

To: Area 12 DAGSA Committee

From: Sally Todorow A12 P72 Delegate

Date: May 18, 2023

Subject: The 73rd General Service Conference

After attending the 73rd GSC in Brooklyn, NY in late April, I would like to share a brief review. Please remember that the complete report back will be on Saturday, June 17th in Dover, DE.

Overall Thoughts

- Tension and mistrust
- experiencing our principles in action as we dealt with the tension and mistrust
- Financial questions addressed and most answered
- The Plain Language Translation was a pleasant surprise
- Workload: What's the balance? Increase in the # of Agenda Items, Trustee expectations, strain on staff
- Using the new Membership survey to discuss who we are and who isn't here; increase participation
- *Repeated calls for better and more timely communication throughout the service triangle*
- Continued "pause" on many concerns, including Chair of GSB, Online Group participation, and Literature changes

Advisory Actions

Floor Actions:

GSB to take an Inventory, with questions written from a representative group of the 73rd GSC membership

Not passed: Censure the GSB for conduct surrounding the resignation of the GSB Chair

Agenda:

Next Year's Theme: "Connecting with Love, Unity and Service."

The General Service Conference to participate in an Inventory in 2025 structure based on the 2013-2015 Inventory

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.

- 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.

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.

Committee considerations:

The committee (Finance via EDW) 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. (Mindful of budgetary 16 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?

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. (*More later*)

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 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.

REPORT AND CHARTER

It was recommended that:

- 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.

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 Karam, CSA, FACHE; Hon Kerry Meyer; Al Mooney, M.D., FAAFP, FASAM; Anadora (Andie) Moss; Molly Oliver; Kevin Prior, MBA, CFA, CPA; **VACANT**

Class B Trustees

Cathi Clark; Tom Hoban; Teresa Jacks(new); Reilly Kalles; Deborah Koltai; Robert Lalonde(new); Mike Lewis; Paz Preciado; Marita Rhinehart; Joyce Saunders; David Steward(new); Ken Taylor(new); Irma Van De Bon-Nicol; Carolyn Walsh

- The committee recommended that the following slate of officers of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 29, 2023, following presentation at the 2023 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Chairperson: **Vacant**

First Vice-Chairperson: Mike Lewis

Second Vice-Chairperson: Sister Judith Ann Karam, CSA, FACHE

Treasurer: Kevin Prior, MBA, CFA, CPA

Secretary Irma Van De Bon-Nicol

Assistant Treasurer: Paul Konigstein*

Assistant Secretary: *G.S.O. employees Jeff Wine*

Trustees Emeriti

The General Service Board has designated board chairs who have rotated off the Board as trustees emeriti. Trustees emeriti are invited to attend quarterly board meetings of the General Service Board and the annual General Service Conference. They are a resource of corporate memory and are often asked to share their experience with past board decisions, how previous General Service Boards conducted business, and the

processes they used to reach a group conscience. Trustees emeriti **do not vote** on any matter before the General Service Board or the Conference.¹

There is a subcommittee of the Trustee's Committee to examine the role of a Trustee Emeriti. This subcommittee made 12 recommendations including the following:

The committee recommended to the General Service Board that: The General Service Board cease the practice of inviting all Trustee Emeriti to each board weekend and General Service Conference.

What principles guide the Conference?

“The Traditions themselves outline the general basis on which we may best conduct our services. The Traditions express the principles and attitudes of prudence that make for harmony. Therefore, A.A.’s Twelve Traditions set the pattern of unity and of function which our General Service Conference is expected to exemplify at the highest possible degree.”²

This was put to the test with the controversy around the GSB's behavior in January, 2023. Many Conference members approached the microphone with the service manual in hand, primarily quoting the 6 warranties in Concept 12.

It is a great honor to represent Area 12 as a Conference Delegate. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

¹ Id at pg. 57

² Id at pg. 43