

Southwest Regional Trustee Report
GENERAL SERVICE BOARD WEEKEND
October 26-30, 2023

by Teresa Jacks - General Service Board Class B Southwest Regional Trustee

In this rotation year (May 2023-April 2024) I serve on the following committees:

Trustees Finance and Budgetary Committee

Trustees Literature Committee and sub-committee on **Plain Language Big Book**

Location Plus ad hoc committee

Overview

A lot of work was accomplished over the course of the 5 day “weekend.” Most of Thursday was spent selecting a new Chair of the GSB. We began by meeting with an executive hiring consultant, followed by interviewing three candidates who had been selected by the Trustees Nominating Committee. After a lengthy discussion, we elected the Chair using A.A.’s Third Legacy Procedure. Our selection, of course, will not be complete unless and until the new Chair, Scott H., is affirmed at the General Service Conference in April.

On Thursday evening, we had a “Board Huddle” where we explored concepts such as inclusivity at all levels of the service structure, intrinsic bias, and how to make ourselves more attractive to those who aren’t in the room.

We heard many interesting and encouraging reports during the corporate board meetings on Friday. As the world rebuilds after the past 3 years, so does A.A. We have been able to resume publishing books and pamphlets and getting back to providing services to our groups. Our General Service Office has implemented an organizational/communication platform, OnBoard, that promises to be more powerful and easier to navigate than our old Dashboard. In fact, I based the report this quarter on reports that were made available only through the OnBoard platform. Staff have worked diligently together to present a consistent feel to reports. Grapevine has a new digital app that our fellowship seems to be excited about.

GSB Committee meetings began, as always, on Saturday morning and continued through Sunday Morning. Each committee reviewed their budgets for 2024 and most had PAIs to review for the 2024 Conference. The chairpersons had all previously met with their corresponding Conference Committee to get input on the PAIs. The group conscience of each committee was taken with careful consideration of all perspectives. All of these meetings also included enthusiastic reports on current projects and future ideas. I have separated the PAI results for your convenience.

There is no lollygagging during lunch and dinner; that is when we hold AA meetings and sharing sessions. We had a 1728 AA meeting, a speaker meeting and a sharing session on the principle of mutual trust. I cannot give you a detailed report on the AA meetings, obviously, but I have included in a report on the general sharing session.

This information is meant to help you communicate with members by choosing the news most important to your Area. Feel free to pick and choose what you want to share.

Submitted in Love and Gratitude,

Teresa Jacks

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Trustees' Archives Committee

Present: Reilly K, chairperson; Morgan B, Cathi C, Al Mooney (via videoconference), Paz P, Joyce S, and Michelle Mirza, secretary.

Chair's remarks: The chair noted the 50th anniversary of the committee, which held its first meeting in October 1973.

Archives 2024 Preliminary Budget: The committee reviewed the 2024 Archives preliminary budget and **agreed to forward** it to the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee.

Report from GSO Communication Services Department: The committee discussed the report from GSO's Communication Services Department and accepted it with appreciation, noting some of the issues that were resolved. The committee requested that the Archivist keep the committee apprised of future developments and ideas related to Archives pages on GSO's website.

GSO Archives Audiovisual Preservation Survey Report: The committee engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the Archives department's "Audiovisual Preservation Survey Report." The report included basic information about the collection, documented concerns on maintaining audiovisual assets and a proposed phased plan to help inform future decisions around preservation and appropriate storage for these media types. Following discussion, the committee directed the Archivist to proceed with the first part of Phase 1 of the plan and **provide status updates** at their future quarterly meetings. Phase 1 to begin in January 2024 with a proposed completion date by December 2024, or earlier, if feasible.

Digital distribution of archival photographs: The committee reviewed a sample of digital archival photographs with suggested copyright text, previously furnished via email for committee's feedback. The committee expressed satisfaction with the placement and language of the copyright text.

New business: The committee engaged in discussion around some of the challenges faced by local A.A. Archives in terms of housing archives and finances to support these efforts. It was shared that local A.A. Archives are autonomous entities and GSO Archives staff provide guidance and shared experiences accordingly.

Trustees' General Service Conference Committee

Present: Carolyn W, chairperson; Cathi C, Vera F, Tom H, Mike L (GSB Interim Chair), Paz P, Irma V, John W, Bob W (General Manager), and Diana L, secretary.

2024 budget: The committee reviewed the 2024 Conference budget and agreed to incorporate cost savings of approximately \$112,000 suggested in the progress report from the Conference Improvements Subcommittee. The committee agreed to forward the 2024 Conference budget, with the cost savings, to the Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee.

Subcommittee on Inventory: The committee received a progress report from the Inventory subcommittee noting the completion of questions for the GSB inventory questions and plan. The subcommittee chair also shared that the Conference Inventory Planning Committee was

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selected and will start to meet in early November. The committee looks forward to receiving a progress report at the January 2024 meeting. The committee **recommended** that the General Service Board adopt the GSB Inventory plan that includes questions, and materials.

Subcommittee on Conference Improvements: The committee received a progress report from the Improvements Subcommittee noting their review of the feedback form the 73rd GSC, and the subcommittees suggestions to improve the experience with interpretation, time for questions following Board reports, and providing Conference Materials Binder and schedule well in advance to Conference Members. The committee looks forward to receiving a progress report at the January meeting.

Subcommittee on EDW: The committee received a progress report from the EDW subcommittee noting that a survey was translated and sent to Conference Members with a November 15 due date. The subcommittee will meet November 1 to distribute forwarded items and develop an EDW plan. The committee looks forward to receiving a progress report at the January meeting.

Interim Committee Meeting: The committee agreed to move the following items to an interim meeting to be scheduled:

- Update on providing Conference background simultaneously in English, French and Spanish.
- Discuss the timely distribution of Conference materials.
- Consider request to observe the 74th GSC.
- Review updated Draft of 2024 Conference Week Schedule.
- Timing and process for registering elected delegates and alternates.
- Discuss assignment of P74 delegates to conference committees
- Consider a request from Conference Committee on Corrections for rebalancing 1st year and 2nd year delegates.
- Consider a simple majority Item regarding Alternate Delegate Access to the Dashboard.
- Discuss handling of Conference actions with simple majority but not substantial unanimity.
- Discuss Future General Service Conference

New Business: The committee received a request from Clint M, TABB subcommittee chair, to explore ways to accommodate more time for Conference Members to review the Plain Language Big Book during the Conference week. The committee agreed to forward this request to the Conference Improvements Subcommittee who has developed a draft of the Conference week. The committee noted that any solutions to the Conference week schedule that changes the 2024 Conference Budget would be brought back to the full committee.

General Service Conference Banquet: The committee continued the discussion regarding the GSC banquet that began in January 2023. Further discussion with a focus on fiscal responsibility, guiding principles, and logistical and financial concerns occurred. The next steps are to complete the review of invitees and the consideration of any needed changes,

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including potential policy development. This matter will be further discussed at an upcoming interim meeting to ensure sufficient time to communicate any changes made that may impact the banquet at the 74th GSC. Concurrently the committee will continue to review available information and consider any additional proposed future changes.

Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment/Accessibilities

Present: Kerry Meyer, chairperson; Teddy B, Morgan B, Reilly K, Al Mooney (via videoconference), Marita R, Gerry C, Thomas P, and co-secretaries Michael R and Kelley C.

Composition, Scope, and Procedure: The committee reviewed a revised Composition, Scope and Procedure. The committee **recommended** to the General Service Board that the language in the Scope be changed as follows to add a new scope #8, changing the total amount from 10 to 11 items:

The committee is responsible for:

8. Review requests by CPC/Treatment/Accessibilities and Remote Committees for new literature translations for members and potential members in the U.S./Canada. The committee may, on a case-by-case basis, forward translation requests to the trustees' International Committee for consideration, keeping in mind expressed needs and costs.

Part II – Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)

Staff Report: Staff reported on the ways we continue to inform professionals through the aa.org website, at professional conferences, and updated the committee on ways to further engage local CPC committees.

Review 2024 CPC Budget: The committee reviewed and accepted the trustees' CPC 2024 Budget and agreed to forward it to the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee.

Effectiveness of CPC exhibits: The committee noted the update given by the CPC staff secretary outlining the 2024 exhibits calendar. The committee offered suggestions for specific events to attend to broaden the array of professionals we inform about our program of recovery, and encouraged the desk to continue to explore these events and other events focusing on a breadth of professions. Staff will continue to explore ways to engage local Fellowship volunteers to improve the feedback submitted from the events to continue our efforts to improve the effectiveness of national CPC exhibits.

Progress report on LinkedIn: The committee reviewed the progress report on the LinkedIn page and the Q4 analytics. The committee received a verbal update from Communication Services on the engagement of posts by LinkedIn users and the improved, consistent cadence of posts. The Communication Services Department followed up on the July 2023 trustees' CPC/T-A Committee discussion on embedding videos on the platform and how the AAWS Technology/Communication/Services (TCS) Committee is exploring a wider

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conversation about creating a policy for posting videos to social media platforms and will continue to provide updates as they continue to develop that policy.

Review suggestions to develop a pamphlet for Mental Health Professionals: The committee reviewed the progress report on the development of the pamphlet for Mental Health Professionals and was informed that the first two rounds of interviews were complete. The committee noted the enthusiasm of several of the interview subjects and their offer to advise us on potential drafts of the pamphlet. The committee recommended that the materials gathered to date be forwarded to the AAWS Publishing Department for the creation of a draft pamphlet. The committee looks forward to a draft pamphlet or progress report at the January 2024 meeting.

CPC Committee Kit and Workbook: The committee noted that the suggestions and revisions to the CPC Kit and Workbook have been forwarded to Publishing and are in the process of translation before being posted to the aa.org website and printed. The committee looks forward to an update on the printing at the January 2024 meeting.

Update on Final CPC service cards: The committee was informed that the final draft of the CPC service card has been sent to Publishing and the card will be made available to the Fellowship on aa.org. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the January 2024 meeting.

Review effectiveness of CPC videos on aa.org: The committee discussed ways to update the videos focused for professionals and what approaches should be considered concerning the content, cost, and other factors that would influence the development of new CPC videos. The committee noted that the language used is changing and suggested that staff consider content that focuses on “pre-professionals” who are likely to view the video while not being at the level of a doctor or lawyer, but medical assistants, paralegals, and support staff to the professionals. The committee agreed to communicate future suggestions to the staff to keep the project fully informed. The committee requested staff explore these suggestions and work with Communication Services to bring background and an update report to the January 2024 meeting.

Part III – Treatment

Review progress report on the pamphlet “Bridging the Gap”: The committee reviewed a draft of the revised pamphlet P-49 “Bridging the Gap” and **agreed to forward** the pamphlet to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities with minor edits.

Review progress report on new A.A. Guidelines on Bridging the Gap and other service materials: The committee accepted the progress report on Bridging the Gap service materials. The committee appreciated the work done to date on the A.A. Guidelines on Bridging the Gap and **agreed to forward** to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities for their consideration.

Discuss the usefulness and relevance of the video “Hope”: The committee discussed the video “Hope” and determined it is outdated, long and needs to be revised to remain useful in treatment committee service work. The committee **agreed to forward** the video for review to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

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Review the pamphlet “A.A. in Treatment Settings”: The committee reviewed the “A.A. in Treatment Settings” pamphlet and concluded revisions were needed and **agreed to forward** to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities a request to discuss revisions to the pamphlet.

Review the flier “Where do I go from here?”: The committee reviewed the flyer “Where do I go from here” and concluded revisions were needed. The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities a request to discuss revisions to the flyer.

Review Progress Report on Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook: The committee accepted the progress report on the updates made to the treatment kit and workbook.

Part IV – Accessibilities

Preliminary discussion of the 2024 budget: The committee accepted the preliminary budget and **agreed to forward** it to the Trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee.

Military Outreach Project: The committee listened to an edited audio interview with a member serving in the military. The committee expressed support for three newly edited interviews and the need for this project in our communities. The Appointed Committee Members (ACM) noted they were overwhelmed with gratitude for leading the project. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the January 2024 meeting.

Inventory of Accessibilities-related A.A. and AA GV/LV resources and outreach: The committee reviewed the report of A.A. publications that address accessibilities issues. The committee **agreed to forward** the report to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

Carrying the message to those with intellectual or information-processing challenges: The committee reviewed a report on the service materials that could be updated to address members with intellectual or information-processing challenges. The committee suggested reaching out to ICYPAA for an archive recording of their workshop on A.A. members and neurodivergence. The committee **agreed to forward** the report to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

A.A. Guidelines for Remote Communities: The committee accepted the report and updated guidelines. The staff secretary is working with Publishing to finalize the guidelines.

Review updates to Accessibilities Kit and Workbook: The committee reviewed the 2023 updated Accessibilities workbook and kit and made no suggestions.

Review the pamphlet “Access to All: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers”: The committee asked that a table of contents be added the next time this pamphlet is up for reprint. The staff secretary will forward this request to AAWS Publishing.

Review Remote Communities and Elder Community Resource Lists: The committee reviewed the Remote Communities and Elder Community resource lists and **agreed to forward** to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities for their review.

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Discuss Conference Background to be ready by the November 13th deadline: The committee accepted the verbal report from the co-secretaries that the necessary Conference Background will be ready by the November 13th deadline.

Trustees' Committee on Corrections

Present: Andie Moss (chair), Clint M, Robert L, Teddy B, Kerry Meyer, Cindy F, and Eileen A, secretary.

Review Composition, Scope, and Procedures: The committee reviewed and approved the suggested revisions to the Composition, Scope and Procedures.

The committee recommended to the General Service Board that under Scope item #2 of the Composition, Scope and Procedures which currently reads:

2. Developing materials to assist A.A. members in prison Twelfth Step work. These materials include suggestions for cooperating with prison administrators and corrections personnel in order to hold A.A. meetings in facilities, for “sponsoring” A.A. prison groups, and for providing prerelease sponsorship information.

be changed to:

2. Developing materials to assist A.A. members in Twelfth Step work in all correctional settings. These materials include suggestions for cooperating with correctional administrators and personnel in order to hold A.A. meetings in facilities, for “sponsoring” A.A. groups in all correctional settings, and for providing prerelease sponsorship information.

And that the last paragraph of the Scope which currently reads:

All these activities draw upon and are enhanced by the shared experience of local institutions, committees and individual prison Twelfth Step workers.

be changed to:

All these activities draw upon and are enhanced by shared experience provided by members volunteering in local institutions, committees and correctional facilities.

Staff Report: A highlight was the meeting with Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) and the Canadian A.A. corrections trusted servants to reestablish collaboration to better assist in getting A.A. services into all 43 federal facilities. This was the first meeting of its kind and over 50 professionals and A.A. trusted servants were on the call. Shared experience was provided by an A.A. member experienced in corrections service work in Canada for over 20 years and a recovery professional. The professional was able to share with her colleagues the positive impact of having A.A. in her facility.

Discuss Draft Service Piece – Facilitating Online Meetings in Correctional Settings: The committee reviewed the draft service piece. Suggested revisions will be forwarded. The staff member will bring a revised service piece for review at the January 2024 Board meeting.

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Report from the Corrections Working Group: The working group chair reviewed the report and identified the scope: To identify correction events to attend, the purpose for attendance and to utilize both Class A trustees and A.A. trusted servants. The committee had a thoughtful discussion that included input from the CPC staff coordinator regarding professional events. The Working Group will continue their work and provide an updated progress report at the January 2024 board meeting.

Review 2024 Preliminary Budget (1.0): The committee accepted the budget and agreed to forward it to the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee.

New Business: An idea was expressed to solicit stories from women members in custody who have extended long term sentences. The idea was pitched to AA Grapevine. The staff member will bring back an update at the January 2024 Board meeting.

Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee

Committee Members Present: Kevin Prior, chair; Cathi C, Judith Ann Karam, Teresa J, Mike L (Interim GSB Chair), Clinton M, Paz P, David S, Carolyn W, Bob W (General Manager).

Report: The report of the July 30, 2023, September 22 and October 16 Committee meetings were approved with a small amendment to roll call on the September 22nd report.

Liquidity Update: The chair updated the Committee and let them know that it was expected for the cash flow to be tight this time of year. The background shows three options with pros and cons of both a Reserve Fund withdrawal and of taking no action regarding the Reserve Fund and options for a small, medium, or large withdrawal.

Kevin expressed his perspective on the feedback he's received from the Fellowship. In the last few forums, the Fellowship has asked why we haven't done a withdrawal and that they are surprised we are OK with being in arrears with our vendors. They suggested making a withdrawal and explaining the reason why to the Fellowship. The Committee also discussed the intercompany balances.

The Committee had a robust discussion and expressed having the fiduciary responsibility to do what is fiscally responsible for all corporations. They also expressed that it's important to have a plan with the withdrawal so that we can communicate this to the Fellowship. The consensus is to communicate now with the Fellowship to express the need for more support and then consider a withdrawal of the Reserve Fund in January 2024.

The Committee **recommended** to the General Manager to communicate the financial status plan to the Fellowship with the intention to move the discussion of a Reserve Fund withdrawal to January 2024.

IRS Form 990: The Committee accepted the report on the tax return IRS Form 990. The Committee **recommended** to the General Service Board approving the GSB 990 to be filed. The Committee noted that action was not required related to the Form 990s filings for the AAWS and AA Grapevine Corporations which were approved by those respective Boards.

GSO Financial Results: The committee reviewed the GSO unaudited financial results for Sept 30, 2023.

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For the nine months ended September 30, 2023, revenue from all sources is slightly below budget (97%). Expenses were reforecasted in July 2023 and year-to-date expenses are slightly below that reforecast (98%). Full-year operating surplus before depreciation is reforecasted to be \$1.0 million versus \$1.7 million included in the original budget. Reserves are just over 7 months of operating expenses versus a target range of 9 to 12 months.

Comparative Balance Sheet Notes

Cash – Cash decreased year-over-year due primarily to funding of the 2022 budgeted operating loss and investments in inventory.

Accounts Receivable – Accounts receivable increased coinciding with the increase in literature sales. These receivables are from groups, central offices, intergroups and other bulk purchasers of AAWS literature.

Fixed Assets/Depreciation and Rent Lease Liability – Fixed Assets (durable property used for more than one year) increased by \$3.2 million, from \$5.9 million to \$9.1 million. This is due to ordinary fixed asset purchases (the “capital budget”) of \$496 thousand the required recognition of a Right-to-Use asset of \$2.7 million. New accounting standards for leases require that the future lease payments be recognized as obligations of the organization and that the benefit provided by the lease – in this case use of the office space at 475 Riverside Drive – be recognized as an asset. This standard went into effect for Alcoholics Anonymous in 2022. The addition of this large asset also resulted in a corresponding increase in depreciation expense, which is the method in which fixed assets are charged to expense over their useful lives. Note that the lease transactions did not impact cash.

Postretirement – These assets (\$7,298) and liabilities (\$5,388) relate to the postretirement health insurance program which was closed to new hires as of 2016. Values in these accounts vary throughout the year based on investment markets and benefit payments. On December 31 each year, an actuarial calculation is made of future benefits. As of December 31, 2022, the plan had more investment assets than required to meet benefits when due.

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses – These represent amounts of invoices (accounts payable) or estimated amounts owed (accrued expenses) by A.A. The increase is driven by the cash flow issues experienced during 2023.

Defined Benefit Pension Liability – The traditional pension plan was closed to new hires as of January 31, 2013. The assets are held in an irrevocable trust from which benefits are paid. The amount as of September 30, 2023 (\$4,786) is a negative liability which represents the fact that assets in the plan exceed benefit obligations. As is the case with the postretirement plan, values in these accounts vary throughout the year based on investment markets and benefit payments. On December 31 each year, an actuarial calculation is made of future benefits. As of December 31, 2022, the plan had more investment assets than required to meet benefits when due.

Income Statement Notes

Note that full-year amounts are found on the “Comparative Income Statement” and all references to budget refer to the Reforecast Budget.

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Revenue – Contributions, net literature sales and gross margin are slightly below budget. With respect to contributions, individual contributions are ahead of 2022 (\$2,335k vs \$2,214k). Overall group contributions are down 3.7% (\$4,979k vs \$5,173k) but the number of groups contributing has increased slightly from 17,273 to 17,303. The increase in gross literature sales is due to two factors: Unit sales of the 10 highest selling books (e.g., hard cover Big Book is a separate book from the soft cover) have increased 8%, from 960 thousand units to 1.04 million units and the price increase that went into effect on April 2, 2023. Revenues are close enough to the original budget that a reforecast was not deemed necessary.

Expense – Overall expenses are slightly below budget, with greater salary and benefits costs offsetting lower professional fees and savings in printing and postage offsetting higher-than-expected facility and equipment costs. As noted in the Reforecast Budget, travel and meeting expenses have faced upward pressure the entire year.

Operating Surplus before Depreciation – This metric is similar to earnings from operations used in non-profit and for-profit settings. It excludes:

- Depreciation - a non-cash expense for long-lived assets previous purchased and 'capitalized.'
- Support for La Viña (per Advisory Action, the shortfall on publishing La Viña is covered by the General Service Board).
- Volatile financial results such as changes in investments and obligations for pensions and postretirement obligations.

The impact is that this measure under the Reforecast is expected to be positive \$1.0 million versus an original budget of \$1.7 million and 2022 loss of \$377k.

The GSO financial report was accepted by the Committee.

Reserve Fund report: As of September 30, 2023, the Reserve Fund Assets total \$13.2 million consisting of cash and certificates of deposit. Less the liability for unfulfilled Grapevine subscriptions of \$573k, the Reserve Fund Balance is \$12.6 million.

Based on the reforecast expense budgets for GSO, Grapevine and La Viña (total \$22 million) the Reserve Fund balance is equal to 7.27 months of operating expenses versus 7.67 months as of September 30, 2022. The goal range is coverage of 9 to 12 months. Note that the calculation is influenced equally by (1) the size of the Reserve Fund Balance and (2) the level of GSO, Grapevine and La Viña expenses.

The Committee requested review of the investment policy for the Reserve Fund at a subsequent meeting. It would require an addition of \$2,992,033 to rebuild the Reserve Fund to 9 months. The Reserve Fund report was accepted by the committee.

Grapevine financial results: Total circulation of the Grapevine magazine was 63,659. This compared with a budget of 62,008 and 2022 actual of 59,246.

Total income for the year was \$813,445 which is \$16,321 more than budgeted and \$311,433 less than the \$1,124,877 achieved in 2022.

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Total costs and expenses of the magazine for the year were \$1,402,311, which were \$66,510 less than budgeted and \$4,689 less than the \$1,406,999 in 2022.

After adding interest earned, there was a deficit for the period ending September 30, 2023, of \$588,866 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$671,697.

The financial statements for the first nine months of 2023 contain a new line item under circulation for the apps. In September 2023 we added 1,119 new app subscribers. Total subscription income for GV equaled \$1,239,794.

Notes on Variances:

Paid Circulation Average: Up 3.6% over reforecast due to increased circulation efforts in August and September.

ePub: Down 1,236 subs. Discontinued product, with subscribers moving to mobile apps.

Subscription Income: Up \$41,205 from reforecast due to increase in magazine subs and introduction of mobile app.

Circulation Direct Costs: Down \$26,464 from reforecast due to savings on printing, postage and audio recordings of magazine articles.

Content Related Income: Down 42,504 from reforecast, reflecting a continuing weak year for GV and LV book publishing. We hope to increase sales in November and December with free shipping and a 20% discount on all items.

Net Profit on Other Published Items: Also, down \$45,834 from reforecast as a consequence of weak book sales.

Total Income: Up \$16,321 from reforecast, driven by better-than-expected subscription income savings on direct circulation costs, and the early launch of the mobile app.

The Grapevine financial report was accepted by the committee.

Grapevine Budget Report – the Committee discussed the Grapevine budget report and referenced the request for funding of services provided by the Grapevine. The Committee had a discussion on how the La Viña services being funded by the General Service Board was a Conference Advisory Action. They felt the decision to fund services for Grapevine should be sent to Conference for further discussion.

The Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee **recommended** to the General Service Board to forward a request to the Conference Committee on Grapevine/La Viña to explore the services provided by AA Grapevine and how it should be funded.

La Viña results: For the unaudited results for September 30, 2023, total circulation for La Viña was 4,248 compared to 4,628 budgeted and 6,760 in September 2023. Income from magazine sales was \$92,628 compared with a budget of \$83,200. After deducting the costs and expenses of \$658,265, a shortfall between revenue and expenses of \$565,637 resulted for this service activity. This compares with a budgeted shortfall of \$566,286 and a shortfall of \$435,724 for 2022.

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The La Viña financial report was accepted by the Committee.

Proposed Executive Summary for September Financials (Conference Advisory Action): The Committee reviewed the proposed report that will be distributed to Conference delegates. There were discussions on some amendments to the report. For example, adding a very brief explanation of the consolidation of AAWS/GSB reports and making the colors on the chart more transparent so that it can be read when printed. They also suggested adding *Language of the Heart* at the beginning, there should also be a note that the report is not intended for public distribution or to be posted on social media.

AAWS report on self-support: John Weis reported to the committee the two main topics of the last meeting. He spoke about Homegroup online which is a website that claims to be affiliated with A.A. because it has a group service number. They are a third-party financial manager that provides financial support for groups. There was a recommendation made by AAWS Finance Committee to look further into this.

The Committee also discussed how to get more people engaged on how they benefited from services provided to them through Seventh Tradition self-support. The Committee is working with the Committee secretary to have a greater presence at Regional Forums and looking for ways to incorporate this idea into the next International Convention.

Canadian Bank Account change – approval was requested to seek out a different bank in Canada. The committee agreed to investigate and research a new bank for our CAD business. A recommendation will be brought to the committee at a future committee meeting.

Trustees' International Committee

Present: Marita R, chair; Vera F, Cindy F, Tom H, Robert L, Mike L (GSB Interim Chair), David S, Bob W (General Manager), and Irene D, secretary.

AAWS Licensing and translations activity report: The committee accepted the AAWS Interim Translations and Licensing activity report. The committee received with appreciation a verbal report from Legal, Licensing and Intellectual Property Department director, Beverly Jones-King, regarding the successful completion of the translation of licensing documentation into Spanish.

The committee reviewed cost estimates provided by the Legal, Licensing and Intellectual Property Department to complete the translation into Haitian Creole of the Big Book chapters, 1, 9, 11 and “Dr. Bob’s Nightmare.” The committee requested that a memo be sent to AAWS, seeking the allocation of funds from the International Literature Fund to support the completion of the Haitian Creole Big Book.

The committee also discussed previously developed draft pamphlets of “Is AA for Me?” and “How it Works” in Haitian Creole and asked that the appropriate GSO department proceed in making these pamphlets available.

The committee also noted that many of the requests for Haitian Creole literature are requested from those in the U.S./Canada structure for Creole speaking alcoholics.

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English Speaking Structures and Local Big Book Stories: The committee discussed a report submitted by GSO's Legal, Licensing and Intellectual Property Department, which stated that only the first 164 pages of the Big Book are licensed; local stories are treated as "creative work" and therefore are not licensed. The report also states that "It is at the discretion and purview of the country to add stories written by local members in their countries' languages to the story sections of their translated Big Book." The committee requested that the international desk send a memo to GSO's around the world encouraging the addition of local personal recovery stories to the Big Book along with U.S./Canada shared experience on the development of the Fifth Edition of the Big Book.

Composition, Scope and Procedure update: The committee discussed the importance of translation efforts and the many world languages that have yet to be transmitted in A.A. literature.

The committee also **recommended** that a Scope #10 be added to the committee Composition, Scope and Procedure which reads:

10. Offering suggestions to A.A. World Services Board for new translations based on the expressed needs and costs and on a case-by-case basis; particularly if there is not a service structure to support the project. Some requests for World languages may originate from the U.S./Canada structure. These requests can be included in suggestions from the committee.

Review Preliminary 2024 Budget: The committee approved the preliminary 2024 budget and **agreed to forward** it to the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee.

International Literature Fund and World Service Meeting Fund: The committee reviewed a report on the International Literature Fund and World Service Meeting Fund. The committee received with appreciation an update from the General Manager regarding recent contributions made by REDELA A.A. structures to the International Literature Fund at the 23rd REDELA. The General Manager also provided an update on a substantial contribution made by the 22nd European Service Meeting and the Great Britain GSO to the World Service Meeting fund. The committee acknowledged the desire expressed by the delegates at the 27th World Service Meeting to be fully informed of the costs of the World Service Meeting and the amount the General Service Board of U.S./Canada contributes to the expenses. The committee requested that the international desk send a memo to the A.A. structures around the world regarding contributions to the World Service Meeting in the spirit of the Seventh Tradition and self-support as well as supporting emerging structures to provide an equal opportunity to attend the World Service Meeting.

Review Preliminary 2024 World Service Meeting Budget: The committee reviewed and approved the preliminary 2024 World Service Meeting budget. The committee also took note of the ongoing efforts by the General Service Office to curtail expenses for the 28th World Service Meeting.

AAWS Meeting Guide app – International Entities Report: The committee reviewed and accepted a report on AAWS Meeting Guide app for international entities.

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International Trips: The committee received reports on the following international events, followed by questions and discussion:

October 20-22, 2023	European Service Meeting York, England	Bob Wilcox Irene Donoso
October 6-13, 2023	REDELA Zonal Colombia	Marita Rhinehart Robert Lalonde Bob Wilcox Irene Donoso Hernán Merea
August 25-28, 2023	Peru Nacional Convention	Marita Rhinehart Sister Judith Ann Karam

The committee agreed that the Trip Consultation Team will undertake a review of the criteria for selecting countries to visit in order to ensure prudent financial allocation. The committee also made a request to the International desk to develop a spreadsheet that captures the historical context of A.A. in different countries. This will help guide country visits with a focus on providing support to emerging A.A. structures.

Discuss Linking GSB Class A trustee professionals (U.S./Canada) with Class A professionals serving GSBs in other countries: The committee received a report written by Molly Oliver (Class A trustee) regarding the status of a private Facebook group established by former nonalcoholic US/CAN trustees for the purpose of exchanging experiences with nonalcoholic trustees from other structures. The committee observed that the report indicated that nonalcoholic trustees currently do not perceive a need to utilize this platform for sharing experiences, therefore the committee has decided to discontinue its use. The committee encourages that any structures seeking experiences of nonalcoholic trustees can reach out to the International desk.

Trustees’ International Conventions/Regional Forums Committee

Present: Joyce S, chairperson; Cindy F, Robert L, Mike L (Interim GSB Chair), Kevin Prior, Carolyn W, Irma V, Bob W (General Manager), and Eileen A and Patrick C, co-secretaries.

Part II—Regional Forums

Staff report: In-person regional forums are underway and are going well. Attendance has been lower than expected.

The committee supported the staff secretary’s suggestion that Regional Forums Final Reports be translated into Spanish or French as needed. All other translations will be provided upon request.

It was requested that the staff secretary send a memo from the Trustees’ ICRF Committee to the chair of the General Service Board requesting an opportunity to discuss the subject of simultaneous translation more broadly, with the intention of clarifying practices and policy for documents produced and distributed by the General Service Office.

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Discuss Evaluation Questionnaire Summary-West Central Regional Forum: The committee reviewed and discussed the summary of the evaluation questionnaires for the 2023 West Central Regional Forum.

Consider adding additional blackout dates to the bid letter sent to the Area Committee: The committee discussed the list and offered helpful suggestions that included adding Linguistic and Special Events as well as major US/Canada holidays. It was also suggested that we communicate that these are considerations and not blackout dates.

Report from IC/RF Subcommittee: The committee accepted the report as submitted.

Preliminary 2024 Regional Forums Budget: The committee accepted the budget and agreed to forward it to the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee.

Part III—International Conventions

Staff report: The committee accepted the staff report as presented. The staff secretary reported that a kick-off meeting with Talley Management and the General Service Office and AA Grapevine office staff is being held to generate excitement for the work that will be required to plan for and execute the 2025 International Convention. It was noted that requests are coming in for hospitality suites and new updates to the FAQs are under development. Finally, web banners with the convention logo are being developed.

Discuss 2035 International Convention Site Selection Report/Recommendation: The committee reviewed a report from the 2035 International Convention Site Inspection Team. Based on the recommendation of the 2035 Site Inspection Team, the committee **recommended** to the General Service Board that Indianapolis, Indiana be the site for the 2035 Alcoholics Anonymous International Convention.

2025 International Convention Consultant Q3 update: Gregg Talley, International Convention consultant, provided a comprehensive overview of recent activities in the planning process for the 2025 International Convention. Salient points included:

1. International Convention (IC) Budget review and adjustments

The consultant reported that significant time has been spent reviewing the open questions that could have an impact on the budget and seeking out additional material changes. The production crew made a site visit to Vancouver, BC, Canada to witness a concert set in the round and meet with facility staff. As a result, the issues have been resolved and the consultant is comfortable with the current budget projection around the Big Meetings in the stadium.

2. Onboarding the Registration and Housing Company, Showcare.

The consultants have started interfacing with the Showcare team on Registration and Housing, including articulating the business rules around all the processes and policy decisions to present to GSO for input or further dialogue. All proposed changes will be shared with GSO, AAWS and the IC/RF for comment and consensus.

3. Insurance policy questions related to event cancellations are still open and will be reported at the January 2024 meeting.

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To facilitate the committee's discussion on setting the 2025 International Convention registration fees, the committee received a report from the AAWS Finance Committee chair about the budget discussion held at their meeting on October 27, 2023. Salient points included:

1. The committee discussed the virtual component for the 2025 International Convention. It is necessary for the program to be engaging; and further discussion will take place at the January 2024 meeting about the program component ideas. The committee agreed that a percentage of the registration cost should reflect the cost of the virtual component. It was discussed that this could land somewhere between 40-50% of the in-person registration fee.
2. The committee discussed the number of estimated attendees and spoke on border crossing challenges and what number they feel is prudent.

The trustees' IC/RF committee reviewed the 2025 International Convention budget and held a discussion about setting the registration fee for the 2025 International Convention which took into consideration a realistic budget, the committee's responsibilities relevant to International Conventions, and the spirit of self-support. The committee **recommended** to the General Service Board that the 2025 International Convention Pre-Registration fee be \$155.00 (USD) per attendee and that the Full Registration fee be \$180.00 (USD) per attendee.

2025 International Convention Souvenir Book: The committee reviewed and accepted an update on the 2025 International Convention Souvenir Book, presented by David Rosen, GSO publishing director. Further discussion is also needed by the committee about the option of a souvenir bag and Stadium guidelines (i.e., stadium entrance restrictions), and report back to the committee at a future meeting for additional discussion. One of the committee members, who also serves on the AA Grapevine board, would like to share with the committee about plans regarding the AA Grapevine IC souvenir material at the January 2024 meeting.

Discuss Site Selection Guidelines for 2040 International Convention: The committee tabled the discussion of the Site Selection Guidelines for 2040 International Convention to the January 2024 meeting.

2030 International Convention Consultant Selection: The committee tabled the discussion of the 2030 International Convention Consultant Selection to the January 2024 meeting.

Trustees' Literature Committee

Present: Irma V, chair; Gerry C (ACM), Vera F, Cesar F (ACM), Teresa J, Clinton M, John W, Bob W (General Manager) and Sandra W, interim secretary.

July 29, September 20, and October 12, 2023, meeting reports: The July 29, September 20, and October 12, 2023, meeting reports were approved as presented.

Staff report: The staff secretary also provided an update on *The A.A. Service Manual* revisions. Currently, the Publishing Department is awaiting suggested revisions from the General Service Board (having received revisions from the AAWS and AA Grapevine

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boards). It was requested that the staff secretary send a correspondence from AAWS to the GSB Chair requesting that suggested revisions be submitted on or before November 13, 2023, and that revisions submitted after that date cannot be implemented given the fact that we are well past the August 2023 deadline date that was previously communicated.

Preliminary 2024 budget: The committee reviewed the preliminary 2024 budget for the trustees' Literature Committee and agreed to forward it to the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee.

"A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic": The committee reviewed the updated draft pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic" (retitled "Black in A.A.: Experience, Strength and Hope"). It was requested that the back page be updated to reflect current information on how to contact A.A. The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature the draft pamphlet with the requested revision.

"A.A. for the Native North American": The committee received a progress report on the update of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American" noting that the deadline for story submissions was expanded from October 31, 2023, to December 31, 2023, to allow greater participation. It was also noted that the current working group composition includes four Canadian and six U.S. members. The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature the progress report.

Fourth Edition, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*: The committee reviewed a progress report regarding the development of a Fourth Edition *Alcohólicos Anónimos*. It was shared that additional members will be added to the working group. The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature the progress report.

Fifth Edition, *Alcoholics Anonymous*: The committee reviewed a progress report regarding the development of a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. It was shared that while the administrative process and procedure has improved, the story review is still moving much slower than anticipated. In order to speed up the process, given the breadth of stories remaining to be reviewed, the committee agreed to: a) drop those readers who have not yet completed their first packet of stories, replace those readers, and return those stories to the pool; and b) increase the number of additional readers to a total of 15 readers, with the option of adding another five readers if warranted. The subcommittee chair will contact the readers who will be replaced, thanking them for their service. Committee members were invited to submit the names of potential readers. Committee members also agreed to accelerate their review of the stories.

The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report, understanding that the report will be updated by or before November 15, 2023.

Plain and simple language *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition): The committee reviewed a progress report regarding the development of a plain and simple language *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition). The subcommittee is currently making final revisions to the full text, including discussing titles. The subcommittee is also discussing options to allow the full Conference an opportunity to review the full manuscript, considering confidentiality concerns, time constraints, and adherence to the Conference structure and process; the

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subcommittee chair welcomes all suggestions towards this end. The subcommittee chair will update the committee as plans are developed.

“Do You Think You’re Different?”: The committee reviewed a progress report regarding the update to the pamphlet “Do You Think You’re Different?” A call for stories has been distributed to the Fellowship with a deadline for submissions being April 30, 2024. The working group is discussing additional ways to get the word out, including, but not limited to, regional forums, workshops, and member-member conversations. The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report, which will be updated by or before November 15 to reflect the working group’s scheduled meeting on November 13, 2023.

“Twelve Concepts Illustrated” – video animation format: The committee reviewed a progress report on a video animation formatted “Twelve Concepts Illustrated,” including cost estimates submitted by the Publishing Department. The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature the progress report and cost estimates.

“Too Young?”: The committee reviewed a progress report on the development of an animated version of the pamphlet “Too Young?” submitted by the Publishing Department. The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature the progress report.

Fellowship input regarding changes to co-founders’ writings: The committee reviewed the draft questions prepared in response to the 2023 Committee Consideration requesting that the trustees’ Literature Committee “seek input from the Fellowship (including, but not limited to Area Delegate feedback) regarding any possible future changes to literature written by A.A’s founders.” The committee will finalize the document and take the next steps for distribution to the Area Delegates.

“Questions and Answers on Sponsorship”: The committee reviewed a progress report and draft mock-up reflecting the suggested revisions to date. It is understood that additional revisions may be submitted; the committee looks forward to an updated report or draft pamphlet being brought to the January 2024 meeting.

Trustees’ Public Information Committee

Present: Deborah K, chairperson; Morgan B; Kirk H; Marita R; David S; Ken T; John W and Misha Q, staff secretary.

Preliminary 2024 P.I. Budget: The committee reviewed the preliminary 2024 Public Information budget. There was discussion about adding \$8,000 to the budget to cover the cost of developing and implementing an analytics dashboard. The committee accepted this addition to the budget and agreed to forward the revised budget to the trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee.

Public Information media platforms: The committee accepted all Media Platform reports.

Development of a GSO podcast: The committee listened to a “sizzle reel” sample of the GSO Podcast and noted their appreciation for the professional sound and warmth that are evident.

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The Director of the Communication Services Department (CSD) reported on the podcast work completed to date, including a plan for wrapping up all season one episodes and the goal of launching the podcast in Q1 2024.

The committee noted that while the current content is being developed is in English, content in Spanish and French could be considered after the pilot season has been launched. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the January 2024 meeting.

AAWS YouTube Channel report: The committee discussed the third quarter A.A.W.S. YouTube Channel report. The committee noted an uptick in traffic, particularly coming from India. A committee member reported that this uptick can be attributed to the ongoing conversations they have had with the GSO in India. More U.S. and Canada speakers have been invited to speak at India meetings, resulting in more traffic to aa.org.

Notably, hashtags have been added to selected English language videos; content that has been given hashtags has risen in popularity. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the January 2024 meeting.

Google Ads report: The committee reviewed the third quarter Google Ads report. The committee discussed the current status of our participation in the Google for Ads for nonprofits program and noted there is continued lack of clarity on how to be in compliance with Google as it relates to the A.A.W.S. ads account.

It was noted that when Google previously reported that we were out of compliance, it was because of an unenforced policy from 2018. However, our account was reactivated following conversation with Google where we sought to better understand the policy and potential options for participating. The committee continues to seek additional information from Google on qualifying for the program and A.A.W.S.' account status.

The committee discussed the possible value of a one-time analysis by a consultant on our participation in the Google ads program. Non-A.A. websites often appear first in a search for information about A.A. and in searches for help with a drinking problem. Some non-A.A. websites provide misinformation about A.A. or use the A.A. name for non-A.A. uses. The committee noted the value that Google ads have provided in informing the general public about aa.org and directing people searching for help to our site.

The committee requested that the CSD continue its research on this program and looks forward to a progress report in January 2024.

AAWS Meeting Guide App report: It was noted that the Meeting Guide App report was not accessible on OnBoard. The staff secretary will email the report to committee members for their review. Tracey Godsil, Sr. Digital Strategist, offered a summary of activity and offered to answer any questions.

There was a discussion of the report on the pilot project for use of Meeting Guide app by Japan GSO, which, it was noted, was also forwarded to the trustees' International Committee. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the January 2024 meeting.

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Quarterly report on GSO's A.A. Website: The committee reviewed and accepted the GSO 2023 third quarter GSO A.A. Website report. The committee noted appreciation for the new FAQs page as well as recent debugging work with Drupal and Google analytics. The committee looks forward to a progress report in January 2024.

Quarterly report on A.A.W.S. Online Business Profiles: The committee reviewed and accepted the GSO 2023 third quarter AAWS Online Business Profiles report.

Review A.A.W.S. Instagram Account Draft Proposal: The committee reviewed the Instagram proposal. The director of CSD reported that the current draft reflected the suggestions forwarded by the additional committee consideration of the 2023 Conference Committee on Public Information regarding the development of an Instagram account. The committee **agreed to forward** the revised proposal to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.

AAGV/La Viña Website, Marketing, Podcast and App report: The committee reviewed the third quarter AAGV/La Viña Website, Marketing and Podcast and App reports. The AA Grapevine Executive Editor reported when the app launched, approximately 8,000 subscribers were brought in when their old subscriptions were converted to Grapevine Complete subscription package.

There have been approximately 10,000 additional downloads, including 2,500 new users who have subscribed.

The committee accepted the AA Grapevine/ La Viña Website, Marketing, Podcast and App reports and looks forward to a progress report in January 2024.

Public Service Announcements (PSAs): The committee resumed its discussion of the relevance and usefulness of audio and video PSAs.

The committee discussed the audio PSA "We Know How You Feel." The committee requested that the 15 second version be removed from aa.org, noting that the 30 second version is a more effective and accurate tool for carrying the A.A. message.

The committee discussed the audio PSA "All of a Sudden, Everything Got Crazy." The committee requested that the CSD consider adding updated tag lines.

In a review of video Spanish-language PSA "Tengo Esperanza," the committee reviewed the analytics report and noted that the data indicates that this PSA is still being watched and is still useful. No action will be taken.

The committee requested that the staff secretary document the committee's comments as part of the 2023 Report on the Relevance and Usefulness of Video and Audio PSAs and **agreed to forward** it to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.

Feasibility study on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms: The committee discussed the feasibility study on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the January 2024 meeting.

Progress report on the Mesmerize Point PSA distribution project: The committee discussed the report on Mesmerize Point PSA distribution, and noted with appreciation the potential

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impact of the project given the number of views that have been reported.

The committee noted the suggestion by Mesmerize Point staff to add QR codes to the PSAs; the committee requested that staff from Communication Services Department research on the process for adding QR codes to our PSAs. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the January 2024 meeting.

Membership Survey Pilot using Convenience Samples: The committee reviewed the progress report on the Membership Survey Pilot using Convenience Sampling, which outlined the work completed to-date, including the plan for data gathered using convenience samples collected via the Meeting Guide app and aa.org. There was a discussion about sample size and a question was raised about whether the survey period could be extended if the minimum sample size was not met during the scheduled data collection period. The committee requested that the staff secretary obtain confirmation from our external consultant (Dr. Cooper) that if the sample size is not met within the scheduled data collection period, the data collection period should be extended. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the January 2024 meeting.

Subcommittee on 2024 Comprehensive Media Plan (CMP): The committee accepted the report of the Subcommittee on 2024 CMP. The chair of the subcommittee shared that the draft of the 2024 CMP that was provided as background is near completion, and that the committee should expect a final draft to be circulated via email. The committee agreed to provide any feedback on the final draft via email, so that all changes could be considered and incorporated in order to meet the November 13, 2023 deadline for GSC background. The committee looks forward to a progress report and a revised CMP at the January 2024 meeting.

Public Information pamphlets: The committee discussed the following pamphlets/materials presented for review:

“A.A. at a Glance”: The committee discussed the progress report on “A.A. at a Glance.” The staff secretary shared that a fresh design and updated language had been incorporated into a draft by the Publishing Department. The committee suggested additional edits and asked the staff secretary to share them with the Publishing Department. The committee looks forward to a revised draft or a progress report at the January 2024 meeting.

“A Message to Teenagers”: The committee discussed a progress report on the flyer “A Message to Teenagers.” The staff secretary reported on results of a survey designed to get young people’s feedback. The committee expressed enthusiasm for forwarding the feedback to the Publishing Department so the flier could be revised as quickly as possible. The committee also expressed support for engaging the intended audience for input into the revision and redesign of graphics and text. The committee looks forward to a draft or a progress report at the January 2024 meeting.

“Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings”: The committee discussed the revised draft of the pamphlet “Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings.” The committee appreciated the work done to date and offered additional edits to be forwarded to the Publishing Department. The committee looks forward to a revised draft pamphlet or a progress report at the January

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2024 meeting.

Addressing anonymity on social media: The committee reviewed a draft survey for collecting shared experience from the Fellowship on anonymity and social media. The committee agreed to email suggested revisions to the survey. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the January 2024 meeting.

Young People's Video Project: The committee reviewed the progress report on the GSO Young People's Video Project. The project continues to have an open submissions process. The staff secretary reported on videos that were created at the 2023 ICYPAA convention. The staff secretary reported that two bids had been received for post-production work. The committee asked that the staff secretary work with the appropriate GSO departments to move forward with developing examples to help inform the next phase of the project. The committee looks forward to a progress report at an upcoming interim meeting.

2022 A.A. Membership Survey: The committee reviewed the 2022 A.A. Membership Survey report and looks forward to the launch of the web site and release of the revised pamphlet.

PI Kit and Workbook: The staff secretary reported that work to update the PI Workbook is ongoing. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the January 2024 meeting.

Working group on Analytics Reporting: The committee reviewed the Working Group on Analytics report. This year, the Working Group has focused on developing the analytics reporting process. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the January 2024 meeting.

Conference Background to be ready by November 13th deadline: The staff secretary reported that some of the background for the Conference Committee on PI will not be finalized in time for the November 13 deadline.

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Highlights from AAWS

October 27, 2023

*Meeting of the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., Board of Directors
The General Service Office*

475 Riverside Drive - New York, N.Y. Friday, October 27, 2023

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

AAWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cathi C., AAWS Chairperson

Vera F., Reilly K., Deborah K., Clint M., Carolyn W., John W., Bob W., Racy J.

AAWS Nominating Committee

Highlights-

The Nominating Committee has revised the 2023 calendar of events.

Recommendations-

The board unanimously approved the following recommendation presented by the Nominating Committee-

- The AAWS Nominating Committee recommended to the AAWS Board that Racy J. be appointed to the position of Vice President of AAWS, Inc.

AAWS TCS Committee

Highlights-

The TCS Committee works on various innovative ways to advance technology at GSO.

The TCS Committee achieved a great success with the successful launch of the OnBoard platform for the October AAWS Board Meeting. This long-awaited replacement to the "Dashboard" has surpassed expectations. The implementation process was seamless, thanks to a well-planned strategy. The new platform has already increased efficiency and brought invaluable benefits.

Recommendations-

The board unanimously approved the following recommendations presented by the Nominating Committee-

- The TCS committee recommended to the AAWS Board that the Analytics Working Group Progress Report be forwarded by AAWS to the trustees' Committee on Public Information.
- The TCS committee recommended to the AAWS Board that the 2023 third quarter LinkedIn report be forwarded by AAWS to the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community.
- The committee recommended to the AAWS Board that the Meeting Guide International Activity report be forwarded by AAWS to the trustees' International Committee.
- The TCS committee recommended to the AAWS Board that the 2023 third quarter reports on Website, Meeting Guide App, YouTube, Google Ads, Online Business Listings, and Podcast be forwarded by AAWS to the trustees' Committee on Public Information.
- The TCS committee recommended to the AAWS Board that the 2023 draft plan for Instagram be forwarded by AAWS to the trustees' Committee on Public Information.
- The TCS committee recommended to the AAWS Board that the Archives request progress report be forwarded by AAWS to the trustees' Committee on Archives.

AAWS Finance Committee

Revenue: YTD contributions are \$6,559,954. This represents 99% of the budget of \$6,650,000 and is \$159,031 (2%) less than last year. Gross literature sales are \$9,997,774. This represents 99% of the budget of \$10,070,000 and is \$1,862,672 (23%)

more than last year. The variance to budget is due to greater than expected sales in March in anticipation of the April 3 price increase and strong sales since. Literature gross margin is \$4,964,088 which is 99% of the budget of \$5,035,000 and \$1,393,994 (39%) more than last year. Cost of goods sold (COGS) of \$5,107,384 which is 51.1% of gross sales compared to a budget of 48.0% and 46.4% last year. After being flat for two months, COGS as a % of gross sales increased in August due to a large paper purchase.

Expense: Salary expense is \$5,314,725, which is 95% of the YTD budget of \$5,584,258 and \$423,105 (9%) more than last year. The variance to budget is due to open positions. The variance to last year is due to new positions in Legal, Licensing, and Intellectual Property and Language Services. Employee benefits expense is \$1,412,624 which is 105% of the budget of \$1,347,372 and \$176,036 (14%) more than last year. Professional fees expense is \$1,062,251 which is 93% of the budget of \$1,136,757 and is \$94,117 (10%) greater than last year.

Travel and meetings expenses are \$1,817,735 which is 129% of the budget amount of \$1,409,171 and \$309,688 (21%) more than last year. The variance is in part because hotel expenses were greater than budgeted for both the January GSB weekend and the GSC. Total operating expense before depreciation is \$11,682,381 which is 101% of the budget amount of \$11,556,549 and \$1,076,466 (10%) more than last year. The variance to budget is due to the variances in employee benefits, and travel and meetings expenses.

Surplus/Deficit: After depreciation, the operating deficit is \$500,416 which compares unfavorably to a budgeted deficit of \$347,883 but favorably to a deficit of \$722,674 last year. Including non-operating revenue and expense, the overall deficit is \$608,142 which compares favorably to a budgeted deficit of \$958,342 and a deficit of \$2,188,400 last year. The major non-operating revenue is a gain of \$669,642 in the market value of the postretirement medical plan assets. This is a non-cash transaction. Non-operating expenses are \$994,056. According to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, the \$500,000 transferred from the Reserve Fund to Grapevine for app development is an expense for the GSB as the owner of the Reserve Fund. The same \$500,000 is revenue for Grapevine, so the revenue and expense cancel out to zero on consolidated financial statements.

Reserve Fund: As of August 31, the assets in the reserve fund total \$13,135,226. After subtracting the \$573,012 Grapevine subscription liability, the reserve fund balance is \$12,562,214. This represents 7.26 months of 2023 budgeted G.S.O., Grapevine, and La Viña operating expenses of \$20,766,137. Depreciation is not included in operating expenses because depreciation is not a cash expense.

Recommendations-

The board unanimously approved the following recommendations presented by the Finance committee:

- The AAWS Finance Committee recommended to the AAWS Board the acceptance of the 2022 990 and forward it to the Trustees Finance Committee.
- The AAWS Finance Committee recommended to the AAWS Board to forward the matter of Home Group Online for further discussion and action if necessary.
- The A.A.W.S. Finance Committee recommended to the A.A.W.S. Board that the International Literature Fund activity report ending September 30, 2023, be forwarded to the trustees' International Committee
- The A.A.W.S. Finance committee recommended to the A.A.W.S. Board that the World Service Meeting Fund activity report ending September 30, 2023, be forwarded to the trustees' International Committee

AAWS Publishing Committee

Highlights-

For a limited time only, the Publishing Department is sweeping out their warehouses and offering AAWS literature and other items at a very Special Discounted Offer and Reduced Prices! (Note: Some items are in limited quantities. While supplies last.)

Recommendations-

The board unanimously approved the following recommendations presented by the Publishing Committee.

- Regarding PAI #64, the committee recommended that the AAWS Board take no action, as there is not a widely expressed need by the Fellowship for the creation of a "lampshade" with the Six Warranties.
- Regarding PAI #73, the committee recommended that the AAWS Board take no action. The committee agreed that since the cessation of the Archives newsletter, the board is utilizing multiple distribution points to reach and inform the Fellowship as it relates to archives (e.g., Box 4-5-9, the AAWS podcast, and the GV podcast).

- Regarding PAI #95, the committee recommended that the AAWS Board take no action. The committee discussed that not only would this be a costly duplication of currently available information, but also the trustees are currently evaluating under the Comprehensive Media Plan (CMP) how best to serve the Fellowship as it relates to ways to prioritize and utilize multimedia formats and platforms beyond the printed format, which would include ideas such as what was proposed by the submitter.
- Regarding PAI #101, the committee recommended that the AAWS Board forward this item to the Publishing Department for
- consideration. Regarding a proposal (originally PAI #9 submitted in 2022), the committee recommended that the AAWS board forward this item to the 74th General Service Conference, adding background regarding the 2006 Advisory Action as it relates to the terms “contribution” and “donation.”
- Regarding a proposal to produce a large print stand-alone edition of the Twelve Concepts for World Service, the committee recommended that the AAWS board take no action, because there is not a widely expressed need at this time.
- Regarding a proposal to stop publishing the new jacketless Alcoholics Anonymous and 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, the committee recommended that the AAWS Board take no action.

Upcoming AAWS Board Meetings 2023 - 2024

Dec. 7, 2023, AAWS Strategic Planning (v)

Dec. 8, 2023, AAWS Board Meeting (v)

Jan. 24, 2024, AAWS Board Meeting**

March 7, 2024, AAWS Strategic Planning Session

March 8, 2024, AAWS Board Meeting

Apr.18, 2024, AAWS Board Meeting Conference**

Apr.20, 2024, AAWS Board Meeting Conference**

June 20, 2024, AAWS New Directors' Orientation/SPS

June 21, 2024, AAWS Board Meeting

July 25, 2024, AAWS Board Meeting**

Sept. 6, 2024, AAWS Strategic Planning Session (v)

Oct. 31, 2024, AAWS Board Meeting**

Dec. 12, 2024, AAWS Strategic Planning Session (v)

Dec.13, 2024, AAWS Board Meeting (v)

**** = GSB Board Weekend**

(v) = Virtual

SPS = Strategic Planning Session

Highlights from AAWS

October 27, 2023

What's Happening at GSO

Bob W., General Manager

Since the last AAWS Board meeting in July, the employees, and staff at GSO have been actively preparing for the upcoming General Service Conference, organizing agenda items and setting timelines for efficient translation and delivery of Conference materials in English, French and Spanish. The office has warmly welcomed various individual and group visitors, enhancing the Friday morning A.A. meeting with a wide range of global experiences. Visitors have expressed gratitude for office tours, interactions with employees, and time spent in the Archives. To enhance the visitor experience, Fridays are now mandatory in-office workdays for all employees, offering more opportunities for visitors to engage with staff and learn about our services for groups and members.

Archives

The archives department is currently working on a process to preserve audiovisual information. They have conducted a preservation planning survey to assess the environment, storage, and general conditions that support the preservation and access of audiovisual materials. The 2023 GSO Archives Audiovisual Preservation Survey Report is attached for your review. This report will be presented at this weekend's Trustees Archives meeting.

International Licensing & Translations

We are pleased to report that the international licensing and translations backlog has been successfully cleared. Newly established workflows now enable us to handle requests received within the most recent 45-day period promptly. Every inquiry receives an immediate automated acknowledgment with an assurance of a prompt response. Ongoing refinement of internal policies and procedures is progressing rapidly. Collaboration among various departments, including Publishing, Technology Services, the International Assignment, Archives, Language Services, the Grapevine Office, and the entire team of Legal, Licensing, and Intellectual Property (LLIP), has been pivotal in achieving this success.

Human Resources

New staffing levels and career pathing opportunities for employees continue to be developed with the successful completion of the inaugural Leadership Development Program.

Language Services

A Conference background tracker has been developed, encompassing a timeline for all Conference background and related materials, including defined guidelines, processes, and policies for all translations. These clear timelines and deadlines are crucial for the effective and timely delivery of Conference background and other requests. It is important for all employees, trustees, and directors to collaborate in adhering to these timelines and deadlines to complete and submit their work.

Publishing

As a result of the reorganization of our Publishing Department, we established stronger editorial project management. In March of this year, we reported that 85 items were back ordered for various reasons. Since then, we have returned 61 of these items to distribution. Of the remaining items, 21 are in the revision/update or reprint and will be back into distribution in the coming weeks, leaving just three items that are under review by GSO Staff and the Publishing Department.

Included in what has been returned to distribution are the service kits. Earlier in the year (February), it was reported that the number of backlogged service kits was upwards of 9,300. This was due to the unavailability of some of the kit contents. Instead of waiting for the few print items to become available, QR Codes were developed to allow members to access those items digitally. The backlog of all service kits is now complete except for the Corrections Kits. They are still on backorder due to the inability to obtain the binders that hold their contents. The determination of a new binder style is in the process and will allow for the backlog of these kits to be fulfilled shortly.

Technology Services

The successful launch of the OnBoard platform marks the long-awaited replacement for the "Dashboard." Implementation was seamless, thanks to well-thought-out plans and training led by the team. The efficiency and benefits this new platform offers are invaluable. It will significantly improve meeting preparation, access to background information, and interactive tools that align with the collaborative nature of our boards, office, and the General Service Conference.

General Manager Travel

West Central Regional Forum: This event served as a gathering where members, trustees, directors, and office staff convened. It included presentations, workshops, and sharing sessions focused on understanding the service structure and current events.

Area 74 Northern Fall Conference: The General Manager actively engaged in the event, participating throughout the weekend and observing their assembly. They joined a comprehensive question-and-answer session covering various topics related to activities at the General Service Office and the status of select Advisory Actions. Additionally, the General Manager shared their personal experience, strength, and hope during the Saturday night meeting.

Southwest Regional Forum: The weekend unfolded, enabling members, trustees, directors, and office staff to engage and familiarize themselves with each other. The gathering featured presentations, workshops, and general sharing sessions that fostered rich exchanges, learning, and a comprehensive understanding of our service structure and various current events.

23rd Meeting of the Americas (Medellin, Colombia, The General Manger along with Irene D. (GSO Staff on the International Assignment) and Trustees-at-Large Marita R. and Robert L., delivered various presentations. Topics covered included Unity & Diversity in AA, Preserving the AA Message in a Changing World, and insights into The International Literature Fund and World Service Meeting Fund. The event provided a significant opportunity for diverse structures from South, Central, and North America to exchange successes and challenges within their respective AA structures.

22nd European Service Meeting (York, England, October 20th-22nd): The General Manager attended with Irene D., GSO Staff on the International Assignment and delivered a detailed presentation on international licensing and translations, the International Literature Fund, and World Service Meeting Fund. provided an excellent opportunity for various structures from across Europe to exchange experiences regarding the successes and challenges within their respective AA structures.

Upcoming in the next 90 days: Continued oversight through regular meetings and travel commitments to assemblies in Mississippi and Ohio.

The General Service Office

The General Service Office serves as a hub of communication for A.A. groups in the U.S. and Canada and as an exchange point for A.A. experience accumulated over the years. GSO staff coordinate a wide array of activities and services. Also located at GSO is Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., which oversees the publication, translation, and distribution of A.A. literature.

The General Service Office in New York City serves as a communication hub for A.A. groups in the U.S. and Canada, managing the vast experience and knowledge accumulated over the years period GSS staff coordinate various activities and services, overseeing the publication, translation, and distribution of a literature through Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. It extends its services not only to groups in the U.S. and Canada but also abroad, particularly in county Is without service structures. Additionally, it collaborates with committees of a general service board and Conference to address diverse responsibilities:

- Collecting and organizing shared experiences and solutions, providing information to member groups upon request
- Assisting alcoholics in various situations, including those areas without meetings, and treatment, correctional facilities and in the armed forces period.
- Responding to inquiries about A.A. and its assistance for alcoholics.
- Publishing newsletters, bulletins, books, and pamphlets approved by the General Service Conference and providing complementary literature to new groups.
- Disseminating public information at national and international levels, collaborating with media and organizations focused on alcoholism treatment.

Visitors are welcome to the General Service Office
Monday through Friday, from 9am – 3pm.

Tours are scheduled at 10am, 11am and 2pm,
and last about 45 minutes.

A 12:15pm guided tour follows the weekly 11am A.A.
meeting on Fridays.

GSO and Grapevine
475 Riverside Drive at West 120th Street
11th and 8th Floors
New York, NY 10115
(212) 870-3400

AA GRAPEVINE

Report to the General Service Board
Monday, October 30, 2023
Paz Preciado, Chair

Board of Directors: Teddy B (NTD), Morgan B (NTD), Chris C (Publisher), Cindy F (NTD), Tom H (GSB Trustee), Molly Oliver (Class A Trustee), Paz P (GSB Trustee), Joyce S (GSB Trustee), David S (GSB Trustee).

The AA Grapevine Board of Directors met two times since the July 27, 2023, quarterly meeting. A planning meeting on September 9, 2023, and a quarterly meeting on October 27, 2023. The Nominating and Governance committee met virtually on September 14, Finance and Budget committee met on August 16 and the Strategic Planning committee met on October 10.

Overview:

- The GV Board approved the Sept 2023 YTD financial results for Grapevine and La Viña, a draft 2024 high level budget, rolling cash flow forecast and the 990 Tax return.
- The GV Board of Directors has chosen a candidate for the upcoming position of Non-Trustee Director. We received 37 resumes, the GV Trustee Nominating and Governance Committee interviewed seven candidates with the full GV Board's feedback, and we chose a new Non-Trustee Director.

- Grapevine App

Downloads	Subscriptions	Gross Income	Net Income
16,538	2,327	\$51,157	\$43,484*

- La Viña App

Downloads	Subscriptions	Gross Income	Net Income
596	70	\$978	\$831*

*Net incomes are an estimate based on gross less 15%

- Fun Fact: The AA Grapevine App currently sits at number 32 on the Apple Top 200 Newspaper and Magazine App Charts.
 - We are receiving requests to facilitate a gift certificate for the apps, it is on the works. Stay tuned for the released date.
 - The office has been working with the app developers to fix bugs.
- We welcome our new Digital Engagement Editor, Julia Dillon.
- To improve yearly sales and cash flow, the yearly "free shipping" offer in November and December will be combined with a 20% off all orders offer.
- The office is actively searching for a new Controller. We are using the services of Your Part Time Controller for the moment.

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Strategic Planning: The AAGVB met on Friday, October 27 for a half day of Strategic Planning. The following goals were discussed: Focus on needs and desires AAGV are not addressing (product, channel, message, audience); get beyond the core AAGV fans and service nerds; reach directly into the broader fellowship and enable our current subscribers/fans to serve as supporters for Grapevine and La Viña.

Board Meeting:

The board received activity reports from office operations, Grapevine and La Viña editorial, production, digital communications, and customer relations.

Media engagement:

- Podcast: Over 577,000 downloads.
- Instagram: Grapevine 10,900 followers, La Viña 1,413 followers
- YouTube: 11,900 subscribers, 109 videos with 163,456 views.
- Grapevine and La Viña News appearing monthly on the Meeting Guide App
- App stories to be in Grapevine and La Viña magazines and on the podcast.

Carry the Message certificates processed to date: 1,437

Finance and Budget: The chair reported the committee met on August 16. They reviewed and approved the June YTD financial statements for GV and LV. On October 27, the board was presented with the Sept 2023 YTD financial results for Grapevine and La Viña, a draft 2024 high level budget, rolling cash flow forecast and the 990 Tax return. The GV Board of Directors approved both financial reports.

Nominating and Governance: The chair reported that the committee met virtually on September 14, 2023 and conducted the Regional Trustee interviews with Teresa J, Southwest Region and Ken T, Northeast Region. If the Trustees Nominating Committee approves, the new Trustee will begin serving as a Director on AAGV following the 74th General Service Conference. On September 19th, this recommendation was sent to the Trustees Nominating Committee.

Non-Trustee Director resumes were due on September 15, 2023. This service position was for Cindy F's current position, whose term ends in April 2024. A total of 35 resumes were received. The committee met, reviewed the resumes, and chose six for virtual interviews after much deliberation. These interviews took place on October 18th, 19th, and 20th. The Nominating Committee made a final decision after the final interview on Friday, October 20, 2023. Trustees Nominating was notified of their decision.

Ad hoc 2025 Convention: The committee had not met, according to the chair. The chair did, however, meet with the Publisher and discuss some preliminary ideas. The 2025 International Convention Coordinator, GV Publisher, GV and LV editors, and the Digital Engagement Editor will all be present at a future meeting. The chair will notify the committee of the upcoming meeting as soon as possible.

Editorial Advisory Board: The GVEAB met on September 5, 2023. GVEAB currently recruiting for another Canadian member. LVEAB met on August 23, 2023.

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Grapevine Editorial Report

Our Twelve Steps—New Spring Book—a brand-new collection of stories from AA members about the joys and challenges of working the program’s Twelve Steps of recovery—on schedule—due out April 2024

GV Workbook- New colorful, updated version completed, easier for GV Reps to use, easier to keep updated, drives members to our website—currently improving & updating.

Grapevine magazines currently in production and on schedule:

- NOV—Gratitude (featuring a trip to GSO Archives)—done, printing
- DEC—Remote Communities & Holiday Stories—final proofing
- JAN—Emotional Sobriety—proofing
- FEB—Getting Through Tough Times—stories edited, art meeting
- MAR—Spanish Speaking AA Members—editing stories
- APRIL—Favorite Big Book Stories (the 85th Anniv!)—selecting stories

La Viña Editorial Report:

The editor of La Viña has been hosting a monthly informational workshop in Spanish by Zoom, which has been well attended. The informational workshop will be held by Zoom on the last Friday of each month at noon (EST time), ID: 815 9593 1777.

La Viña magazines currently in production and on schedule:

- JAN/FEB 2024: Nuevos (Newcomers edition) —Proof 2
- MARCH/APRIL: Cortos (Short LV stories) — Copy Editing
- MAY/JUNE: Relapse — Stories being selected.

Fall Spanish-language book “Prayer and Meditation” is done and out. Oración Y Meditación (translation) features powerful stories by members of Alcoholics Anonymous about the many ways they pray and meditate in their daily lives.

LV Workbook- New updated version completed, now up on the LV website.

Web Report: The Digital Publishing manager reported monthly web traffic in the 3rd quarter averaged 108,178 new visitors; 41,114 returning visitors and 328,224 page views. In collaboration with the app vendor, the Digital Publishing department added Google Analytics tracking to both the Android and iOS versions of the app. Access was also granted to AAGV’s marketing vendor.

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PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

in progress as of Oct 30, 2023

Trustees' Archives Committee - No PAIs

Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference

PAI 10: The committee reviewed the request to revise procedures for electing Delegate chairperson, and Committee chairpersons and **agreed to forward** to the 2024 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions, or as assigned by the EDW subcommittee.

PAI 13: The committee reviewed the request to add Alcoholics Anonymous to the list of books **recommended** to newly elected GSRs and **took no action**. The committee noted there is not a widely expressed need for this change at this time.

PAI 18: The committee reviewed a request that the General Service Conference (GSC) agenda and background for all committees, along with all supporting documents be made available to Area delegates six (6) months prior to the General Service Conference and **took no action**. The committee noted that the pilot is in year three of a three-year trial, with a September 15 deadline, and the General Service Conference is expecting a final report from the Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) subcommittee. The committee also noted the coordination and costs involved with translating Conference background materials simultaneously in three official languages would not be feasible.

PAI 23: The committee reviewed a request to make final Conference agenda items, and background material available to the entire Fellowship by February 1 and **took no action**. The committee noted the current Conference process for distributing the final Conference agenda and background to Conference Members, which involves Delegates circulating the materials to the fellowship within their areas.

PAI 29: The committee reviewed a request that the GSC recommend the General Service Office (GSO) to do a redistricting map based on population due to the changes over the last 20 years, including area and districts, and **took no action**, noting the delegated authority of areas to develop their own processes for redistricting.

PAI 34: The committee considered a request that the General Service Conference cease from developing a process using virtual meeting technologies for polling by the GSB/GSC to vote on items between annual conferences and **took no action**. The committee noted a 2021 Advisory Action that requested a process that supports real-time discussion and debate with greater efficiency rather than an email-exchange. The committee noted that videoconference is a new technology for polling or conference call, but the process for polling in-between GSCs has existed for a long time using other methods such as email and conference calls.

PAI 35: The committee reviewed a request that the General Service Conference should not allow any votes on floor actions which contradict committee recommendations and **took no action**. The committee noted that floor actions can be an important part of the Conference process, and the Conference has the opportunity to decline to consider the proposed floor action.

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PAI 37: The committee considered a request to return the deadline for submission of prospective agenda items to December 15 instead of the current September 15 deadline and **took no action**. The committee noted that the pilot is in year three of a three-year trial and the General Service Conference is expecting a final report from the Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) subcommittee. The committee also noted that submissions are open all year around.

PAI 57: The committee considered the request to clarify whether the geographical designations of the 93 areas in the United States and Canada were so designated to reserve service opportunities and representation for A.A. members within those specific geographical boundaries and **took no action**. The committee noted an anticipated report from the GSB Participation of Online Groups (POGs) Ad-hoc committee may inform future discussions regarding representation.

PAI 63: The committee considered the request for determining all Conference votes, and **took no action**, noting the current practice in keeping with the 1998 Advisory action on calculating votes needed to determine substantial unanimity where the total number of votes cast will be divided by 3, then multiplied by 2 to determine the number of votes needed.

PAI 65: The committee considered the request to provide a path for members to communicate suggestions to the GSB and GSO outside the Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) process and **took no action**, noting that the GSB receives and reviews communications from members on a regular basis. Members also regularly communicate suggestions to GSO through the Contact us page located on the aa.org website, as well as through their district, area, and regional trusted servants.

PAI 66: The committee considered the request that a caucus of delegates from each region to compare notes regarding the conscience of their areas on program agenda items related to the agenda items for the committee that each delegate serves on, including alternative approaches to address these agenda items rather than at conference and **took no action**. Each region can decide whether to discuss PAIs at their service assemblies, many delegates attend regional A.A. service assemblies with an interest in exchanging their local experiences from areas about effective ways to best fulfill A.A.'s primary purpose.

PAI 67: The committee considered the request to increase the number of regions to 13 and reduce the number of committees to eight, create a Digital Communications committee, create a Pamphlets Committee; confine edits to committee meetings rather than submitting them, and combine Agenda and International and **took no action**. The committee felt that there isn't a widely expressed need at this time.

PAI 68: The committee considered the request to add linguistic areas to each region, allow linguistic districts and groups to participate in both the local area and the linguistic at the same time and **took no action**, noting there was not a widely expressed need at this time. The committee also noted that each Area can currently decide which language district language would be most useful.

PAI 70: The committee reviewed a request to move to a three-year election and conference cycle and **took no action**, noting that there is not a widely expressed need at this time.

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PAI 71: The committee considered a request to change the voting members of the General Service Conference to remove nontrustee corporate directors General Service Office, Grapevine and La Vina staff members as voting members and **took no action**. The committee noted that Concept IV and the Conference Charter have carefully built the inclusion of Directors of our service corporations, together with their respective executive staffs, to always be voting members of the General Service Conference.

PAI 96: The committee considered a request that the general service conference committee's agenda items be made publicly available on all public facing websites, applications and social media feeds prior to the GSC where practical and **took no action**. The committee noted that the General Service Conference does not have the authority to direct what information is shared on all area websites or have the fiscal resources to build out a members' only site.

PAI 104: The committee reviewed a request that all material used by General Service Conference Committees will be made available in a non-password protected "Members" section of the AA website as soon as they are completed by or made available to their originating or receiving office or committee and **took no action**. The committee noted that currently these materials are available through Area Delegates, and there are not currently fiscal resources to build out a members' only site.

PAI 108: The committee reviewed a request that elected Alternate Delegates, of the 93 Areas, be given access to the Dashboard and Committee "Eyes Only" Material and **took no action**. The committee noted that each area delegate can decide to share Conference materials within their area, and that this matter was fully discussed at the 73rd General Service Conference.

PAI 109: The committee considered a request to amend or add a footnote to Article 9 of the Current Conference Charter that explains the updated process for polling between General Service Conferences and **took no action**, noting that not every procedure is described in detail within the Service Manual.

PAI 110: The committee considered a request to change the wording in the Service Manual concerning "How the Fellowship Supports its Delegate" and **took no action**, noting that each Area creates their own policies and practices on sharing Conference Materials.

PAI 116: The committee considered a request to have a virtual General Service Conference on alternate years, and **took no action**. The committee noted that the recent return to in-person gatherings fosters reengaging participation.

Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment/Accessibilities

PAI 89: The committee discussed a proposed agenda item that the General Service Conference form a committee to find solutions for those unable to access new technologies and **took no action**. The committee noted that there was not a widely expressed need from the Fellowship.

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PAI 112: The committee discussed a proposed agenda item to bring out of retirement the pamphlet "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W." and **took no action**. The committee noted there was no widely expressed need at this time and that the content is not useful as a CPC tool. The committee recognized the love and devotion many members of the Fellowship feel for these historical pieces and that a watermarked copy of retired pamphlets for personal use - not to be distributed - are available from Archives upon request.

PAI 141: The committee discussed a proposed agenda item to develop a pamphlet with Bill W.'s Basic Concepts of Recovery with minor editorial updates for the purpose of PI/CPC committee work and **took no action**. The committee noted there was no widely expressed need from professionals for such a pamphlet at this time. The committee also noted the cost of producing a pamphlet and that there exists in our literature other ways to inform professionals about these concepts of recovery.

Trustees' Committee on Corrections - No PAIs

Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee

PAI 5 – The Committee considered a request to develop ways to communicate the cost of services to the Fellowship. This would include a comprehensive, annual, "member's eye view" list of costs for services provided by the GSB, AAWS/GSO, and the AA Grapevine, and be included alongside any financial information released to the Fellowship, including but not limited to, the Picnic Table Slides and Final Conference Reports. The costs per service would also include any associated salary costs, employee benefits, legal fees, IT costs. etc. The Trustees Finance & Budgetary Committee requested that this proposed agenda item be **forwarded to the AAWS and AA Grapevine Boards** for discussion with a report to follow to the 75th GSC Conference Committee on Finance.

PAI 6 - The Committee considered a request to re-commit to the return of the Reserve Fund to 9 - 12 months of current operating expenses that takes into account prudence, cost savings, and utmost priority given to essential services that reach the still-suffering alcoholic. This would include a timeline and roadmap to rebuild the Reserve Fund when it falls below 9 months, keeping in mind its spiritual value to the Fellowship. Previous policy to not set a lower limit on the fund would remain the same so funds are available when deemed absolutely necessary, and **took no action**. The Committee noted the creation of a new subcommittee to define the flow and impacts of inter- corporation payments, compile information about the current efforts and future opportunities of each corporation for cost containment and discuss fiscal opportunities with an ultimate eye toward sustaining services and strengthening the Reserve Fund. The committee **agreed to forward** PAI #6 to help inform the subcommittee's work.

PAI 41 - The Committee considered a request that the General Service Board develops 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 75th General Service Conference. The Committee **agreed to forward to the 74th General Service Conference** with a cover letter from the Trustees Finance Committee.

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PAI 48 and 78 – The Committee considered these requests that due to perceived financial secrecy, diminished transparency and incomplete communication from the GSB, that the Delegates from the 93 Areas be given the same "detailed" financial information that many other GSC members receive (GSB, AAWS Board, GV Board and Management of GSO) and that the detailed financials be delivered by the 21st of each month for the previous month, thereby fostering a fully informed fellowship, and helping the Groups of Alcoholics Anonymous to have the access required to truly maintain and fully retain it's (Concept One) Final Responsibility and Ultimate Authority of and for the society they own. The committee **took no action** (see below).

PAI 52 - The Committee considered a request to provide all Delegates in the U.S. and Canada with monthly year-to-date detailed financial statements including income statement, balance sheet, and cash flow statement, versus budget, for GSB/AAWS/Grapevine/La Viña, combined, for the previous month by the 15th of the month, every month, so the Delegates can provide those reports to the Fellowship, to show the Fellowship how their money is being spent and managed by the GSB, as there is a great need for more complete and timely financial reporting to the Fellowship with our Reserve Fund down -\$5 million, or -28% in the past four years from 2018 to 2022, as our GSB refuses to reduce costs to allow us to pay back the \$5 million borrowed from the Reserve Fund without the need to create new literature to pay back the loan (plain language Big Book). The committee **took no action** (see below).

The committee considered three PAI's 48, 52, 78 and **took no action** because quarterly financial statements to Conference delegates are currently being developed pursuant to an Advisory Action adopted by the 73rd General Service Conference

Trustees' International Committee

Discuss Proposed Agenda Item (PAI): The committee discussed a *request that the Trustee-at-Large/U.S. forward to the 2024 World Service Meeting a proposal regarding a feasibility study of how to increase worldwide communication, consultation, and cooperation on A.A. international issues, so that policy recommendations that affect A.A. around the world can be made with global A.A. participation* and **took no action**. The committee noted that the purpose of the World Service Meeting is to act as a forum for sharing the experience, strength, and hope of participating structures. The World Service Meeting sets policy for the World Service Meeting only, and not for A.A. as whole. The World Service Meeting does offer opportunities throughout the week for delegates to share experience with each other on a myriad of topics affecting AA today.

Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums – No PAIs

Trustees' Literature Committee

Note: the PAIs are not in numerical order. The chair grouped those that were identical or very similar so as to expedite the process of discussing and voting on their disposition.

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PAI#8: The committee considered a request that the first 164 pages of the Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve remain intact with no edits of any kind and **took no action**. The committee noted that the 2023 Committee Consideration requesting input from the Fellowship regarding changes to the writings of A.A. co-founders is currently being implemented, which will allow for wide Fellowship sharing and discussion regarding this topic.

PAI#25: The committee considered a request that all changes to Bill Wilson's text of the first 164 pages of the Big Book be footnoted and **took no action**. The committee noted that the 2023 Committee Consideration requesting input from the Fellowship regarding changes to the writings of A.A. co-founders is currently being implemented, which will allow for wide Fellowship sharing and discussion regarding this topic.

PAI#26: The committee considered a request that all changes to Bill Wilson's text of the 12X12 be footnoted and **took no action**. The committee noted that the 2023 Committee Consideration requesting input from the Fellowship regarding changes to the writings of A.A. co-founders is currently being implemented, which will allow for wide Fellowship sharing and discussion regarding this topic.

PAI#33: The committee considered a request that the General Service Conference commit to the following statement "The first 164 pages of Alcoholics Anonymous (Big Book), Pages XI-XXXII (The Preface, The Forwards, The Doctor's Opinion), Dr. Bob's Nightmare, and the Appendices remain as contained in the 4th Edition of the book and **took no action**. The committee recognized that the 72nd General Service Conference affirmed no changes to the first 164 pages of the Big Book. Additionally, the committee noted that the 2023 Committee Consideration requesting input from the Fellowship regarding changes to the writings of A.A. co-founders is currently being implemented, which will allow for wide Fellowship sharing and discussion regarding this topic.

PAI#61: The committee considered a request to create a new policy regarding Bill W.'s writings to guide any proposed changes that would include the following guidelines: 1) 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; 2) the text in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions written by Bill Wilson, remain as is, and **took no action**. The committee noted that the General Service Conference and structure already provides a process and policy.

PAI#76: The committee considered a request to create a new policy regarding Bill W.'s writings that would include the following guidelines: 1) 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 written; 2) the text in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions written by Bill W., remain as originally written, and **took no action**. The committee noted that the General Service Conference and structure already provides a process and policy.

PAI#102: The committee considered a request to create a new policy regarding Bill W.'s writings that would include the following guidelines: 1) the first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, "The Doctor's Opinion," "Dr. Bob's

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Nightmare” and the Appendices remain as written; 2) the text in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions written by Bill Wilson, remain as originally written, and **took no action**. The committee noted that the General Service Conference and structure already provides a process and policy.

PAI#82: The committee considered a request that any recommendation before the GSC floor for consideration as an Advisory Action, by either a GSC committee or floor action, that seeks to: 1) Change or revise the Preface, Forewords, Doctor’s Opinion, first 164 pages, Dr. Bob’s Story, or Appendices to the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous; 2) Change or revise any of the original writings of A.A.’s founders, including but not limited to: Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, AA Comes of Age, and Bill Wilson’s essays on the Twelve Concepts; 3) Change or revise the text of the Twelve Steps, or Twelve Traditions, or Twelve Concepts for World Service; 4) Create future translations to Plain English Language of any of the above writings or classes of writings would be tabled prior to discussion and vote until next year’s GSC and in the meantime announced as a “tabled Recommendation before the GSC floor” as follows: 1) Included in the preliminary Conference report given to delegates following the Conference; 2) Included in the Final Conference Report for that Conference; 3) Included with Conference proposed agenda items distributed to all delegates of the following year’s Conference following which at the next year’s GSC, the recommendation would be un-tabled to allow floor discussion and vote to proceed and **took no action**. The committee recognized that the General Service Conference and structure already provides a process and policy. Additionally, the committee noted that the 2023 Committee Consideration requesting input from the Fellowship regarding changes to the writings of A.A. co-founders is currently being implemented, which will allow for wide Fellowship sharing and discussion regarding this topic.

PAI#14: The committee considered a request that the translation of the first 164 pages of the French 2nd edition (1989) takes precedence over the translation of the 4th edition of the French version of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous and therefore, that the translation of the 3rd French edition be that of the French 5th edition and asked the staff secretary to **forward this item to AAWS Publishing**.

PAI#12: The committee considered a request to cease the rewriting of the Big book into plain and simple language and **took no action**. The committee noted that the project is in its final stages to be presented to the 74th General Service Conference and that Conference procedures already provide a process for feedback as to the direction of the project.

PAI#20: The committee considered a request that AAWS/GSO stop the development of the plain language Big Book and **took no action**. The committee noted that AAWS/GSO’s work on the plain language Big Book is at the request of the General Service Conference via Conference Advisory Action.

PAI#47: The committee considered a request to halt the process of the plain and simple language translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous Fourth Edition and **took no action**. The committee noted that the project is in its final stages to be presented to the

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74th General Service Conference and that Conference procedures already provide a process for feedback as to the direction of the project.

PAI#49: The committee considered a request that the publication and distribution of the book [plain language Big Book] be halted until and when the Fellowship as a whole has a chance to review it and approve its usage and **took no action**. The committee noted that the General Service Conference serves as a “group conscience” for the U.S./Canada structure and that current Conference procedures provide a process for feedback as to the direction of the project.

PAI#54: The committee considered a request that the current revision of our Big Book [plain and simple language] be reconsidered and **took no action**. The committee noted that the project is in its final stages to be presented to the 74th General Service Conference and that Conference procedures already provide a process for feedback as to the direction of the project.

PAI#58: The committee considered a request to cease all further action to develop the plain language translation of the Big Book and **took no action**. The committee noted that the project is in its final stages to be presented to the 74th General Service Conference and that Conference procedures already provide a process for feedback as to the direction of the project.

PAI#83: The committee considered a request to cease all further action to develop the plain language translation of the Big Book and **took no action**. The committee noted that the project is in its final stages to be presented to the 74th General Service Conference and that Conference procedures already provide a process for feedback as to the direction of the project.

PAI#91: The committee considered a request that AA World Services cease and desist all work on the plain language translation of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous until satisfactorily addressing through a formal vote and **took no action**. The committee noted that AA World Services’ work on the plain language Big Book is at the request of the General Service Conference via Conference Advisory Action.

PAI#99: The committee considered a request that the current revision of our Big Book be reconsidered and **took no action**. The committee noted that the project is in its final stages to be presented to the 74th General Service Conference and that Conference procedures already provide a process for feedback as to the direction of the project.

PAI#114: The committee considered a request that the 74th General Service Conference discontinue any progress toward developing a plain language version of our basic text Alcoholics Anonymous and **took no action**. The committee noted that the project is in its final stages to be presented to the 74th General Service Conference and that Conference procedures already provide a process for feedback as to the direction of the project.

PAI#59: The committee considered a request that all considerations, discussions, and actions below the Service Structure level of the groups of Alcoholics Anonymous pertaining to the change, rewording, modification, alteration, or extension of the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous related to the Plain Language Big Book translation be discontinued

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and **took no action**. The committee noted that the project is in its final stages to be presented to the 74th General Service Conference and that Conference procedures provide a process for feedback as to the direction of the project.

PAI#15: The committee considered a request that the new language translation of the Big Book be treated as Conference-approved literature, not a translation and **took no action**. The committee noted that the term “Conference-approved” describes all written or audiovisual material approved by the Conference and that characterizing the plain language Big Book as a “translation” does not alter the fact that the material will go before the Conference for review and approval.

PAI #45: The committee considered a request that the new language translation of the Big Book be treated as Conference-approved literature, not a translation and **took no action**. The committee noted that the term “Conference-approved” describes all written or audiovisual material approved by the Conference and that characterizing the plain language Big Book as a “translation” does not alter the fact that the material will go before the Conference for review and approval.

PAI#16: The committee considered a request that Area Delegates attending the 2024 General Service Conference receive a copyrighted, working version of the plain language Big Book to review and bring back to their respective Area assemblies without taking a vote to accept the version, thus allowing that perspectives, reactions and proposed amendments to the version may have time to be culled from the A.A. groups, through their GSRs and **took no action**. The committee noted that current Conference procedures provide a process for feedback as to the direction of the project, while protecting the integrity of A.A. draft literature.

PAI #111: The committee considered a request for a unified edition that physically binds the original A.A. Big Book text (pg. 1-164) and the plain language translation into one volume, with the current AA Big Book text on the left side of page, and the plain language translation on the right side of the page and **took no action**. The committee noted that the project is in its final stages to be presented to the General Service Conference and that Conference procedures provide a process for feedback as to the direction of the project.

PAI#32: The committee considered a request that the plain and simple version of the Big Book currently under development should not contain the phrases “Alcoholics Anonymous” or “Big Book” in its title or any subtitles and **took no action**. The committee noted that the project is in its final stages to be presented to the 74th General Service Conference and that Conference procedures provide a process for feedback as to the direction of the project.

PAI#85: The committee considered a request that the Twelve Steps from the book Alcoholics Anonymous in the First, Second, Third, and Fourth editions remain as originally written in the First, Second, Third, and Fourth editions; and that the proposed side by side comparison in the current draft of the Plain and Simple translation of the Twelve Steps be removed; and that no other translation of the Twelve Steps be written for the proposed Plain and Simple Book and **took no action**. The committee noted that the project is in its

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final stages to be presented to the 74th General Service Conference and that Conference procedures provide a process for feedback as to the direction of the project.

PAI#56: The committee considered a request that the Twelve Steps from the book Alcoholics Anonymous in the First, Second, Third, and Fourth editions remain as originally written in the First, Second, Third, and Fourth editions; and that the proposed side by-side comparison in the current draft of the Plain and Simple translation of the Twelve Steps be removed; and that no other translation of the Twelve Steps be written for the proposed Plain and Simple Book **and took no action**. The committee noted that the project is in its final stages to be presented to the 74th General Service Conference and that Conference procedures provide a process for feedback as to the direction of the project.

PAI#53: The committee considered a request to not change the wording of the 12 Steps in the plain language Big Book, without written consent of no less than three-quarters of the A.A. groups, as required by our Conference charter, GSB Bylaws and October 2022 TABB Subcommittee Report pertaining to changes to the wording of the 12 Steps in the plain language Big Book and **took no action**. The committee noted that the project is in its final stages to be presented to the 74th General Service Conference and that Conference procedures provide a process for feedback as to the direction of the project.

PAI#50: The committee considered a request that no portion of the Preface, the Forwards, the Doctor's Opinion, Chapters 1-11 in their entirety, Doctor Bob's Nightmare and the 7 Appendices as they currently appear in the book Alcoholics Anonymous (4th Edition) be deleted, rewritten, or translated into plain and simple language as has been proposed to the General Service Conference and **took no action**. The committee noted that the project is in its final stages to be presented to the 74th General Service Conference and that Conference procedures provide a process for feedback as to the direction of the project.

PAI#42: The committee considered a request that no other translation of the Twelve Steps be written for the proposed Plain and Simple Book and **took no action**. The committee noted that the project is in its final stages to be presented to the General Service Conference and that Conference procedures provide a process for feedback as to the direction of the project.

PAI#11: The committee considered a request to rescind the changes made to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions by the 71st GSC so the historical content of Bill's writings can remain with the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous and **took no action**. The committee noted that the 2023 Committee Consideration requesting input from the Fellowship regarding changes to the writings of A.A. co-founders is currently being implemented, which will allow for wide Fellowship sharing and discussion regarding this topic.

PAI#22: The committee considered a request to rescind the changes made by the 71st GSC to certain phrases on pages 66 and 117 of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions so the historical content of Bill's writings can remain with the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous and **took no action**. The committee noted that the 2023 Committee Consideration requesting input from the Fellowship regarding changes to the

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writings of A.A. co-founders is currently being implemented, which will allow for wide Fellowship sharing and discussion regarding this topic.

PAI #24: The committee considered a request to restore the 12X12 to the pre-71st Conference text on pages 117 and 66 and **took no action**. The committee noted that the 2023 Committee Consideration requesting input from the Fellowship regarding changes to the writings of A.A. co-founders is currently being implemented, which will allow for wide Fellowship sharing and discussion regarding this topic.

PAI#107: The committee considered a request to restore the text of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, reversing the changes made by the 2021 GSC and insert a new forward to the “Twelve and Twelve” and **took no action**. The committee noted that the 2023 Committee Consideration requesting input from the Fellowship regarding changes to the writings of A.A. co-founders is currently being implemented, which will allow for wide Fellowship sharing and discussion regarding this topic.

PAI #31: The committee considered a request that the original wording on pages 66 and 117 of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be restored, the next time the book is reprinted and **took no action**. The committee noted that the 2023 Committee Consideration requesting input from the Fellowship regarding changes to the writings of A.A. co-founders is currently being implemented, which will allow for wide Fellowship sharing and discussion regarding this topic.

PAI #84: The committee considered a request that changes to pages 117 and 66 in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions made by the 71st General Service Conference be returned to their original text and **took no action**. The committee noted that the 2023 Committee Consideration requesting input from the Fellowship regarding changes to the writings of A.A. co-founders is currently being implemented, which will allow for wide Fellowship sharing and discussion regarding this topic.

PAI #55: The committee considered a request that changes to pages 117 and 66 in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions made by the 71st General Service Conference be returned to their original text (this would include the introduction be returned to its original text) and **took no action**. The committee noted that the 2023 Committee Consideration requesting input from the Fellowship regarding changes to the writings of A.A. co-founders is currently being implemented, which will allow for wide Fellowship sharing and discussion regarding this topic.

PAI #36: The committee considered a request that changes to pages 117 and 66 in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions made by the 71st General Service Conference be reversed and **took no action**. The committee noted that the 2023 Committee Consideration requesting input from the Fellowship regarding changes to the writings of A.A. co-founders is currently being implemented, which will allow for wide Fellowship sharing and discussion regarding this topic.

PAI #46: The committee considered a request that changes to pages 117 and 66 in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions made by the 71st General Service Conference be returned to their original text (this would include the introduction be returned to its original text) and **took no action**. The committee noted that the 2023 Committee

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Consideration requesting input from the Fellowship regarding changes to the writings of A.A. co-founders is currently being implemented, which will allow for wide Fellowship sharing and discussion regarding this topic.

PAI #40: The committee considered a request that changes to page 66 in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be returned to its original text and **took no action**. The committee noted that the 2023 Committee Consideration requesting input from the Fellowship regarding changes to the writings of A.A. co-founders is currently being implemented, which will allow for wide Fellowship sharing and discussion regarding this topic.

PAI #100: The committee considered the request that the General Service Board shall, in all instances affecting A.A. core literature (i.e.: first 164, 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts, Promises, Preamble) commission a survey of groups within Districts and Areas throughout the United States for the purpose of obtaining a true representative perspective of A.A. members at the group level regarding their wishes in respect to the proposed changes and **took no action**. The committee noted that the 2023 Committee Consideration requesting input from the Fellowship regarding changes to the writings of A.A. co-founders is currently being implemented, which will allow for wide Fellowship sharing and discussion regarding this topic.

PAI #79: The committee considered the request to cease and desist actions taken by AAWS and the AA Grapevine that follow the degenderization edict explained in the email of GSO Executive Editor (September 3, 2020) and **took no action**. The committee noted that the current Conference structure and process provides a path for guidance from the Fellowship as it relates to this topic, specifically recognizing Advisory Actions (1986 and 1992) advising that with the exception of Bill W.'s writings "AAWS editorial staff continue to degenderize A.A literature...for example 'staffing' the booth as opposed to 'manning' the booth."

PAI #17: The committee considered the request that the editors of the 5th edition of the book [Alcoholics Anonymous] insert a footnote in Appendix II, Spiritual Experience, after the quotation and the name of Herbert Spencer as follows: "There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all arguments and which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance – that principle is contempt prior to investigation." – Herbert Spencer and asked the staff secretary to **forward this item to AAWS Publishing**.

PAI #3: The committee considered the request to change the wording of the current Conference Charter to read: The content and words of the book Alcoholics Anonymous including the first 164 pages, the Preface, the Forewords, the Doctor's Opinion, Dr. Bob's Nightmare, AA Number 3 and the Appendices all remain as they appear in September 2022 and will not change even with the written consent of any percentage of the A.A. groups, the General Service Conference, a Publishing Company or any other person or entity. Additionally, no change in Article 12 of the Charter or in A.A. Tradition or in the Twelve Steps of A.A. may be made with less than a written consent of three-quarters of the A.A. groups, as described in the resolution adopted by the 1955 Conference and Convention and **took no action**. The committee noted that this requested change to the Conference Charter is not a widely expressed need from the Fellowship.

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PAI #28: The committee considered a request to add a new appendix to the book Alcoholics Anonymous: “The principles of Alcoholics Anonymous” (this list would display the one-word principle of each of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts for World Service) and **took no action**. The committee noted that there is no one way to interpret spiritual principles and through reading A.A. literature and sharing with other A.A. members, each alcoholic has the opportunity to come to an understanding of what the individual Steps/Traditions/Concepts mean in their own experience.

PAI #105: The committee considered a request to change the wording in the pamphlet “Problems Other Than Alcohol” on page 3 from “genuine alcoholics history” to “alcoholics history” and asked the staff secretary to forward this item to AAWS Publishing for consideration, including exploring alternative terms.

PAI #106: The committee considered a request regarding page 135 in the chapter “The Family Afteward” in the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous and what it says about smoking, to consider either eliminating the paragraph or adding an appendix which summarizes and references scientific studies, or consider a pamphlet which includes A.A. members’ experiences with smoking in recovery and **took no action**. The committee noted that currently, there is not a widely expressed need from the Fellowship.

PAI #94: The committee considered a request to restore the paragraph deleted from the story “Freedom from Bondage” in the Fourth Edition Big Book and asked the staff secretary to **forward this item to AAWS Publishing for their consideration**.

PAI #39: The committee considered a request to change the wording in “How it Works” from men and women to “people” and **took no action**. The committee noted that the 2023 Committee Consideration requesting input from the Fellowship regarding changes to the writings of A.A. co-founders is currently being implemented, which will allow for wide Fellowship sharing and discussion regarding this topic.

PAI #27: The committee considered a request to review and consider a submitted document entitled “Considerations in the Preservation of Primary A.A. Literature in its Original Form” and **took no action**. The committee noted that the 2023 Committee Consideration requesting input from the Fellowship regarding changes to the writings of A.A. co-founders is currently being implemented, which will allow for wide Fellowship sharing and discussion regarding this topic.

PAI #30: The committee considered a request to develop a pamphlet entitled “Experience, Strength, and Hope: A.A. for the Transgender Alcoholic and **agreed to forward to the 2024 General Service Conference**.

PAI #43: The committee considered a request to develop a pamphlet on A.A. and the Unhoused Person that specifically addresses alcoholism, what A.A. is and is not; and includes personal stories from A.A. members who have experienced homelessness and **agreed to forward to the 2024 General Service Conference**.

PAI #72: The committee considered a request to develop a pamphlet which focuses on “A.A. burnout” and **took no action**. The committee noted that this topic can be included in current service material and/or covered in a Grapevine article or podcast.

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PAI #74: The committee considered a request to develop a pamphlet for Asian and Asian-American alcoholics with stories of experience, strength and hope from other Asians and Asian-Americans and **agreed to forward to the 2024 General Service Conference**.

PAI #75: The committee considered a request to develop a pamphlet listing all the different service positions already identified and defined in A.A. pamphlets, workbooks, and service material at the group level and below and include the responsibilities for each and **took no action**. The committee noted that there is not a widely expressed need from the Fellowship.

PAI #86: The committee considered a request to create a workbook to accompany the Big Book and **took no action**. The committee noted a 72nd GSC PAI that proposed creating a Big Book Workbook in lieu of the Plain Language Big Book. Although the trustees' Literature Committee took no action given the progress of the Plain Language Big Book, it was discussed at that time that the committee would explore the option of workbooks following Conference approval and publication of the Plain Language Big Book. (This topic will be added to the January 2024 committee agenda.)

PAI #117: The committee considered a request to establish a New Book Exploratory Committee to bring to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature a procedure for writing a completely new, comprehensive basic text that tells more about A.A. and its Three Legacies and **took no action**. The committee noted that there was not a widely expressed need from the Fellowship. The committee also recognized that these topics are covered in A.A. literature, including service material.

Trustees Nominating Committee

PAI #2: The committee discussed the request to confirm the September 15th deadline for Conference Agenda Items does not apply to motions for censure or reorganization and **agreed to forward to the 74th General Service Conference**.

PAI #7: The committee discussed the request to censure the General Service Board for actions taken on January 29, 2023, and **took no action**. The committee agreed that the 73rd General Service Conference thoroughly discussed this issue; consistent with 73rd GSC Committee on Trustees experience expressed in their feedback call with the chair of trustees' Nominating Committee.

PAI #38: The committee discussed the request to implement three changes to the A.A. *Service Manual* – pages 47; 59; and 136 and **took no action**. While actual changes to the A.A. *Service Manual* are not the purview of this committee, the three proposed ideas challenged the legal authority of the General Service Board. While recognizing the spiritual handshake between the Conference and the Board, it was noted that only the members of the board, by common legal practice, can elect or remove trustees and directors. The committee did not want to put the Conference in a position of making decisions they did not have authority to implement.

PAI #44: The committee discussed the request to restructure the Regional Trustee Elections at the General Service Conference and agreed to **take no action**.

PAI #77: The committee discussed the request to consider changes to the General Service Board that 3 of the 7 Class A Trustee positions transition to 3 Class B Trustee positions. The

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General Service Board would be comprised of 21 Trustees, 4 Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustees and 17 Class B (alcoholic) Trustees. The committee agreed to **forward this PAI to the General Service Board for discussion** and disposition.

PAI #113: The committee discussed the request that General Service Board elections be done individually, and without comment, as opposed to a slate and **took no action**.

Trustees' Public Information Committee – No PAIs

A.A.W.S. Board

PAI #64: the committee recommended that the AAWS Board **take no action**, as there is not a widely expressed need by the Fellowship for the creation of a "lampshade" with the Six Warranties.

PAI #73, the committee recommended that the AAWS Board **take no action**. The committee agreed that since the cessation of the Archives newsletter, the board is utilizing multiple distribution points to reach and inform the Fellowship as it relates to archives (e.g., Box 4-5-9, the AAWS podcast, and the GV podcast).

PAI #95, the committee recommended that the AAWS Board **take no action**. The committee discussed that not only would this be a costly duplication of currently available information, but also the trustees are currently evaluating under the Comprehensive Media Plan (CMP) how best to serve the Fellowship as it relates to ways to prioritize and utilize multimedia formats and platforms beyond the printed format, which would include ideas such as what was proposed by the submitter.

PAI #101, the committee recommended that the AAWS Board **forward this item to the Publishing** Department for consideration.

Regarding a proposal (originally PAI #9 submitted in 2022), the committee recommended that the AAWS board **forward this item to the 74th General Service Conference**, adding background regarding the 2006 Advisory Action as it relates to the terms "contribution" and "donation."

Regarding a proposal to produce a large print stand-alone edition of the Twelve Concepts for World Service, the committee recommended that the AAWS board **take no action**, because there is not a widely expressed need at this time.

Regarding a proposal to stop publishing the new jacketless Alcoholics Anonymous and 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, the committee recommended that the AAWS Board **take no action**.

Grapevine Board

The AA Grapevine Board reviewed proposed agenda items and **agreed to forward** the following to the 2024 General Service Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Vina:

- Review AA Grapevine Workbook.
- Consider the list of suggested AA Grapevine book topics for 2024 or after.

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The Grapevine Board thoughtfully reviewed PAIs 51, 60, 62, 81, and 90 below regarding the Preamble and took no action. The 73rd General Service Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Vina reviewed and discussed this issue thoroughly in April 2023 and took no action. The Grapevine Chair and the 73rd Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Vina met in October 2023 and reviewed these proposed agenda items. It was determined there was no new information which required further discussion.

PAI 51: The Legacy Group of Plano, Texas, a registered A.A. Group within A.A.W.S., moves to change the wording in the A.A. Preamble back to "men and women" instead of using "people."

PAI 60: It is moved that the AA Preamble be changed as follows: The new Proposed Preamble would read: A.A. PREAMBLE© Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of Alcoholics 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.

PAI 62: Replace Gender Neutral AA preamble with original AA preamble written in 1947 that uses "Men and Women" in AA preamble.

PAI 81: Rescind Grapevine Trustees' actions taken for the 72nd and 73rd General Service Conferences (GSC's) which removed from consideration all of the background information submitted in support of PAI's contesting the 71st GSC's decision to change the AA preamble by replacing the words "men and women" with "People." Place all PAI's regarding the AA Preamble issue submitted for the 72nd and 73rd GSC's on the agenda for the 74th GSC and provide all relevant background information submitted by the fellowship in their respective PAI's, referring the question to the appropriate Conference Committee in the same manner the Trustees did with the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions issue in 2023.

PAI 90: That the General Service Conference, through a formal vote, satisfactorily address the minority voice, as demonstrated by the many outstanding proposed agenda items (PAIs), seeking rescission of the changes to the Alcoholics Anonymous Preamble and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions made by the 71st General Service Conference, thereby restoring these writings to their 2020 versions.

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General Sharing Session

Saturday, October 28, 2023

The General Sharing Session took place at The Westin New York at Times Square on Saturday, October 28, 2023, at 1 p.m.

General service trustee Deb K. was heartened and delighted to welcome so many familiar faces to the General Sharing Session at the General Service Board weekend. She noted that the session served as an opportunity to schedule dedicated conversations that remind us of the principles that stay at the core of who we are. The topic of mutual trust was introduced and noted that it is not one dimensional, it lends itself to the application of leadership and opening consideration for the interrelated strains of its practice.

General service trustee, Joyce S. presented on the topic, “Everyone around me had lost all faith in me and didn’t want me around, either. They did not trust me not to show up drunk and disorderly. They never knew what I was going to do next and quite frankly, neither did I.” As she started to amend her behavior through the program and the Steps, her perspective slowly changed. “I was willing to consider the definition of mutual trust... your trust in someone is your belief that they are honest and sincere and will not deliberately do anything to harm you.”

Joyce reflected how that echoed a speech Bill W. gave at the Ninth General Service Conference, reminding the delegates that “Trust has a pretty close kinship with love, and it is the essence of love,” Bill declared. “This society cannot operate without some kind of trust. Nor can we operate as individuals without some kind of trust. I think the degree of trust we have in God, in our principles and in each other as something for wonder.... We trust because we must.” Bill suggested. “And having done that, we trust because it is right. And, finally, we trust because we want to.”

Interim board chair Mike L. was the second to present. For our organization, he noted, it is essential that mutual trust exist between all the different levels of our service structure. “From personal experience, I have identified the biggest challenge I face to maintaining trust is fear. The path from fear to trust goes through prudence. Bill defined prudence in 1966 as ‘rational concern without worry.’ The initial idea of a service structure was viewed with skepticism, criticism, and fear.”

At the Ninth GSC, Bill reflected on the progress made regarding how the service structure was accepted: “And it has been founded upon fear turning into prudence and slowly into trust and confident faith that this structure of service will be enabled to bear any pain or pressure which the future might thrust upon it.... this structure must be capable of functioning when conditions are at their worst, and when we are at our worst.” To aid our service structure to move from fear to trust, while acknowledging the need for people to operate at many different levels, it is essential that the roles we fill are well-defined.

The chair then opened the session up for sharing from all in attendance:

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As is the case with the principles in our program of recovery, their application begins as an inside job, and expands outward as a demonstration of love and service to our fellows. For the many participants in the sharing session, three main points of reflection stood out that echo our individual experiences: personal recovery, the group conscience, and anchoring in service.

In the area of reconciling our spirit to let ourselves trust and be trusted again, a GSO employee talked about the definition that Joyce gave on mutual trust that included the absence of deliberate harm. She noted that she tries not to assume, choosing instead to consider that perhaps she just doesn't understand the other person's perspective. "Being grateful that they trusted me enough to tell me I hurt them, so I had the opportunity to amend my behavior. We give charitable assumption."

A nontrustee director shared that, "For me, trust has undergone a series of changes in A.A., coming from a place of complete distrust, and the journey that has gone on from there. I would come back many times recently to the question of trust, and that if it's genuine it must be unconditional. I trust others and myself to make mistakes. There is a relationship between trust and forgiveness; a value I was taught here in A.A. It's all part of the same spiritual pie."

A general service trustee shared, reflecting on the things she does personally, that are then the things that as an entity we do to foster trust. We see for example that person who just wants you to like them, but you can't trust them because you don't know who they are; honesty and integrity foster trust. We shouldn't be afraid of those things; instead, we can live by principles and stand up for them. But also, we can learn from differing opinions; so, the depth of trust is an intentional action, and it may mean taking risks with one another. A regional trustee noted the importance of not being diverted from our primary purposes and that A.A. be inclusive for all who want to participate, so as we take intentional action, we also practice intentional restraint.

A general service trustee shared how she was invited to chair an area election, and what a wonderful exercise of trust our elections are. Another trusted servant shared how one of the big things in A.A. around trust is respecting the group conscience. "It's challenging, it's about humility, and not placing myself above the group. I didn't do that great a job on my own. It's worked out better this way, but it's not always easy. Trying to separate out disagreeing with someone and questioning their intentions."

A GSO employee shared about the power of Tradition Two and witnessing a remarkable transformation at the General Service Conference. He watched how nine delegates in a committee, under pressure to take punitive action, called every trustee to come and answer some questions. Everyone showed up, was honest, and was genuine. Face to face, heart to heart, things are a little different. Having the debate on the floor, watching the same transformation take place through the entire Conference.

Focusing on the task of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic, a GSO employee reflected on "a project has generated much discussion within the Fellowship... I'm talking about the development of a draft Plain Language Big Book. I was thinking of how mutual trust comes down to finding a measure of balance. We can agree that the draft of the book should go through the Conference-approval process, but there is uncertainty in how we

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accomplish this. If we can balance and have faith and trust in the Fellowship, that's a building block of trust. In doing so we adhere to the structure we built on that cornerstone."

A nontrustee director followed up saying that "What I've seen happen with the Plain Language Big Book really does raise the issue of trust. We do presentations and answer questions and can confirm the 'conspiracy theories' are alive and well. It is also great to hear the support face to face. The gratitude."

A regional trustee shared about how in 1940, Bill wrote to Dr. Bob, concerning the first five chapters of the Big Book, how he was afraid that people wouldn't be honest so as not to hurt the writer's feelings. "It's helpful to remember how in our initial stages, it was about Bill and Bob taking the book around and showing it. I love the process of sharing as much as we can, of trusting and valuing others' opinions, and not taking it personally when someone doesn't agree with how I think or how I perceive something should go."

A general sense of the sharing of those in attendance reflected on mutual trust as a central tenet of our service together, responsibility to act in service to build rather than erode trust, and the importance of the group conscience to our trusted servants.

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