

May 27, 2023

Delegates Report May Area Committee Meeting

Hello friends I am an alcoholic member of the Prince George Group District 21 Hamilton Mountain. I currently have the honour and privilege of serving as your Area 86 Western Ontario Panel 72 Delegate and my name is Jeff Stephens. Welcome to Owen Sound, first off allow me to thank Hugh, Wayne, and the crew in District 9 for all their hospitality and for hosting us here today. I have been keeping busy since we last met at the spring assembly. I gathered the information passed along to me read the 1000 plus pages of background material for the 73rd General service conference read and followed up on the additional material about the same amount as the background for the conference finance committee which I was privileged to chair. I hosted and participated in several virtual meetings with other delegates the board and the finance committee. It was upon reflection a wonderful and rewarding experience. As easy as 1,2,3. and with no intention to frighten anyone away from service work but rather to let you know that if I can do it anyone can. If given the opportunity to serve Alcoholics Anonymous in any capacity, please do because nearing completing my term as GSR and for sure after suffering a couple of ego deflating defeats for sub-committee chair positions my term as DCM ending. I thought my time in general service had run its course. I cannot put a spiritual value on how gratifying the experience serving in these various positions has been. Always remembering and reminded of that one common denominator to help the still suffering alcoholic the one just like me. Oh, and by the way it's all Sandi's fault.

So, the journey begins Nikki, and I left Hamilton Thursday April 20th and headed to Buffalo where we spent the night for our 7 a.m. flight to New York. The picture in the middle was taken from the window of the plane and the one on the right from the corner out front of GSO. We arrived at LaGuardia and headed to the Marriot at the Brooklyn Bridge and checked in then met some folks in the lobby to head over to GSO for the weekly Friday 11 am A.A. meeting at the office. Two past trustee's Cathy F., Joanne L, A79 Delegate Rio D., her niece Raine, Nikki and I hopped the subway to 475 Riverside Dr. If you have the chance to attend this meeting I highly recommend going. You have to get your card to enter at reception there was an event happening downstairs, so the meeting was held upstairs in the office boardroom, and it was packed. I asked Patrick C. G.S.O. staff member if he has ever seen that many people in that room and he responded not even close there well over a hundred attendees. We then had a tour of the office

with GSO staff member Eileen A., she is fairly new to the office, and she is passionate about her staff assignment. We first stopped by to visit GSO GM Bob W., who was here to visit us at our Spring assembly. The slogans in Spanish are just some of the things adorning the walls around the office. I especially like think, think, think, is displayed upside down. The picture of the anonymous prisoners that hangs in Eileen's office is always one that makes me smile and the pile of correspondence on her desk is about a week or so of what she normally receives and Eileen replies to them all. As we toured the office these signs in all three languages were dispersed throughout making us feel welcome. We toured around the office met and chatted with the staff in their workspace. They are all friendly, accommodating and answer any questions you may have. The international office has multiple pictures on the wall from world service meetings Big Books on the filing cabinets in multiple languages and many flags on display. The shipping department moves a phenomenal amount of literature throughout the U.S./Canada and beyond. The archives are another favourite stop on the tour so much to take in. I believe that this slide is self explanatory and why it would catch my attention the famous speech given by Bill W., and where we first heard the responsibility statement Toronto 1965. It's hard to believe that the spiritual principles that we hold so dear started from such humble beginnings but then again given our history it's not that hard to fathom. Our founders' writings have been tidied up and have been conveyed to us in many forms since 1939. Here is some first edition Big Books 1st printing with editions 1-4 on top and the next 15 printings below you know what they say if your Big Book is in bad shape your program isn't. Ruth Hock's typewriter where the first manuscript of the Big Book was composed and a first printing of the 12 & 12 and an example of the next 86 printings as of 2021. In this slide top left Bill here at the podium during the 1956 conference Bernard Smith to his right where he proposed for consideration four principles of petition, appeal, participation, and decision. That they one day may permeate all of A.A. service principles which express tolerance, patience and love of each other; principles which could do much to avert friction, indecision and power-driving. Later to become incorporated into our 12 Concepts. A picture of Towns hospital the way it looked in 1934-35 bottom left. In the middle on top, we have the Lasker award presented to AA the history of which is found on page 571 4th edition. Bottom middle is a picture of Ames S's, office where on a windy cold day walking to work at the office he found the sign which had blown off and was lying on the sidewalk. As some of you will know Reinhold Niebuhr was credited for being the author of the Serenity Prayer. The picture to the right is past trustee

Tom S., Dr Jack Norris past chair of the board and Lois Wilson looking in on the opening of the new office in 1975. As you can see there is much to check out at GSO if you ever find yourself in New York please I recommend taking it in. Before the conference kicked off Nikki and I had a little side adventure planned. As it just so happened the Jays were playing the Yankee's on Friday night. We jumped on the subway from Harlem out to the Bronx and had a little time to wait so we walked around the neighborhood and took some pictures. We sat down on a bench outside the stadium waiting for the gate to open and a couple came by Nikki offered to take a picture for them in front of the stadium and told them where the big Yankees sign at the top of the stadium was located. A gentleman sitting on the bench said how nice it was of Nikki to do that and he struck up a conversation with us. It turned out that he grew up in the neighborhood and then went away to school in Buffalo stayed and raised his family there where he was a professor of psychology and when he retired and after his family had grown up and his wife passed away. He returned to his old stomping grounds to work as a tour guide for VIP guests at Yankee stadium, so we got a tour of the stadium before we ever entered through a small act of kindness, and we made a new friend his name is Harris, and we took a selfie together. We toured monument park in centre field I took Nikki's picture with the giant Babe Ruth and Mickey Mantle bobbleheads. I had a full conversation via text message with panel 54 Delegate and past Eastern Canada Regional Trustee Jan L. while the game was being played. On Saturday there is a hospitality for conference members and guests this is an opportunity to exchange some tokens representing your area with other conference members. To get acquainted and reacquainted with the trustees, delegates, and staff members. My friend and panel 72 finance committee delegate from Area 41 Northern Illinois Chris D. brought some buttons I asked if he had an extra for somebody back home can anybody guess who I was thinking of. The books on the table are signed by all the conference members and then kept by the members as conference souvenirs mine is a daily reflection and the members sign on their sobriety date. The Delegates and conference members put out books for others to sign usually with their sobriety date. We next gathered for the 1728 meeting which is where members share and for this purpose it was two Delegates Cara G Area 41 Nebraska & Katie B. Area 61 South Dakota both Panel 72's. The opportunity is taken here for alcoholic members to explain to the class A Trustees the 12 steps the 12 traditions and the 12 concepts and how they are practiced in their lives. 12X12X12 equals 1728. The team of Cara and Katie in the picture here are illustrating just that for our class A's. These two

have a real rapport with each other and as you can see, they set the tone for some levity while demonstrating these principles. Next up was the Remote Communities meeting. The three presenters gave their experiences, strength, and hope regarding the following questions: 1. How to foster a thriving Third Legacy Culture with a Cultural Community? 2. How to foster a thriving Third Legacy Culture with a Geographic Community? 3. How to foster a thriving Third Legacy Culture with a Linguistic Community? The Communicator is a newsletter put together by GSO and Misha Q., was the point person with the 3 co-chairs gathering the material over the year and coordinating the meeting. On the previous slide in the picture was Area 78 Tami L, and Area 79 Rio D, both ladies have extensive experience with remote community work and contributed to the newsletter Nikki and Raine are in the picture with them Raine is Rio's niece and came as her guest she is also a schoolteacher on the reserve in British Columbia. Janet F. chaired the meeting and all three Delegates Mitchell B., Area 09, Rich McC., Area 80 and Lori R., Area 91. Mitchell shared his experience with linguistic and cultural challenges with the 2 Spanish districts and how he has integrated with them. Lori and Rich both discussed some of the challenges they have faced with culture and geography in the Northern communities. Saturday opening banquet time to suit up and show up. The picture of Nikki is to show off the stockings that have been in attendance at assembly banquets in London, Kitchener and now Brooklyn New York they say This Way to Heaven on them. After dinner there is a Delegates only meeting and the Delegate chair sets the agenda. This year we did a building exercise involving teamwork, arts and crafts, unity, and maybe most important interactive fun. We had to name and explain afterwards how our piece was an example of our 3 legacies our place in the universe and how it might benefit the still suffering alcoholic. Tami L. Delegate Chair furnished us with the Dollarama craft supplies and our masterpiece was named Saturday Morning Newcomer. Some of the pieces showed some real talent somehow, I do not see our crew's effort being kept in the AA archives. On Sunday 7:30 am register and pick up the lanyard and badge, voting mechanism "the clicker" Don't Take It Home and your conference manual and some other goodies. Some delegate conference data that we are asked in a survey pre-conference 93 Delegates, average age 57 oldest 76 youngest 35 average length of sobriety 22 years longest 46 shortest 7 average years of service 17 longest 46 shortest 7 We gathered in the main ballroom to be welcomed by Jimmy D., Chair, General Service Board we then had guest admissions Mexico, Peru, and Poland asked by Bob W. GM, GSO and then Roll Call conducted by Bob W. General Manager, GSO

Greetings Tami L. Area 78, Alberta/NWT Delegate Chair then a Overview of the conference Manual – Diana L. GSO Conference Coordinator and then the Keynote Address: Francis G. 1st Vice Chair GSB followed by the Mechanics of the Conference Bob W. General Manager and then Questions from the Conference from 10:30 – 11:45 am a Workshop – “Practicing Our Twelve Traditions Across All Group Settings we then had Lunch and Delegate Orientation by Region. We met with Joyce S. Eastern Canada Regional Trustee Next up after lunch we were scheduled to begin Area Highlights that was interrupted by a motion from the floor to suspend and discuss a consideration for the conference agenda committee surrounding events that took place during the January board weekend and subsequent actions. I will explain more about this later in my report. Next up was a Presentation/Discussion called the Location Plus Report it was given by Carolyn W. Chair of Location Plus Ad Hoc Committee. Their objective to consider the physical space needs required to effectively and efficiently carry out the services requested by the A.A. Fellowship through the GSO and Grapevine Offices. Work is in early stages - No recommendations have been made yet. Historically this is done about every 10 years last time was in 2014 reports from the different offices regarding needs have been received. Further input has been requested timeline for completion – 2025. Current cost per square foot \$23.61 in NYC that is a very good deal, Standard rate for all non-profits in the building. Lease ends December 31, 2025. Looking at a minimum 5-year lease with option to renew. On Sunday night we had our joint committee meeting with the treasurer of the general service board Kevin P. we are given the opportunity to discuss and ask questions regarding agenda items along with budget and finance items. We also began our committee work. In the picture the Delegates on the conference finance committee. Panel 72’s Tandy W., Area 02 Alaska, Charles T., Area 37 Mississippi, Chris D., Area 20 N. Illinois, Peter B., Area 28 Maine and yours truly from panel 73 we have Sarah M., Area 10 Colorado, Rachel McA., Area 52 N. Dakota, Suzanne S., Area 30 E. Massachusetts. The day concluded with the Opening Dinner and A.A. Meeting the A.A. Meeting Chairperson was Mitchell B., Chair of the Conference Agenda Committee the A.A. Meeting Leader was Byron B., Alternate Chair Conference Agenda Committee, and the Speakers: Janet F., Area 23, Southern Indiana Pablo R., Area 77, Puerto Rico David S., Grapevine Non-Trustee Director Paz P., General Service Trustee Susan U., retired GSO Staff member. Yes, desserts to keep your energy up at least that’s what I told myself. Monday begins with conference committee meetings and continues until after lunch. On Sunday they squeezed in the Area Highlights from Western Canada with

Irma V. B-N., Trustee. Rio D., Area 79, British Columbia/Yukon Delegate and Lori R., Area 91, Saskatchewan Delegate. We began Monday morning with our conference committee doing our work for committee presentations regarding agenda items. I mentioned earlier that there was an interruption with the highlights they began again Monday afternoon. Followed by board reports. First up was Jimmy D. Interim Chair GSB he quoted this In Article 4 of the Charter it states that “The Conference will replace the founders of Alcoholics Anonymous, who formerly functioned as guides and advisers to the General Service Board and its related service corporations. The Conference will be expected to afford a reliable cross section of A.A. opinion for this purpose.” He then stated This Conference will “guide and advise” as all others have done before it. In my Conference experiences I have seen how we can discuss difficult subjects without being disagreeable; how we can listen as if we have no opinion; how each and every one of us who suffers from alcoholism certainly came to A.A. so we would get better, and then learned in short order that what Alcoholics Anonymous needs is each of us to come to A.A. so A.A. gets better. Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. A.A.W.S Report Highlights given by Deb K., AAWS board chair This year we had two ad-hoc committees working: Reviewing the process of development, revision, and approval of Service Material Begin review of AAWS policies and practices related to licensing and translations In 2022, our front desk main number received 14,339 phone calls; 4,395 were routed to the Member Services team, who also fielded 4,291 additional direct calls. 29,114 unique email inquiries were responded to. 30,320 literature orders were processed. GSO Staff executed 7,025 District/Area/Group updates and conducted trainings for area registrars who then performed 8,819 more updates. Our mailroom team processed 40,708 pieces of incoming mail and 17,284 pieces of outgoing mail. The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Report Highlights: were given by Mike L., Grapevine Board Chair From 2007 to 2020, the periodical publishing industry experienced a 48% decrease in subscription revenue. Our results were slightly better than the industry average We went from 107,000 Grapevine subscriptions in 2007 to 63,000 in 2020, 41% decline LA Viña saw a 41% decline, going from 10,900 subscriptions in 2007 to 6,400 in 2020 The areas where we have seen increases in interest from the Fellowship are with items that are not revenue generating the YouTube Channel and Instagram accounts and the Podcast. The feedback we have received from the membership can be summarized in a simple statement. We have a fantastic product, but an outdated delivery system. **Grapevine App to be a new Delivery System, not a replacement for printed material.** Some of the background research that came up is this Daily

reading habits of North Americans. Newspapers and magazines 11 minutes Smart Phone 3 hours plus 84% of households have at least one smartphone. Average person looks at their smartphone every 5 ½ minutes. New York Times Example: Print subscriptions 740,000 Digital Subscriptions 9,600,000 Entertainment Weekly, InStyle, Eating Well, Health, and Parents went all-digital in 2022. A short world service report was given by Marita and all the other Trustee committee and staff reports are contained in the conference manual and I will share them with the members upon request. The next up is what is customarily known as the around the picnic table report and it was presented by Class A trustee and General Service Board Treasurer Kevin P., First up the 2022 audit was completed on schedule unmodified or “clean” audit opinion the financial statements are fairly stated in all material respects no material weaknesses no significant deficiencies 5 recommendations (3 AAWS and 2 GV). The 7th Tradition was \$10.55 million down 2.1% from 2021 still an impressive effort self-support covered 59% of operating expenses. Operating Expense was \$17.82 million up 19.9% from \$14.86 million in 2021. AAWS Publishing Gross Profit was \$4.89 Million down 22.3% from 2021. The slide shows the largest cash expenditures, the items that were under budget for 2022 about 78% because of some staff positions were yet to be filled, professional fees, printing, postage, and supplies were also down remember when we couldn’t get any paper. The over budget items can be attributed to facility and equipment and travel expenses. In 2022, operating expense was lower than inflation adjusted operating expense in 9 of the past 10 years. A breakdown of contributions online contributions has gone from a little less than 5% ten years ago to 23% today this is significant because A mail contribution costs \$5.60 to process. An online contribution costs \$2.93 to process, a \$2.67 savings. On the two slides you can see that both individual and group contributions as illustrated by the left side of the chart that contributions of \$0.00-\$50.00 and \$50.00-\$100.00 are dominant. That says to me if we think that those small contributions are not important this chart shows different. On to some Grapevine highlights Grapevine paid print subscriptions decreased 6.7% in 2022. Subscriptions for the online and mobile app magazine decreased 27.6% 2022 Grapevine results were a gross margin on subscriptions of \$789,246 and a net profit of \$674,515 on other published items. Operating expenses of 1,882,701 resulted in an operating loss of \$404,940 compared to a loss of \$112,618 in 2021. General Fund support of La Viña service activity was \$636,604 in 2022, compared to \$388,646 in 2021. La Viña magazine circulation increased by 4.3% in 2022 compared to a 12.4% decrease in 2021 after several prior years of pre-pandemic growth. Print magazine circulation to

decrease to 47,751 from 52,321 in 2022. Online and e-Pub circulation to decrease to 4,719 from 6,492 in 2022. 1,500 new app subscribers. Gross margin on subscriptions \$547,709 compared to \$789,246 in 2022. Grapevine net surplus of \$68,414 compared to a deficit of \$404,940 in 2022. La Viña magazine circulation to decrease to 6,415 compared to 6,685 in 2022. General Fund La Viña support of \$653,579 compared to \$636,604 in 2022. Let's have a quick look at the reserve fund it has been discussed a lot over the last year or so. One of the things the finance committee worked on with the treasurer last year was establishing a new policy for the reserve fund. A new policy was approved by the board in 1977 an Advisory Action established the upper limit of the reserve fund as 12 months of operating expense of GSB, AAWS, and GV combined. A 1981 Advisory Action specified that a lower limit not be provided. However, a 9-month lower limit appears in Conference Finance Committee reports throughout the history of the reserve. The policy adopted by GSB in 2022 includes: 9-to-12-month goal range at least 50% of the portfolio available within one year GSB must authorize transfers into and withdrawals from the Reserve Fund. In the event of emergencies such as a bank failure or inability to meet payroll, Trustees Finance and Budgetary Committee may authorize a withdrawal. If the Committee is unable to be gathered within the needed timeframe, two officers of the GSB may authorize. Timely notice to the Fellowship shall be made for any emergency actions taken. These actions were approved by Trustees Finance and Budgetary Committee on January 29, 2023, and the General Service Board on January 30, 2023. The Reserve Balance as of 2/1/23 covers just over 7 months of 2023 GSB, AAWS, GV and LaViña Expenses. The graph on the left illustrates how over the last handful of years the margins have fluctuated in blue is gross literature sales the orange in the middle is gross margins and the grey on the right is contributions which means we are making up the difference of the revenue lost on literature sales is through voluntary contributions. We have suspected that this would probably happen and the pandemic has caused us to get creative such as new book cover designs and we had a price increase announced recently the first since 2014. Tuesday April 25, 2023 7:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M. Conference Committee Meetings. The Conference Finance Committee Made the Decision to Start Early work through Lunch and Skip the visit to G.S.O. The committee elected Suzanne S., committee chair and Rachel McA., alt. Chair for the 74th General Service Conference. I had to wait for the draft of the committee report so I thought it would be a good time to venture around the ballroom room and meeting areas to get some pictures as most people had gone to the office. The table here is the command centre of the METS team which

if you have been to a regional forum or a GSO hosted event these are the frontline and behind the scenes staff from GSO that are so valuable they make sure things run as smooth as possible METS stands for Meetings, Events and Travel Services. They are the team that makes the arrangements and gets everything setup they had the stickers for hugs and little signs from there everyday workspace. One said I am not perfect but somehow, I am complete. Another was a paragraph from Language of the Heart Then, little by little, we moved away from the fear of our growing pains. We began to learn from these experiences. Genuine prudence replaced destructive fear. And out of our collective experience in working and living together there finally emerged the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous—the present-day basis for the truly splendid unity that is nearly everywhere ours; the basis for an excellent service structure now so highly effective that not many more years can pass before alcoholics everywhere will have the marvelous opportunity for sanity and for sobriety that we who are gathered here know so well from an article titled After Twenty-Five Years March 1960 Grapevine. Tuesday night is the Delegates Only dinner and the election from the 80 remaining eligible delegates the Delegate chair for next year is drawn from the hat Mary A., from Area 14 North Florida name came out and the mailperson is Lori R., Area 91 Saskatchewan. On Wednesday morning committee reports begin. The conference chairs determine the order of the reports after seeing the first drafts on Monday. On Wednesday Afternoon the second Regional Lunches happen. After lunch the Elections for: Northeast Regional Trustee, Southwest Regional Trustee, and Trustee at Large Canada take place. The 10 Areas in the East and the 4 in the West each present 2 candidates after there separate lunchtime elections. We had James H. and Michael R. GSO staff as the scrutinizers at lunch. We then gather in the ballroom, and you sit in a separate roped off area where the regions involved sit while the vote for the trustee position takes place. Our candidate from Area 86 Dale S. was one of the 4 candidates left standing Robert L., Gail P., and Brad R were the others. After three rounds of voting, it was down to 2 Robert and Dale it then went to the hat. Leonard B., past board chair pulled Robert's name so for the second year in a row I was tasked with making the call to Dale and informed him that he needed to do a 4th step inventory dealing with hat resentments. The Northeast Region elected— Ken T., Area 30 (Eastern MA) Trustee and The Southwest Region elected Trustee – Teresa J., Area 46 (New Mexico) Trustee both also from the hat.

Workshop and Sharing Sessions:

1. What are some of the ways groups/districts in your area foster awareness of

Practicing our Twelve Traditions Across all Group Settings?

2. How has misinformation about practicing our Twelve Traditions been an obstacle in Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community services?

Three General Sharing Sessions Scheduled (2 later repurposed) Questions that arose and were discussed. How to inspire confidence in the board? Are we overworking GSO Staff? Most of what they do is the result of Conference Actions Jacketless books can create anonymity issues. Will fellowship have a say regarding 5th edition? Formatting will be considered carefully at the appropriate time. After manuscript complete layouts and publishing issues will be decided. Does the Board do regular inventories like groups and districts with an outside party? 2018 was last time. Casual Dress Tuesday Implemented Are websites like alcoholics anonymous.com causing misinformation issues. Another presentation was the Online Groups Discussion: Trish L. Should there be a virtual area? Can areas/districts handle virtual meetings? How the oldest conference handles this will be looked at globally. Are changes being made without the input of the online group community? How do we address online members who don't live in the US or Canada? What about other digital platforms like WhatsApp? The next was a Presentation/ Discussion – Theme “General Service – Our Mighty Purpose and Rhythm” Moderator: Joyce S., Eastern Canada Regional Trustee Presenters: Sherry S., 55, Northwest Ohio, “Our Common Perils and Common Solution” Cara G., 41, Nebraska, “Using A. A.’s Literature in Carrying the Message” Richard M., 80, Manitoba, “Fostering a Three Legacy Culture.” I would now like to cover something that has generated a lot of discussion with the fellowship over the last handful of years. After hearing the feedback from the conference and looking at my notes here is my report. The members of the conference were given separate times as groups coordinated with their committee reports to read the first 6 chapters of the draft Plain and Simple language Big Book. My allotted hour was 6:45 am to 7:45 am Thursday morning. After seeing and reading what I did and then hearing the comments at the microphones during the discussion period I will let you decide what the consensus was surrounding this project. First off, the ground rules No phones or computers. Handwritten notes only on provided paper with a disclaimer New Preface—“Not a replacement,” but “another tool.” New Forward gives a history of the project. Original Doctor’s Opinion side-by-side with plain language Original Steps included prior to a side-by-side translation God as we understand God. Original Third and Seventh Step prayers . Definitions in Margins Liked having Subtitles/Headers throughout such as “Finding Serenity”

before 9th Step Promises“ Finish Your Housekeeping” in Into Action “God as You Understand God” in There is a Solution

No Degenderizing or taking God out 12 Steps not changed – table with simpler language ie."3. We decided to trust God as we understood God to guide our lives.“ Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde: 2 people inside one body. An open mind is all you need to start. “Alcoholics who don’t help alcoholics will eventually drink and die.” When we stopped to enjoy the magical beauty of nature, We felt God existed. How it works, A B C’s-Unchanged. Feedback heard from the Microphones. Multiple people mentioned they wanted to hate this book, but after reading it their mind was changed. Fascinating reading. Greatest Accessibility tool AA has ever created Love the 30's prose but will use this book as a tool "Rigid old buzzard" – I felt the language of the heart Highly educated, Harvard, Stanford and I now understand We Agnostics Most loving thing AA has done for the still suffering alcoholic in a long time Was against...before reading. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! It's about time. I have 23 year's experience working with people with brain injuries. Is there a need? Not for me, but for others. Yes, I thought I would hate it. And I don't. 2% of members come from correctional facilities. Should be higher. God is not missing As a sponsor I now have another tool. What a gift An effective tool to use with professionals. Avoids shame for members who have low literacy levels, so they do have to do things like memorize the book to avoid feeling dumb. A Spanish-speaking member felt it was much easier to read. The third most important book we've ever done, the Big Book, the Twelve and Twelve, and now this. This is A.A. so there was some constructive criticism also. Jaywalker being a woman, change back. Will open up fights Definitions in margins seemed wonky. Softening of the language not loved. Would like to see it convey more emotion. Please speak more clearly about deadly aspect of the disease Session was recorded and provided to writer (who remains anonymous). Tremendously uplifting sharing session Put aside expectations! Read the book please keep in mind the intended audience. For me the hour flew by I was scribbling like I was in a ninth-grade exam and asked Jimmy D. Trustees Literature committee member how much time was left he said about 5 minutes I felt like I had only been in the room for 5 minutes. I will now move on to The Advisory Actions and Committee Considerations Diana L., conference coordinator sent these out in alphabetical order so to avoid confusion and to follow along with the sheets and corresponding slides I will pause and state the page numbers page 11 is missing it was an oversight by Diana pointed out to me by Percy and brought to her attention she gave thanks back.

Cover page

1. CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 73rd GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE
2. Recommendations Passed by Simple Majority
3. Recommendations Not Resulting in Conference Action
4. Floor Actions Not Resulting in Conference Advisory Actions
5. 73rd GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

Page 1. The following recommendations were approved by the 73rd General Service Conference:

FLOOR ACTIONS It was recommended that:

- In an effort to improve communication, ensure Board policies are reflective of our principles, and re-establish a relationship of trust between the General Service Conference, the General Service Board and the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, the General Service Board is asked to undertake an inventory prior to the 74th General Service Conference. To assist the Board in this endeavor, the 73rd General Service Conference will establish a working group to aid the General Service Board in formulating possible inventory questions.
- The options for closing the Big Meeting at the International Convention be the Serenity Prayer or the Responsibility Statement. (Motion passed to recommit to Trustees' Committee) **Page 2**

ARCHIVES* No recommendations. *Members serve on this committee as a secondary committee assignment.

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY It was recommended that:

- The pamphlet "A.A. in Your Community" be approved with minor editorial changes.

CORRECTIONS It was recommended that:

- The following section be added to the pamphlet "A.A. in Correctional Facilities" on page 12 between the sections titled "Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS) – a special kind of A.A. service" and "The following-through – released A.A. persons in custody": Sponsorship **Page 3** Like all A.A. members, persons in custody can benefit from sponsorship. For more information, please refer to the Corrections Kit and Workbook or contact your local Corrections committee.

We can now move on to everyone's new favourite!

FINANCE It was recommended that:

- The materials produced and maintained by A.A. World Services, AA Grapevine,

La Viña, and the General Service Office (GSO), clarify that the General Service Board is the entity which receives all voluntary A.A. contributions and that GSO performs contribution processing. Any text changes should be implemented when each item comes up for reprint or revision. Hey who's that guy?

- The suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference be increased from \$1,800 to \$2,200.
- The Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee develop additional ways to report quarterly the fiscal performance of the AAWS, GSB and GV Boards throughout the year to the members of the General Service Conference for the purposes of transparency and assisting in the reporting to the A.A. Fellowship.

GRAPEVINE AND LA VIÑA No recommendations.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS*

It was recommended that:

- The committee recommended that the following three cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, (by State) be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2035: Phoenix, Arizona Indianapolis, Indiana New Orleans, Louisiana.*Members serve on this committee as a secondary committee assignment* **Page**

LITERATURE

It was recommended that:

- The revised draft of the existing version of the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" be approved.
- The print version of the pamphlet "Too Young" be retired and the content be repurposed as an animation video at an estimated cost no higher than \$70,000. The committee requested that a progress report or a rough cut of the video be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The work on the draft pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies be ceased. The committee noted that the material gathered would be most useful as service material.

POLICY/ADMISSIONS **Page 5**

It was recommended that: • To foster unity, trust, and transparency in the Fellowship, the members of the General Service Conference meet outside of the annual meeting for general sharing sessions at least two times per year utilizing virtual meeting technology. The General Service Board Chair and Delegate Chair will set the date and time as well as determine what issues currently facing the Fellowship would be chosen as topics.

*Committee recommendations made Pre-Conference: We had 3 substitute

members attend the conference this year. Luis P. N. S., General Manager, GSO Peru. Fernando E. L. R., Southwest Regional Trustee, GSO Mexico. Tadeusz C., Trustee, GSB Poland.

- That Jocelyne C., alternate Area Chair, Area 89, Northeast Québec, be seated as a Conference member at the 73rd General Service Conference because neither Gisèle V., Panel 73 delegate for Area 89 nor the alternate delegate from that area were able to attend

PUBLIC INFORMATION

It was recommended that:

- The Membership Survey pamphlet be updated to reflect the findings from the 2022 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey, with minor editorial changes.
- The AAWS Board prepare sufficient periodic analytics reporting on our current communications platforms to be provided to the trustees' Public Information Committee and the Conference Committee on Public Information.

REPORT AND CHARTER

It was recommended that: *Page 6*

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

TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES

It was recommended that:

- The revised pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic—Never too Late" be approved with minor edits in a format that does not require folding.
- The 22 interviews recorded to date as part of the Military Audio project be approved, giving the General Service Office (GSO) the latitude to distribute the audio interviews in various formats and on various platforms, and that an update report be provided to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

TRUSTEES

It was recommended that:

- The following slate of trustees of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 29, 2023, following presentation at the 2023 General Service Conference for disapproval if any: Class A Trustees Sr. Judith Ann K., CSA, FACHE Hon. Kerry M., Al M., M.D., FAAFP, FASAM Anadora (Andie) M., Molly O., Kevin P., MBA, CFA, CPA Class B Trustees Cathi C., Reilly K., Deborah K., Tom H., Teresa J., Robert L., Mike L., Paz P., Marita R., Joyce S., David S., *Page 7* Ken T., Irma V D-N., and Carolyn W.. *Page 7* partial and then *Page 8*

Recommendations Passed by Simple Majority: There were no recommendations passed on a simple majority vote that did not receive the two-thirds vote necessary to become a Conference Advisory Action.

Recommendations Not Resulting in Conference Action: These recommendations were presented but did not receive the two-thirds vote necessary to become a Conference Advisory Action.

AGENDA

The reading of Area Highlights from the 73rd General Service Conference be suspended and included in the 2023 Conference Final Report, to allow discussion of the following topics:

- Are the decisions of the General Service Board producing Unity within the Fellowship and inspiring confidence in the Board's future functions?
- The General Service Board Code of Conduct
- Is the prudent reserve being used as the Conference intends?

Note: The Conference Committee on Agenda caucused during the opening session of the General Service Conference to consider this motion from the floor regarding changing the Conference week schedule. The motion failed.

I mentioned earlier in my report that the opening of the conference was interrupted this was that interruption and re-scheduling had to be accommodated.

GRAPEVINE AND LA VIÑA

- The committee recommended that alternate delegates be provided access to the same Conference materials as their sitting delegates, except for materials shared during Conference week.

Floor Actions Not Resulting in Conference Advisory Actions

The 73rd General Service Conference censure the General Service Board due to poor communication to the Fellowship regarding the resignation of the former

Chair of the General Service Board and for the process that was followed regarding the acceptance of her resignation. (Motion failed) Partially on page 9
Page 12

73rd GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

AGENDA

Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed the composition of the Conference Inventory Planning Committee and suggested that the composition be similar to the makeup of the General Service Conference: delegates, trustees, non-trustee directors, and staff members from the General Service Office and AA Grapevine
- The committee reviewed the positive feedback from delegate committee chairs on their quarterly communications with their corresponding trustees' committee chairpersons. The committee encouraged continuation of this practice to support communication within the Conference process. Partially on 13 on to 14

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered a request to retire the pamphlet "A Member's Eye View" and took no action. The committee agreed that some members consider the pamphlet a useful tool for carrying the A.A. message. However, the committee expressed support for removing the pamphlet from Cooperation with the Professional Community materials as it may appear outdated and less effective for providing information about A.A. to the professional community.

CORRECTIONS

Committee Considerations:

- The committee agreed to forward to the trustees' Committee on Literature a suggestion to consider inclusion of language related to sponsorship of persons in custody in the pamphlet "Questions & Answers on Sponsorship."

Note: As a result of the 2022-2023 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, the following item was on the agenda of the Conference Committee on Corrections.

- The committee discussed the 2021 and 2022 versions of the service piece "Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare" and concluded that the service piece is a necessary and useful tool for A.A. groups. The committee suggested revisions to be considered for inclusion in the next printing of the service piece. Page 15

FINANCE

Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed the change of the Grapevine Subscription Liability in

the Reserve Fund. The committee requests that the Finance Department clearly identify in all reporting to the Fellowship the portion of the Reserve Fund that is represented by the Grapevine Subscription Liability along with an explanation of the breakdown.

- The committee requests that to better align with the duties described in the Service Manual for the Conference Finance Committee, committee members receive the monthly AAWS/GSB consolidated financial statements along with an executive summary from the Chief Financial Officer.

I would like to pause here and share some of my experience as a delegate chair after spending hours on this agenda item as a committee to give it the attention it deserves. I fielded questions from the conference body by my estimation for about 45 minutes Thursday morning. I am happy for the experience and in no hurry to do it again, but I would do it in a heartbeat as nerve wracking as it is. (Note: As a result of the 2022-2023 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, the following item was on the agenda of the Conference Committee on Finance.)

- The committee considered a request to discuss proposed agenda items related to changes to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. The committee suggested 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 requested that a progress report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Finance. **Page 16** (Mindful of budgetary restraints, the committee suggests financial prudence when determining how best to obtain Fellowship sharing.)

Questions to be considered might include:

- Should suggested revisions be subjected to a 2-year Conference review process.
- Should any future suggested changes retain the original writing with footnotes for text being updated or should founder's writings remain unchanged?
- Should there be a threshold for review (group, district, area)?
- Should the changes to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions by 2021 General Service Conference remain?
- Should a new policy regarding Bill W.'s writing be created as a guide to future changes? **Page 17**

GRAPEVINE AND LA VIÑA

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the progress report on the Grapevine and La Viña Instagram accounts and provided some suggestions.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS

Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed the update report on methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention, which summarized the survey data indicating that there was not an overwhelming desire by the Fellowship to change the current practice. The consensus of the committee was to keep with the current practice of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention wherein the chair has the choice of closing the meeting with either the Lord's Prayer, the Serenity Pray or the Responsibility Statement.

LITERATURE *Page 18*

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding the translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language and agreed with the general direction of the project. The committee requested that the project continue to move forward and that a draft or progress report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding development of a Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee requested that a progress report or draft manuscript be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature. *Page 19*
- The committee discussed new proposed agenda items (PAI's) related to the plain language Big Book translation and took no action. The committee acknowledged the concerns of members, groups, and areas in the Fellowship regarding the oversight of the process of a translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth edition) into plain and simple language. The committee noted that these concerns will be addressed at a special session during the 2023 General Service Conference
- The committee discussed an update on the adaptation of the video animation of the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" published by the General Service Board of A.A. Great Britain. The committee acknowledged that the project of adapting the video for use in the U.S./Canada structure is pending for budgetary reasons. The committee looks forward to a report on the status of this project being brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee discussed a proposal for Big Book or Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions study guides and took no action. The committee suggested that currently approved projects be completed before considering new materials.

- The committee reviewed a draft of the revised pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated” and chose not to proceed with the graphic approach. The committee requested that the Publishing Department develop a new draft and that a progress report or a draft be brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature. *Page 20*

POLICY/ADMISSIONS

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the “Report of the GSB Ad Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the U.S./Canada Service Structure” and expressed appreciation for the report, particularly the results of the survey to delegates. The committee agreed that an important next step would be for delegates to find out more about the online groups in their areas and requested that the ad-hoc committee provide them with sample questions they may use in that inquiry. The committee looks forward to the next iteration of the ad hoc committee and the continued exploration of the possibilities for the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada general service structure.

PUBLIC INFORMATION *Page 23*

Committee Considerations:

This committee had many agenda items and a lot of technology content to look at I know that Janice did some of her workshop around this and I wanted to address these two in particular.

- The committee reviewed and accepted the 2023 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan (CMP). The committee expressed continued support for the vision and architecture of this version of the CMP. The committee shared that the plan provides a great framework and guardrails that capture the public information work, messaging and channels GSO and AA Grapevine are using to make the Fellowship, general public, media, and professionals aware of the relevance of Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee offered the following suggestions for the next iteration of the CMP to be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.

➤ Consider the creation of a section on how projects requesting user generated content, such as the Young People’s Video Project, fit into our Comprehensive Media Plan and messaging for Alcoholics Anonymous.

- The committee reviewed the progress report on the request to create a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media. The committee requested that the trustees’ Public Information Committee and staff secretary

focus on developing and administrating a survey, to all age demographics, particularly a young population with the goal of obtaining results that will inform decisions on any future new form of communication. The committee looks forward to a progress report to be brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.

REPORT AND CHARTER *Page 25-26*

Committee Considerations:

- The committee noted that some sections of The A.A. Service Manual need more detailed review of language clarity by the General Service Board and affiliate boards before being revised. The committee asked that the Publishing Department “short order” supply of the current A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2021-2023 Edition to ensure sufficient inventory until a proposed 2024 printing. I think this and most of the rest goes back to the advisory action. I’m sure Tom, Percy and Dale will be keeping an eye on the proceeding’s as they all served on this committee.

TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES *Page 27*

Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed the suggestion that an Accessibility Inventory be conducted throughout A.A.’s services and structure and suggested that the trustees’ CPC/TA Committee take an inventory of what resources are currently available from the General Service Office and the AA Grapevine to meet accessibility-related challenges and consider the best methods for communicating about those resources to the Fellowship.
- The committee discussed the progress report on a proposed Bridging the Gap workbook. The committee noted that information on Bridging the Gap and other contact programs already exists in the Treatment and Corrections Workbooks and suggested instead that sharing be collected from the Fellowship and combined with existing resources to develop A.A. Guidelines on Bridging the Gap. *Page 28*
- The committee reviewed the progress report on Military Audio interviews and requested that the Military Audio project be expanded to include veterans. The committee also suggested that the Military Audio project continue to seek interviews with francophone members. The committee requested that sample audio and an update report be provided to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.
- The committee reviewed the draft A.A. Guidelines for Remote Communities and asked the staff secretary to revise the service piece. The committee looks forward to the guidelines being made available once the updates have been made.

I selected these items because they are what Stephen, Gene, and Pam worked on and sent me feedback regarding after the assembly. It validates why their work is important to the fellowship as a whole and that it gets shared beyond Area 86. This is a small part of what our sub-committee do year-round so please ask questions and check out the other items from the list.

TRUSTEES **Page 29**

Committee Considerations:

- The committee thoroughly discussed the General Service Board's actions at the January 29, 2023, Board Planning and Sharing session that led to the resignation of the board chair. The committee agreed that the board's failure to fully utilize the spiritual principles of Alcoholics Anonymous to address leadership problems were deeply concerning. The committee also agreed that failure to expedite communication to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous about the board chair's resignation and lack of transparency regarding the board's decision resulted in widespread mistrust and disunity. After lengthy and prayerful discussion, the committee took a vote to censure the General Service Board, failing to achieve substantial unanimity.
- The committee met individually with each current General Service Board trustee to hear their vision for the future of Alcoholics Anonymous, assessment of the current state of the board, and what actions can be taken to improve communication. The committee agreed the board must improve communication with the Fellowship, including listening to the Fellowship. The committee suggested that the board utilize an externally facilitated process to make organizational improvements. That concludes this portion of my report. But we all know that no delegates report would be complete without socks Some of mine on top Bob's happy faces on the left and Tammie by early Friday morning was starting to feel the effects of the conference. Saturday morning is Trustee Farewell brunch chaired by Hon. Kerry M. in place of Sr. Judith Ann K., CSA, FACHE who was not feeling well. Giving their farewell talk was Jimmy D. from the SWR., Francis G. from the NER, and Trish L., TOL Canada. Trish was last up and started out by stating how great it was to follow the Billy Graham and the Mr. Rodgers of AA up to the podium. All three shares were fantastic and expressed their gratitude it was a wonderful way to wrap things up. My Delegate Buddy and Amigo Pablo Hernandez Area 93 California Then on a rainy afternoon Nikki and I walked a few blocks over to see one of the places where it all began 182 Clinton St. Brooklyn N.Y. Back to the hotel to rest and decompress for Sunday's flight home. I wish that I could put into words the gratitude and love for the members of Area 86 that

have afforded me this opportunity. A button for Vancouver, A souvenir bag 9 Delegates, 1 Alternate Area Chair and 1 Trustee from Eastern Canada.

So, to all the districts please send us your minutes it helps us to help you so we can all help somebody else. I have received requests to attend roundups, service days, and other events first off, it's awesome to be invited if you would like me to attend the protocol has been to ask me directly to come and deliver the area message if there is a conflict in scheduling I am sure Dan D. would be happy to attend and if for some reason, he is unable again I am sure that one of the other area officers would be more than happy to participate. If you would like one of the sub-committee chairs to attend, you must go through our area chair Kim. Please inform us as soon as possible the calendar fills up quickly. It was nice to be in Fort Erie for the District 13 roundup on April 15th it has been 3 or 4 years since the last one. Thanks to Mariann, Nick, Frank, and Terry and the crew there for a great day. It was good preparation before leaving for N.Y. On my return I attended the District 5 roundup in Underwood on May 7th a nod to DCM Tony and roundup chair Kelly and then I was in Oakville with Dave and his crew in District 19. I appreciated the opportunity to get warmed up for today. Also please keep in mind that we are diligent with anonymity when we post on social media, flyers, and websites. Thank you. Good luck to anyone allowing their name to stand. I would like to recognize the Area committee for your continued support as we continue to do this essential work in these extraordinary times and judging by what I have seen lately our labour could be even more valuable now than ever before. To my fellow area 86 officers you are the best and it truly is a pleasure to serve with and for you. I can be reached at: area86delegatep72@gmail.com or through the area website at area86aa.org.

Yours Humbly in Love and Service
Area 86 Panel 72 Delegate
Western Ontario
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