thank you Josh, and Cathy, and David for your work, and the great Power Point Presentation, that was really good. I hear so much and for so long that the problem isn't so much that one committee may have too much stuff, it's the committees that don't have anything. And the delegates that are coming really to do work here and not having much to talk about in the committees, and very many agenda items to discuss, and really wanting to come here and make a difference and do the work. I have full confidence that the staff could figure out how to adjust. I mean would it really matter if the Corrections Committee got a Corrections agenda item and also a Literature agenda item? The committees always have the ability to call someone in to get information if that particular staff person doesn't have that information at the time. I think that's it. Thank you.

JE: Microphone two, please.

MS: Hi, Mike S., Panel 68, Area 31, Western Massachusetts. I should start by saying I served on the Agenda Committee and I thought that the time allotment for myself on that committee was appropriate. We managed to get through everything in exactly the amount of time allotted, so thank you. My big concern, and I guess that addresses itself in the form of a question - have any potential

CONFIDENTIAL A.A. GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE MATERIAL

agenda items ever been excluded from the conference committees due to time allowance? That would be my number one concern. Thank you.

JE: So, I am looking around the room. Mary, might you have an answer for that?

MC: Thank you, Josh. Mary C.s, G.S.O. staff. To my knowledge that has never happened, we need to confirm that with Michelle Mirza, through an archives check. But I have never heard of a Trustees Committee holding back an item because of concern about workload.

JE: Thank you, Mary. I appreciate it. Microphone three, Ginger.

GR: Hi, Ginger R. B., General Service Trustee, AA Grapevine Director. I was a panel 48 delegate and one of the literature things on the agenda was the re-write of *Living Sober*. The committee thought that we had to re-write the Living Sober book and we were wordsmithing and finally we said, "OMG, that's not what we're supposed to do". And so, we quit doing that. But sometimes that seems to be what happens. I also know in groups that I've been in, it doesn't matter whether if it's here or the other part of the world, we expand to fill the time we have or we compress to be more efficient at our allotted times. I know that for myself, that I can do that. But one of the other comments I wanted to make is over time, one of the things I've seen, and it comes and goes, is Trustees Committees feeling loathe to not accept something to committees because they've come from your areas, your regions. And people don't like it when they don't get their stuff on the agenda. And sometimes maybe we need to be a lot more careful with that and be able to say, "We're not sending that because we've got enough other important things to do". And we don't always do that.

JE: Thank you, microphone one, Rick.

RM: Thank you. Rick Mc., Area 16, Georgia, Panel 68, Literature Committee. My experience has been the last two years working in the Literature Committee, we've called folks in for recommendations to ask additional questions and I went to the board meeting in January and got to sit with the committees, the Trustees Committee and work with them on all this information. And then

CONFIDENTIAL A.A. GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE MATERIAL

again this year we asked David, and we asked Ames in to ask some questions to work out some problems. Why can't we work together to make this go much faster? Is there something that says we can't work together over this week to make things happen for the betterment of AA? That the Trustees Committees and the Conference Committee cannot sit and talk together to work these things out? I think that should also be thought of to make the workload go quicker and to be more informative for those sitting in on those committees. Thanks.

JE: Thank you. Steve, mic one, mic two, excuse me.

Steve: Hi, I'm Steve, I'm an alcoholic. Hello everybody, G.S.O. staff member on the Literature assignment. Thank you to Josh, and thank you for the presentation, Cathy. Part of me loves having come up with ideas with no idea of how to execute them. But, I really like what I'm hearing, and when I think of the problem of workload, and have considered this for a presentation at a board weekend one time having to do with delegated authority. What I see looking at the history is not just the number of committees but there's more sober members, sober longer with more understanding of the workings and there's more items to be considered, and there's more people participating, so it's exponentially growing workload, which is good. So, I hope we would also look at the workload as how can we harness that energy to be more effective with the services. And I did landscaping and had to dig holes to put big trees in the ground, and the more shovels that work together at one time the quicker the hole got dug. So, I imagine one thing would be to make sure if something gets developed that it would be a way for every level of the decision making to have a way to improve the efficiency of the workload. And one thought that comes to my mind is having regional submission of agenda items where I think it would reduce the number of agenda items that make it to the gate, it would narrow the scope of topics to the conference and Fellowship-wide matters. It would help better determine locally the extent of wide expressed need, and it would foster more understanding of the process in general. Again, how to execute that I'm not sure.

JE: Thank you. Mic three, Tommi.

CONFIDENTIAL A.A. GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE MATERIAL

TH: Hi, I'm Tommi H.. I'm the director on the Grapevine Board. Three things, just generally I like the idea that Roger brought forth and was also mentioned being used area-wide dividing up the agenda items not necessarily by topic but by dividing them up by workload because a lot of people have a lot of ideas about a lot of things. We may be asking them to streamline their thinking when they're on a particular committee. I also just wondered if it was possible that we do our joint committee meetings by something like Zoom, prior to the conference. And freeing up that additional time at the conference for the committee work. And I had a third idea but I'm sure that I've forgotten it now. So, thank you.

JE: Thank you. Microphone one please, Mike.

Mike: Good afternoon, everyone. Mike, alcoholic, Area 7, Panel 68. And so, thank you for your work. I know that this has been discussed for many years now. And I don't see that it's an easy solution, a quick fix. I was just wondering, we have international staff that visit other countries and they have their own service structures, I don't know if they are different than ours, and if we can learn anything if we reached out to them, and see what we can learn from them. So that was it. It was more just a question than a comment. Thank you.

Josh E. (JE): So, you just [inaudible] an answer at that and some of the background that we've reviewed for this topic it included the General Conference structure from Great Britain, which was discussed earlier, so that has been a part of the conversation but there's a lot of other G.S.O.'s and we certainly haven't look at all of them.

JE: Microphone two, Matt.

MD: Matt D., Area 69, Literature Committee. One of the new guys in the room. With our proposed agenda items and our conference call I was surprised there weren't more agenda items for Literature. I've heard the legends were going to stay up late, stuff like that, we're going to get up early. I came prepared to work. So, you know, more agenda items wouldn't hurt my feelings, but I am willing to share with other committees, too.

CONFIDENTIAL A.A. GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE MATERIAL

JE: Microphone three, Deb.

DK: I'm Deborah K. and a AAWS director, and also the same Deborah of Panel 59 Report and Charter. And I'm here to volunteer to serve on the new committee and I guarantee we will take at least three times the allotted amount of time to do the work. So that aside, the two comments I wanted to make seriously was that, you know, I think that workload, you know, when we're discussing workload of the conference we should also be talking about workload of the Trustees Committees because we also have challenges there I think. And in both arenas the problem, the point I wanted to make here, isn't so much what we're willing to do, because all of us are willing to push a peanut across the room. We get that. But it's what we're not doing, because we're doing that right? So, having such immensely full agendas doesn't leave a whole lot of time and space for visioning. And that's my concern, we are very reactive and slow, we are not nimble and forward thinking a lot of times, partially because we respectfully get our agenda items from our fellowship, but partially because there's not enough time and space to do visioning. And I just wonder if we had more time would we be better leaders. Thank you.

JE: Thank you. Microphone two, Cynthia.

CB: Hi, I'm Cynthia B., Panel 69, Area 33. I am too a first-time delegate. And I so appreciate, because I don't have the experience and the knowledge that most of you have in this room. I feel a little silly coming to share my thoughts but as a first-year delegate I sing praises of the committee work up and down the general service structure. And I was always taught that I come to conference, I role up my sleeves, and I go to work. I'm supposed to come prepared and I work on the work until my job is done. Then I go home with a complete fulfillment of a job well done. Thank you.

JE: Jan, microphone three.

JR: Jan R., Area 70, Vermont. One of the topics that was discussed in the workshop that I was in was how to chair meetings. And it struck me that I was the chair, or I still am actually, the chair for the Treatment Accessibilities Committee and there was a two-page document that had minor

CONFIDENTIAL A.A. GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE MATERIAL

suggestions in it. But there wasn't anything to do really with suggestions for actually chairing the meeting. And it occurred to me that if we had people that chaired the committees for the last couple of years submit what worked for them and had a document written up that could be distributed that could be given to the chairs as well as the members of the committee, so that when let's say for example when I forget that I'm not supposed to off topic either if I'm chairing the meeting. You know, one of the members of the committee can say, "Yo". It would help keep us, it would help keep the committees working a little more efficiently, not saying this is how you have to do it. But it's important that we have information and service material for actually being a delegate effectively and communicating while we're here.

JE: So, no one is lined up, but we do have ten more minutes, great.

Vera: Vera, Panel 68, Area 58. Just piggy-backing on what I heard, I too had that thought, like if the board meeting in January, if there was an opportunity for the conference delegate chairs to have some training or have some guidance on how to facilitate the meetings, the conference meetings, committee meetings, when we come here, I think that's helpful. I think there's an assumption that's being made that you already know how to do that because you're not a new delegate, but that's not true. I mean, I don't know if I could do it. I would give it my best shot but I would always be open to suggestions about how to facilitate that process and help us stay on track and do what we need to do. Now, I'm not saying that wasn't done in my committee. Committee members don't shoot me here at the mic, but I'm just saying overall, I think offering that guidance and helping us along with that would be very helpful.

JE: Okay.

Patrick: So, hi everybody. I'm Patrick. I just have a point of information about delegate chair orientation. So, there is a delegate chair orientation that happens on Friday of the board weekend for those delegate chairs that do come. But what I'm listening to is what you're saying, because those people were there and still felt unprepared, I'll be looking at what is on the agenda for that orientation next year.

CONFIDENTIAL A.A. GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE MATERIAL

JE: And microphone three.

BP: Hi, I'm Becky P., Area 78, Alberta. And it's the best area north of the Mississippi. I'm just saying that because we actually do some of these ideas that have been put forth so piggy backing on what Dave said from Kansas, we have ten committees in our area, but you guys, you all have thirteen committees. So, when we get the agenda items we split those up and two of our ten committees you don't have, we have E-Services and Remote that you don't have, so we give them one of the thirteen, one of the committees that, it's hard to explain but we split it up and we break Literature in half because it's so huge and we give it to a committee that doesn't have a lot of work. And they love it, the people who don't get there, like Remote doesn't have agenda items but the stuff they get from Report and Charter, or Policy and Admissions they love it because they learn about stuff that they don't normally see. And the other thing we do every two years we have a document called "Passing It On" as Secretary, Treasurer, whatever it is, and we're really helping flesh that out more because sometimes people don't have a clue how to do the next position down the service chain. Thank you.

JE: Thank you. Microphone one, I believe.

Kathi: Hi. Kathi, Area 76, Panel 68. Like any position I've had at Alcoholics Anonymous I didn't know how to do it when I took it, however when you go to a position of committee chair, you know, all of us are far out of high school and so, some of us come with some experience do to workforce training where we already know. I thought that the orientation for committee chairs was great. I didn't see anything that needed changed. There's always room for improvement and I understand that. I did like a suggestion, I forget who made it because I'm trying to listen and then sometimes I get lost while taking notes, so, I liked the idea of having the delegate chairs, or the whole committee, work with the trustees a little more to maybe kind of ease the load off the trustees and then give the delegates more so that they feel like they're participating more in the agenda as they get put forth for the conference. And I really would like to spend some more time with Roger and find out his experience in Europe. That sounded like an option to pursue as well. Thank you.

CONFIDENTIAL A.A. GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE MATERIAL

JE: Thank you. Microphone two, Rick.

RP: Hi. Rick P., Area 34, Western Michigan. Thoughts are flying through my mind and as I hear a lot of what's being suggested, thanks for the presentation Kathy. Deborah sparked something, my original question was sort of addressed. I have a concern about agenda items maybe not making it, or proposed agenda items not making it through or being deferred because of a consideration for a workload for a committee. And also, after listening to Mark, I have a concern for the Trustees Committees during board weekend about the workload, and as Deborah was mentioning in the service manual concepts three, particularly nine, and eleven that trustees should be visionary primarily in custodial. So, I was assigned to a conference committee, I didn't have any choice in the matter, and it was something that was special and unique to me, because it was nothing I had experience with. So, I guess I'm thinking about the idea of if we have a lot first of all maybe it being divided up amongst committees that don't have that workload and I think as much of a workload, and that the only change that would really have to occur then is the joint meeting, and addressing that, it seems to me that's the only issue that would be in the way of making a change and dividing it up like that. We've talked about that in the past. But then it gets back to how do the trustees, and I hear talk about bringing trustees in to help with these but they've got enough going on, it seems to me. That's an answer, yes, but dividing that workload and trying to identify who could be best suited to help out with that I thought were a couple of suggestions. Thank you.

JE: Thank you. So, our last share on this will be Scott at microphone three.

SH: Scott H., Trustee-at-Large, Canada. Not to repeat anything that's been said but maybe to build off of a couple of things that I heard. You know, I wonder if sometimes at this conference we don't really get lost in the minutiae of things that we don't need to get lost in. I didn't bring my service manual down, but I think it's in the Conference Charter that it speaks of the conference, the responsibility of the conference is to perpetuate Alcoholics Anonymous. And I wonder if we think about the agenda items that are put forward by our areas, you know, in light of that. You know, is this something that perpetuates Alcoholics Anonymous. Is this something that truly helps us carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. How much time do we spend moving commas, you know,

CONFIDENTIAL A.A. GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE MATERIAL

here. And that does nothing to perpetuate Alcoholics Anonymous, that does nothing to get the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the still suffering alcoholic. Why are we doing that? We have all kinds of people who can move commas and can move this sentence from this pamphlet to include it in that pamphlet, and what does that do to help the poor person who hasn't found Alcoholics Anonymous yet? You know, and maybe we're over instructing our trustees and our staff. Maybe we feel the need to control absolutely everything. You know, this is a body that I think can spend more time setting policies and here's the direction we want to go, you guys, how do we get there? Come back with some ideas about how we can get there, so that we can talk about those things. You know, these are the things that Rick just got up and talked about, and Deborah just got up and talked about. You know, maybe we need to go back to our areas and when we're talking about what we do here, it being about perpetuating Alcoholics, and yes, I have my own bell.

JE: I just want to thank you all very much. Just from this conversation you can see how this is one of those discussions that has a thread on a sweater and as you pull on it just brings out a whole lot of pieces of the puzzle. We're just really grateful for everyone sharing their experiences here today, and we'll continue that conversation. At this point I'll turn it over to Michele. Thank you.

###

June 2019/G.S.O. Archives

2020 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

ITEM G: Review the Floor Action process.

Background notes:

From the November 29, 2019 minutes of the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference:

The committee reviewed historical experience, actions and sharing on the topic of floor actions and agreed that the process is working and took no further action.

From the February 1, 2020 minutes of the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference:

*The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2020 Conference Policy and Admissions Committee a proposed agenda item to "Review the Floor Action process to guard against circumvention of the Conference process."*

Background:

1. Request from submitter
2. Floor Actions proposed agenda item
3. Archives Department Research of Floor Actions
4. General Service Conference leader working agenda script excerpts on Floor Actions
5. 2015-2019 General Service Conference Advisory Actions
6. 2015-2019 Recommendations and Floor Actions That Did Not Result in Conference Advisory Actions
7. How the Conference Operates

From: Don B
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 3:41 PM
To: Conference
Cc: Groupservices
Subject: 70th General Service Conference Agenda Item Proposal from Area 29 (#2 of 4)

Maryland General Service, Inc.
P.O. Box 8043
Elkridge, MD 21075

December 10, 2019

Patrick C
Conference Coordinator
General Service Office
475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10115

Dear Patrick,

Attached to this correspondence are two pages of background information from Area 29 in support of a Conference Agenda Item proposal (#2 of 4) for the 70th General Service Conference.

The proposal reads: "Review the Floor Action Process to guard against circumvention of the Conference Process."

This proposal was brought forward from the Area 29 Committee to the Area 29 Assembly held on December 7, 2019. The Motion passed with substantial unanimity (only two dissenting votes) in favor of forwarding it to the Conference Coordinator with additional background information, which is attached.

The proposal had originated in the summer of 2019 during separate meetings of two of Area 29's four geographically-distinct Conference Agenda Review Committees (CARCs 2 and 4). CARC 2 is comprised of members from Districts 1, 6, 22, 23, 27, 35, 36, and 42 in the four southern counties of Area 29. CARC 4 is comprised of members from Districts 7, 9, 17, 20, 40, and 41 in the six western counties of Maryland. It was decided that CARC 4 would

conduct further research, discussion, and editing of this proposal. This was facilitated through several additional face-to-face meetings, conference calls, and electronic communications. Following final CARC 4 approval, the proposal was forwarded to and approved with substantial unanimity by the Area 29 Committee on November 16, 2019.

Additional Background Information (attached):

- (1) Definition of Conference Agenda Review Committee.
- (2) Origins of this Agenda Item proposal.
- (3) Notes from CARC 4 discussions concerning this proposal.
- (4) Excerpts from CARC 2 minutes concerning this proposal.

In summary, Area 29 proposes that a review of the General Service Conference Floor Action process is necessary to prevent any Conference member from circumventing the normal Conference process, which involves adequate study of background materials, careful discussion, and a fully-informed vote, resulting in a substantial unanimity which reflects the true voice of the A.A. fellowship in the United States and Canada.

Thank you, Patrick, for your devoted service to our Fellowship. Please contact me with any questions that you may have concerning this Conference Agenda Item proposal.

Yours in love and service,

Don B

Don B

Panel 68, Area 29 Delegate

Attachments
as

cc: Jeff W, NE Regional Contact

Area 29 Assembly presents the following Floor Action Agenda, approved at the December 7th, 2019 Area Assembly meeting:

“Review the Floor Action Process to guard against circumvention of the Conference Process”

Background Information:

1) Definition of Acronyms used in Area 29 (provided to assist with understanding of local terminology)-

○ **CARC: Conference Agenda Review Committee-**

“The purposed of the Conference Agenda Review Committees (“CARC(s)”) is to help prepare the Area Delegate and alternate delegate for the General Service Conference and to recommend Agenda Items to the Area for consideration and possible approval no later than the December Area Assembly. The CARC will consist of GSRs and DCMs in the designated districts, as well as Area Committee Leaders, Past Delegates, Area Officers and all interested members of the fellowship. “(p. 20: Maryland General Service Area 29 Assembly Handbook)

○ **CARC 4 consists of Districts 7, 9, 17, 20, 40, and 41 in Area 29-Maryland**

2) From our CARC 4 Reconvene notes on 7/14/19:

- Need better guidelines on definition of floor action and when it can be brought and entertained becomes policy if approved; need to be clearer so process isn’t circumvented;
- Conference chair goes through the sheet of what’s required for voting process; committees hopefully do this before conference is in session.

3) From our CARC 4 Conference Call on 8/25/19:

- When we met on July 14, 2019- we discussed that there have been floor actions at conference which upon review seem like they could have been agenda items but because they were introduced as floor actions, much of the valuable research and opportunity for input from the AA groups and members throughout the US and Canada is missed.
- When the item is presented as a floor action, it does not have the opportunity to be developed by the Conference Agenda Committee, background material collected, sent to the Area for review and discussion (i.e. the CARC process in Area 29) and the Area Delegates are not equipped with the Conscience of their Area when they arrive at Conference.
- Hopefully, a thorough Review of the Floor Action Process will educate and provide insurance that the Conference Process remains rooted in the Twelve Concepts for World Service.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

- It seems that Concept I- The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship- speaks to the Floor Action process.
 - Upon review of the Floor Action Process, can the Floor Action Process meet the test of Concept I?
- After some correspondence via email on 8/25/19, it was decided that CARC 4 would continue to develop this agenda item, incorporating the sense of CARC 2 as received in email from the CARC 2 leader and CARC 2 mentor.

4) The following was received via email from CARC 2 Mentor, Linda J. on 8/25/19:

- A portion of the excerpt from the CARC 2 Minutes on this discussion is as follows:
 - ***Floor Actions:*** *There was a discussion about bringing Floor Actions to the mic at the General Service Conference that had not been properly vetted and gone through the Conference process. It is felt by those present at this meeting that these floor actions circumvent the Conference process. Perhaps there should be no allowance for these Floor Actions, or at the very least, a clear definition of appropriate use.*

General Service Conference: Floor Actions

Part 1: General History

A motion made on the Floor, or “Floor Action” was an integral procedure of the General Service Conference (GSC) from the very beginning. Evidently, “matters” not on the Conference agenda were raised for discussion from the floor that resulted in a motion and vote. This was basically the procedure in the early years of the Conference. Keep in mind that during these early, experimental years of the Conference, the delegates were still configuring the Conference process. There was no set manner of getting agenda items on the Conference agenda, filtering items through the trustees’ committees in the fashion in which it is done today. The agenda at the Conference was much less packed with agenda items and the delegates were thus more able to have informal discussion from the floor. In many cases delegates had to bring up issues on the floor to have them discussed. It was only natural for them to do so.

Some early examples of “Floor Actions” listed in the compilation “Advisory Actions” booklet include:

(Trustees) 1952 It was recommended that:

The non-alcoholic trustees continue to serve us without restrictions. (Floor Action)

The trustees appoint a committee of five Conference delegates to study the problem of Congressional incorporation. (Floor Action)

(Grapevine) 1952 It was recommended that:

The Conference, in a special resolution, affirmed its support of the traditional “Grapevine” policy of carrying news of non-A.A. happenings when they relate to the interests of A.A. readers, directly or indirectly. (Floor Action)

(Policy/Admissions) 1952 It was recommended that:

No action be taken that would alter present provisions of two-year terms for Conference delegates. (Floor Action)

The principle of rotation at all levels of A.A. affairs should be preserved and strengthened. (Floor Action)

(Policy/Admissions) 1952 It was recommended that:

No policy should be declared or action taken on matters liable to gravely affect A.A. as a whole unless by consent of at least three-quarters of the members present. A mere majority should not authorize action. (Floor Action)

(Agenda) 1954 It was recommended that:

The Conference would adjourn its final session with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer. (Floor Action)

NOTE: The corresponding Final Conference Reports did not list the examples cited above as "Floor Actions."

It may be argued that the concept of a floor action soon evolved into something that was seen as the privilege of any delegate. The delegates would give discretion to the Board and the trustees' committees to decide what would go on the Conference agenda - - but each delegate retained the right, always, of proposing an idea – even one not accepted as an agenda item by the trustees – as a floor action.

For example, in the Board minutes from October 1955, the trustees were trying to determine how to "filter proposals" through the General Service Board and the trustees' committees – they didn't know if the Conference would give them the discretion and authority to decide which items would reach the Conference agenda or not. They were not exercising any filtering authority at that time yet. The minutes read, in part:

"Mr. G. asked for guidance in the case of a Delegate who submits a proposal which he asks be sent to all Delegates. Mr. Smith [Bernard Smith] said that until this filtering concept is clarified before the Conference, the proposal should be sent out. However, if a proposal is utterly ridiculous, then an attempt should be made to persuade the Delegate to present it on the Conference floor."

This concept of "filtering" proposals – that is, the discretion given to trustees' committees to decide which items would become Conference agenda items – was fleshed out in 1957. In the Conference Report the Policy Committee report notes:

"[The Chair] said the Committee was anxious to have the sense of the Conference on the problem of handling proposals submitted by Delegates during the year. While great care is taken by the Committee not to act as a censor, occasionally the Committee has felt that

it would be in the interest of the movement as a Fellowship to determine, after careful review, whether or not a proposal should be circulated.

He offered for Conference consideration the following possible solution to the problem:

1. If Policy Committee feels a Proposal should not be circulated, it should be referred to Conference Agenda Committee.

2. If the Agenda Committee concurs in this feeling, the Proposal should be returned to the Delegate involved, and he should be advised of his privilege to present the Proposal, at an appropriate time, from the floor of Conference itself.”

Part II: Committees’ History and Actions on Development of Procedures

1968, Advisory Action, Policy and Admissions

When questions of importance for the Conference cannot be sent to the areas in advance, consideration be given to an oral presentation early in the Conference session, with discussion and voting to be taken at a later date during the Conference.

July 1985, Trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference, minutes

The committee discussed the suggestion that any floor action taken at the Friday afternoon Sharing Session be limited to referral action to the next Conference. Since this involves parliamentary procedure, the general manager and incoming Conference coordinator will develop a parliamentary proposal to address this issue for review at the next meeting of the trustees’ Conference Committee.

1986, Advisory Action, Policy and Admissions

With regard to proposing Floor Actions in the final hours of the Conference, the 1968 recommendation, which was as follows, be reaffirmed:

“When questions of importance for the Conference cannot be sent to the areas in advance, consideration be given to an oral presentation early in the Conference session, with discussion and voting to be taken at a later date during the Conference.”

The background material from 1986 was limited to only a letter from a delegate who proposed the agenda item, which was, “Consider the matter of proposing Floor actions in the final hours of the Conference.”

In the 1990s through 2000s, procedures for handling floor actions began to be discussed, formulated and amended throughout the years.

1995 – 1996 Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference

In 1995, a subcommittee of the trustees Committee on the General Service Conference named, "Agenda Planning Subcommittee" was formed to review the mechanics and proceedings of the annual GSC. The subcommittee recommended the following procedure regarding Floor Motions, which was accepted by the full committee in January 1996:

It was also recommended that all floor motions be introduced at any time during the Conference except at the Wednesday sharing session, and that they shall be submitted in writing by the maker. Whether the motion will be considered, and any discussion on the motion, will take place in the appropriate order of business when floor actions are considered.

It was further recommended that this recommendation stand as the order of business for this year's Conference and that it will be explained with the mechanics of the Conference at the beginning of the week.

Finally, it was proposed that the recommendation be forwarded to the Policy/Admissions Committee for discussion in connection with future Conferences.

1995 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions

The 1995 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions considered a proposed agenda item that "All Floor Actions be considered at the end of Conference week." The committee's recommendation did not pass, but resulted as a "strong suggestion" as reported in the history and actions:

Strong suggestion of the Conference (recommendation where the vote was less than 2/3, but more than 1/2 in favor):

The Conference reaffirm the 1986 recommendations regarding floor actions:

With regard to proposing Floor Actions in the final hours of the Conference the 1968 recommendation, which was as follows, be reaffirmed:

"That when questions of importance for the Conference could not be sent to the

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

areas in advance, consideration be given to an oral presentation early in the Conference sessions, with discussions and voting to be taken at a later date during the Conference."

And that the 1986 recommendation, as follows, be reaffirmed:

"That when matters of great significance having a long-term effect on the Fellowship or of substantial expense are presented to the floor in the waning hour of the Conference, such matters be referred to the appropriate committee at the next Conference in order for the group conscience to be as informed as possible."

The discussion also yielded a committee consideration as follows:

*The committee requests that the trustees' Committee on the Conference include the 1995 recommendation regarding floor actions in the Conference Kit which goes to all Conference members each January. (**Archives note:** The recommendation referenced in the committee consideration did not result in an advisory action, but a "strong suggestion").*

1996 Committee Consideration, Policy and Admissions

The conference Committee on P&A "discussed the order of Conference business regarding Floor Actions," which resulted in the Committee Consideration:

The committee discussed the issue of floor actions and suggested that the committees responsible continue to establish the Conference agenda's order of business.

January 2000, Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, minutes

The committee considered a proposal to consider amend conference procedures regarding Floor Actions but took no action. See below:

The committee agreed with the previous committee action taken at the October 30th meeting declining to delete the sentence, "All floor actions will be heard unless there is a motion that the Conference decline to consider a proposed floor action, which is not debatable and will require a 2/3 vote to carry" in the handout "Summary of Conference Procedures." The chair wrote and informed the member of the committees' decision and thanked the member for a second letter. As a formality, any changes or amendments to the "Summary of Conference Procedures" would be

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

addressed at the opening of the Conference, when mechanics of the Conference are reviewed and discussed. If any Conference member wished to change a procedure, including one about floor actions, it may be addressed and voted upon at the time the procedure was stated.

August 2008, Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, minutes

The committee discussed the practice and philosophy of using the parliamentary procedure of voting to "commit or refer to committee" when considering, General Service Conference Floor Actions. The chair appointed a subcommittee to review the processing of Floor Actions at the General Service Conference.

November 2008, Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, minutes.

The committee presented the following report and recommendation to the General Service Board for approval but note that the recommendation was referred back to the committee for further consideration. **(See image below)**

Review Processing of General Service Conference Floor Actions: The committee received the *Subcommittee on Review of the Processing of General Service Conference Floor Actions* report on the processing of Floor Actions at the General Service Conference and recommended to the General Service Board that the section in "How the General Service Conference Operates/Summary of Conference Procedures" on the procedure for Floor Actions be clarified by the addition of the sentence, "**Prior to consideration of the floor action, the chair of the session shall ask if there is a motion to decline to consider the floor action,**" so the procedure reads as follows:

Floor Actions

Floor actions may be introduced at any time during the Conference except at the Sharing Sessions, and:

- *Must be made without comment.*
- *Must be submitted in writing by the maker to the Conference secretary.*
- *Will come up for deliberation after all Committee reports have been heard.*
- *Requires a two-thirds majority.*
- *All floor actions will be heard unless there is a motion that the Conference decline to consider a floor action. **Prior to consideration of the floor action, the chair of the session shall ask if there is a motion to decline to consider the floor action.** A motion to decline to hear a floor action:*
 - *Must be made without comment.*
 - *Is not debatable.*
 - *Requires a two-thirds majority*

The committee agreed with the recommendations of the *Subcommittee on Review of the Processing of General Service Conference Floor Actions* that the parliamentary procedures "to commit to or refer to committee" and "to recommit to committee" not be used at future Conferences nor incorporated in the procedures of "How the General Service Conference Operates/Summary of Conference Procedures" since this procedure has not been historically a part of the procedures of the General Service Conference and is not in the spirit of concluding the business of each General Service Conference at that Conference.

Note: The section of the report above, Review Processing of General Service Conference Floor Actions, including the recommendation to the General Service Board was Tabled and referred back to the trustees' Committee on the Conference for further consideration.

General Service Board, November 2008

January 2009, Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, minutes

Processing of Floor Actions

The committee reviewed the trustees' Committee on the Conference's November 1, 2008 recommendation referred back to the committee by the General Service Board for further consideration regarding the processing of Floor Actions at the General Service Conference and agreed to table this item for the 2009 Summer Quarterly Meeting to reconsider this item following the 59th General Service Conference.

August 2009, Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, minutes

The item was again tabled until the committee's next meeting in October.

October 2009, Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, minutes

The item was yet again tabled until the January 30, 2010 meeting.

January 2010, Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, minutes

The committee discussed a revision to the current version in the section "Floor Actions" in the document "How the General Service Conference Operates/Summary of Conference Procedures" and agreed that by placing the discretion to consider a floor action or to decline a floor action directly with the Conference body the following recommendation would address the perceived problem. The committee recommended to the General Service Board that the following statement in the section on the procedure for Floor Actions in the document "How the Conference Operates," which reads:

All floor actions will be heard unless there is a motion that the Conference decline to consider a floor action. A motion to decline to hear a floor action:

- Must be made without comment*
- Is not debatable*
- Requires a two-thirds majority*

be replaced with the following statement:

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

When a floor action is to be heard, its maker will be given two (2) minutes to state the rationale behind the action, after which the chair shall ask if there is a motion that the Conference decline to consider the floor action. A motion to decline to hear a floor action:

- *Must be made without comment*
- *Is not debatable*
- *Requires a two-thirds majority*

The committee reviewed the section of the report on “Recommit to Committee” and took no action on the recommendation that the parliamentary procedure “to commit or refer to committee” and to “recommit to committee” not be used at future Conferences nor incorporated in the procedures of “How the General Service Conference Operates/Summary of Conference Procedures.”

The committee reaffirmed the 1986 Conference Advisory Action: “When matters of great significance having a long-term effect on Fellowship or of substantial expense are presented to the floor in the waning hours of the Conference, such matters be referred to the appropriate committee at the next Conference in order for the group conscience to be as informed as possible.”

The committee noted that there have been instances where following floor discussion, the Conference has requested a trustees’ committee to further review and provide additional background on an agenda item for the following Conference to consider.

July 2010 Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, minutes

The committee discussed adding the procedure "Requires a second" regarding Floor Actions, which was approved by the General Service Board (See Image below)

Editorial Change to "Summary of Conference Procedures": The committee recommended to the General Service Board that the phrase "Requires a second" be added to the procedure for Floor Actions in the document "How the General Service Conference Operates/Summary of Conference Procedures" so that it reads:

When a floor action is to be heard, its maker will be given two (2) minutes to state the rationale behind the action, after which the chair shall ask if there is a motion that the Conference decline to consider the floor action. A motion to decline to hear a floor action:

- Must be made without comment.
- Requires a second.
- Is not debatable.
- Requires a two-thirds majority.

January 2011 Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, minutes

The committee discussed a request "to specifically bar and prohibit the use of the decline to consider procedure" related to Floor Actions and took no action. The committee noted that as the revised Floor Action procedure was only instituted at the 60th General Service Conference, it would like to see the procedure utilized by the Conference for a few more years to determine its effectiveness.

July 2011 Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, minutes

The committee reviewed suggestions regarding Floor Actions at Conferences. The committee noted that the Floor Action procedure was revised in 2010 and that the number of Floor Actions decreased significantly at the 61st Conference in 2011.

July 2016 Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, minutes

The committee reviewed a revised "How the General Service Conference Operates," with the title "Summary of Conference Procedures" and the chair appointed a subcommittee a) to develop language for the action of remanding an item to committee and b) to clearly define and note practices surrounding floor actions. The observation was made that we seem to have strayed from understanding that floor actions are meant to be on emergent issues.

January 2017 Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, minutes

Subcommittee on "How the Conference Operates": *The committee accepted the report of the Subcommittee on "How the Conference Operates." The committee agreed to revise language regarding floor actions, and agreed to add the "motion to recommit" to the procedures. The committee noted that the motion to recommit would send an item to the appropriate trustees' committee.*

Note: For more information on the work of the subcommittee, refer to the "Final Report of the Subcommittee on 'How the Conference Operates'," dated January 2017.

July 2017 Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, minutes

Correspondence from past delegate: *The committee reviewed correspondence from a past delegate. The committee noted that the request for transparency in posting proposed Conference agenda items has been addressed... The committee agreed that the process for Floor Actions needed clarification, and agreed to add this discussion to their October meeting. The committee tabled discussion of the last three items regarding Conference background, the Conference schedule and the role of committee secretaries to their October meeting.*

October 2017 Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, minutes

The committee discussed the process for floor actions at the Conference, and had the service piece "How the Conference Operates" updated to clarify when floor actions may be introduced, and to stress the value of submitting items by the Conference deadline so that they may be considered through the committee process.

###

11 of 11

'G.S.C. Leader Working Agenda Script Excerpts on Floor Actions**OPENING SESSION**

GREG:	<u>Floor Actions</u> It is possible for a Conference action to come from the floor, but any matter which falls within the scope of a Conference committee ought first go through that Conference committee, so that the topic may receive due consideration. <u>Floor Actions</u> may be introduced by any Conference member at any time during the Conference except at the three scheduled Sharing Sessions (Monday evening, Wednesday evening and Thursday evening). Also, please wait until debate has concluded on an issue before trying to introduce a floor action pertaining to that issue. Any floor action regarding a piece of committee business that has not yet been concluded will be considered out of order. It would be most helpful if you would bring a floor action as the first piece of business at the start of a general session. Please be at the microphone at the beginning of a session and ask the chair to recognize you. Then simply read the proposed motion to the Conference without elaboration. At that time, the motion must be seconded to go forward. As a reminder, a proposed Floor Action must be submitted in writing by the maker to the Conference secretary. Please include your name and area number on the written submission.
GREG:	All floor actions will be heard unless there is a specific motion that the Conference decline to consider the floor action. Discussion on floor actions will be deferred until all committee reports have been completed. At that time the maker has 2 minutes to state the rationale behind the action.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

	Then the chair will ask if there is a motion that the Conference declines to consider the floor action. The motion to decline a floor action must be made without comment, is not debatable and requires a 2/3 majority. A “yes” vote means that the Conference will <i>not</i> hear the Floor action. A “no” Vote means that the Conference will <i>hear</i> the Floor action. <i>Motion passes: Floor Action is not heard.</i> <i>Motion fails: Conference will hear the Floor Action.</i>
GREG:	<u>Summary of Conference Procedures</u> On the back of this sheet, you will see a summary of Conference Procedures. This handy chart indicates the types of motions that the Conference uses, and how they work. We will review voting procedures again on Wednesday before consideration of committee reports.
	May I have a show of hands to signify your agreement that we will conduct our Conference business according to “How the Conference Operates”? (Show of hands)

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

3:45 – 5:45 p.m.	COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION OR FLOOR ACTIONS
GREG / MICHELE:	Decide if and how you want to take turns here depending on how long it’s running.

CONFIDENTIAL: 70th General Service Conference Background

	If there are Floor Actions refer to the How The Conference Operates to share with the Conference members how the Floor Action process works. (See Conference Manual Rosters and General Data Tab page 7.)
GREG / MICHELE:	<u>FLOOR ACTIONS</u>
GREG / MICHELE:	All floor actions will be heard unless there is a specific motion that the Conference decline to consider the floor action. We will begin the discussion on floor actions now that all committee reports have been completed! Each maker will have 2 minutes to state the rationale behind the action. Then the chair will ask if there is a motion that the Conference declines to consider the floor action. The motion to decline a floor action must be made without comment, is not debatable and requires a 2/3 majority. A “yes” vote means that the Conference will <i>not</i> hear the Floor action. A “no” Vote means that the Conference will <i>hear</i> the Floor action. <i>Motion passes: Floor Action is not heard.</i> <i>Motion fails: Conference will hear the Floor Action.</i>

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS 2015-2019

April 2015

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 65th GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The following recommendations were approved by the 65th General Service Conference:

Agenda

It was recommended that:

1. The theme for the 2016 General Service Conference be: "Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts."
2. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2016 General Service Conference:
 - a. Connecting With the Newcomer:
 1. All Inclusive – Never Exclusive
 2. Are We Doing Enough to Help the Newcomer – Are We Going to Any Length?
 3. Home Group – Where It Begins
 - b. Connecting With Each Other:
 1. Singleness of Purpose – Staying Pertinent in a Changing World
 2. Informed Group Conscience – The Key to Unity
 3. Be Involved, Be Inspired, Be of Service
 - c. Connecting With A.A. as a Whole:
 1. Participating in All of A.A.
 2. Understanding Self-Support
 3. Reaching Out to the Next Generation of A.A.s
3. The following be the workshop topic for the 2016 General Service Conference: "Anonymity – The Spiritual Foundation."

Archives¹

No recommendations.

¹Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

Cooperation With the Professional Community

No recommendations.

Corrections

No recommendations.

Finance

It was recommended that:

4. Phase 1 of the G.S.O. proposed plan (February 5, 2015) to translate pre-Conference and Conference material into Spanish and French be implemented beginning with the 2016, 66th General Service Conference.

At minimum the following items will be included:

- Welcome correspondence to new panel delegates
 - Letter
 - Memo to a Delegate from a Delegate, The Role of the Delegate
- Communications Kit (71 pages total)
- Committee Material:
 - Agenda 1-3 pages per committee
 - Composition, Scope and Procedures for 13 committees (17 pages total)
 - History and Actions of 13 committees (484 pages total)
- Pre-Conference documents
 - Board reports (G.S.B., A.A.W.S., A.A. Grapevine)
 - Trustee committee reports
- Conference Kit

This initial phase of translations would be coordinated by G.S.O. departments, including staff and Publishing department personnel. Costs currently estimated by G.S.O. for the initial phase would be included in the G.S.O./A.A.W.S. budget at approximately \$80-120,000 for the year. Actual cost may be higher or lower upon receiving competitive bids.

5. The trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference create a plan to translate all Conference material with a progress report given to the 2016 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions that describes the process and costs, including options using third party translators and a proposal to change agenda submission deadlines.

Grapevine

It was recommended that:

6. The revised pamphlet “A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print” be approved.

International Conventions/Regional Forums¹

No recommendations.

¹Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

Literature

It was recommended that:

7. The revised draft pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Service Agencies,” with the revised title “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services,” be approved with minor corrections.
8. A comprehensive revision to the retitled pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services,” be undertaken by the trustees’ Literature Committee, to better reflect the full range of A.A. services, and that a fully revised draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2016 General Service Conference.
9. The revised pamphlet “Your A.A. General Service Office” be approved with minor corrections.
10. The trustees’ Literature Committee update the pamphlet “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic” to include a wider range of A.A. recovery experience from members who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and gender nonconforming, especially regarding being a newcomer and sponsorship. The committee requested that the title of the pamphlet be revised to reflect this broader scope and that a draft revised pamphlet or progress report be brought to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature.
11. The trustees’ Literature Committee develop literature for the alcoholic with mental health issues. The committee requested that a wide range of A.A. recovery experience be gathered from members with mental health issues, and from those who sponsor such members for inclusion in literature on this topic. The committee requested that a progress report be brought to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature.
12. The pamphlet “A.A. for the Woman” be revised by gathering current sharing from women in A.A., and suggested inclusion of stories from women in the military, single mothers, and women of diverse backgrounds. The committee requested that a draft revised pamphlet or a progress report be brought back to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature.

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

13. The 68th General Service Conference be held April 22-28, 2018, since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability.
14. The policy regarding General Service Conference audio recordings, which reads:

Tapes of Conference presentations not be made available, affirming the 1979 General Service Board recommendation which prohibits making tapes of any Conference session for distribution outside of the A.A. Archives, except for the opening and the closing brunch.

Be revised as follows:

Audio recordings of General Service Conference presentations published in the General Service Conference *Final Report* and audio recordings of the trustees' farewell talks given at the closing brunch be made available in accordance with Archives' Policies. Access to all other General Service Conference sessions will continue to be prohibited.

Public Information

It was recommended that:

15. The video public service announcement, "Doors," developed by the trustees' Public Information Committee, be approved with the following change:
 - Rerecord the dialog voice-overs using professional voice actors in English, Spanish and French, removing any sense that the voices are recorded phone calls, at a cost not to exceed \$24,000.
16. The video public service announcement, "Doors" be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$40,000 in addition to the work of local committees, and that the information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2016 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.
17. The video public service announcements "A Force of Nature" and "Testimonials" be discontinued.
18. The Membership Survey pamphlet and the one-way Membership Survey display be updated to reflect the findings from the 2014 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey, with minor edits.

19. In light of the potential for continuing to improve the relevance and usefulness of the aa.org website on a timely basis, the A.A.W.S. Board be authorized to produce and post audio/video service material on the aa.org website provided the following conditions are met:
- Audio/video service material produced via this process provides information already available on aa.org;
 - Proposed audio/video service material is for posting on aa.org only (audio/video items produced for distribution beyond the aa.org website will continue to require Conference review and approval);
 - Proposed audio/video service material is reviewed for content by an appropriate trustees' committee prior to posting - with the prerogative to request input from the appropriate Conference committee prior to forwarding to the A.A.W.S. Board;
 - Proposed audio/video service material is reviewed and approved for posting by the A.A.W.S. Board - with the prerogative to request input from the appropriate Conference committee prior to posting.

Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

20. The following paragraph be edited for stylistic consistency and incorporated into Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

"The Trustees' Nominating Committee is responsible for recommending to the General Service Board candidates for General Service Trustee, Class A Trustee, and nontrustee director. The candidates approved by the General Service Board are subject to the approval of the General Service Conference. The Trustees Nominating Committee receives advice from and consults with the A.A.W.S. and the A.A. Grapevine boards with respect to potential General Service Trustees, nontrustee directors, and Regional Trustees to serve on the respective boards. The Trustees Nominating Committee also recommends a slate of trustees to serve as officers of the General Service Board."

21. Under NOMINATION PROCEDURE in Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the first paragraph that currently reads:

"General service trustees are chosen from among current or past nontrustee directors of the two corporate boards, A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Since nontrustee directors are already serving (or have served) on one of the corporate boards, their qualifications are well known to the members of the respective boards, and it has been the privilege of those boards to propose the name of a candidate to represent them on the General Service Board."

Be revised to read (deleting the final phrase):

“General service trustees are chosen from among current or past nontrustee directors of the two corporate boards, A.A. World Services and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Since nontrustee directors are already serving (or have served) on one of the corporate boards, their qualifications are well known to the members of the respective boards.”

22. Under NOMINATING in Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the following sentence be inserted to begin the description of the trustees’ Nominating Committee:

“Reviews procedures for selection of candidates.”

23. Under **Choosing Nontrustee Directors** in Chapter 10 (The Board’s Operating Corporations) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the second paragraph that currently begins:

“The nominating committee of the corporate board reviews all of the resumes received.”

Be revised to read (text addition in **bold**):

“**Working in concert with the trustees’ Nominating Committee**, the nominating committee of the corporate board reviews all of the resumes received.”

24. In the section **Group Information** in Chapter 2 (The Group and Its G.S.R.) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the following text be added to the end of the second paragraph:

“The group information provided on these two forms is stored in G.S.O.’s database, which is accessible to the area registrar.”

25. In the section **Group Information** in Chapter 2 (The Group and Its G.S.R.) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, the following text be added to the beginning of the third paragraph:

“G.S.O. also uses this database to generate mailing lists for A.A. newsletters. Group information included in G.S.O.’s database may be used by areas and districts for various purposes: the delegate may use it to communicate with groups; some areas use it for their meeting locators or to generate mailing lists.”

26. The following text be added at the end of the section **District Information** in Chapter 3 (The District and the D.C.M.) of *The A.A. Service Manual*:

“The information provided on this form is stored in G.S.O.’s database, which is accessible to the area registrar. G.S.O.’s database also provides the capability for the area registrar to identify district officers and service chairs with local or specific information that then can be used to facilitate communication.”

27. In Chapter 5 (The Area Committee) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, a new section be added after **Financial Support** with the following text:

“Area Information

The outgoing delegate provides G.S.O. with contact information for all incoming area officers and committee chairs. This information is stored in G.S.O.'s database, which is also accessible to the area registrar, and is used to communicate with these officers and committee chairs throughout their rotation."

28. A new subsection of the section **STIMULATING INTEREST IN GENERAL SERVICE** be added to Chapter 1 (Introduction to General Service) in *The A.A. Service Manual* with the following text:

Reactivating districts: Frequently, there is a need within an Area to attempt to reactivate districts or groups that have become inactive or are unrepresented. Areas encourage participation in general service in many ways, especially by direct contact with groups by district/area officers to provide information about service events and opportunities to carry the message beyond the group level. Sometimes there is district-to-district sponsorship in which an active district shares its experience and suggestions to "jump start" activity among groups within the inactive neighboring district.

29. A new section on "Regional Forums" be added to Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual* before the "World Service Meeting" section with the following text:

"Regional Forums

Regional Forums, which originated in 1975, are weekend-long sharing and informational sessions which provide unique opportunities to share and exchange valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas. They are also designed to help the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, and A.A. Grapevine; and G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members stay in touch with A.A. members, trusted servants and newcomers throughout the A.A. service structure. G.S.O.'s staff member on the Regional Forums assignment coordinates details for the Forum and works closely with the volunteer host chair who recruits volunteers to assist staff with hospitality, set-up and registration during the Forum. Forums are held on a rotating basis, at the request of each region. There is no registration fee for Regional Forums. The General Service Board covers the expenses of meeting rooms. As all Forums are intended to be sharing sessions, no formal actions result. Sharing is captured in Forum Final Reports, which are distributed to all attendees, and are available on G.S.O.'s website. Regional Forums carry A.A.'s message of love and service by improving communication at all levels of our Fellowship."

30. A new section on "Local Forums" be added to Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual* and requested that draft language be brought back to the 2016 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
31. The *Twelve Concepts for World Service* and the Twelve Concepts section of *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* include the following pages in the same order as published in the 1990-1991 Edition:
- Title page;
 - Copyright page;
 - Preface;

- d. The Twelve Concepts (Short Form);
 - e. The Twelve Concepts (Long Form);
 - f. Contents page with short descriptions of the Twelve Concepts and page numbers;
 - g. Introduction.
32. A limited run of the A.A. Regional Directories (Canadian, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.) be printed annually for purchase upon request.

Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities

No recommendations.

Trustees

It was recommended that:

33. The following slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2015:

Class A Trustees

Leslie S. Backus, B.A.
Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
John Fromson, M.D.
Michele Grinberg, J.D.
Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle
Peter Luongo, Ph.D., LCSW-C
David M. Morris, C.P.A.

Class B Trustees (See "Note" below)

Richard B
Joel C
Joe D
William (Bill) F
Yolanda F
Scott H
Ed M
William N
Chet P
Richard P
Andrew W
Bob Wi
Albin Z

Note: The General Service Board will operate short one Class B regional trustee.

34. The appointment of the following slate of officers of the General Service Board be approved at the Second Quarterly Meeting of the General Service Board in April 2015:

Chairperson
First vice-chairperson
Second vice-chairperson
Treasurer
Secretary

Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
Michele Grinberg, J.D.
William N
David M. Morris, C.P.A.
Andrew W

35. The March 2015 appointment of the following officers by the Chair of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2015:

Assistant Treasurer
Assistant Secretary

Donald W. Meurer
Julio E*

*Will be replaced at G.S.O. staff rotation in summer of 2015

This appointment process is in accordance with the General Service Board Bylaws.

36. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2015:

Carole B
Richard B
Beau B
Joe D
Julio E*

Phyllis H
David N
William N
Chet P

*Will be replaced at G.S.O. staff rotation in summer of 2015.

37. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2015:

Linda B
Ami B
Joel C
William (Bill) F
Ivan Lemelle

Ed M
Paz P
Albin Z

38. The Bylaws of The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., as amended to comply with the New York State nonprofit law, be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2015.
-

April 2016

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

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 66th GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The following recommendations were approved by the 66th General Service Conference:

Floor Actions

It was recommended that:

1. General Service Conference delegates be provided a copy of the final approved annual General Service Office and A.A. Grapevine budgets with the pre-Conference material for all future Conferences.
2. The General Service Board develop a new policy and a plan that enhances the General Service Conference agenda Review and Selection Process, providing the area delegate members of the Conference a role in the vetting and selection of proposed agenda items through the Conference process to be brought to the 2017 General Service Conference.
3. The trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference create a plan to translate Conference background material, considering all possible methods, with a progress report to be forwarded to the 2017 Conference Committee on Policy/ Admissions that describes the process and costs.

Agenda

It was recommended that:

4. The theme for the 2017 General Service Conference be: "Supporting Our Future."
5. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2017 General Service Conference:
 - a. Growth:
 1. Diversity -- Outreach and Attraction
 2. Safety – An Important Consideration
 3. Communication – Today and Tomorrow
 - b. Participation:
 1. Leadership: "I am Responsible..."
 2. Is Your Voice Heard?
 - c. Contributions:
 1. Spirituality and Money
 2. Fully Self-Supporting Our Obligations
 3. Apathy and Power of the Purse

6. The Conference Agenda Committee review the summary of the previous year's Conference evaluations and, where appropriate, make suggestions for improvement to the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference.
7. The General Service Office post to the Conference dashboard, and regularly update information concerning the status of all proposed Conference agenda items.

Archives¹

No recommendations.

Cooperation With the Professional Community

It was recommended that:

8. A new section on A.A. and medications be added to the pamphlet "If You are a Professional..." with the following text:

A.A. Members and Medications

A.A. does not provide medical advice; all medical advice and treatment should come from a qualified health care professional. The suggestions provided in the pamphlet "The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs" may help A.A. members minimize the risk of relapse.

9. Text be added to the last paragraph of the first page of the pamphlet "Is there an Alcoholic in the Workplace?" to read (additions in **bold**):

A.A. can help organizations, **corporations and businesses, regardless of size**, contact men and women who have achieved sobriety, and are willing to share their experience freely with anyone who seeks help.

¹Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

10. Several minor revisions to the pamphlet "How A.A. Members Cooperate With Professionals" be approved.
11. An introductory paragraph for professionals be added to the pamphlet "Problems Other Than Alcohol" addressing the notion that while some language in the 1958 pamphlet is dated, the issues are prevalent today, and asked that a draft introductory paragraph be brought back to the 2017 Conference Cooperation With the Professional Community Committee for review.

Corrections

It was recommended that:

12. The video to replace "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" with the title "A New Freedom" be approved.

Finance

No recommendations.

Grapevine

It was recommended that:

13. The delegate chair for the Grapevine Conference Committee be allowed the same participation at the January A.A. Grapevine Board Meeting as all other delegate chairs at their corresponding trustees' committees.

International Conventions/Regional Forums¹

No recommendations.

Literature

It was recommended that:

14. The trustees' Literature Committee develop a plan that includes a systematic schedule for the annual review of recovery literature items, taking into consideration the following: content, relevance, and usefulness; and prioritized by time span since last review. The committee requested that the plan also include an annual report, to be forwarded to the Conference Literature Committee, reflecting the results of their review and any other items for proposed updates or revisions.

¹Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

15. The trustees' Literature Committee revise the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." to include information about young people's conferences and that the proposed text be brought to the 2017 Conference Literature Committee for review.
16. The trustees' Literature Committee update the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." to better reflect the experiences of young people in A.A. today. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2017 Conference Literature Committee.
17. The trustees' Literature Committee undertake a comprehensive revision of the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" with a modernized presentation of both text and illustrations to reflect contemporary A.A. experience. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2017 Conference Literature Committee.

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

18. Mykhailo A, past World Service Meeting delegate, and Yury T from Ukraine be admitted to the 66th General Service Conference as observers.

19. Implementation of Phase 1 of the Conference Translation Project to translate pre-Conference and Conference material into Spanish and French, as described in the 2015 Advisory Action, continue with an estimated cost of \$50,000 - \$100,000.
20. The 69th General Service Conference be held April 28-May 4, 2019 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holiday or hotel availability.

Public Information

It was recommended that:

21. A proposal for implementing a Google-for-Non-Profits account for carrying the message of A.A. to the public be developed and brought back to the 2017 Conference Public Information Committee for review.
22. A proposal for the implementation of a Twitter account for carrying the message of A.A. to the public be developed and brought back to the 2017 Conference Public Information Committee for review.
23. The English- and French-language versions of the video public service announcement "Tengo Esperanza," be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to distribution by local committees, and that the information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2017 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.
24. The video public service announcement "I Thought" be discontinued.

Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

25. A new section on "Local Forums" be added to Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) of *The A.A. Service Manual*, after the "Regional Forums" section with the following text:

Local Forums

In October 2006, the concept of Local Forums was approved by the General Service Board. The purpose of Local Forums is to bring Forum information to A.A. members in remote, sparsely populated areas, urban neighborhoods or underserved A.A. communities. Any A.A. community or service entity may request a one-and-a-half or two day Local Forum. Unlike Regional Forums, the responsibility for Forum expenses such as meeting room rental and miscellaneous expenses are assumed by the Local Forum Committee. The General Service Board will send two participants, one from the Board and one from the General Service Office or Grapevine office, and display literature at Board expense. Like Regional Forums, Board participation in Local Forums

requires the approval of the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums. The Regional Forums coordinator works closely with the Local Forum organizing committee to create an agenda that is responsive to local needs.

26. The following text in endnote 4 be removed from Concept XII on page 73 of the *Twelve Concepts for World Service*:

4. Bill here, apparently inadvertently, used the phrase "in action and spirit," instead of "in thought and action," that appears elsewhere in both the Conference Charter and the statement of Concept XII.

27. The following text be removed from the Concept XI essay on page 58 of *Twelve Concepts for World Service*:

Women workers present still another problem. Our Headquarters is pretty much a man's world. Some men are apt to feel, unconsciously, that they are women's superiors, thus producing a reflex reaction in the gals. Then, too, some of us — of both sexes — have been emotionally damaged in the area of man-woman relations. Our drinking has made us wrongly dependent on our marriage partners. We have turned them into our "moms" and "pops," and then we have deeply resented that situation. Perhaps maladjustment has taken still other turns which leave us with a hangover of hostility that we are apt to project into any man-woman relatedness that we undertake.

It is possible for these forces to defeat the good working partnerships we would like to have. But if we are fully aware of these tendencies they can be the more easily overcome, and forgiven. We can be aware also that any sound working relation between adult men and women must be in the character of a partnership, a non-competitive one in which each partner complements the other. It is not a question of superiority or inferiority at all. Men, for example, because they are men, are apt to be better at business. But suppose we replaced our six women staff members with six men? In these positions could the men possibly relate themselves so uniquely and so effectively to our Fellowship as the women? Of course not. The women can handle this assignment far better, just because they are women. ¹⁰

28. Endnote 10, on page 59 in *Twelve Concepts for World Service* in the Concept XI essay be revised by the Publishing Department with language noting that two paragraphs have been removed from the Concept XI essay and are available upon request from the G.S.O. Archives Department as a reference to A.A. history.
29. *The A.A. Service Manual* be revised per existing schedule after the 2016 General Service Conference and that a new edition be published biannually (i.e., every two years), beginning in 2017 at a savings of approximately \$45,000 - 50,000 in alternate years when a new edition is not published. The next edition of *The A.A. Service Manual* is to be published in 2018 (after the Conference), the subsequent edition in 2020 (after the Conference), etc.

30. The category title "Online Meetings" be changed to "Online Meetings/Online Groups" on page vi and vii in the A.A. Directories.

Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities

It was recommended that:

31. The term "Special Needs" be removed from the name of the Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities and throughout the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure. The new name of the committee will be the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

Trustees

It was recommended that:

32. The following slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2016, following presentation at the 2016 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Class A Trustees

Leslie S. Backus, B.A.
Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
Hon. Christine Carpenter
Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle
Peter Luongo, Ph.D., LCSW-C
Nancy J. McCarthy
David M. Morris, C.P.A.

Class B Trustees

Thomas A
Richard B
Carole B
Joel C
Joe D
Bill F
Yolanda F
Scott H
William N
Chet P
Richard P
Bob W
Cate W
Albin Z

33. The appointment of the following slate of officers of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2016, following presentation at the 2016 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Chairperson
First vice-chairperson
Second vice-chairperson
Treasurer
Secretary

Terrance M. Bedient, FACHE
Bob W
Chet P
David M. Morris, C.P.A.
Bill F

34. The February 2016 appointment of the following officers by the chair of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2016:

Assistant Treasurer
Assistant Secretary

Donald W. Meurer
Eva S

This appointment process is in accordance with the General Service Board Bylaws.

35. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2016, following presentation at the 2016 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Richard B
Beau B
Joe D
Homer M
David N

William N
Richard P
Eva S
Greg T

36. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2016, following presentation at the 2016 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Lynda B
Carole B
Ami B
Joel C
Josh E

Yolanda F
Ivan Lemelle
Paz P
Albin Z

37. If a vacancy for a regional trustee occurs prior to September 1 in the first year, then an election for a three-year term would occur at the following General Service Conference (GSC) for the affected region. If a vacancy for a regional trustee occurs between September 1 in the first year and August 31 of the third year then the delegates from the affected region would be given an option to hold an election for a six-year or five-year term, or leave the position vacant, depending on when the vacancy occurs. Regardless of whether the term was for three, five or six years, the regional trustee would be expected to serve two years on one of the two operating corporation boards.

April 2017

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

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 67th GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The following recommendations were approved by the 67th General Service Conference:

Floor Actions

It was recommended that:

1. In the spirit of unity and inclusiveness, the General Service Office strive to provide Conference background materials in English by February 15 and Spanish and French by the first week in March, beginning with the 68th General Service Conference.
2. The pamphlet “Too Young?” be revised to reflect more current collective experiences of young alcoholics and their welcome to A.A.
3. A.A. Grapevine create a Google for Nonprofits account, with use of the account limited to the YouTube Nonprofit Program and with a guarantee that comments not be shown on the A.A. Grapevine YouTube pages. The A.A. Grapevine Board will track its effectiveness through website metrics.

Agenda

It was recommended that:

4. The theme for the 2018 General Service Conference be: “A.A. – A Solution for All Generations.”
5. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2018 General Service Conference:
 - a. Today’s Alcoholic: Inclusion, Not Exclusion
 - b. Participation in All of A.A. – Is My Triangle Balanced?
 - c. A.A. Technology: Where Innovation Meets the Traditions
 - d. Attraction Not Promotion: A.A.’s Relation to the World
 - e. Group Conscience: The Guiding Force
6. The following be the workshop topic for the 2018 General Service Conference: “Getting the A.A. Message Out...”

Archives¹

It was recommended that:

7. A draft or a progress report of *Unity in Action: Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970* (working title) be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Archives for review.

¹Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

It was recommended that:

8. The pamphlet “Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.” be retired.
9. A footnote with the following text be added to the pamphlet “Problems Other Than Alcohol” at the bottom of page one:

This pamphlet is derived from an article written by A.A. co-founder Bill W. in 1958. Therefore, some of the language may be dated, but the issues addressed are prevalent today.

10. The title of the pamphlet “Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?” be changed to “Is There a Problem Drinker in the Workplace?”

11

11. The trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community review the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional,” develop text to include information for professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services, including information on how to contact A.A. worldwide, and bring back a report or draft text to the 2018 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community for review.
12. The trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community review the pamphlet “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous,” develop text to include information for professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services, including information on how to contact A.A. worldwide, and bring back a report or draft text to the 2018 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community for review.
13. The trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community review the pamphlet “A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional,” develop text to include information for professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services, including information on how to contact A.A. worldwide, and bring back a report or draft text to the 2018 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community for review.

Corrections

None.

Finance

It was recommended that:

14. The suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference be increased from \$1,600 to \$1,800.
15. Review of the suggested Area contribution for delegates' expenses to the Conference be every other year. The next review will take place in 2019.
16. Review of the Conference-approved level for bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members be every other year. The next review will take place in 2019.
17. Review of the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member be every other year. The next review will take place in 2019.
18. The following text be added to the pamphlet: "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix": "Question: Can an individual or group make a recurring online contribution? Answer: Yes, online at aa.org."

Grapevine

None.

International Conventions/Regional Forums¹

None.

¹Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

Literature

It was recommended that:

19. The following two bullet points in the section "What procedures can a group set up to sponsor new members?" in the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be removed:
 - A *file* of names, addresses, and phone numbers of newcomers (who wish to volunteer the information), with notations showing sponsor or sponsors for each one.
 - *Review of newcomers* list by steering committee (or Twelfth Step or sponsorship committee) – with follow-up activity where it seems needed.

20. The revised plan for the annual review of recovery literature be implemented, with the first report to be delivered to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature.
21. The following text about young people's conferences be added to the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." in the section "Where do I find A.A.?":

Young people's conferences are held in the United States and Canada and around the world. For information, consult your local A.A. area, intergroup office, or search online for YPAA.

22. Question 10 in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" in the section "A.A. Group Inventory" that currently reads, "Are we doing all we can to provide an attractive and accessible meeting place?" be revised to read:

Are we doing all we can to provide a safe, attractive and accessible meeting place?

23. The pamphlet "The A.A. Group" be revised to add the following text from "Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare" to the section "Principles Before Personalities":

Safety and A.A.: Suggestions to Consider

"Safety is an important issue within A.A. – one that all groups and members can address to develop workable solutions and help keep our meetings safe based on the fundamental principles of the Fellowship.

"Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward. (Tradition One, Long Form)"

13

"A.A. groups are spiritual entities made up of alcoholics who gather for the sole purpose of staying sober and helping other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. Yet, we are not immune to the difficulties that affect the rest of humanity.

"Alcoholics Anonymous is a microcosm of the larger society within which we exist.

Problems found in the outside world can also make their way into the rooms of A.A. As we strive to share in a spirit of trust, both at meetings and individually with sponsors and friends, it is reasonable for each member to expect a meaningful level of safety. Those attending A.A. meetings derive a benefit by providing a safe environment in which alcoholics can focus on gaining and maintaining sobriety. The group can then fulfill its primary purpose – to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. For this reason, groups and members discuss the topic of safety."

For more information see "Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare" (SMF-209) www.aa.org.

24. The trustees' Literature Committee develop language regarding safety to be incorporated in current and new recovery literature, where appropriate, along with a plan for implementation. The committee requested that the draft language and proposed plan or progress report be brought back to the 2018 General Service Conference.

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

25. The 2018 General Service Conference move ahead with electronic voting to be used for all Conference voting, with the exception of elections for regional trustees and trustees-at-large, which are conducted by ballot.
26. The trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference develop a plan for the equitable distribution of the workload of Conference committees by combining and/or creating committees for review by the 2018 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.
27. Starting with the 67th General Service Conference, an anonymity-protected, digital *Final Conference Report* be published in addition to the current print version.
28. The 70th General Service Conference be held April 19-25, 2020 since these dates do not conflict with any significant holiday or hotel availability.
29. Starting at the 2018 General Service Conference, the proposed dates of future General Service Conferences be considered as an Additional Committee Consideration rather than requiring an Advisory Action.
30. General Service Office management submit a report on the process, implementation and status on the site selection of the General Service Conference for review by the 2018 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

Public Information

It was recommended that:

31. A new video public service announcement be developed for a cost not to exceed \$40,000.
32. The pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" be rewritten to include material from G.S.O. literature covering Tradition Eleven and to expand the discussion of humility in Tradition Twelve as it relates to anonymity and that a progress report or draft language be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Public Information.
33. A.A. World Services, Inc. create a Google for Nonprofits account, with use of the account limited to the YouTube Nonprofit Program and with a guarantee that comments not be shown on A.A.W.S. YouTube pages. The committee requested that a report including information from website analytics and the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube account be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Public Information.

Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

34. The following text be added to Chapter Four of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

Area Websites

Many A.A. entities now use websites as a way to communicate meeting and service information within the Fellowship. An A.A. website can serve as a public information tool, providing information about A.A. to the public as well. As with newsletters, it has been found prudent for a committee (rather than one or two individuals) to be responsible for the format, planning, and content of the website.

As anonymity is the “spiritual foundation of all our Traditions,” we practice anonymity on A.A. websites at all times. An A.A. website is a public medium, which has the potential for reaching the broadest possible audience and, therefore, requires the same safeguards that we use at the level of press, radio and film. Some areas have included password protected sections of the website, which can limit access to members only, and where full names may be used. Not all A.A. websites contain the same information. For instance, in places where an active intergroup or central office provides meeting information, general service websites may not need to duplicate this effort, and may link to them instead.

A.A. websites may feature brief excerpts from A.A. literature using the same guidelines as newsletters. If a site wishes to include items that are currently available on the G.S.O. or Grapevine websites, they may link to the appropriate pages of those sites. Area websites may copy a thumbnail of a pamphlet, book or video from these sites and use it on the site as a link to the material on the G.S.O. or A.A. Grapevine site. Because public service announcements are intended to be widely shared, they may be posted directly on local A.A. sites. For more information, see the “FAQ on A.A. Websites” and the A.A. Guidelines on the Internet.

35. The bylaws of A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. be included in *The A.A. Service Manual* as appendices.
36. A new section on the General Service Board’s “Mission-Vision-Action Statement” be added to Chapter 9 of *The A.A. Service Manual*.
37. The G.S.O. Department reports which are shared at Conference be included in the *Final Conference Report*.
38. Brief bios for nontrustee directors, similar to those for trustees, be included in the *Final Conference Report*.

Treatment and Accessibilities

It was recommended that:

39. The pamphlet "A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs" be approved with suggested editorial changes and be retitled "Accessibility for All Alcoholics."

Trustees

It was recommended that:

40. The following slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2017, following presentation at the 2017 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Class A Trustees

Leslie S. Backus, B.A.
Hon. Christine Carpenter
Michele Grinberg, J.D.
Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle
Peter Luongo, Ph.D., LCSW-C
Nancy J. McCarthy
David M. Morris, C.P.A.

Class B Trustees

Thomas A
Cathy B
Richard B
Carole B
Joel C
Mark E
Yolanda F
Scott H
David N
Newton P
Richard P
Ginger R B
Cate W
Vacancy

41. The following slate of officers of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2017, following presentation at the 2017 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Chairperson

Michele Grinberg, J.D.

First vice-chairperson

Joel C

Second vice-chairperson

Scott H

Treasurer

David M. Morris, C.P.A.

Secretary

Yolanda F

Assistant treasurer

Bob Slotterback

Assistant secretary

Eva S

42. The January 2017 appointment of the following officers by the chair of the General Service Board be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2017:

Assistant treasurer

Bob Slotterback

Assistant secretary

Eva S

This appointment process is in accordance with the General Service Board Bylaws.

43. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2017, following presentation at the 2017 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Tom A	David N
Deborah A	Richard P
Richard B	Eva S
Beau B	Greg T
Homer M	

44. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2017, following presentation at the 2017 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Carole B	Ivan Lemelle
Ami B	Paz P
Josh E	Ginger R B
Yolanda F	Cate
Tommi H	

45. The Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., as revised, be approved at the annual meeting of the General Service Board in April 2017.
-

April 2018

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

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 68th GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The following recommendations were approved by the 68th General Service Conference:

Floor Actions

It was recommended that:

1. The text on page 18 of the pamphlet “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous” that currently reads:

Please check your local telephone directory or newspaper for the number of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Be revised to read:

Alcoholics Anonymous can be found on the Internet at aa.org and in most telephone directories by looking for “Alcoholics Anonymous.” Additionally, online meetings are available, which members of the military and others often use when they are in places where there is no meeting nearby.

2. Area Service Highlights be published in their entirety in both the printed Conference *Final Report* and the anonymity-protected digital version.

Agenda

It was recommended that:

3. The theme for the 2019 General Service Conference be: “Our Big Book – 80 Years, 71 Languages.”
4. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2019 General Service Conference:

Yesterday’s World – Our Legacies Begin
Today’s World – Demonstrating Integrity, Anonymity and Service
Tomorrow’s World – Courage to be Vigilant

5. The following be the workshop topic for the 2019 General Service Conference: “Clarity of Purpose – Addressing the Needs of Our Meetings”

Archives*

It was recommended that:

6. The proposed new publication, *Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970* be approved with minor editorial changes.

* Members serve on this committee as a secondary committee.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

It was recommended that:

7. The text on page 9 of the pamphlet “A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional” which currently reads:

Sharing experience as peers is the unique service Alcoholics Anonymous offers. In most instances, health care professionals find A.A. members not only willing but eager to introduce newcomers to the A.A. program.

Be revised to read:

Sharing experience as peers is the unique service Alcoholics Anonymous offers. With no membership requirements beyond the desire to stop drinking, members are on an equal footing. What’s important is getting the help that is needed, and in most instances, health care professionals find A.A. members not only willing but eager to introduce newcomers to the A.A. program.

8. The text on page 10 of the pamphlet “A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional” which currently reads:

A.A. is listed in most telephone directories or local newspapers, and a phone call is all that is needed for help.

Be revised to read:

Alcoholics Anonymous can be found on the Internet at aa.org and in most telephone directories by looking for “Alcoholics Anonymous.” Additionally, online A.A. meetings are available, which members of the military and others often use when they are in places where there are no meetings nearby.

9. A new section be added beginning on page 16 of the pamphlet “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous,” between the sections “Why Would the Clergy be Concerned with A.A.?” and “Do Any of the Clergy Belong to A.A.?” with text as follows:

What If You Are a Chaplain in the Military?

Like other members of the clergy, military chaplains are often the “safest” people a problem drinker can approach. Chaplains can help direct alcoholics to available A.A.

meetings, either on or near the base. Additionally, if no meetings are available, chaplains may be able to connect interested alcoholics with other A.A. materials, such as books and pamphlets or A.A.'s magazines, Grapevine and La Viña. Online meetings are also available for those members of the military who may be deployed, and chaplains can help get them connected electronically through correspondence groups. (A.A.'s General Service Office can provide information on such resources.)

10. Text be added to the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." on page 4, first paragraph, to read (additions in **bold**):

Meetings: At the heart of the program are its meetings, which are conducted autonomously by A.A. groups in cities and towns throughout the world, **even in jails, institutions and on military bases.**

11. Text be added to the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." on page 4, last section, to read (additions in **bold**):

Referrals from Judicial, Health Care, **Military**, or other Professionals

Today numerous A.A. members come to us from judicial, health care, **military** or other professionals.

12. Text be added to the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." in the last full paragraph on page 5, to read (additions in **bold**):

Or you can contact the General Service Office (G.S.O.) of Alcoholics Anonymous for help and information. G.S.O.'s A.A. website aa.org can aid in finding local resources. **Additionally, online A.A. meetings are available, which members of the military and others often use when they are in places where there are no meetings nearby.**

13. A.A. World Services, Inc. develop a company page on LinkedIn with the following goals in mind:

- To offer another digital resource, in addition to aa.org, where professionals can find accurate information about A.A.
- To broaden the reach of the About A.A. newsletter for professionals
- To offer a platform where our professional friends may recommend us
- To raise awareness of exhibits staffed by local C.P.C. committees at national and local professional conferences
- To expand the network of our professional friends and perhaps deepen the pool of Class A Trustee candidates
- By our presence on LinkedIn, to reinforce the continuing relevance and efficacy of A.A. to professionals

Corrections

No recommendations.

Finance

It was recommended that:

14. The Conference-approved maximum annual contribution from an individual A.A. member to the General Service Board be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Grapevine

It was recommended that:

15. AA Grapevine, Inc. allow sales of Grapevine and La Viña books, single-issue magazines (as available), and other products to non-AA entities, such as (but not limited to) hospitals, treatment centers and book stores. [Note: As a current practice, AA Grapevine, Inc. does not seek outside sales for magazine subscriptions.]
16. AA Grapevine, Inc. continue to seek opportunities to expand bulk sales. [Note: AA Grapevine, Inc. currently offers volume discounts and will respond to requests, rather than solicit sales from outside entities.]
17. AA Grapevine, Inc. provide notification to A.A. World Services' list of non-A.A. entities to let them know that they can now purchase AA Grapevine and La Viña books, single-issue magazines (as available) and other products.
18. La Viña be published at its current frequency of six times per year as a service to the Fellowship, with perfect binding, at 68 pages, and in full color.
19. The revised pamphlet "AA Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print" be approved and the title changed to "AA Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print and Other Media."

International Conventions/Regional Forums*

It was recommended that:

20. The following two cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2030: Indianapolis, Indiana; St. Louis, Missouri.
21. Up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2020 International Convention at A.A.'s expense.

* Members serve on this committee as a secondary committee.

Literature

It was recommended that:

22. The revised pamphlet “A.A. for the Woman,” retitled “Experience, Strength and Hope: Women in A.A.,” be approved.
23. The revised pamphlet “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic,” retitled “Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.,” be approved with minor edits provided by Publishing regarding use of gender specific language.
24. The revised pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and its Services” be approved.
25. The draft pamphlet “Experience, Strength and Hope: A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues – and their sponsors” be approved.
26. The trustees’ Literature Committee revise the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” to include a section on anonymity, and bring back a progress report or draft text to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature.
27. The title of the pamphlet “G.S.R. General Service Representative: May Be the Most Important Job in A.A.” be changed to “G.S.R. General Service Representative: Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole.”
28. The following text (originally included in the 1998 edition of *Living Sober*) be added to *Living Sober* following the section titled “Note to Medical Professionals”:

We recognize that alcoholics are not immune to other diseases. Some of us have had to cope with depressions that can be suicidal; schizophrenia that sometimes requires hospitalization; bipolar disorder, and other mental and biological illnesses.

Also among us are diabetics, epileptics, members with heart trouble, cancer, allergies, hypertension, and many other serious physical conditions.

Because of the difficulties that many alcoholics have with drugs, some members have taken the position that no one in A.A. should take any medication. While this position has undoubtedly prevented relapses for some, it has meant disaster for others.

A.A. members and many of their physicians have described situations in which depressed patients have been told by A.A.s to throw away the pills, only to have depression return with all its difficulties, sometimes resulting in suicide. We have heard, too, from members with other conditions, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, epilepsy and others requiring medication, that well-meaning A.A. friends discourage them from taking any prescribed medication. Unfortunately, by following a layperson’s advice, the sufferers find that their conditions can return with all their

previous intensity. On top of that, they feel guilty because they are convinced that “A.A. is against pills.”

It becomes clear that just as it is wrong to enable or support any alcoholic to become readdicted to any drug, it's equally wrong to deprive any alcoholic of medication, which can alleviate or control other disabling physical and/or emotional problems.

29. The trustees' Literature Committee undertake a comprehensive update to the video “Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure” to reflect a contemporary presentation of the General Service and AA Grapevine offices as well as a current portrayal of the General Service Structure, and bring back a progress report or draft updated video to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature.
30. The pamphlet “The God Word” (currently published by the General Service Board of A.A., Great Britain) be adopted by A.A. World Services, Inc. with minor editorial changes.
31. The trustees' Literature Committee develop a pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies, with emphasis on the history of the Three Legacies, how they work together and including personal stories of members' experiences with the Three Legacies, and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature.
32. The trustees' Literature Committee develop a pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women alcoholics by gathering sharing from Spanish-speaking women in A.A., and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature.

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

33. Valley K, general secretary of the General Service Board of A.A. India, be admitted to the 68th General Service Conference as an observer.
34. The “Process for Polling the General Service Conference between Annual Meetings” be approved.
35. Two consultants, Andréa Pellegrino and Chris DeSantis, from the firm Impact Collaborative, be admitted to the 68th General Service Conference on Thursday, April 26 and Friday, April 27, 2018 as observers. [Note: This was a special request from the chair of the General Service Board for approval of two representatives from the firm contracted to conduct a communications audit initiated by the General Service Board.]

Public Information

It was recommended that:

36. The video PSA “Changes” be approved with the following revision: That the line “That’s where A.A. came to my rescue” be replaced with “A.A. offered a solution.”

37. In addition to the work of local committees, the video PSA, "Changes" be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$42,000 and that the information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2019 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.
38. The Young People's Video submission be approved.
39. The pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity," with expanded content on Traditions Eleven and Twelve, be approved.
40. The trustees' Committee on Public Information develop language reflecting that A.A.'s anonymity Traditions are not a cloak protecting criminal or inappropriate behavior and that calling the proper authorities does not go against any A.A. Traditions. A progress report or draft language is requested to be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information.
41. The updated pamphlet "A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous" be approved.
42. A progress report including website analytics and the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube account be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information.

Report and Charter

It was recommended that:

43. The following text be added to the Glossary of Service Terms in the A.A. Service Manual:

A panel is a numerical designation that refers to a group of delegates elected to begin serving at the General Service Conference in a particular year. Each panel is numbered for the Conference at which the Area's delegate will first serve. The two-year cycle frequently applies to area committee officers and committee members, as well.

44. Text boxes visually displaying the member positions on each of the three corporate boards be added to Chapter Ten of the A.A. Service Manual in the section on A.A. World Services, Inc.

26

45. In the section "AND IT IS UNDERSTOOD" of *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*, a footnote be added to the portion of the Resolution attached as part of the Original Conference Charter and the Current Conference Charter with the following text:

Bill uses the term "registered." A.A.W.S. neither monitors nor oversees the activities or practices of any A.A. group. Groups are listed solely for purposes of accurate communications.

46. Text be added to the A.A. Service Manual in the section "Trademarks, Logos, and Copyrights" reflecting the A.A.W.S. copyright statement on "The Blue People" graphic.

47. The General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the AA Grapevine Board review *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter biennially, only in printing years.
48. Following publication of the 2018-2020 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*, the A.A.W.S. Publishing Department undertake a thorough evaluation, update, and redesign of the Service Manual with a preliminary draft or progress report to be sent to the 2019 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
49. Any Committee Considerations be published in their entirety in both the printed Conference *Final Report* and the anonymity-protected digital version.

Treatment and Accessibilities

It was recommended that:

50. The title of the pamphlet "Accessibility for All Alcoholics" be changed to "Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers."
51. The proposed changes by the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities to the pamphlet "Accessibility for All Alcoholics" be approved with additional revisions.
52. The Scope of the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities be expanded as follows (additions in **bold**):

The purpose of a Treatment and Accessibilities committee is to coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in a wide variety of treatment settings, and to set up means of "bridging the gap" from the treatment setting to the A.A. **Fellowship. In addition, the committee supports the work of individual A.A. members and groups serving those who experience barriers to accessing the A.A. message and participating in A.A.'s Three Legacies – Recovery, Unity, and Service. Finally, the committee supports the work of individual A.A. members and groups striving to ensure that A.A. members who live in underserved or remote communities — communities difficult to reach because of geography, language or culture — have access to the A.A. message.**

The committee will review all aspects of service to A.A. groups/meetings in non-correctional in-patient and out-patient treatment settings, as well as to **A.A.s who experience access barriers**, and make recommendations for changes and/or improvements.

Trustees

It was recommended that:

53. The following slate of trustees of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meetings of the members of the General Service Board in April 2018, following presentation at the 2018 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Class A Trustees

Leslie S. Backus, B.A.
Hon. Christine Carpenter
Michele Grinberg, J.D.
Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle
Peter Luongo, Ph.D., LCSW-C
Nancy McCarthy
David M. Morris, C.P.A.

Class B Trustees

Thomas A
Cathy B
Carole B
Beau B
Mark E
Yolanda F
Kathryn F
Scott H
Jan L
David N
Newton P
Richard P
Ginger R B
Cate Wittig

54. The following slate of officers of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2018, following presentation at the 2018 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Chairperson
First Vice-Chairperson
Second Vice-Chairperson
Treasurer
Secretary
Assistant Treasurer
Assistant Secretary

Michele Grinberg, J.D.
Leslie S. Backus, B.A.
Carole B
David M. Morris, C.P.A.
Thomas A
Bob Slotterback
Eva S*

*Will be replaced at G.S.O. rotation in 2018.

55. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in April 2018, following presentation at the 2018 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Tom A
Deborah A
Cathy B
Beau B

David N
Eva S*
Greg T
Carolyn W

28

*Will be replaced at G.S.O. rotation in 2018.

56. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the AA Grapevine Corporate Board in April 2018, following presentation at the 2018 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Carole B
Ami B
Josh E
Mark E
Ino F

Tommi H
Nancy McCarthy
Ginger R B
Cate W

May 2019

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

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 69th GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The following recommendations were approved by the 69th General Service Conference:

Floor Actions

It was recommended that:

1. The proposed floor action that “A draft Fourth Edition of the Spanish Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, be developed and a progress report be brought to the 2020 General Service Conference” be committed to the trustees’ Literature Committee.
2. The proposed floor action that “The pamphlet ‘A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic’ be updated and a progress report and/or a draft be presented to the 2020 General Service Conference” be committed to the trustees’ Literature Committee.
3. The “A.A.W.S. Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials” be recommitted to the trustees’ Literature Committee with an updated proposed policy to be brought back to the 70th General Service Conference.

Agenda

It was recommended that:

4. The theme for the 2020 General Service Conference be: “2020: A Clear Vision for You.”
5. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2020 General Service Conference:

Recovery - Who Is Missing in Our Rooms?

Unity - Practicing Our Principles

Service - Keeping A.A. Relevant

6. The workshop topic for the 2020 General Service Conference be:

Attraction Through Action

Archives*

7. The 1940s home movie of the co-founders and their wives be added to the Archives video “Markings on the Journey” at an estimated cost of \$5,000.

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

Cooperation with the Professional Community

It was recommended that:

8. The text "They may help arrange hospitalization" be removed from the section "What can you expect from A.A.?" in the pamphlet "Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community."

Corrections

No recommendations.

Finance

It was recommended that:

9. The level of \$5,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members be raised to \$10,000.

Grapevine

No recommendations.

International Conventions/Regional Forums*

It was recommended that:

10. An anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2020 International Convention.
11. An anonymity-protected Internet broadcast of the 2020 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved.
12. Anonymity-protected video footage with highlights of the 2020 International Convention be produced for maintaining archival footage of the Convention, as well as for sharing the spirit and enthusiasm of the 2020 International Convention.

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

Literature

It was recommended that:

13. The pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be revised to add the following text regarding anonymity:

1. Under the section, “What does a sponsor do and not do?” (p. 13), after the current bullet “Impresses upon the newcomer the importance of all our Traditions,” add a new bullet with the following language:

Emphasizes the relevance and spiritual value of anonymity, both on a person to person basis, as well as at the public level including social media. (For more information see the pamphlet, “Understanding Anonymity”).

2. Under the section, “How can a sponsor explain the A.A. program?” (p. 15), add a 6th paragraph:

Many sponsors discuss the significance of anonymity at a personal level and public level early on. Anonymity at a personal level provides protection for all members from the identification as alcoholics, a safeguard often of special importance to newcomers. At the public level of press, radio, films, and other media technologies, such as the internet, anonymity stresses the equality in the Fellowship of all members by putting the brake on those who might otherwise exploit their A.A. affiliation to achieve recognition, power, or personal gain. The sponsor is quick to point out the benefit of anonymity at this public level. Sponsors may provide examples from their own experience of maintaining public anonymity.

14. The trustees’ Literature Committee update the pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated” and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2020 General Service Conference.
15. The trustees’ Literature Committee update the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated” and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2020 General Service Conference.

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

16. To allow time for discussion, the “Process for Polling the General Service Conference between Annual Meetings” which currently reads:

Timing

In keeping with the G.S.B. Bylaws, Conference members will be given two weeks from the time the poll is emailed to respond with their vote. Dates for all votes and motions will be included with the poll, using a form similar to the “Timeline for Polling Conference Between Meetings.” All times listed are Eastern Time.

The original poll will be emailed by 2 p.m., and voting will open that day and remain open for two weeks.

Voting will close at 2 p.m. two weeks after the poll was emailed. By 5 p.m. on the day the poll results are due, Conference members will be notified of the results by email. A request for any minority opinion will be included with the poll results.

Be replaced with:

Timing

In keeping with the G.S.B. Bylaws, Conference members will be given two weeks from the time the poll is emailed to respond with their vote. Dates for all votes and motions will be included with the poll, using a form similar to the “Timeline for Polling Conference Between Meetings.” All times listed are Eastern Time.

The original poll will be emailed by 2 p.m., and discussion will open that day and remain open for **one week. Voting will commence on day seven at 2 p.m. after discussion closes.**

Voting will close at 2 p.m. two weeks after the poll was emailed. By 5 p.m. on the day the poll results are due, Conference members will be notified of the results by email. A request for any minority opinion will be included with the poll results.

Public Information

It was recommended that:

17. The trustees’ Committee on Public Information develop a plan to produce video shorts based on current A.A. pamphlets that provide information about A.A. to the public and that a report be brought back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information.
18. The video PSA “My World” be discontinued.
19. The “Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates” be reaffirmed.
20. 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.
21. The text addressing anonymity and safety be included in the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity” as follows:
 - Q. Is it okay to tell someone if I witness or experience inappropriate behavior that happens either during or outside meeting times? Can I alert the proper authorities if there is criminal behavior?
 - A. Groups strive to provide as safe an environment as possible in which members can focus on sobriety, and, while anonymity is central to that

purpose, it is not intended to be a cloak protecting inappropriate or criminal behavior. Saying something about inappropriate behavior or calling the proper authorities does not go against any A.A. Traditions and is meant to preserve the safety of all members.

22. The wording of the last sentence in the section titled “How A.A. Members Maintain Sobriety” in the flyer “A.A. at a Glance” be changed from:

Sobriety is maintained through sharing experience, strength and hope at group meetings and through the suggested Twelve Steps for recovery from alcoholism.

to

Sobriety is maintained through sharing experience, strength and hope at group meetings and through the **Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, which are suggested as a program of recovery.**

23. A progress report on the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube channel be brought back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information.
24. All current video PSA titles be updated for search optimization purposes.
25. A.A. World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc. apply for “LegitScript” certification to qualify for Google Ad Words/Grants.
26. A.A. World Services, Inc. apply for Google AdWords/Grants, for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public.
27. A.A. World Services, Inc. implement Google AdWords/Grants for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public and that a report be brought back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information.

Report and Charter

No recommendations.

Treatment and Accessibilities

It was recommended that:

28. Ashley’s story (an A.A. member who is Deaf) be added to the pamphlet “Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers” and that the video version of the pamphlet be updated to reflect this change.
29. The pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late” be updated with a revised introduction; current and inclusive stories; reference to online A.A.; and an updated “How Do I Find A.A.?” section. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

30. The trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities develop anonymity-protected audio interviews with military professionals about their experience with A.A. as a resource for posting online.

Trustees

It was recommended that:

31. The following slate of trustees of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2019 following presentation at the 2019 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Class A Trustees

Leslie S. Backus
Hon. Christine Carpenter
Michele Grinberg, J.D.
Sister Judith Ann Karam, CSA, FACHE
Peter Luongo, Ph.D., LCSW-C
Nancy McCarthy
Al J. Mooney, M.D., FAAFP, FASAM

Class B Trustees

Thomas A
Cathy B
Carole B
Beau B
James D
Mark E
Kathi F
Francis G
Patricia L
Jan L
David N
Newton P
Ginger R B
Cate W

32. The following slate of officers of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2019 following presentation at the 2019 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Chairperson
First Vice-Chairperson
Second Vice-Chairperson
Treasurer
Secretary
Assistant Treasurer
Assistant Secretary
**G.S.O. employees*

Michele Grinberg, J.D.
Nancy McCarthy
Newton P
Leslie S. Backus
Ginger R B
Bob Slotterback*
Mary C*

33. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board in May 2019 following presentation at the 2019 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Beau B
Cathy B
Mary C*
Deborah K
Jan L

Homer M
David N
Gregory T*
Carolyn W

**G.S.O. employees*

34. The following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the AA Grapevine Corporate Board in May 2019 following presentation at the 2019 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Carole B
Josh E
Mark E
Ino F
Kathi F

Tommi H
Nancy McCarthy
Ginger R B
Albin Z*

**AA Grapevine employee*

###

RECOMMENDATIONS AND FLOOR ACTIONS THAT DID NOT RESULT IN CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS 2015-2019

April 2015

FLOOR ACTIONS THAT DID NOT RESULT IN CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS

- During reprints of Conference-approved literature and service materials, consider adding “aa.org” wherever the General Service Office contact information, such as and and/or phone number are listed. **(Withdrawn by submitter)**
- That Section 12 of the Bylaws of the General Service Board be amended to state “The number of member trustees constituting the entire membership shall be twenty-one, except as otherwise provided herein.” **(Withdrawn by submitter)**
- That the following text be added in Chapter Six of the Service Manual as the final bullet point under duties:

“The outgoing delegate provides G.S.O. with contact information for all incoming area officers and committee chairs.” **(Not approved)**
- Produce a book combining the Twelve Steps, The Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts for World Service. **(Not approved)**
- Beginning with the 2016 General Service Conference, all general session voting will be done electronically. **(Withdrawn by submitter)**
- **Rescind the previous advisory action that reads:**

The trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference create a plan to translate all Conference material with a progress report given to the 2016 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions that describes the process and costs including options using third party translators and a proposal to change agenda submission deadlines.

And replace with:

With a target date of 2018, the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference create a plan to translate all Conference material with a progress report given to the 2016 Conference Committees on Policy and Admissions and Finance that describes the process and costs including options using third party translators and a proposal to change agenda submission deadlines. **(Not approved)**

April 2015

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT DID NOT RESULT IN CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS

Conference Committee on Finance

- The committee recommended that the maximum annual limit contributed to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Conference Committee on Literature

- The committee recommended that the draft text for the section “A.A. Grapevine, Inc.” in “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services” be changed from:

A.A. Grapevine, Inc., while not a service agency, is a separate corporation with its own board, which is under the guidance of the trustees. A.A. Grapevine, Inc. is responsible for publishing the print magazines Grapevine and La Viña, the Website, books, audio and other products to carry the A.A. message to U.S., Canada and beyond.

To:

A.A. Grapevine, Inc. is a separate corporation with its own board that is under the guidance of the trustees. A.A. Grapevine, Inc. is responsible for publishing the print magazines Grapevine and La Viña, the A.A. Grapevine website, books, audio and other products to carry the A.A. message worldwide.

April 2016

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT DID NOT RESULT IN CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS

Conference Committee on Finance

- The committee recommended that the maximum annual limit contributed to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

- The committee recommended that background material continue to be provided in English because it is not feasible at this time to move forward with translation of Conference background into French and Spanish.

April 2016

FLOOR ACTIONS THAT DID NOT RESULT IN CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS

- That the trustees' Committee on Public Information begin work on a Google-for-Nonprofit account to be used for carrying the A.A. message to the public. This request is limited to "YouTube for Nonprofit" to share video content and "Google Ad Words" which will help in search result placement. The trustees' committee is asked to provide a progress report to the 2017 Conference Committee on Public Information. **(Not approved)**
- That the standing agenda items on the Conference Finance Committee which read as follows:
 1. To review the contribution for delegate expense for the General Service Conference.
 2. To approve individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members.
 3. To review maximum annual contribution to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member of \$3,000.

be removed as standing items on the Conference Finance Committee agenda. **(Not approved)**

- That 2-3 hours be provided in the 67th Conference agenda to permit the Conference to consult on matters brought forward by the trustees of the General Service Board. **(Not approved)**
- That the minutes of the General Service Board meetings be posted to the General Service Conference dashboard as soon as they are approved so that all Area delegates have equal access to the minutes. **(Withdrawn by submitter)**

April 2017

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT DID NOT RESULT IN CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS

Corrections

- The following text be added to the Composition, Scope and Procedure of the Conference Committee on Corrections:

In order to assist Conference committees in handling their workload, if a Conference committee feels it is helpful to complete the work of their committee, they are welcome to meet via conference call in the 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference. They may use the call for such things as deciding how to conduct their business, including the means of voting within the committee, re-ordering the items on their agenda if needed, and holding preliminary non-voting discussions on what they consider to be priority agenda items. Conference committee secretaries would be available to facilitate these meetings. **(Withdrawn by the committee)**

Finance

- The Conference-approved maximum annual contribution to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member of \$3,000 be increased to \$5,000. **(Not approved)**
- The following text be added to the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix": "Question: Are there limits to the amount of money an A.A. group or an A.A. event can contribute to G.S.O.? Answer: No," and include this language in all appropriate service material. **(Not approved)**
- The following text be added to the committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure:

The committee may meet by conference call in the 60 days prior to Conference for such things as deciding how to conduct their business, including the means of voting within the committee, reordering the items on their agenda if needed, and holding preliminary non-voting discussions on what they consider to be priority items. **(Withdrawn by the committee)**

Grapevine

- The following text be added to the Composition, Scope and Procedure of the Conference Committee on Grapevine under procedures:

In order to assist the committee in handling its workload, the committee is welcome to meet via conference call in the 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference. They may use the call for such things as deciding how to

conduct their business, including the means of voting within the committee, re-ordering the items on their agenda if needed, and holding preliminary non-voting discussions on what they consider to be priority agenda items. Conference committee secretaries would be available to facilitate these meetings. **(Withdrawn by the committee)**

Literature

- The following text be added to the Composition, Scope and Procedure of the Conference Committee on Literature under procedures:

In order to assist the committee in handling its workload, the committee is welcome to meet via conference call in the 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference. They may use the call for such things as deciding how to conduct their business, including the means of voting within the committee, re-ordering the items on their agenda if needed, and holding preliminary non-voting discussions on what they consider to be priority agenda items. Conference committee secretaries would be available to facilitate these meetings. **(Withdrawn by the committee)**

Policy/Admissions

- Option 2 in the Final Report on the Translation of Conference Background be implemented for the Spanish language only for a three-year trial period, and that an annual report from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference be presented for review by the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions. **(Recommitted to trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference)**
- The General Service Conference be held in New York City every other year. **(Not approved)**

Public Information

- The 2017 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2014 A.A. Membership Survey and requested that the trustees' Committee on Public Information review the current A.A. Membership Survey methodology, possible methods for surveying the membership electronically and any reasonable hybrid of the two methods, and that a progress report be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Public Information. **(Not approved)**
- The draft 2017 A.A. Survey Questionnaire be changed as follows:

Question 2 be changed from "Sex: ___ Male ___ Female" to "Gender Identity: ___ Male ___ Female ___ [language to include all gender nonconforming] ___ No Response"
(Recommitted to trustees' Committee on Public Information)

Trustees

- The following text be added to the Composition, Scope and Procedure of the Conference Committee on Trustees:

In order to assist Conference committees in handling their workload, if a Conference committee feels it is helpful to complete the work of their committee, they are welcome to meet via conference call in the 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference. They may use the call for such things as deciding how to conduct their business, including the means of voting within the committee, re-ordering the items on their agenda if needed, and holding preliminary non-voting discussions on what they consider to be priority agenda items. Conference committee secretaries would be available to facilitate these meetings. **(Withdrawn by the committee)**

April 2017

FLOOR ACTIONS THAT DID NOT RESULT IN CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS

- In order to reduce the current annual cost of more than fifty thousand dollars and set an example for the Fellowship regarding our principles of rotation and financial prudence, the General Service Board develop a plan to allow no more than the immediate past chair of the General Service Board and two other emeritus trustees to attend each board weekend and the annual General Service Conference. **(Not approved)**
 - The Conference adopt Option 1 on the translation of Conference background material into Spanish and French as it is presented in the agenda and background for Policy/Admissions. **(Withdrawn)**
 - That the submission letters for proposed agenda items be placed on the Conference dashboard. **(Not approved)**
 - The General Service Board develop a policy regarding limits on contributions to the Board from groups and other A.A. entities, recognizing that groups and entities are autonomous in regard to both giving and accepting contributions. A draft text or progress report be brought to the appropriate committee of the 2018 General Service Conference. **(Conference declined to consider)**
 - The General Service Conference of A.A. extend an invitation to the Y.P.A.A. to have two of their members attend the 2018 General Service Conference as observers. **(Conference declined to consider)**
-

April 2018

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT DID NOT RESULT IN CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS

Literature

- An appendix be added to the book Alcoholics Anonymous, reflecting recognition received from the Library of Congress.
- The trustees' Literature Committee develop text for an endnote to be placed at the end of the chapter "Working with Others" in the book Alcoholics Anonymous which would reflect contemporary shared experience regarding twelve-step calls and working with new prospects, as well as include helpful resources (i.e., the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship," and the service material "Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare") and bring back a progress report or draft text to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The trustees' Literature Committee develop a new book, combining Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions with Twelve Concepts for World Service, and bring back a progress report or draft manuscript to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature.

Trustees

- In the spirit of A.A. parity, the process for election of the trustee-at-large/U.S. be revised so that the number of delegates voting from each region be equal to the number of delegates in the smallest region, and that the voting delegates in each region be drawn by lot.

FLOOR ACTIONS NOT RESULTING IN ADVISORY ACTIONS

- The pamphlet "Bridging the Gap" be revised to be more inclusive, to apply to both Treatment and Corrections or possibly any alcoholic leaving any institution into the real world. **(Conference declined to consider)**
- The 68th General Service Conference lovingly advises the A.A.W.S. Board, Grapevine Board and General Service Board to refrain from the practice of litigation for the purpose of acquiring property not previously under the direct control of A.A. **(Conference declined to consider)**
- The General Service Board be censured. **(Conference declined to consider)**
- The General Service Conference affirm the delegated authority of the General Service Board and operating corporations to protect the intellectual property of Alcoholics Anonymous. **(Not approved)**
- The informational piece being created by the trustees' Committee on the Conference pertaining to the Conference dashboard include excerpts on How a Group Conscience is Obtained to reflect the integrity and collective conscience of the registered A.A. groups, including registered online groups. **(Conference declined to consider)**
- All future reorganization and censure motions go directly to the Conference Committee on Trustees, not to be reviewed by a trustees' committee. **(Withdrawn)**

May 2019

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT DID NOT RESULT IN CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS

Corrections

- The Scope of the Conference Committee on Corrections which currently reads: “The purpose of the committee will be to encourage A.A. members to assume responsibility to carry the message to alcoholics who cannot, of their own free will, seek A.A. help”

Be revised, to read:

The purpose of the committee will be to encourage A.A. members to assume responsibility to carry the message to alcoholics who cannot seek A.A. help **outside the walls.**

Literature

- A draft Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* be developed and a progress report be brought to the 2020 Conference Literature Committee, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action that:

The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, “The Doctor's Opinion,” “Dr. Bob's Nightmare,” and the Appendices remain as is.

- The text be added to the foreword of the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* as follows (Bold text reflects addition):

A.A.'s Twelve Steps are a group of principles, spiritual in their nature, which, if practiced as a way of life, can expel the obsession to drink and enable the sufferer to become happily and usefully whole.

A.A.'s Twelve Traditions apply to the life of the Fellowship itself. They outline the means by which A.A. maintains its unity and relates itself to the world about it, the way it lives and grows.

A.A.'s Twelve Concepts for World Service are an interpretation of A.A.'s world service structure. The Concepts provide guidelines for carrying the message to thousands of suffering alcoholics yet to come. They aim to record the ‘why’ of our service structure. They may be found in *The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service.*

- The phrase “Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers” be added as the final sentence to the “Open Meeting” side of the Primary Purpose (Blue) Card. The card will read as follows (Bold text reflects addition):

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

This is an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are glad you are all here – especially newcomers. In keeping with our singleness of purpose and our Third Tradition which states that “The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking,” we ask that all who participate confine their discussion to their problems with alcohol. **Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers.**

May 2019

FLOOR ACTIONS NOT RESULTING IN CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS

- Production of *The Language of the Heart* in Spanish as an audio book be prioritized by AA Grapevine, Inc. and a timeline for production be reported at the 70th General Service Conference. **(Not Approved)**
- The pamphlet “The ‘God’ Word” be added as one of the pamphlets used in Corrections service for possible publication without staples. **(Conference declined to consider)**
- In order to illustrate the importance of the committee recommendations that achieve simple majority but not substantial unanimity (i.e., a vote of two-thirds), that such “simple majority suggestions” be prominently included in the Conference Final Report. **(Not Approved)**
- The “Alcoholism at Large” section be removed from the AA Grapevine. **(Conference declined to consider)**

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How the Conference Operates

Generally speaking, the General Service Conference follows *Robert's Rules of Order*, and proceeds on as informal a basis as possible consistent with the rights of all concerned. It is important to remember that the purpose of rules of order is to make it easier for the Conference to conduct its business; rules exist to allow the Conference to do what it needs to do to carry out the will of the Fellowship by reaching an informed group conscience. Over the years the Conference has adopted some exceptions to *Robert's Rules*, which help it to proceed more closely in accord with the spirit of A.A. Tradition.

Conference Quorum

A Conference quorum — two-thirds of all registered members — is required to conduct Conference business.

Committee System

To the extent possible, important matters to come before the Conference will be handled via the "Committee system." This assures that a large number of questions can be dealt with during Conference week. Members are encouraged to trust the process. Each Committee has considered carefully the items before it and presents its recommendations to the Conference as a whole for acceptance or rejection. Recommendations of Conference committees are automatically motions that have been made and seconded. Members are asked to refrain from spontaneously amending the work of the Committee; there are no "friendly" amendments under Robert's Rules.

Substantial Unanimity

All matters of policy (Conference Advisory Actions) require substantial unanimity, that is, a *two-thirds majority*. Any actions, including amendments, that affect an Advisory Action, or motions that might result in such an action, also require a *two-thirds majority*. Because the number of members present in the hall during the week of Conference varies from time to time, the phrase "two-thirds majority" is taken to mean two-thirds vote of the Conference members voting, as long as the total vote constitutes a Conference quorum.

Minority Opinion

After each vote on a matter of policy, the side which did not prevail will always be given an opportunity to speak to their position. If the motion passes with two-thirds vote, the minority may speak. If the motion receives a majority vote, but fails to pass for lack of a two-thirds vote, the majority may speak.

Remember that saving "minority opinions" for after the vote, when there is no rebuttal, is a time-waster, for it can force the Conference body to reconsider a question that might well have been decided the first time around if it had been thoroughly examined from all sides.

General Rules of Debate and Voting

(Agreed to at the beginning of each Conference)

- People who wish to speak line up at the microphones and address their comments to the chair.
- Each person may speak for two (2) minutes.
- No one may speak for a second time on a topic until all who wish to have spoken for the first time.
- Full discussion of a recommendation should take place before each vote.
- Everyone is entitled to express his or her opinion. However, if your perspective has already been stated by someone else, it is not necessary to go to the mike and say it again.
- Our experience is that premature actions such as amend-

ing motions early in the discussion or hastily calling the question can divert attention from the subject at hand, confusing and/or delaying Conference business.

Motions Made During Conference

When making a motion, come to the microphone and address the chair. There are various types of motions we use to help reach an informed group conscience. The specific rules governing each are on the next page.

Tabling a Motion

Tabling a motion postpones discussion to a later time during the same Conference.

Motion to Recommit

The motion to recommit returns a motion or proposal to the respective trustees' committee or appropriate corporate board for further consideration. A motion to recommit must be seconded, is debatable and can be amended.

Calling the Question

Calling the question brings debate to a halt while Conference members decide whether to proceed directly to a vote (the question) or go on with the debate.

Reconsideration

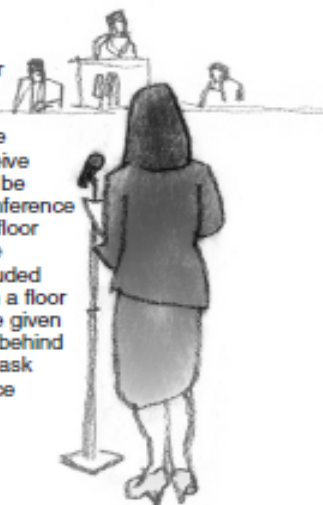
A motion to reconsider a vote may be made only by a member who voted with the prevailing side, but it can be seconded by anyone. If the majority votes to reconsider, full debate, pro and cons, is resumed.

Floor Actions

It is possible for a Conference action to come from the floor, but any matter which falls within the scope of a Conference committee ought first go through that Conference committee, so that the topic may receive due consideration. Floor actions may be introduced at any time during the Conference except at the Sharing Sessions. Any floor action regarding a piece of committee business that has not yet been concluded will be considered out of order. When a floor action is to be heard, its maker will be given two (2) minutes to state the rationale behind the action, after which the chair shall ask if there is a motion that the Conference decline to consider the floor action.

Declining to Consider a Floor Action

A motion to decline to consider a floor action is made without comment.



Rev. 11-2019

Summary of Conference Procedures

Remember:

- Motions must be made in order at the microphone.
- Address motions to the chair.

MOTION		Requires a "Second"?	Is Debatable?	Vote Required for Approval	Minority Voice Heard?
Committee Recommendation	Presented in the committee report.	Automatically seconded	YES	Two-thirds	YES
Amending a Motion	A motion on the floor is owned by the entire Conference body, no longer by the Committee which recommended it. The committee is not asked to vote on the motion to amend; any motion to amend a main motion depends on the approval of the Conference.	YES	YES	Two-thirds	YES
Tabling a Motion	Made without comment.	YES	NO	Simple Majority	NO
Moving to Recommit	Made without comment.	YES	YES	Two-thirds	NO
Calling the Question	Made without comment.	YES	NO	Two-thirds	NO
Reconsidering a Vote	May only be made by a member who voted with the prevailing side. No action may be reconsidered twice.	YES May be seconded by either side.	NO	Simple Majority	NO
Making a Floor Action	Made without comment. Introduced any time during the Conference except at the Sharing Sessions. Is submitted in writing by the maker to the Conference secretary.	YES	YES	Two-thirds	YES
Declining to Consider a Floor Action	Made without comment. May be made after the maker of a floor action is provided time to state the rationale for it.	YES	NO	Two-thirds	NO