

# 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference

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**A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service**

April 24-30, 2022

New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge • Brooklyn, NY

April 24-30, 2022

(w/ meetings on 4/23)

**72<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL  
General Service Conference**

72<sup>ND</sup>  
GENERAL SERVICE  
CONFERENCE

2:00

2022

**A.A. Comes of Age 2.0:  
Unified in Love and Service**

**Le mouvement des AA devient adulte 2.0 :  
Unifiés dans l'amour et le service**

**AA llega a su mayoría de edad 2.0:  
Unificados en Amor y Servicio**

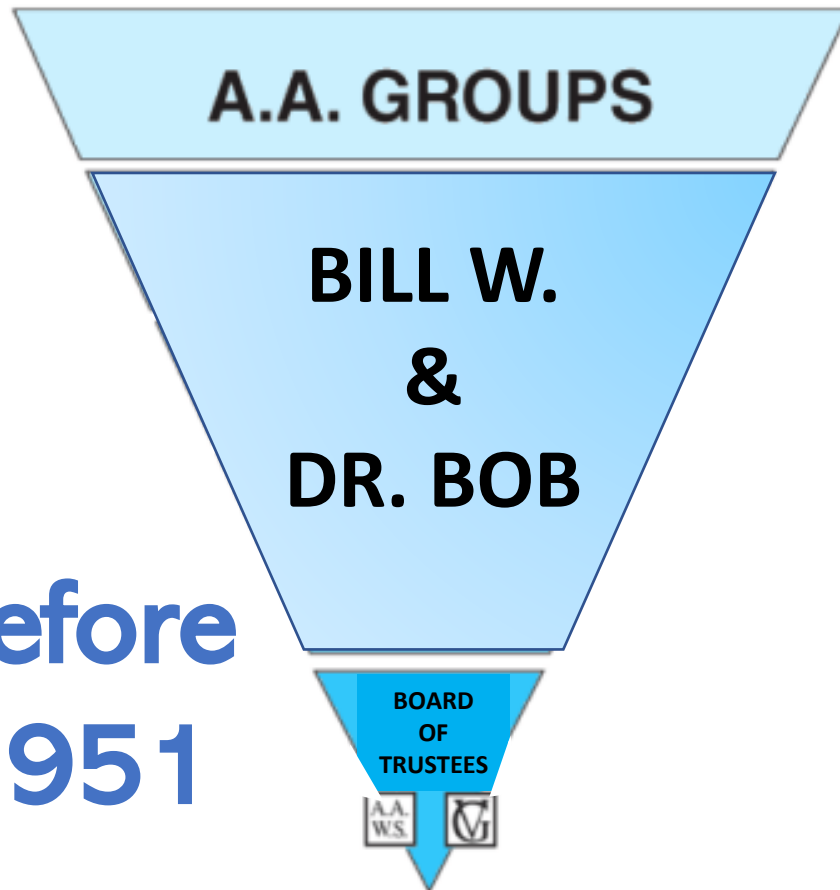
New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge  
333 Adams Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

# What is the General Service Conference?

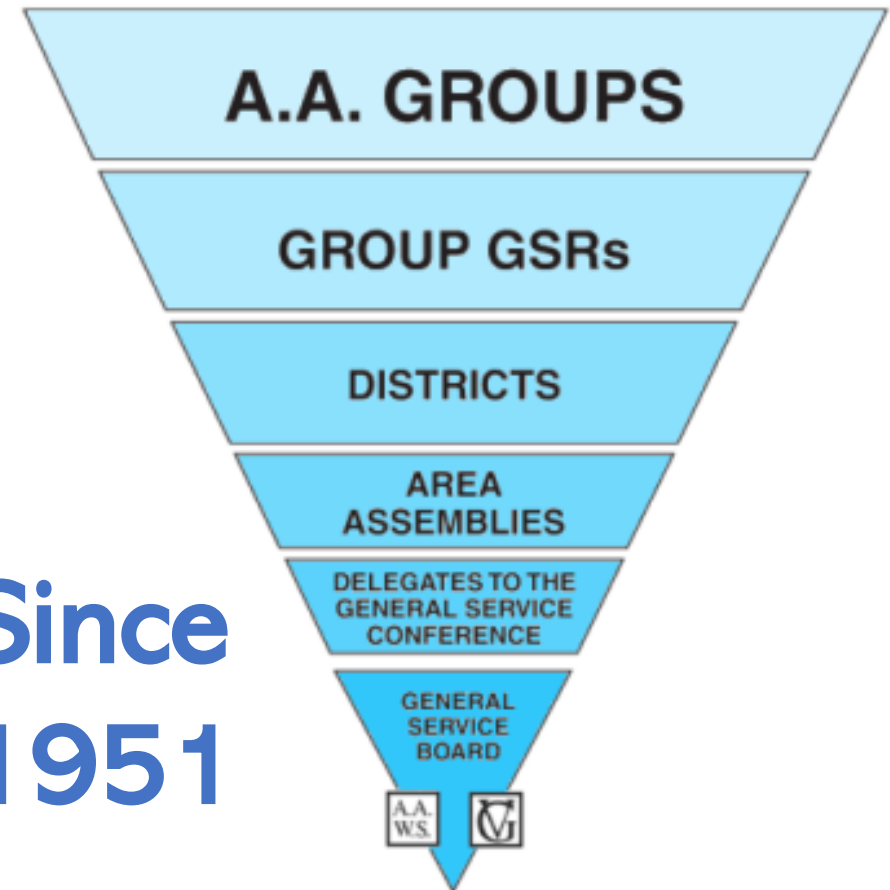
- ▶ A.A. Groups and Intergroups/Central Offices from earliest days have had (and do have) an appropriate local focus.
- ▶ In A.A.'s early years, Bill and Dr. Bob assumed the overall leadership role
- ▶ It didn't take long for Bill and Dr. Bob to start to wonder: who will take over for us?
- ▶ Bill's bold solution: Dr Bob and Bill would be succeeded not by new people, but by the collective conscience of the groups in A.A. - a "service structure" to facilitate Twelfth Step work across the country and around the world.
- ▶ The collective conscience of the groups would be applied to matters affecting A.A. as a whole.

# What is the General Service Conference?

Before  
1951

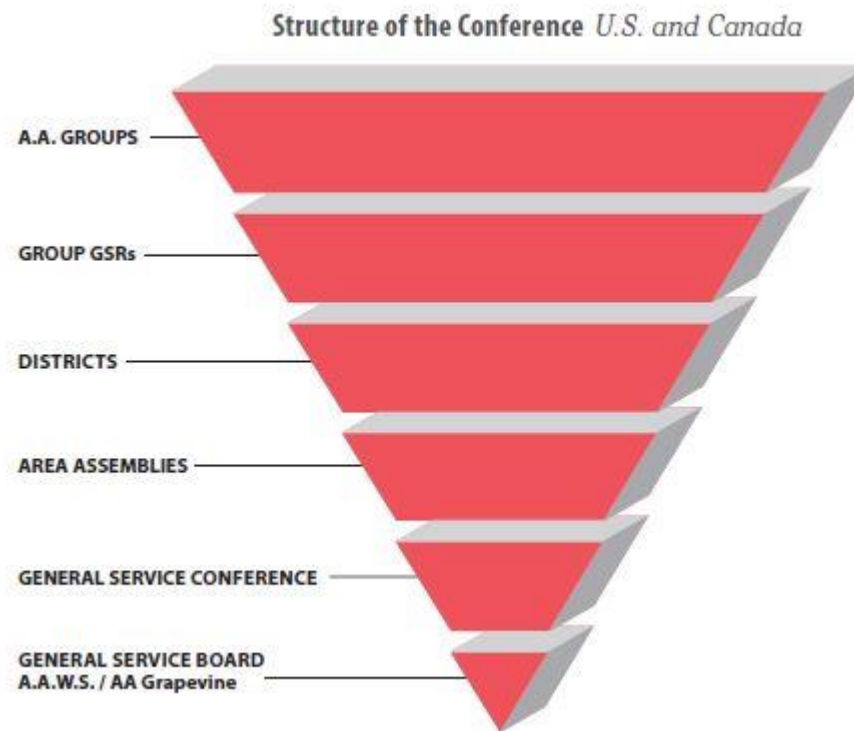


Since  
1951



Today, we call the service structure that developed from Bill's plan the General Service Conference structure, or simply, **general service**.

In this structure, the groups have final authority. But how do the groups make their thoughts and wishes — their group conscience — known to the rest of the triangle? General service is organized to do exactly this. Each section of the triangle has a role to play



# A refresher – for perspective....



# Another refresher – for perspective....



# What does "Panel 72" mean?

Panel 72 = the 72nd General Service Conference

To figure out the current panel number:

Current Year  
minus 1950  
equals current panel number

$$\left. \begin{array}{r} 2022 \\ -1950 \\ \hline 72 \end{array} \right\}$$

the first General Service Conference was in 1951.

$$\begin{array}{r} 1951 \\ -1950 \\ \hline 1 \end{array}$$

(it was panel 1 that year)



# Why do we need a Conference?

The late Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting:

- ▶ **“We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life.**
- ▶ “We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing overintegration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.
- ▶ “We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is.”

# Area 61 Prepares for the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference

Concept I - Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

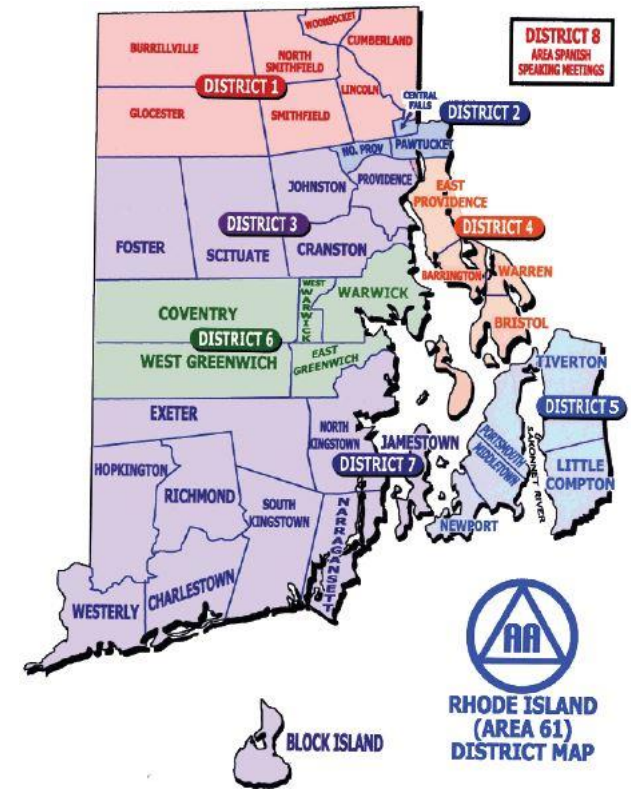
Our Groups have a GSR. Each GSR carries the group's informed conscience.

Ultimate Authority

Concept II - The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society in its world affairs.

The GSRs delegate their collective informed conscience to the Conference.

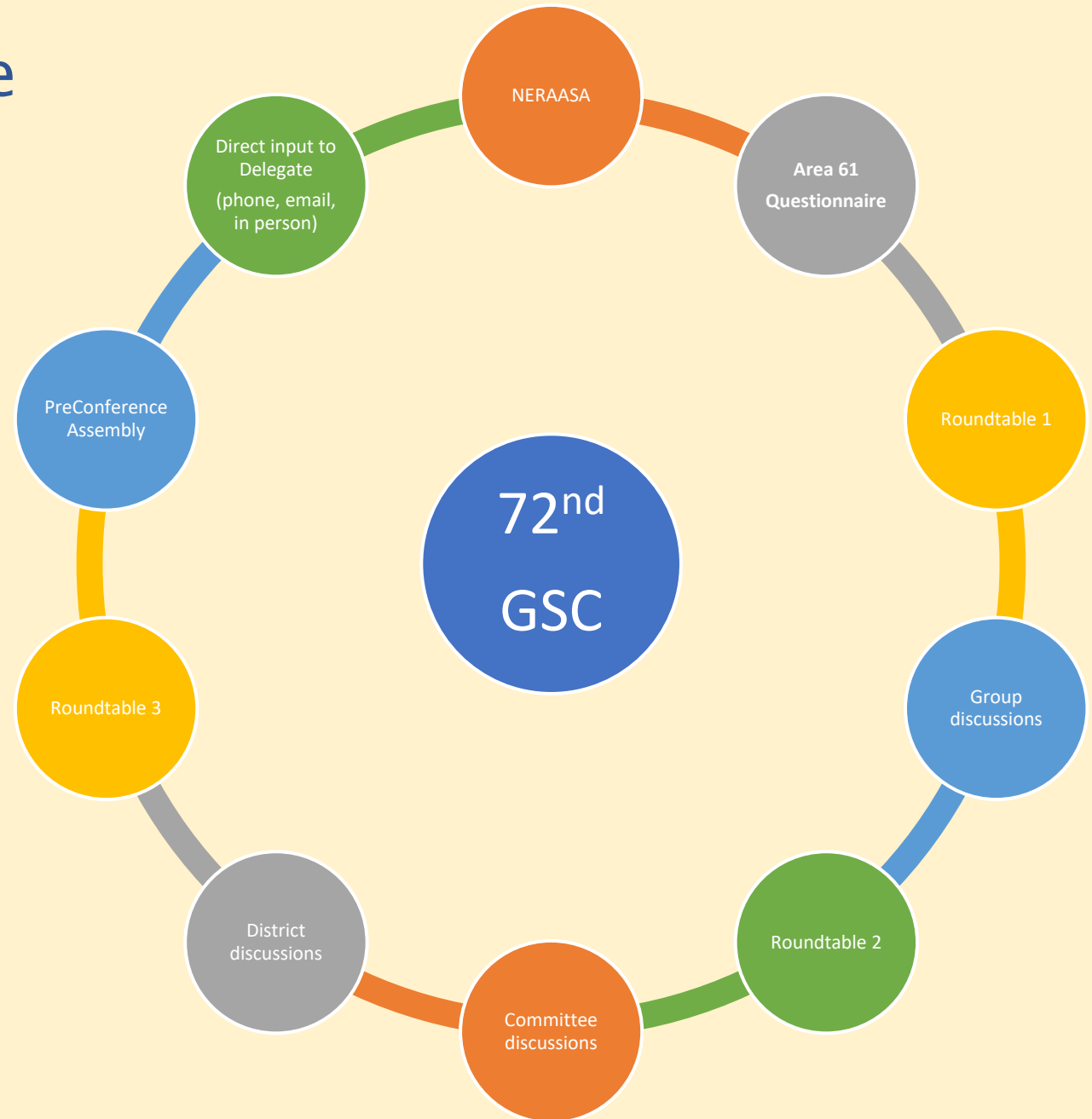
Delegated Authority



# Area 61 Prepares for the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference

## 2022 IMPORTANT DATES:

Jan 22	Area Assembly ( <i>pre-conference timeline</i> )
Jan 31	Final Agenda Items
Feb. 15	Background posted
Feb. 25-27	NERAASA
March 7-28	Area 61 Questionnaire
March 31	Roundtable 1
April 4	Roundtable 2
April 5	Roundtable 3
April 9	PreConference Assembly



# Off we go to Conference.....



# Who makes up the Conference?

This year there were **133 voting members** of the General Service Conference

- ▶ **93 – Delegates** (Represent the AA Groups, 2/3 of the votes come from the Delegates) **69.9% of participants**

2 Alternate Delegates served

- ▶ **14 - GSO and Grapevine Staff** (Carry out policies, report to GSB and Conference) **10.5% of participants**

- ▶ **26 – Trustees, AAWS Directors, Grapevine Directors** (Responsible for policy and implementation) **19.5% of participants**

1 GV non-trustee director did not attend & there is no alternate in that case

**72nd General Service Conference**

**Data on Area Delegates**

(76 responses)

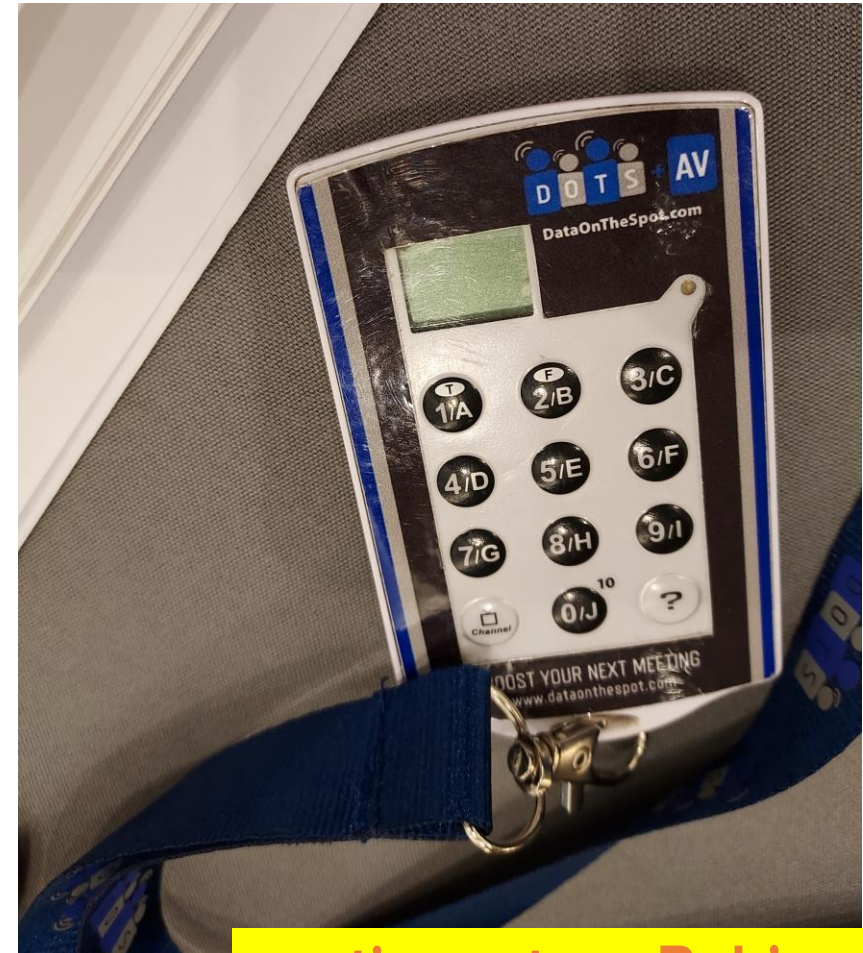
	<u>Years</u>
Average Age . . . . .	57
Oldest . . . . .	80
Youngest . . . . .	35
Average Length of Sobriety . . . . .	22
Longest Sobriety . . . . .	43
Shortest Sobriety . . . . .	8
Average Length of Service . . . . .	17
Longest Service . . . . .	37
Shortest Service . . . . .	6

# 2 BIG MOMENTS

## Roll Call



## 1<sup>st</sup> Vote



practice vote = Bob's sox!!!!!!!!!!

# **REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**



**FINANCE**

# 2021 GSO FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition of Self-Support -- \$10.78 million set another record, up 5.07% from \$10.26 million in 2020 **Gratitude to the Fellowship!**
- ▶ Operating Expense -- \$15.28 million down 31.6% from \$22.34 million in 2020 (personnel reductions, curtailed travel, virtual Forums & virtual GSC)
- ▶ AAWS publishing gross profits -- \$6.30 million down 4.3% from \$6.58 million in 2020

**PRUDENT RESERVE**

**December 31, 2021 - 7.84 Months**

# 2021 GROSS LITERATURE SALES: \$11.7 million

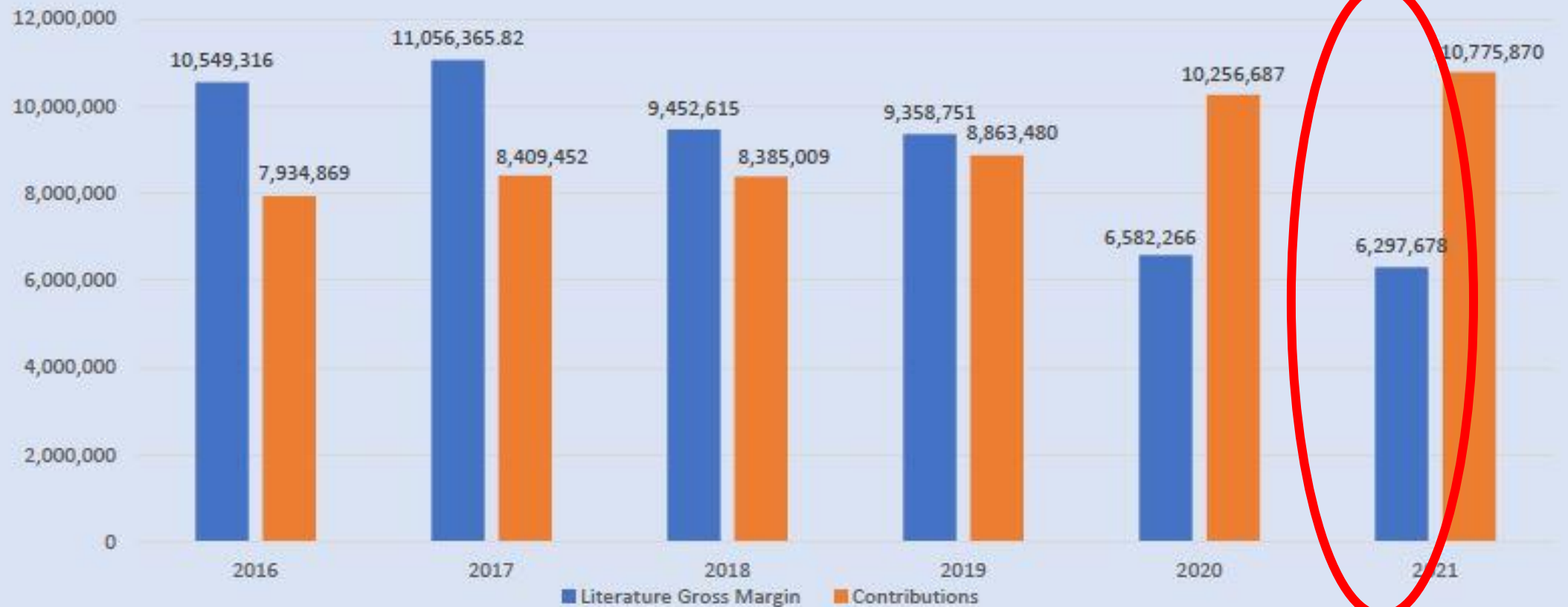
## IMPACT OF PANDEMIC ON GSO REVENUE DISTRIBUTION



# 2021 LITERATURE GROSS MARGIN: \$6.2 million

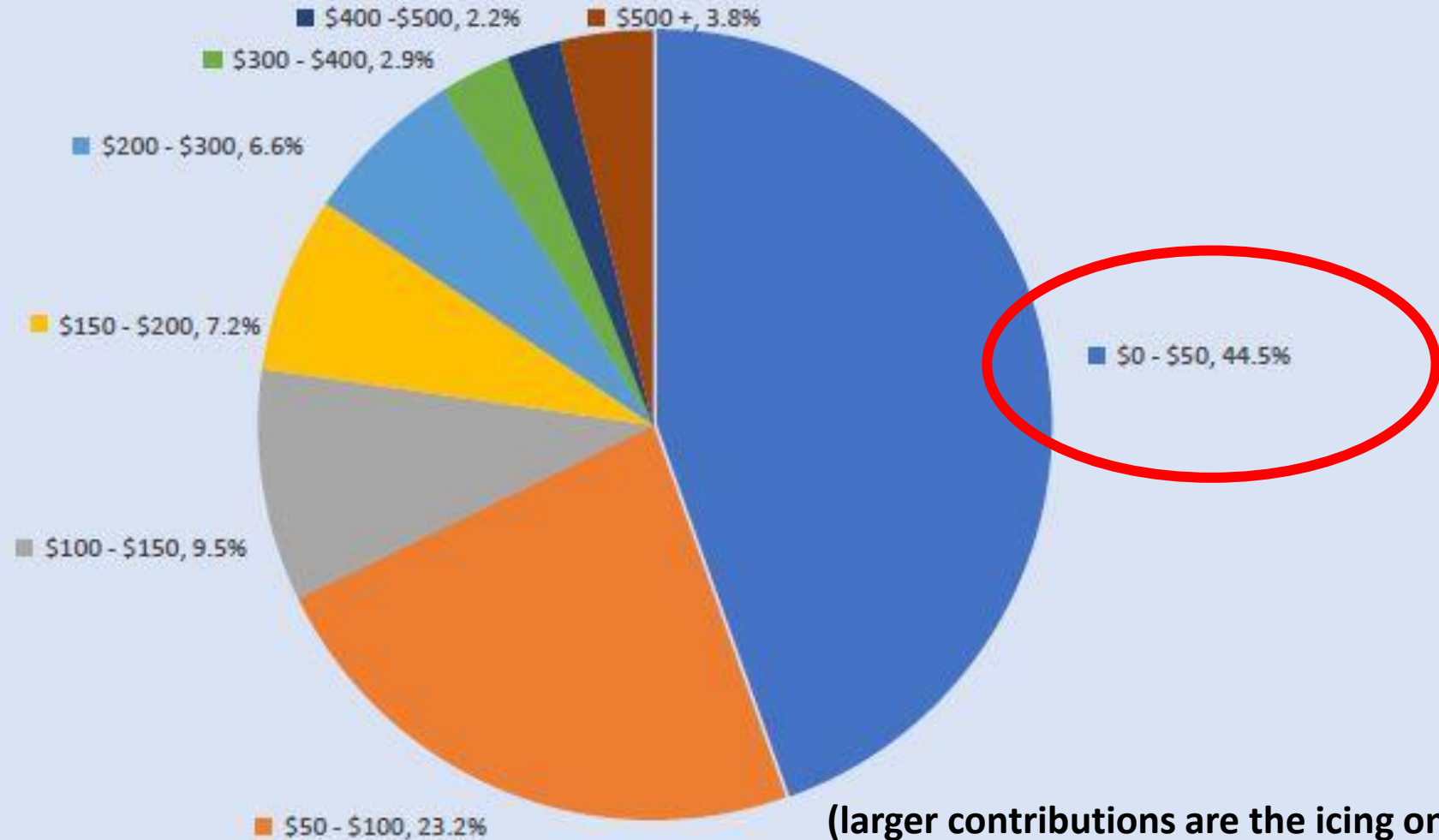
re:  
SELLING PRICE  
&  
COST OF  
GOODS

## IMPACT OF PANDEMIC ON GSO REVENUE DISTRIBUTION



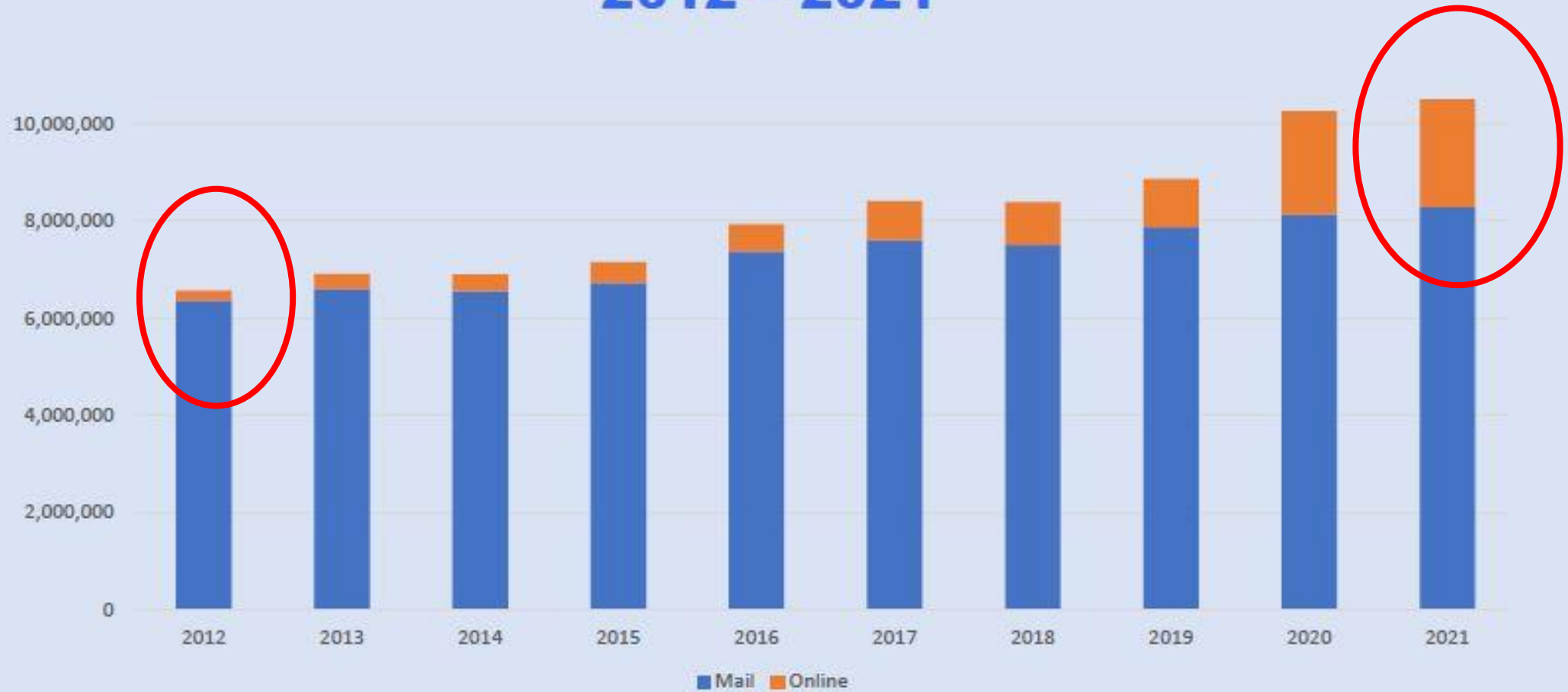
(higher printing and distribution costs without raising prices = gross profit on each item has dropped)

# 2021 Contributions by Dollar Value



(larger contributions are the icing on the cake, but “the cake” is smaller contributions per [Kevin Prior, GSB Treasurer/Class-A Trustee](#) )

# GROWTH OF ON-LINE CONTRIBUTIONS 2012 - 2021



**(online contributions were 23% of the total  
in 2021 versus 3% in 2012)**

# 2021 GRAPEVINE FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Grapevine paid print subscriptions decreased 11.5% in 2021. Subscriptions for the online and mobile app magazine increased 73.3%
- ▶ 2021 Grapevine results were gross profit of \$1.091M on the magazine and gross profit \$411K on the other published items. Operating expenses of \$1.808M resulted in an operating loss of \$112,618 compared to a loss of \$298,699 in 2020
- ▶ General Fund support of LaViña service activity was \$388,646 in 2021, almost the same as \$385,771 in 2020.
- ▶ LaViña magazine circulation decreased by 12.4% in 2021 compared to a 36.6% decrease in 2020 after several prior years of growth

# GRAPEVINE OPERATING RESULTS - 2012 - 2021





Goofball looks for Michael from VT  
on the train....

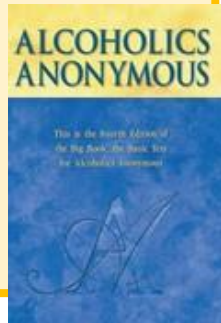


**AAWS**

- ▶ Bob Wilcox, former Trustee-At-Large US, started as GSO General Manager on June 1, 2021.
- ▶ Over 7,600 phone calls were received at the main number 212-870-3400 in the time period from July, 2021 through March, 2022.
- ▶ New Reduced Shipping Charges/Mixed-Title Discounts for Literature
- ▶ New [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) Website Release in mid-December.
  - ▶ Online access to A.A. literature, service material, and info about A.A. -- gives positive momentum to our 12-Step efforts as a Fellowship.
  - ▶ *Daily Reflections*, Find A.A. Near You, and the online Big Book remain the highest traffic features of the website.
- ▶ Fellowship Connection - multiple releases and enhancements
- ▶ Corrections Correspondence Service - brand-new CCS system this past year, maintained by the Corrections assignment at G.S.O.

- ▶ new Member Services Department - handled 22,400 unique email requests from the Fellowship, 4,381 phone calls, 26,800 literature orders, 5,582 Group/District/Area updates in the period from end of June, 2021 through the end of March, 2022
- ▶ all four Regional Forums in 2021 were hosted virtually
  - ▶ Ask-It-Basket chat questions posed and answered in real-time
- ▶ The Meeting Guide app. estimates of over 200,000 subscribers
- ▶ YouTube channel continues to evolve as a Public Information tool
- ▶ Google for Non-Profits (Google Ads) program - - two initial campaigns built around 'Need Help' and 'Find A.A.' help to give precedence to resources available via [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)
- ▶ Publishing paper shortages, supply chain disruptions
  - ▶ Priorities have been set to ensure that the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* is available in all formats when decisions have had to be made about the use of limited materials in print runs.

- ▶ The Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, is currently available in 73 languages.
  - ▶ There are 28 Big Book translations pending in various stages of development or completion - - includes 20 new translations and 8 revisions/re-translations.
- ▶ *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* is available in 51 translations with 3 new translations pending.
- ▶ *Daily Reflections* is available in 38 translations with 2 translations pending. *Living Sober* is available in 37 languages with 5 translations pending.
- ▶ *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* is available in 20 languages with 3 translations pending. There were 50 translation reviews across 21 languages performed by our contracted translation-evaluation services in 2021
- ▶ Efforts continue to fulfill the Fellowship's request to make A.A. literature available in digital formats.
  - ▶ 3 largest digital retailers are Amazon Digital, Apple, and Google. Audible for audiobooks.



**ESTIMATES OF A.A. GROUPS AND MEMBERS  
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021 <sup>1</sup>**

	Groups	Members
<i>United States</i>	64,541	1,350,415
<i>Canada</i>	5,074	86,036
<b>Sub-Total <sup>2</sup> :</b>	<b>69,615</b>	<b>1,436,451</b>
 <i>Correctional Facilities</i>	 1,522	 38,299
<i>Loners, Internationalist, Homers</i>	1	208
<b>U.S. &amp; Canada Total:</b>	<b>71,138</b>	<b>1,474,958</b>
 <i>Outside U.S. &amp; Canada <sup>3</sup></i>	 49,317	 492,655
<b>Worldwide Total:</b>	<b>120,455</b>	<b>1,967,613</b>

<sup>1</sup> The General Service Office does not keep membership records. The information shown here is based on reports given by groups listed with G.S.O., and does not represent an actual count of those who consider themselves A.A. members. The decrease in groups and members is not reflective of the pandemic, it is due to a more accurate database.

<sup>2</sup> In April of 2021, at the 71st General Service Conference, it was recommended that the U.S./Canada General Service Structure recognize online groups and encourage their participation, listing those groups who ask to be listed within the group's preferred district and area, with the default option being the location of the group's primary contact. This supersedes the 1997 Advisory Action that designated online groups as "International Correspondence Meetings." We currently have 309 Virtual Groups in the U.S. and Canada listed with the G.S.O.

<sup>3</sup> We are aware of A.A. activity in approximately 180 countries, including 66 autonomous general service offices beyond the U.S./Canada. Annually we attempt to contact those G.S.O.s and groups that request to be listed in our records. Where current data is lacking we use an earlier year's figures.

71,138  
groups  
1,474,958  
members

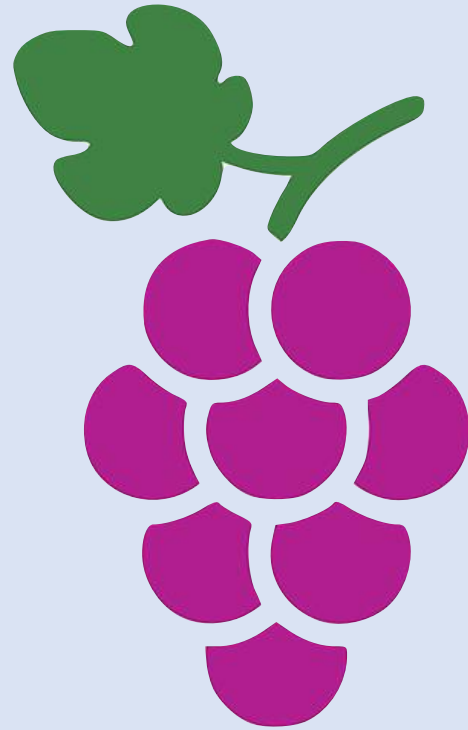
**ESTIMATED WORLDWIDE A.A. INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP  
MEMBERSHIP**

YEAR	ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP	GROUPS	YEAR	ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP	GROUPS
1935	2	0	2001	2,215,293	100,131
1940	1,400	50	2002	2,092,460	103,768
1945	12,986	556	2003	2,066,851	104,589
1950	96,475	3,527	2004	2,082,980	105,294
1955	135,905	6,249	2005	1,867,212	106,202
1960	162,037	8,615	2006	1,996,935	106,477
1965	232,105	12,444	2007	2,044,655	113,168
1970	311,450	16,459	2008	2,085,125	116,773
1975	533,590	26,456	2009	2,103,033	115,773
1976	574,318	29,352	2010	2,057,672	107,976
1977	612,876	31,587	2011	2,133,842	114,070
1978	627,456	33,241	2012	2,131,549	114,642
1979	868,171	39,964	2013	2,138,421	115,358
1980	907,575	42,105	2014	2,040,629	115,326
1981	937,705	47,797	2015	2,089,698	117,748
1982	1,065,299	53,576	2016	2,103,184	118,305
1983	1,191,946	58,576	2017	2,087,840	120,300
1984	1,351,793	62,860	2018	2,130,419	125,352
1985	1,445,999	67,019	2019	2,077,374	125,557
1986	1,556,316	73,192	2020	2,138,201	129,790
1987	1,617,296	76,184	2021	1,967,613	120,455
1988	1,734,734	85,270			
1989	1,793,834	87,696			
1990	2,047,469	93,914			
1991	2,148,757	96,500			
1992	2,489,541	89,215			
1993	2,062,360	90,155			
1994	1,790,528	89,239			
1995	1,726,341	86,449			
1996	1,959,829	96,997			
1997	1,967,433	97,568			
1998	1,989,124	98,710			
1999	1,995,804	99,020			
2000	2,160,013	100,766			

120,455  
groups

1,967,613  
members


Because A.A. has never attempted to keep formal membership lists, it is extremely difficult to obtain completely accurate figures on total membership at any given time. The information shown here is based on reports given by groups listed with general service offices (G.S.O.s) around the world and does not represent an actual count of those who consider themselves A.A. members. We are aware of A.A. activity in approximately 180 countries, including 66 autonomous G.S.O.s beyond the U.S./Canada. Annually we attempt to contact those G.S.O.s and groups that request to be listed in our records. Where current data is lacking we use an earlier year's figures. The decrease in groups and members is not reflective of the pandemic, it is due to a more accurate database.




**AA**GRAPEVINE

# Hats Off to GV!

- ▶ GRAPEVINE PODCAST
- ▶ GRAPEVINE BLOG
- ▶ @AAGV INSTAGRAM AND TWITTER
- ▶ REVAMPED [AAGRAPEVINE.ORG](http://AAGRAPEVINE.ORG)
- ▶ INCREASED SHARE-ABILITY
- ▶ AUDIO AND VIDEO CONTENT

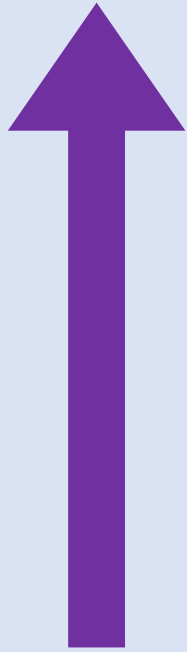


small staff  
does great  
things

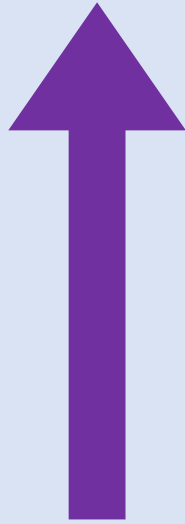


FREE content is  
not free, but at  
'no charge'

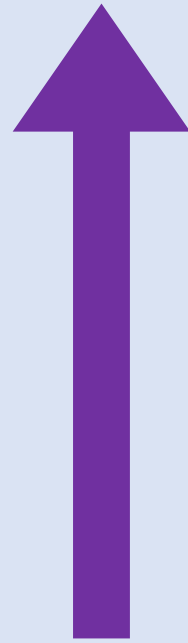




Podcast



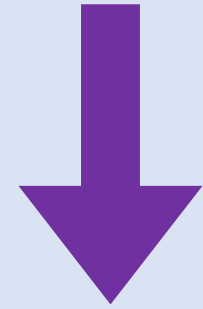
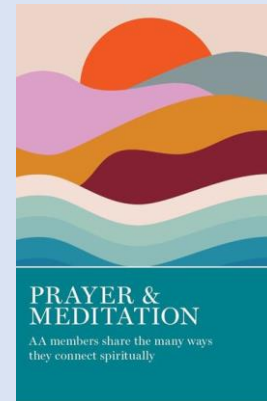
Instagram



Website



Books



Print Magazine



# But what about our GV Magazine?


GV is seeing record numbers of participants using the site, engagement w/ the free digital content, and above average sales in books, however GV continues to see a disconnect between the Fellowship's interest in using GV, and it's willingness in supporting Grapevine financially through regular monthly subscriptions.

I put my contribution in the basket, and I contribute \$4.99 a month to Grapevine through my recurring monthly subscription (print, online, story archive), or print only \$28.97/YR.

The number one question Josh E, AAGV Board Chair, gets is “How can I contribute to Grapevine?”, or “Why don't you (GV) accept voluntary contributions?”

The answer is **you can contribute**. Each and every one of us can set up a recurring yearly or monthly subscription to ensure that Grapevine can continue to grow and once again thrive.

- ★ More info at [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)
- ★ Talk to our Area 61 GV/LaViña Committee



# **ONLINE GROUPS & GENERAL SERVICE STRUCTURE**

# CURRENT STATUS

(per Advisory Action/71<sup>st</sup> GSC)

The U.S./Canada General Service Structure recognizes online groups and encourages their participation, listing those groups who ask to be listed within the group's preferred district and area, with the default option being the location of the group's primary contact.

- ▶ Currently in the G.S.O. database there are approximately **700** active virtual groups in the U.S./Canada General Service Structure.
- ▶ Virtual is defined as online and phone groups.
- ▶ Out of these **700** virtual groups **450** have a G.S.R.

## What else is going on with online groups?

### GSB ad hoc committee legwork

Gathering information from other fellowships

Meeting with OIAA (Online Intergroup of AA)

Gathering information from other countries

Revised New Group Form

### Challenges to Geographic system

examples:

GSO continues to get inquiries from members from other countries wanting to list with us and weigh in on our US/Canada Conference and is frequently asked about how to allow an international member to be a G.S.R.

### Next Steps

Obtain Information and DATA from areas

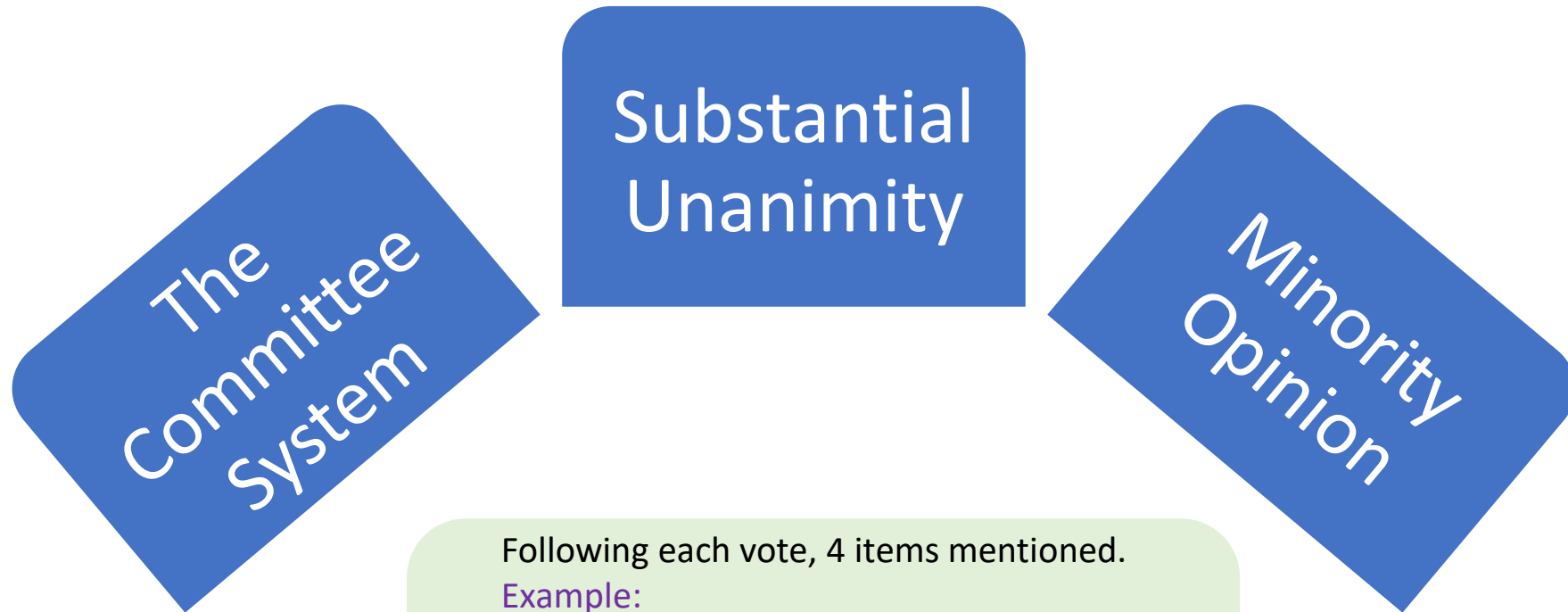
**Let's move on from reports to committee work.**



# How does a request from the Fellowship become an Advisory Action?

- **Any member, group, district, area, trustee, director or staff member of AAWS and GV may submit a proposed agenda item to the Conference Coordinator** (*new Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form*)
- **The Conference Coordinator forwards proposed agenda items to the appropriate Trustee's Committee**
- **The appropriate Trustee's Committee reviews all proposed agenda items and decides which ones will be forwarded to the Conference Committee for review during Conference week**
- **The Conference Committee reviews and discusses the feasibility of the idea and determines to make a recommendation, a consideration, or take no action**
- **All committee decisions are reported to the full body at the conference. Only recommendations are debated and subsequently voted on. Those that pass with substantial unanimity become Advisory Actions.**

# What basic principles guide how the Conference operates?



Following each vote, 4 items mentioned.

Example:

Y=121

N =10

Nvm=131

2/3 =88

Passes w/ SU



# quick definitions

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item coming out of committee as recommendation to the Conference as a whole for acceptance or rejection. Recommendations of Conference committees are automatically motions that have been made and seconded.

## COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

Item coming out of Committee with no recommendation to Conference as a whole. Suggestion to corresponding trustees' committee.

## ADVISORY ACTION

When a recommendation from a committee or floor action is approved in full session with substantial unanimity it becomes an Advisory Action.

Each General Service Conference, one agenda item at a time, endeavors to determine:

# What's Best for AA?

Sometimes....

taking  
ACTION

.....is best

Sometimes....

taking  
NO  
ACTION

.....is best

Sometimes....

PAUSING  
FOR A BIT

Or  
Recom-  
mitting

Or a  
Progress  
Report

...is best

# COMMITTEES

- **Agenda**
- **Cooperation with the Professional Community**
- **Corrections**
- **Finance**
- **Grapevine & LaViña**
- **Literature**
- **Policy / Admissions**
- **Public Information**
- **Report and Charter**
- **Treatment and Accessibilities**
- **Trustees**

## **Secondary Committees**

- **Archives**
- **International Convention /  
Regional Forums**

# Summary of GSC actions

- ▶ **89 Agenda Items to start**
- ▶ **33 Committee Recommendations to the GSC for debate**
- ▶ **9 Floor Actions submitted during Conference**  
**(2 approved to become Advisory Actions)**
- ▶ **35 Final Advisory Actions**  
71<sup>st</sup> = 49, 70<sup>th</sup> = 16, 69<sup>th</sup> = 34, 67<sup>th</sup> = 42
- ▶ **Copious Additional Committee Considerations from Committee Deliberations (Bunches of Suggestions)**

# AGENDA



4 Recommendations

2 Considerations

## RECOMMENDATIONS PASSES

▶ 2023 CONFERENCE THEME:

“A.A.’s Three Legacies – Our Common Solution”

▶ 2023 PRESENTATION THEME & TOPICS:

“General Service – Our Mighty Purpose and Rhythm”  
Our Common Perils and Common Solution  
Using A.A.’s Literature in Carrying the Message  
Fostering a Thriving Three Legacy Culture

▶ 2023 WORKSHOP TOPIC

“Practicing Our Twelve Traditions Across All Group Settings”

▶ ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION:

The GSB develop a status report on the progress and outcomes from the 2013-2015 Conference inventory and include a draft plan for another Conference inventory with considerations of its value, timeline and approach to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Agenda.

**CONSIDERATIONS:** Sharing Session at 73<sup>rd</sup> GSC on participation of online groups in service structure

# Cooperation with the Professional Community



No Recommendations

6 Considerations

## CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ LinkedIn suggestions including additional cadence strategy and request for progress report in 2023
- ▶ “A.A. in Your Community” additional suggestions and bring back progress report or draft pamphlet in 2023
- ▶ New pamphlet to aid members in speaking with their doctors - **took no action**
- ▶ Outward facing pamphlet for mental health professionals additional suggestions, appreciation for use of focus group, and bring back progress report or draft pamphlet in 2023
- ▶ With discussions across committees regarding optimizing digital resources, including QR codes and posting of AA vids & docs on non-AA platforms
- ▶ Suggested revisions to C.P.C. Kit and Workbook (deep dive year – long & detailed list)

# CORRECTIONS



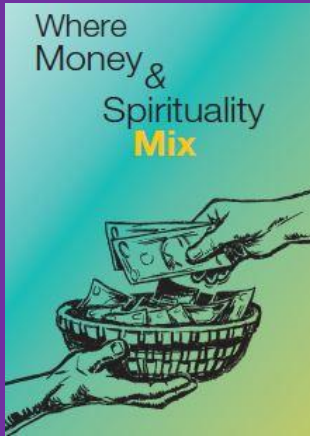
No Recommendations

4 Considerations

## CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ Reconsider use of term “person in custody” -- **took no actions**
- ▶ Limit changes to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* -- **took no action**
- ▶ Make A.A. literature changes slowly and with A.A.’s primary purpose in mind -- **took no action**
- ▶ Suggested revisions to Corrections Kit and Workbook

# FINANCE



No Recommendations

4 Considerations

## CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ In the pamphlet, *Self-Support – Where Money & Spirituality Meet*, it be clarified that although contributions are sent to the General Service Office, contributions are made to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- ▶ Compile a list of suggestions for updates to the Self-Support packet

- ▶ Request to add a historical disclaimer to the front of the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*” -- **took no action**
- ▶ Request that all proposed changes to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* be handled in footnotes” -- **took no action**



# GRAPEVINE and LaViña



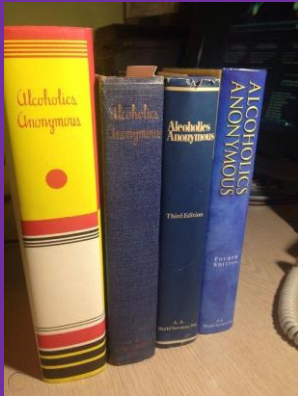
**No Recommendations**

**5 Considerations**

## CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ Suggestion to the Grapevine office to encourage members to submit anonymity-protected content for Instagram pages
- ▶ Supported 4 projects for 2023 and after: (1) Best of Dear Grapevine, (2) Book for Newcomers (3) Best of LaViña II, and (4) Prayer & Meditation (LaViña Book)
- ▶ Discussed the wide-ranging impact the AA Preamble change has had on the Fellowship. The committee felt that after careful consideration of Fellowship feedback, it would be premature to quantify the impact when many A.A. members are still either uninformed or ambivalent about the change. The committee emphasized that at every level of our Conference process there is a reciprocal responsibility of all A.A. members and trusted servants, of participation and communication, to embrace the guiding principles of trust and transparency.
- ▶ Requested that the GV office consider the feasibility of producing or utilizing American Sign Language (ASL) content
- ▶ Editorial suggestions for AA Grapevine Workbook

# LITERATURE



7 Recommendations

12 Considerations

## RECOMMENDATIONS PASSED

- ▶ Revise safety language in *Living Sober* and pamphlet “Q & A on Sponsorship”
- ▶ Approve pamphlets for print:
  - ▶ Young People & AA
  - ▶ Is A.A. for You?
  - ▶ Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?
  - ▶ Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.
  - ▶ This Is A.A.
- ▶ Existing version of pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated” be updated with non-offensive, contemporary text and illustrations.

- ▶ Publishing Dept. adapt and produce the GSO of Great Britain’s video animation of the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated” with progress report or rough cut draft brought to Literature Committee in 2023

## RECOMMENDATIONS FAILED

- ▶ Develop second volume of the book *Experience, Strength and Hope*
- ▶ Approve draft pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated” with minor editorial revisions ← - stay tuned for Floor Actions

# LITERATURE

Let's watch the video!

- ▶ Publishing Dept. adapt and produce the GSO of Great Britain's video animation of the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" with progress report or rough cut draft brought to Literature Committee in 2023



<https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/About-AA/12-Concepts>

# LITERATURE

continued

## CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ Annual review of recovery literature matrix
- ▶ Request for draft or progress report in 2023 of following pamphlets:
  - ▶ A.A.'s Three Legacies
  - ▶ Too Young?
  - ▶ A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic
  - ▶ A.A. for the Native North American
- ▶ Request for draft manuscript or progress report in 2023 of following books:
  - ▶ Spanish 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Big Book (*Alcohólicos Anónimos*)
  - ▶ Plain Language Big Book
  - ▶ Fifth Edition *Big Book* ← submit your story – Oct 31 deadline
- ▶ Request for further information on what study guides might look like
- ▶ Suggested revisions to Literature Workbook
- ▶ Provided suggestions to make literature accessible in all formats
- ▶ Discussed changes to text of 12 & 12 resulting from advisory actions of 71<sup>st</sup> GSC – **took no action**


# POLICY / ADMISSIONS



4 Recommendations

6 Considerations

## RECOMMENDATIONS PASSED

- ▶ Change process of approving observers to the conference to allow the Policy/Admissions committee to approve routine admissions
- ▶ Compilation of all conference committee background material to be made available simultaneously in English, Spanish, and French 
  - hrs of discussion
  - ramifications
- ▶ 3 observers be admitted : 2 persons from A.A. in Brazil (Board of Trustees - Class B), and 1 person from A.A. in Argentina (made pre-conference)

## RECOMMENDATIONS FAILED

- ▶ Restore omitted paragraph to the “Freedom from Bondage” story



# POLICY / ADMISSIONS

continued

## CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ Requested the next GSC site selection report provide detail on the financial, logistical, and spiritual implications of holding the GSC at other locations throughout the 8 regions of the U.S./Canada service structure
- ▶ Proposed 3 dates for 76<sup>th</sup> GSC
- ▶ Requested continued development of process for utilizing virtual meeting technology for polling the GSC between meetings
- ▶ Considered request to revise the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” to reflect shared experience on service sponsorship - **took no action**
- ▶ Reviewed EDW pilot and identified benefits and challenges (details in later slide)
- ▶ Additional Consideration: Request that progress report from trustees' Ad Hoc Committee on the Participation of Online Groups be provided as part of their background material in advance of the 73rd GSC

# PUBLIC INFORMATION



Young People's  
Animation Video

4 Recommendations

15 Considerations

## RECOMMENDATIONS PASSED

- ▶ Revise Understanding Anonymity pamphlet questions about (1) websites & personal webpages and (2) virtual AA meetings

- ▶ Retire AA Fact File

- ▶ Revise 2022 Membership Survey by adding 2 new questions and editing 6 existing questions



- stay tuned for Floor Actions

- ▶ Launch 2022 Membership Survey



## CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ Reviewed and accepted progress reports and offered suggestions on
  - ▶ GSO Podcast Plan
  - ▶ YouTube Performance
  - ▶ Google Ads Performance
  - ▶ Meeting Guide App Performance
  - ▶ GSO Website Performance (aa.org)
  - ▶ AAGV Website & Podcast Performance

# PUBLIC INFORMATION

continued

## CONSIDERATIONS (cont'd)

- ▶ Suggested enhancements for the next iteration of the Comprehensive Media Plan (CMP)
- ▶ Accepted distribution and tracking info for 2 PSAs (1) Sobriety in A.A.: My Drinking Built a Wall and (2) Sobriety in A.A.: When Drinking is no longer a Party.
- ▶ Affirmed current Conference-approved video PSAs are relevant and useful and that there is no need for new PSAs at this time
- ▶ Requested further research on paid placement of PSAs on streaming platforms
- ▶ Suggested edits and requested progress report or draft:
  - ▶ AA at a Glance
  - ▶ Speaking at non-AA Meetings
- ▶ Replace AA Fact File (retired) with service material version of digital PI Press Media Kit
- ▶ Requested development and administration of survey to inform decisions on a new form of communication addressing anonymity on social media
- ▶ Accepted changes to PI Kit and Workbook

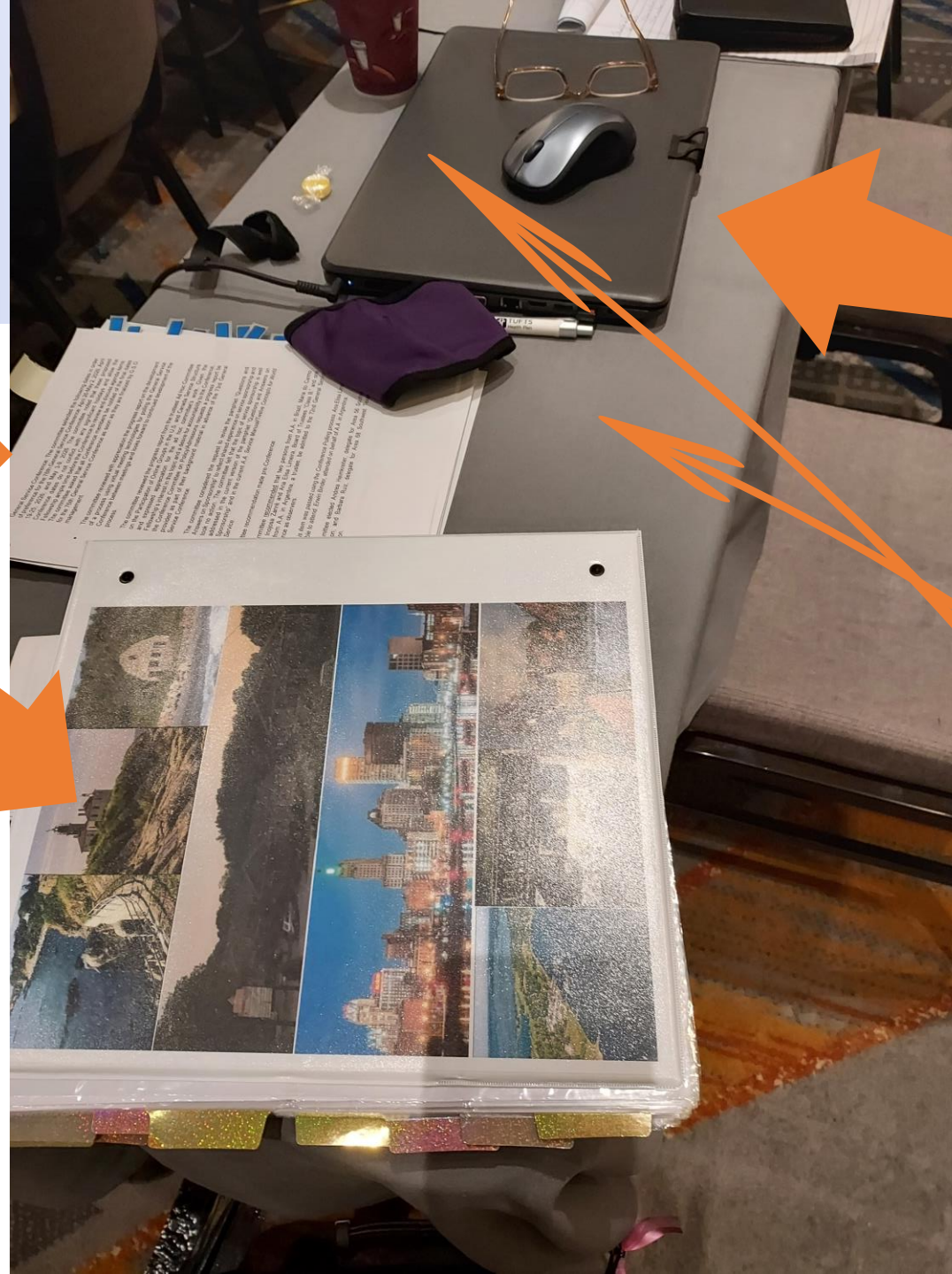


a peek at  
**My**  
**workstation**

lots and lots  
of notes

Area 61 Binder  
with lots and lots  
of notes (Thanks  
Lauren & Tricia!!!)

and a photo on cover  
for each District



yup, it's a  
legal pad  
for more  
notes

laptop -  
apparently much  
larger than most

essentials:  
COFFEE and mask

# REPORT AND CHARTER



2 Recommendations

7 Considerations

## RECOMMENDATIONS PASSED

- ▶ Requested revisions to 2021-2023 edition of AA Service Manual
- ▶ ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION: Revise scope of R&C Committee by removing items related to Regional Directories which have been discontinued

## CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ Suggested engagement strategies for the GSC Conference Final Report

- ▶ Request to include the GSR preamble in the pamphlet “GSR: Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole” -- **took no action**

← - stay tuned for Floor Actions

- ▶ Requested that draft update to the new section to be added to The Twelve Concepts for World Service titled Amendments be brought to 2023 GSC

# REPORT AND CHARTER

continued

## CONSIDERATIONS (cont'd)

- ▶ Noted *The A.A. Service Manual* can be utilized for all individuals involved in the General Service structure. The text is not limited to new people in service or only GSRs.
- ▶ Request chapter titled “The Doctor’s Opinion” be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* -- **took no action**
- ▶ ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION: Requested that the A.A.W.S. Board research the need for and feasibility of a translation of *The A.A. Service Manual Combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service* into American Sign Language (ASL)
- ▶ ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION: Request GSO retire the print listing of Central Offices, Intergroups and Answering Services for the United States and Canada (Item F-25)

# TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES



1 Recommendation

6 Considerations

## RECOMMENDATIONS PASSED

- ▶ Add the long form of Tradition Five to page 12 of the pamphlet “The AA Group” at its next printing

## CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ Suggested revision in the following:
  - ▶ AA for the Older Alcoholic
  - ▶ Military Audio Interviews
  - ▶ AA Guidelines for Remote Communities
- ▶ Suggested revisions to Treatment Workbook including importance of availability in all forms ← - digital and print versions
- ▶ Suggested revisions to Accessibilities Workbook including importance of availability in all forms
- ▶ Considered request to remove the sentence “Nobody has ever died of lack of sleep” in the section “Getting plenty of rest” in the booklet *Living Sober* -- **took no action**. Noted that the section includes “If the condition persists, it may be advisable to check with a good physician who understands alcoholism well.”

# TRUSTEES



6 Recommendations

5 Considerations

## RECOMMENDATIONS PASSED

- ▶ General Service Board
  - ▶ Slate of Trustees
  - ▶ Slate of Officers
- ▶ AAWS Slate of Directors
- ▶ AAGV Slate of Directors
- ▶ Approve suggested Procedure to Reorganize the General Service Board and the boards of A.A.W.S., Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc.” as one acceptable pathway to a whole or partial reorganization of the Boards, understanding that, as provided by the Conference Charter, the final process will be determined by whichever GSC might be considering reorganization. ← discussion started in 2018
- ▶ Revise pamphlet “Do You Think You're Different?” to update stories to represent greater diversity and bring draft pamphlet or progress report to the 2023 GSC

# TRUSTEES

continued

## CONSIDERATIONS (cont'd)

- ▶ Reviewed resumes and approved as eligible for election, all Class B trustee candidates for the Eastern Canada and Pacific regions
  - ▶ new Eastern Canada Trustee (Class B): Joyce S, Area 83 (E Ontario)
  - ▶ new Pacific Regional Trustee (Class B): Reilly K, Area 58 (Oregon)
- ▶ Considered request to revisit highlighting service roles at the group level in the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” -- **took no action**
- ▶ Request to look at accuracy & effectiveness of direct translation practices for “Do You Think You’re Different.” (When should stories be translated and when would new stories be more effective?)
- ▶ **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION:** AAGV consider using “Do You Think You're Different?” as a recurring theme

# ARCHIVES



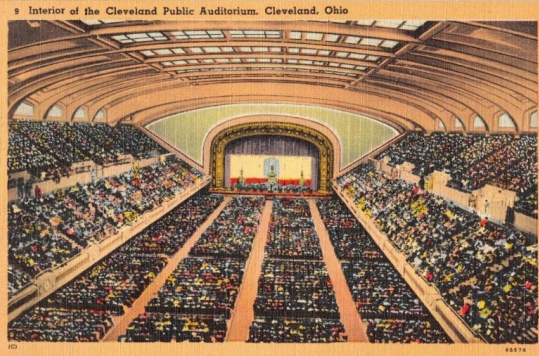
## CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ Accepted revisions to Archives Workbook, including guidelines for collecting oral histories and expanded shared experience from local archivists

**0 Recommendations**

**2 Considerations**

# INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS & REGIONAL FORUMS



0 Recommendations

3 Considerations

## CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ Acknowledged addition of question to upcoming Int'l Convention Survey regarding methods of closing big meetings --- use of the Lord's Prayer and options to the use of the Lord's Prayer (e.g., the Third Step Prayer, the Seventh Step Prayer and A.A.'s Declaration of Unity)
  - ▶ Suggest options to the title "Regional Forum" utilizing more current language
- ▶ 2025 Theme: 90 Years – Language of the Heart



treats  
&  
encouraging notes  
&  
Rhode Island gear  
from  
Area 61  
Thanks Lauren & Tricia!!!



# FLOOR ACTIONS





9 Floor Actions

2 Passed  
with Substantial Unanimity

7  
Declined or Failed

# first Floor Action to Pass

**The trustees' Committee on Literature continue to make edits to the draft pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated" with a new draft or progress report to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature, keeping in mind: color, diverse expressions of spirituality and accessible interpretation of meaning in the illustrations.**

(came up because Committee Recommendation failed)

PASSED 108:11 (80)

# second Floor Action to Pass

**The 2022 Membership Survey questionnaire receive final editorial review by the trustees' Public Information Committee after consulting with our professional survey methodologist, to address concerns raised by the 72nd General Service Conference related to the survey questions about Racial and Ethnic Background, and Employment Status.**

(came up to acknowledge floor discussion and to move project forward)

PASSED 107:9 (78)

# Declined or failed Floor Actions

With the translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language, that the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts, not be translated into plain language in any way: that these remain in the existing form in English as in previous editions of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

CONFERENCE DECLINES TO HEAR

The General Service Conference impose a one-year moratorium on any new agenda item received through September 15, 2022, with new agenda items held to be placed on the agenda for the 74<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference, allowing the General Service Board and its corporate affiliates time to adjust and align their processes to accommodate the 2022 Policy and Admissions recommendation to provide simultaneous translation of all background material.

CONFERENCE DECLINES TO HEAR

The trustees' Ad Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups develop a plan to create one or more non-geographic Areas for online and telephone groups in the U.S./Canada General Service Conference structure, with a progress report on the plan to be presented to the 73rd General Service Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions.

FAILED

That the following GSR Preamble be added to the pamphlet “Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole: The GSR Preamble.....

CONFERENCE DECLINED TO HEAR

71<sup>st</sup> GSC Advisory Action 18 for changes to page 117 phrase “opposite sex” with the word “partner” in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, be returned to the original text.

71<sup>st</sup> GSC Advisory Action 19 changes to page 66, "No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health. No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony” in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, be returned to the original text.

CONFERENCE DECLINED TO HEAR

The trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference evaluate the current process of developing Conference background material and bring back to the 2023 General Service Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions a plan that describes the process of developing background material, keeping in mind the Conference desire for background material to be targeted, balanced and with relevant historical content.

**amend:** *Trustees committee on the GSC evaluate the current process of developing conference background material and bring back to the 2023 GSC committee on policy/admissions, a plan to develop background material that is targeted, balanced and relevant with historical content.*

FAILED

The 1995 Conference Advisory Action be reaffirmed that the first 164 pages of the Big Book, the Forewords, "The Doctor's Opinion," "Doctor Bob's Nightmare" and the Appendices remain as is.

FAILED



# Progress Report: EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF WORKLOAD

## 2021 ADVISORY ACTION ... 3-YEAR PILOT

- ▶ Year 1 - 12 new agenda items were distributed across six Conference Committees
- ▶ Primarily they were new agenda items that were slated for the Literature Committee

## CHALLENGES

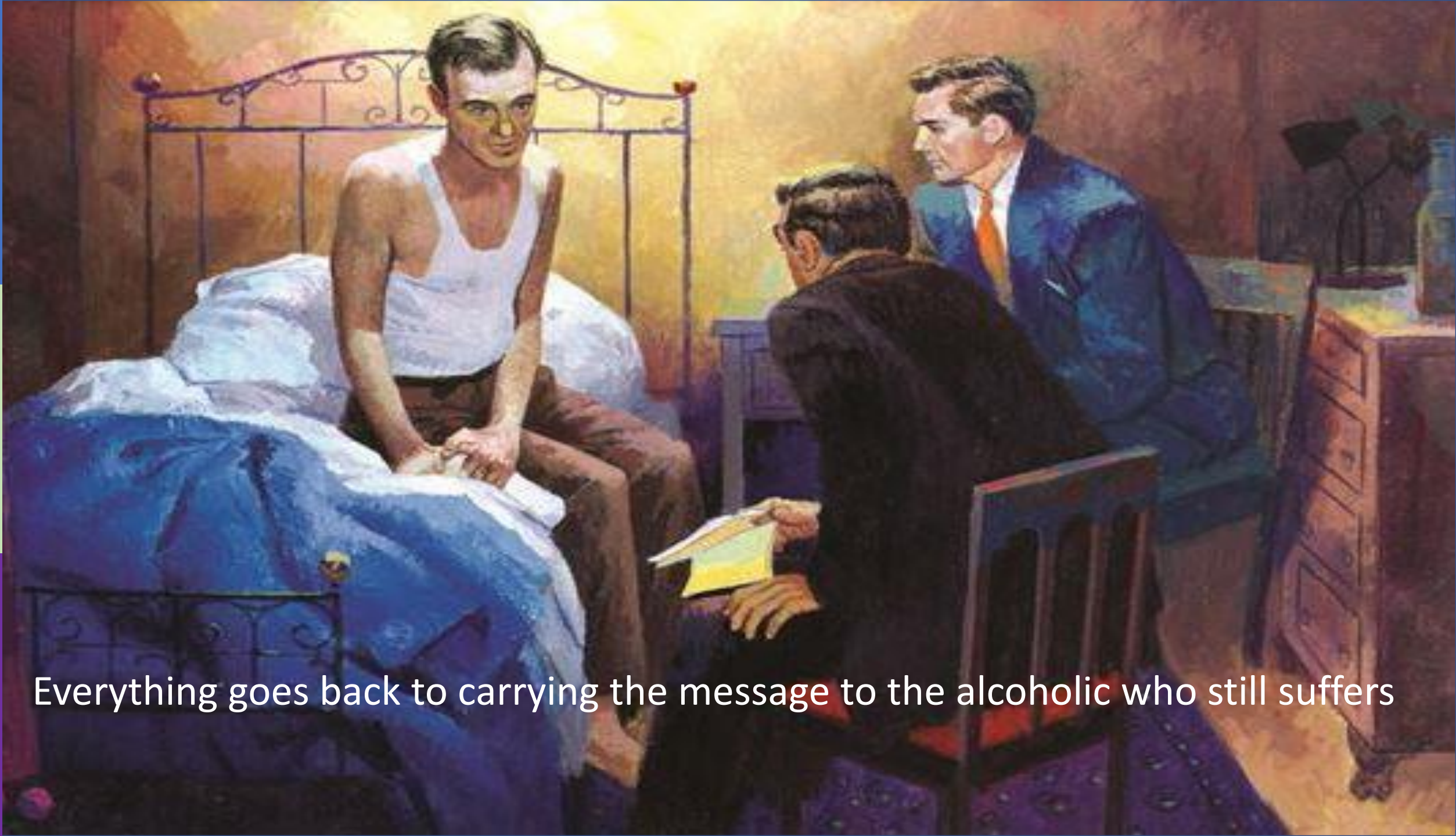
- ▶ Implementing the EDW process immediately posed challenges
- ▶ “Strained every aspect of the Conference assignment which supports the annual meeting”
- ▶ Customary process (flow for Trustee Committees & Conference Committees) upended
- ▶ Reduced amount of time for areas to digest the Final Conference Report; discuss and consider new or related Conference items for the following Conference
- ▶ Strained areas due to new deadline for PAIs

## BENEFITS

- ▶ Allowed for an increased amount of Committee time spent on each item
- ▶ Increased number of delegates worked on new agenda items

CONTINUE PILOT ... SUGGEST THOROUGH EVALUATION AFTER 3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR OF PILOT

# Conference and COVID-19

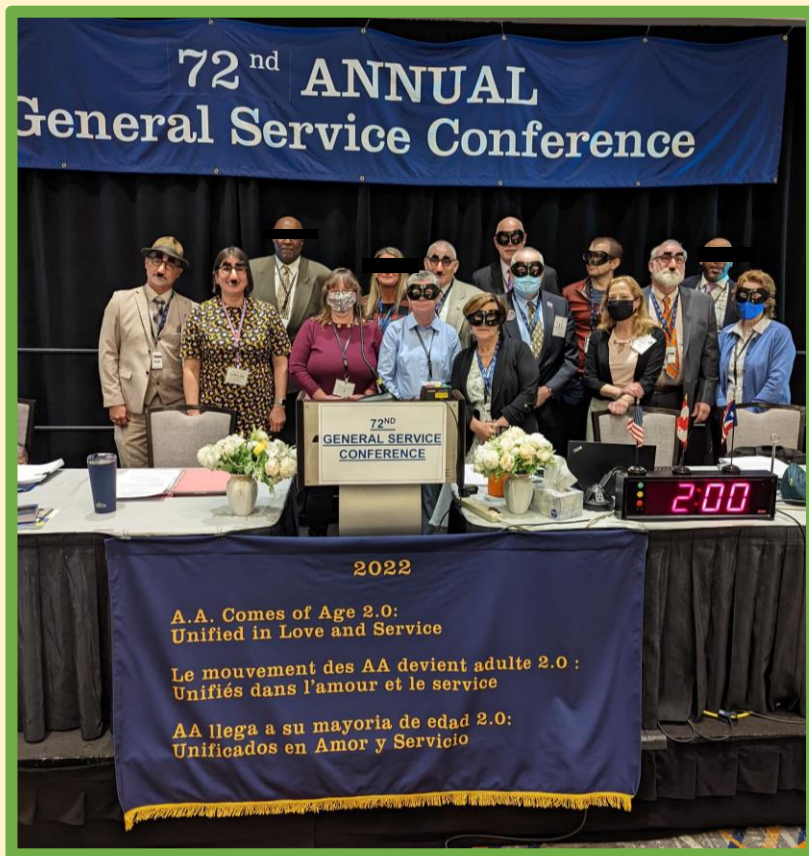


Everything goes back to carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers

**General Sharing Sessions -  
What's on your mind?**

**& Area 61 Delegate**

# The 'NERDS'



Northeast Regional Delegates

Mementos exchanged as a way to get to know other delegates



# What's Next?

Ongoing invitation to each group to participate via its GSR

Year-round district & service committee meetings in Area 61

Sept 15th PAI Deadline (*remember newfarm*)

Oct, Jan, April, June Area 61 Assemblies

Year-round efforts of GSO staff, GSB and Trustees Committees, AdHocs

Board Weekends+++ : GSB, AAWS, AAGV

73d GSC ▪ April 22-29, 2023 ▪ Brooklyn, NY