

## **Delegates Report to the Area 82 Spring Assembly**

Hello friends I am an alcoholic member of the Third Tradition Group in Torbay, NL., District 15. I currently have the honour and privilege of serving as your Area 82 Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador Panel 73 Delegate to the GSC. My name is Gerry Whelan.

Much has happened since I was elected (in absentia due to covid) as your Panel 73 Delegate to Area 82.

We have had two Quarterly meetings of the Area 82 Officers and DCM's,

Attended many (didn't count) virtual District meetings, when invited and answered questions daily for folks all over Area 82. If I didn't have an immediate answer I (usually) got back to the individual as soon as I got an answer.

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, Area 82 conducted a workshop for the Incoming Panel 73 GSR's titled "Focus on GSR" The workshop took the form of a one hour presentation on the GSR role followed by a one hour Q&A session. While originally scheduled for 1 ½ hour, it was extended to two.

### **GSO Chair Resignation**

I represented Area 82 at four meetings between the General Service Board Trustees, GSO staff and the Panel 72 and 73 Conference delegates regarding the resignations from the General Service Board by Class A Trustee and Chair of the Board Linda Chezem on January 29<sup>th</sup> and Josh E. (Class B Trustee) who resigned from the GSB as a trustee director on the AA Grapevine corporate board on February 19<sup>th</sup>. We had our first meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>, a second on March 30<sup>th</sup>, a third between Linda Chezem and Delegates only, on April 10<sup>th</sup> and a final, fourth meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup> between Trustees, GSO staff and Delegates Each of these meetings were about two hours or more in length. My report back to the DCM's of Area 82 on this is available if you have not received it.

### **CERAASA 2023 St Catherines, Ontario**

Both the Alternate Delegate (Dwayne MacD) and I attended CERAASA (Canada Eastern Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly) in St Catherines in February where we both presented to the body. I presented on two of the Conference Agenda items under the Corrections Committee as well as Area 82 highlights. Dwayne presented on "Practising our Twelve Traditions Across all Group Settings".

Dwayne will be presenting the main report from CERAASA. I do, however, want to let everyone know that Area 82 was successful in it's bid to host this event in 2025. The past delegate for the Area which wins the successful bid is usually chosen to chair the event because they have at least two years experience with CERAASA. In this case our Panel 71 Delegate Trudy D is already laying the groundwork for the 2025 CERAASA event.

## **Area 82 April 1st Pre-Conference and Agenda Deliberations**

We received the Agenda items and background on February 16<sup>th</sup>, the Agenda items and background were assigned and distributed by February 19<sup>th</sup>. Literature background was not released until two days later.

I had sent an email around to all the DCMs of Area 82 prior to this asking if they were willing to participate in the pre-conference process. Twelve Districts indicated their willingness to participate, five districts did not. Of the twelve who indicated that they would participate, ten brought the results of their District deliberations to the Pre-Conference workshop.

The Pre-Conference Workshop was held on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The feedback from the Area membership, on the agenda items assigned to them through their DCM's, helped inform the decisions I made on your behalf at the 73<sup>rd</sup> GSC. Going forward, we should be able to improve the Pre-Conference process with a Continuous Improvement session sometime this summer.

## **73<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference**

I arrived in New York a day early.

### **Saturday**

My intent was to sit in on the early morning meeting regarding the upcoming 2035 International Convention meeting. Unfortunately, that meeting was open only to members of the ICRF committee.

- On Saturday we had the 1728 Meeting ( 12 Steps x 12 Traditions x 12 Concepts.) The name "1728" is taken from the meeting established by our Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees many years ago for the purpose of broadening their understanding of our Steps, Traditions and Concepts (12x12x12=1728). It was a wonderful sharing session and was my first opportunity to approach to microphone.
- The pre-conference Remote Communities Meeting started with opening remarks from the three Co chairs, during which we were told that The Remote Communities Communicator newsletter is now published in English, French and Spanish.  
This was followed by three separate presentations: one from Area 9, mid Southern California, one from Area 91 Saskatchewan, and one from Area 80, Winnipeg MB. Presentations from Area 80 and Area 91 focused on cultural and geographic remoteness in their respective areas. Both emphasized the need and difficulty of developing trust within indigenous communities.  
The presenter from Area 9 in mid Southern California focused upon the cultural barriers encountered by Hispanic women in a male dominated culture.

Misha Q (Treatment/Accessibilities-Remote Communities Coordinator) told us that GSO publishing has developed a spreadsheet listing all existing material translated into indigenous languages.

Trish LaMauze (Class A trustee at large for Canada) presented informally on her experiences with remote communities worldwide during her tenure as trustee at large for Canada.

This was followed by round table discussions with the topic of “How have you overcome obstacles with Remote Community (linguistic cultural and geographic)” during which I shared on our Remote Communities Committee success with the Makkovik Recovery Group.

- During the evening, the Delegates Chair (Tami L) conducted a team building exercise using Arts and Crafts, designed to be an ice breaker and general “get to know you” session. It was silly and fun and while the sculpture my randomly assigned team produced was creative, we were stretched to provide any artistic interpretation of the result. 😊

Before the session closed, a procedural question was brought up regarding the voting majority required to change voting procedures. An attempt was made to bring a motion to the floor which would change those voting procedures for the rest of the week. It was not entertained because the Conference was not in session (Trustees and Voting Staff were not in attendance)

## Sunday

- Jimmy D. Interim Chair (Class B Trustee) welcomed all hands to the 73<sup>rd</sup> GSC and quoted from a passage by Bill W in one of his 1966 talks which emphasised that there were “No absolutes” and that “Principles come before Personalities “in AA.
- Bob W GM, GSO asked that observers from the General Service Boards of Mexico, Peru and Poland be admitted as observers and that Jocelyn K. be allowed to represent Area 89 (Eastern Quebec) as the Delegate. Both the elected Delegate and Alternate Delegates for Area 89 had been unable to attend, and Jocelyn K had been selected to fill in. These recommendations were passed unanimously.
- Bob W. then proceeded to Roll call, but not before he displayed both his colorful socks and his flexibility. I can't begin to express the pride I felt when Area 82 was called. I simply stood and said “present” but the long list of past delegates from Area 82 who stood there before me and did the same flashed through my mind. That was an emotional moment.
- Tami L. (Delegate, Area 78, Alberta / NWT) brought greetings on behalf of the Panel 72 and 73 Delegates from her position as Delegates Chair.
- Diana L. , GSO Conference Coordinator, gave us an introduction and overview of our General Service Conference manual. It is an in-depth tome and I've gotten intimately familiar with it over the last couple of weeks. I would have been lost without it during the Conference and it has

become invaluable in putting this report together. This year there were 133 voting members, 25 Trustees, AAWS and GV/LV Directors, 15 General Service Staff and 93 Delegates

- Francis G. (Northeast Regional Trustee) delivered a keynote address in which he addressed the issues of Trust and leadership in a spiritual organization governed essentially by our Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts.
- Bob W then explained the mechanics of the Conference, voting procedures, substantial unanimity, floor recommendations and the use of the voting clickers.
- A workshop was then conducted on Dwayne's favourite topic "Practising our Twelve Traditions Across All Group Settings". Everybody in the room was broken into ten groups of approximately 13 people each. Each group had a moderator and a reporter. The results of this breakout session will be compiled and part of the final report. The breakout session was followed by a general sharing session. A couple of pertinent ideas I noted was that we could do virtual committee workbook studies and that we could perhaps schedule a 1728 meeting for one of our Area Assemblies or Round ups.
- This was followed by lunch with the Eastern Canada Delegates hosted by our eastern Canada regional trustee Joyce S
- The afternoon slot from 1:15 to 2:00 PM was scheduled for Area Service highlights from the Northeast and Southeast Region Panel 73 Delegates. This part of the proceedings was hijacked by two floor motions. The first was a floor motion to amend the rules of the Conference regarding the Voting percentages required to pass motions. This motion was ruled out of order. The second floor motion was to replace the Area Highlights portion of the program with discussion on three topics. They were;
  1. "Are the decisions of the GSB producing Unity and inspiring confidence in the Board?"
  2. "The GSB Code of Conduct"
  3. "Is the prudent reserve being used as the Conference intends",The motion was discussed for almost an hour until a motion was brought to "Table" the motion. This passed by simple majority and the motion was tabled until 1:30 on Monday
- Then followed a presentation from Carolyn W (Class B) who chairs the "Location Plus" ad hoc committee. The objective of this ad hoc committee was to consider the physical space needed to effectively and efficiently carry out the services requested by the AA fellowship through the GSO and Grapevine offices. The current building lease will expire on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The current average market value of office rental space in New York is \$46.00 per square foot. We currently pay \$21.16 because we are in a "Not for profit" category and the building is owned and operated by an "NPA". Location studies have been conducted approximately every ten years most recently in 2014.
- Joint meeting between The Conference Committee on Corrections and the Trustees . Dr Al Mooney, Deb K (AAWS Board Chair) represented the Trustees. Short meeting to make sure we

knew what issues we were addressing and to assure the Delegates on the Corrections Committee that they were available as a resource should we need them back in the room during our work.

- At the banquet that evening we had the pleasure of hearing inspirational shares from five members of AA who have long time Recovery across a broad spectrum of our fellowship. My favorite however was Susan U. Susan is a retired GSO staff member who spent most of her tenure before retirement, working with our archives.

## Monday

- I was randomly assigned a 6:45 to 7:45 am slot to examine the copyright protected work in progress that is the Plain Language translation of Edition 4 of the Big Book. I took some quiet time to meditate and calm my mind before I went in the Reading Room because I was aware that I already disliked the idea of a plain language Big Book. I freely admit to “contempt prior to investigation”. The Big Book and the Steps saved my life and just about every sentence, paragraph and even word placement are engraved into the bedrock of my mind. I was pleasantly surprised. Although the reading felt strange, this likely reflects my deep familiarity with, and fondness for, the original text. I believe that this translation will be a valuable tool but will never replace the original Big Book. It will not use the title “Alcoholics Anonymous” . I will have more detail at the extended Workshop on this report.
- From 9:00 am to 12:00 the Corrections Committee discussed and made recommendations on Agenda items A to C
  1. Consider a request to include content in existing A.A. literature on sponsorship of persons in custody by outside members of the Fellowship.
  2. Review content and format of Corrections Kit and Workbook.
  3. Discuss service piece, “Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare” (SMF-209) and its revisions.
- The afternoon session started with a motion to “un-table” the previous day’s floor motion to replace the Area Highlights portion of the agenda with the three discussion topics listed above. After considerable discussion the question was called, the original motion failed, minority voice was heard, a motion to reconsider passed, the original motion was again defeated.
- We proceeded then to Area Highlights. The Area Highlights which had already been passed over by discussion would be added back in where the schedule allowed.
- Monday afternoon was taken up with board reports. Jimmy D presented his GSB report summary, Deb K presented the AAWS Board report summary, Mike L presented the AA Grapevine board summary while Marita R presented the World Service meeting report.

- Monday evening Kevin Prior (Class A) presented on the Finances. I will show his entire presentation at the extended Workshop.

- **Audit Results Findings**

1. Completed on schedule
2. Unmodified or “clean” audit opinion
3. The financial statements are fairly stated in all material respects
4. No material weaknesses
5. No significant deficiencies
6. 5 recommendations (3 AAWS and 2 GV) compared to 5 in 2021

- **2022 GSO Financial Highlights**

1. 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition of Self-Support – \$10.55 million down 2.1% from \$10.78 million in 2021
2. Operating Expense - \$17.82 million up 19.9% from \$14.86 million in 2021
  - Program Service Expense - \$7.17 million down 2.7% from \$7.37 million in 2021
  - Supporting Services Expense - \$10.65 million up 42.2% from \$7.49 million in 2021
3. Self-Support - covered 59% of operating expense
4. AAWS publishing gross profits – \$4.89 million down 22.3% from \$6.29 million in 2021
5. Operating deficit of \$1,579,305; operating cash decrease of \$2,064,135

*\* Operating expense returned to historical levels after being unusually low due to the pandemic in 2020 and 2021.*

- **2022 Grapevine Financial Highlights**

1. Grapevine paid print subscriptions decreased 6.7% in 2022. Subscriptions for the online and mobile app magazine decreased 27.6%
2. 2022 Grapevine results were a gross margin on subscriptions of \$789,246 and a net profit of \$674,515 on other published items. Operating expenses of 1,882,701 resulted in an operating loss of \$404,940 compared to a loss of \$112,618 in 2021.
3. General Fund support of La Viña service activity was \$636,604 in 2022, compared to \$388,646 in 2021.
4. La Viña magazine circulation increased by 4.3% in 2022 compared to a 12.4% decrease in 2021 after several prior years of pre-pandemic growth.

- **2023 GSO Budget**

1. Operating revenue \$18,791,320 compared to \$15,910,334 in 2022.  
Contributions \$10,500,000 compared to \$10,548,525 in 2022.  
Literature gross margin \$7,950,000 compared to \$4,894,113 in 2022.

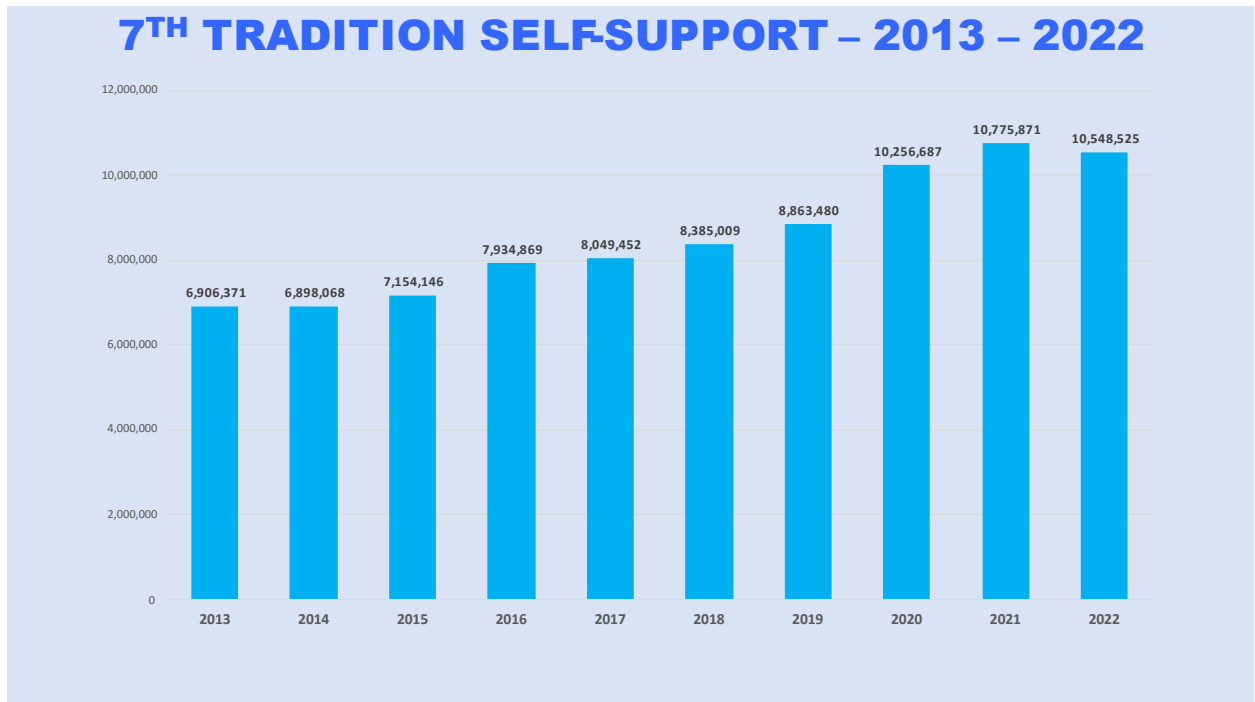
2. Total operating expense \$17,085,479 before \$1.2M depreciation compared to \$17,821,142 in 2022.
3. Operating surplus of \$505,841 after depreciation compared to \$1,579,305 deficit in 2022.

- **2023 Grapevine Budget**

1. Print magazine circulation to decrease to 47,751 from 52,321 in 2022.
2. Online and e-Pub circulation to decrease to 4,719 from 6,492 in 2022.
3. 1,500 new app subscribers.
4. Gross margin on subscriptions \$547,709 compared to \$789,246 in 2022.
5. Grapevine net surplus of \$68,414 compared to a deficit of \$404,940 in 2022.
6. La Viña magazine circulation to decrease to 6,415 compared to 6,685 in 2022.
7. General Fund La Viña support of \$653,579 compared to \$636,604 in 2022.

- **7<sup>th</sup> Tradition**

\$10,548,525.00 for 2022, down slightly from 2021



- **AAWS Publishing**

1. Both Gross and Net sales of Literature are up but Gross profit is down mostly because of increased cost of literature printing. Hence the increase in literature prices

**AAWS – PUBLISHING – 2022 ACTUAL vs 2022 BUDGET**

	2022 ACTUAL	2022 BUDGET	INCREASE (DECREASE)
Gross Sales – Literature	11,999,441	11,000,000	999,441
Discounts	(479,173)	(550,000)	(70,827)
Shipping Charges	277,893	330,000	(52,107)
Net Sales - Literature	11,795,265	10,780,000	1,015,265
Cost of Literature Sold- Printing	6,901,151	5,390,000	1,511,151
Gross Profit	4,894,113	5,390,000	(495,887)
Gross Profit Percentage	41.5%	50.0%	(8.5%)

- **Literature Price Increase**

1. Generally 20% on Books
2. Generally 30% on Pamphlets
3. Generally 20% on Miscellaneous Items
4. Some items may have a different % increase due to rounding
5. Some items not increased to maintain accessibility
6. Applies only to English, French, and Spanish titles

- **Prudent Reserve**

1. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 the Prudent Reserve stood at \$12,852,286.00. Based on 2022 expenses this represented 8.32 months of expenses. Based on 2023 expenses this would represent 7.29 months of expenses
2. On December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 the Prudent Reserve stood at \$12,939,060.00. Based on 2022 expenses this represented 8.38 months of expenses. Based on 2023 expenses this would represent 7.35 months of expenses



- General Sharing session followed the financial presentation.

## **Tuesday**

- The highlight of the 7:30 Serenity meeting was watching a Delegate present her daughter (guest) with a one-year chip.
- Although Tuesday was a busy day it can be summarized quickly. In the morning we were busy with Corrections Committee work where we further deliberated and made recommendations on the Agenda items assigned to us. Our Committee chair Kirk W. was surprised with a 40 year medallion from the Committee.
- This was followed by a guided tour of the GSO offices and Archives. Everything I saw and touched, everyone I met, deepened the spiritual experience. I am truly blessed that you folk trusted me to represent Area 82 as your Delegate.
- At the Delegates Only banquet we elected a new Delegate Chair, Mary A from Area 14, while thanking outgoing chair Tami L (Alberta / NWT)
- More Area Highlights from the Panel 73 Delegates, including me representing Area 82. Late night.

## **Wednesday**

- On Wednesday morning the various Committees started presenting their Recommendations and Additional Committee Considerations. Recommendations must be passed by a 2/3 majority. Recommendations which come out of Committee are assumed to be already seconded. Floor actions must be presented in writing and be seconded. If passed, they then become Conference Advisory Actions. Agenda items may also get Additional Committee Consideration. This means that an item was discussed by a Conference Committee, but no action was taken or made by the conference body as a whole.
- In the afternoon elections were held to replace rotating trustees for Northeast Region (Francis G.), Southwest Region (Jimmy D) and Trustee at Large for Canada (Trish LaN). Only Delegates from the affected Regions were eligible to vote. All three elections eventually “went to the hat” and Ken T was chosen NE Regional Trustee, Theresa J became SW Regional Trustee and Robert LaL. Became Trustee at Large for Canada.
- In the evening we had a general sharing session followed by more Committee Reports and Discussion

## Committee Reports and Discussion

- The 13 Committees Reports and ensuing Discussion did not occur in the usual “I-XIII” Agenda and Background list we have become familiar with and were scattered throughout the schedule from Wednesday to Friday. I will present them in order from I to XIII as, I think, this will be easier to follow.
- I will detail Committee Recommendations only here. Additional Committee Considerations will require at least an hour in their own right, so with the permission of the Area, I will push discussion of them to the upcoming extended Area 82 virtual Workshop.
- **Conference Committee on Agenda**
  - A. The committee recommended the following theme for the 2024 General Service Conference: “Connecting with Love, Unity and Service.” **(Passed 128 to 1)**
  - B. The committee recommended the following presentation theme and topics for the 2024 General Service Conference: Presentation Theme: “Responsibility in Service: When and How to Give”  
Presentation Topics:
    1. “Safety throughout the Structure in our Fellowship”
    2. “1728 Sponsorship”
    3. “Overcoming the Barriers to Participation” **(Passed 126 to 3)**
  - C. The committee recommended the following workshop topic for the 2024 General Service Conference: “Connecting Home Groups to the Conference Throughout the Year, to Better Inform the Group’s Conscience.” **(Passed 125 to 2)**
  - D. Consider request to suspend reading the Area Highlights from the 73rd General Service Conference and include in the 2023 Conference *Final Report*, to allow discussion. **Note: The Conference Committee on Agenda caucused during the opening session of the General Service Conference to consider this motion from the floor regarding changing the Conference week schedule. The motion failed.**
  - E. The committee recommended that the General Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself during the 2025 General Service Conference and that a Conference Planning Committee be established by the General Service Board to develop a comprehensive inventory plan, timeline and cost

estimate, to bring forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on Agenda for consideration. **(Motion to Recommit Failed 27-104; Motion Passed 99-32)**

- **Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community**

- A. The committee recommended that the pamphlet “A.A. in Your Community” be approved with minor editorial changes. **(Passed 128 to 2)**

- **Conference Committee on Corrections**

- A. The committee recommended that item #5. in the Procedures of the Conference Committee on Corrections which currently reads: “To maintain communication with committee secretary and other committee members during the year.” Be revised, to read: “To maintain communication with committee secretary and other committee members during the year.” **(Passed 130 to 1)**
- B. The committee recommended that the following section be added to the pamphlet “A.A. in Correctional Facilities” on page 12 between the sections titled “Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS) – a special kind of A.A. service” and “The following-through – released A.A. persons in custody”:  
**Sponsorship:** “Like all A.A. members, persons in custody can benefit from sponsorship. For more information, please refer to the Corrections Kit and Workbook or contact your local Corrections committee.” **(Passed 127 to 4)**

- **Conference Committee on Finance**

- A. The committee recommended that the materials produced and maintained by A.A. World Services, AA Grapevine, La Viña, and the General Service Office (GSO), clarify that the General Service Board is the entity which receives all voluntary A.A. contributions and that GSO performs contribution processing. Any text changes should be implemented when each item comes up for reprint or revision **(Passed 121 to 3)**
- B. The committee recommended that the suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference be increased from \$1,800 to \$2,200. **(Passed 123 to 4)**

The committee recommended that the Trustees Finance & Budgetary Committee develop additional ways to report quarterly the fiscal performance of the AAWS, GSB and GV Boards throughout the year to the members of the General Service Conference for the purposes of

transparency and assisting in the reporting to the A.A. Fellowship. **(Passed 126 to 4)**

- **Conference Committee on the AA Grapevine and LaVina**

- A. The committee recommended that alternate delegates be provided access to the same Conference materials as their sitting delegates, except for materials shared during Conference week. **Passed 97-33, Motion to Reconsider Passed, 65-62; 9 (Revote on Original motion Failed 80 to 49) 2/3 Majority is 85**

- **Conference Committee on Literature**

- A. The committee recommended that the revised draft of the existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” be approved. except materials shared during Conference week. **(Passed 122 to 6)**
- B. The committee recommended that the print version of the pamphlet “Too Young” be retired and that the content be repurposed as an animation video at an estimated cost no higher than \$70,000. The committee requested that a progress report or a rough cut of the video be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature. **(AMENDMENT: APPRX COST OF \$70K: FAILED 56-75) (Passed 104 to 26)**
- C. The committee recommended that the work on the draft pamphlet based on A.A.’s Three Legacies be ceased. The committee noted that the material gathered would be most useful as service material. **(Passed 109 to 14)**

- **Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions**

- A. The committee recommended that the “Process for Polling the General Service Conference Between Annual Meetings Using Virtual Technology” be approved “as per suggested amendments” ed: **(Will read in full at upcoming workshop) Two amendments failed (Passed 92 to 36)**
- B. The committee recommended that, to foster unity, trust, and transparency in the Fellowship, the members of the General Service Conference meet outside of the annual meeting for general sharing sessions at least two times per year

utilizing virtual meeting technology. The General Service Board Chair and Delegate Chair will set the date and time as well as determine what issues currently facing the Fellowship would be chosen as topics. **After two proposed amendments failed (Passed 118 to 12)**

- C. Recommendations to admit three observers and Jocelyn C from Area 89 NE Quebec was accepted unanimously earlier in the week.

- **Conference Committee on Public Information**

- A. The committee recommended that the Membership Survey pamphlet be updated to reflect the findings from the 2022 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey, with minor editorial changes. **(Passed 120 to 9)**
- B. The committee recommended that the AAWS Board prepare sufficient periodic analytics reporting on our current communications platforms to be provided to the trustees' Public Information Committee and the Conference Committee on Public Information. **(Passed 127 to 3)**

- **Conference Committee on Report and Charter**

- A. The committee recommended that *The A.A. Service Manual* not be printed in 2023 and that a new edition be published biannually (i.e., every two years), beginning in 2024. **(Passed 125 to 5)**  
The committee recommended that a full rewrite be conducted of chapters 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 to correct inaccuracies and to better clarify the roles, responsibilities and relationships between the General Service Office, AA Grapevine, and A.A. World Services, Inc. in *The A.A. Service Manual* and that the trustees' Literature Committee forward these draft sections or a progress report to the 2024 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. **(Passed 118 to 10) Motion to Reconsider failed**
- B. The committee recommended that anonymity-protected Conference *Final Reports* be posted annually on aa.org beginning with the 2023 General Service Conference. **(Passed 114 to 16)**

- **Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities**

- A. The committee recommended that the revised pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic—Never too Late" be approved with minor edits in a format that does not require folding. **(Passed 120 to 9)**

- B. The committee recommended that the 22 interviews recorded to date as part of the Military Audio project be approved, giving the General Service Office (GSO) the latitude to distribute the audio interviews in various formats and on various platforms, and that an update report be provided to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities. **(Passed 118 to 0)**

- **Conference Committee on Trustees**

- A. The committee recommended that the following slate of trustees of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 29, 2023, following presentation at the 2023 General Service Conference for disapproval if any: **(Passed 107 to 25)**  
The committee recommended that the following slate of officers of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 29, 2023, following presentation at the 2023 General Service Conference for disapproval if any: **(Passed 103 to 28)**
- B. The committee recommended that the following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board on April 29, 2023, following presentation at the 2023 General Service Conference for disapproval if any: **(Passed 107 to 23)**
- C. The committee recommended that the following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the AA Grapevine Corporate Board on April 29, 2023, following presentation at the 2023 General Service Conference for disapproval if any: **(Passed 114 to 19)**

- **Conference Committee on Archives**

- A. No Recommendations. Committee Considerations only, which will be covered at the upcoming extended Area 82 virtual Workshop on this report.

- **Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums**

- A. The committee recommended that the following three cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2035: Phoenix, Arizona, Indianapolis, Indiana, New Orleans, Louisiana **(Passed 130 to 1)**
- B. The committee recommended that up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2025 International Convention at A.A.'s expense. **(Passed 127 to 4)**

## Thursday

- On Thursday until noon we were back into Committee Reports and Discussion
- After lunch we had a presentation / discussion on “General Service – Our Mighty Purpose and Rhythm” moderated by ECRT Joyce S.

### **Presenters:**

- a) Sherry S. Area 55, Northwest Ohio, “Our Common Perils and Common Solution”
  - b) Richard McC, Area 80, Manitoba, “Fostering a Three Legacy Culture”
  - c) Cara G, Area 41, Nebraska, “Using A. A.’s Literature in Carrying the Message”
- The rest of the day was spent in Committee Reports and Discussion. Short breaks, dinner and a sharing session were interspersed for the sake of sanity.

## Friday

- Friday morning until noon we were back into Committee Reports and Discussion.
- Before lunch we had a “Participation of Online Groups Discussion (POGs)” moderated by Trish LaN, Trustee-at-Large/Canada Chair, Participation of Online Groups Ad Hoc Committee. This presentation will be covered at the upcoming extended Area 82 virtual Workshop on this report.
- After Lunch we had a discussion focused on the Plain Language Translation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Big Book. It was moderated by John W AAWS Non-Trustee Director who is chair of the Plain Language Translation Subcommittee. The first draft is expected to be complete late May or early June of 2023. Edits to the first draft will be made based on the feedback from the Delegates who were given a one hour slot to get an impression of the direction being taken with the translation. The feedback was mostly positive with substantial caution expressed. This discussion and my impressions / notes will be covered at the upcoming extended Area 82 virtual Workshop as well.

## Floor Actions and Discussion

- After the Plain Language Discussion we started to address the ten Floor Actions which had been brought over the course of the week.

- If passed, Floor Actions become Advisory Actions. If not, they may possibly be sent to the appropriate committee for further deliberation or they may be dismissed by a motion to “decline to hear”
- Floor Action # 1 It was recommended that: Starting in 2024, voting for trustee elections may utilize paper or electronic ballots. **Motion to decline (failed) Original motion Passed after discussion 98 – 32 opposed (substantial unanimity, (2/3 majority) was 87)**
- Floor Action #2 It was recommended that: The 2016 Conference Advisory Action stating: “General Service Conference delegates be provided a copy of the final approved annual General Service Office and AA Grapevine budgets with the Pre-Conference material for all future Conferences” be reconfirmed. **Motion to decline (Passed) 91 – 39 (substantial unanimity, (2/3 majority) was 87)**
- Floor Action #3 It was recommended that: The 73rd General Service Conference censure the General Service Board due to poor communication to the Fellowship regarding the resignation of the former Chair of the General Service Board and for the process that was followed regarding the acceptance of her resignation. **Motion to decline (failed) Motion to amend the word “censure” to “reprimand in private” failed, Voting on the original motion was 24 in favor 104 opposed (87 was 2/3 majority) Motion failed**
- Floor Action #4 It was recommended that: To enhance trust among General Service Conference members, the following actions be taken;
  - I. The General Service Board prepare a report delineating the history of their Confidentiality Policy and the reason(s) for enacting it, submitting it for review to the Conference Trustees’ Committee at the 2024 General Service Conference.
  - II. The General Service Board initiate a review regarding the need for a less restrictive Confidentiality Policy, submitting a draft or progress report to the Conference Trustees’ Committee at the 2024 General Service Conference.
  - III. The existing Confidentiality Policy of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., be made null and void.

Motion to decline (**passed**) 94 in favor 38 opposed a

- Floor Action #5 It was recommended that: In an effort to improve communication, ensure Board policies are reflective of our principles, and re-establish a relationship of trust between the General Service Conference, the General Service Board and the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, the General Service Board is asked to undertake an inventory prior to the 74<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. To assist the Board in this endeavor, the 73<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference will establish a working group to aid the General Service Board in formulating possible inventory questions. **Motion to decline (failed) 79 in favor 52 opposed After much discussion the question was called (112 to 19 ) in favor Vote on the original motion failed ( 74 for**



51 opposed) 2/3 majority of 84 was not achieved Minority voice was heard. A motion to reconsider the original motion was made and seconded (This **Passed** 112 to 19) (no minority voice is heard on a motion to reconsider) After considerable further discussion the question was called and seconded (121 in favor 11 opposed) The original motion was voted upon and **passed** 118 to 14 opposed

- Floor Action #6 It was recommended that: The General Service Board create an Ad Hoc Joint committee on Communications throughout out service structure that includes trustees, delegates, and staff members. **Motion to decline (passed) 110 in favor 19 opposed (this action is already underway)**
- Floor Action #7 It was recommended that: Following the work of the trustees' ad hoc committee on policy review, Conference members be asked to sign a code of conduct which guides how we work together including but not limited to:
  1. Confidentiality
  2. Communications
  3. Mutual respect
  4. Social media
  5. Transparency

This code should include an acknowledgement that mistakes will be made and should suggest mechanisms for righting any wrongs. This code should follow in spirit and language the principles outlined in our 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts and our Conference Charter. This code should be reviewed annually by the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions.

**Motion to decline (failed) 84 in favor 48 opposed (88 would be 2/3 majority) After discussion the motion failed when it was put to a vote ( 28 for 102 opposed) The minority voice was called. No one changed their original vote.**

- Floor Action #8 It was recommended that: The General Service Board begin to develop supplemental reporting focused on the actual costs of the various service items we provide, with an initial draft being brought back to the Conference Committee on Finance for review at the 74<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. These reports should include the budgeted costs of these items, any changes to the budgeted amounts, the long-term trends of the costs, as well as a reasonable projection of future costs for the services, when possible. Expenses to consider shall be regarding initial development, ongoing content creation, maintenance & upkeep, as well as any other substantive ancillary costs. **Motion to decline (passed) 102 in favor 29 opposed (88 is 2/3 majority)**
- Floor Action #9 It was recommended that: ( Two page rambling policy draft) I can bring it up if you guys want but the Conference voted to not hear it. **Motion to decline (passed) 119 in favor 10 opposed (Original proposer offered to withdraw the motion but Interim chair ruled that because the motion had been seconded the better course was to accept the motion to decline.**
- Floor Action #10 It was recommended that: The options for closing the Big Meeting at the International Convention be the Serenity Prayer or the Responsibility Statement. **Motion to decline (failed) 80 in favor 50 opposed. After considerable discussion a motion was made to recommit this motion to the Trustees ICRF Committee. This motion passed (86 for and 40 opposed) 86 was 2/3 majority. It was 1:30 Saturday morning by then.**

- After the Floor Actions were concluded at 1:30 am Saturday morning, the Panel 72 Delegates were each given a minute to say their farewells and to try to sum up their past two years of Service.
- Jimmy D., Interim Chair gave his closing remarks and the 73rd GSC formally closed at 2:30am Saturday morning with the Serenity Prayer.

## **Saturday**

- On Saturday morning we took part in a Closing Breakfast where we heard from the three rotating Trustees, Jimmy D, Francis G and Trish LaN. We closed with the Responsibility pledge.

\*I will ask the Area 82 body for feedback on a reasonable date for the follow-up Workshop. At this workshop I will present more detail on the G.S.B. Report Summary by Jimmy D, A.A.W.S. Board Report Summary by Deb K, A.A. Grapevine Board Summary by Mike L, World Service Meeting Report by Marita R, Finance Report by Kevin P (Around the Picnic Table), Participation of Online Groups GSB Ad-Hoc Committee, Grapevine / LaVina Apps, Location Plus by Carolyn W

**Gerry W. A82, P73**  
**Corrections Committee**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gerry W.', written in a cursive style.