



73rd General Service Conference

April 22-29, 2023, Marriot Hotel at the Brooklyn Bridge

Jo Ann M. Delegate Area 49 Panel 73



What is The General Service Conference?

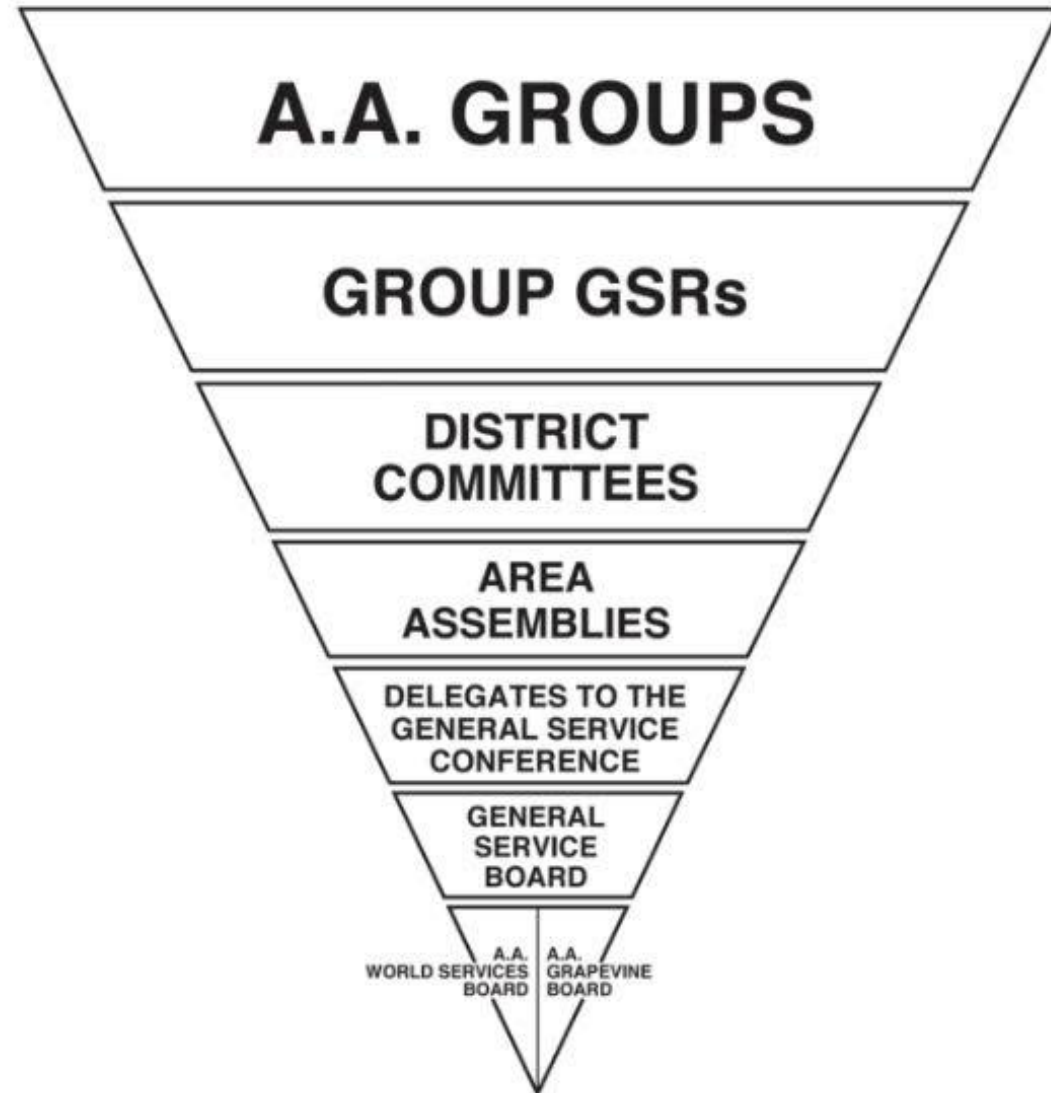
While the General Service Conference operates all year round, the annual meeting, usually held in April, is the culmination of the year's activities, the time when the collective group conscience of U.S./Canada A.A. comes together to take actions that will guide the groups in the years that follow.

The Conference comes closer to a governing body than anything else in A.A., but as Bill W. put it in the first edition of this manual: "Of course it cannot be too often said that while the Conference can issue orders to the General Service Office, it can never mandate or govern the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves.

The Conference represents us but cannot rule us."

G.S.B. and the General Service Structure

STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE (U.S. and Canada)



General Service Conference

The Collective Voice of Our Fellowship

- ❖ Delegated Responsibility for A.A.'s World Services

- ❖ Delegated Responsibility for A.A.'s World Services

- ❖ 134 voting members

- ❖ 2/3 Delegates (93 Areas in U.S./Canada)

- ❖ Trustees, Directors and G.S.O. and Grapevine

- ❖ Staff Members

General Service Conference

The Collective Voice of Our Fellowship



Advisory Actions
from Conference

Trustees Carry
Out Conference
Actions

Year-round
process

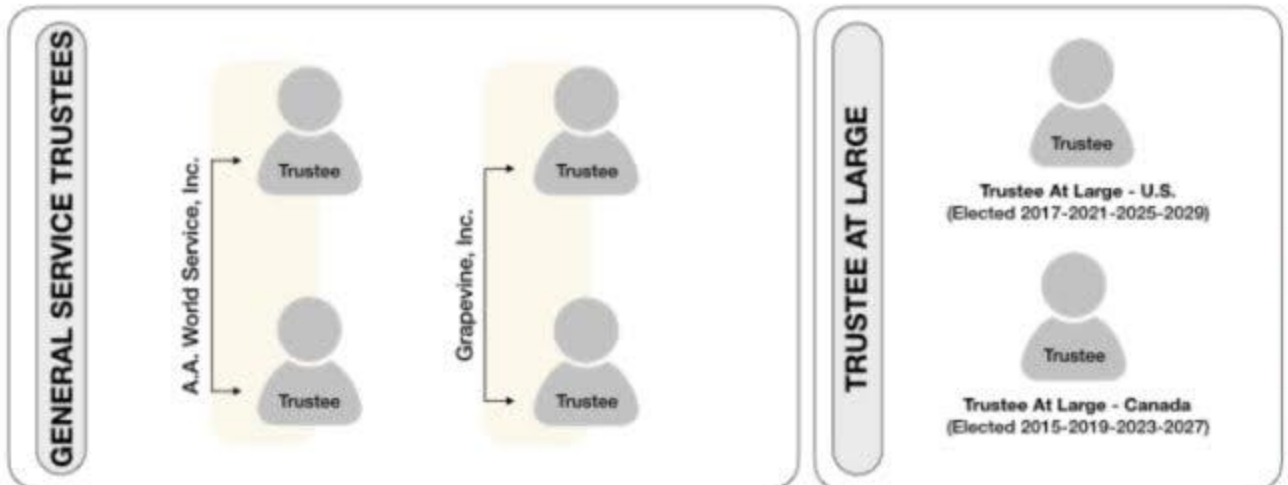
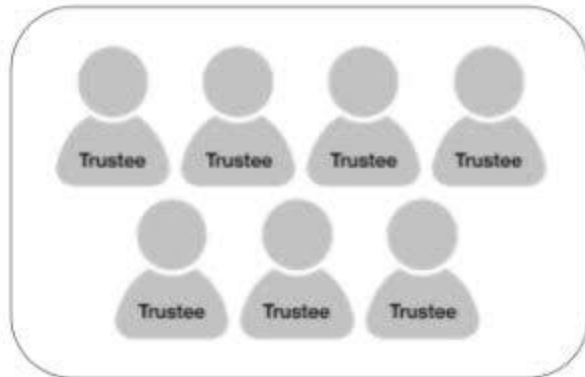
Composition of the G.S.B.

Our Mission is to Serve the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous

Class-B (Alcoholic) (14)



Class-A (Non-Alcoholic) (7)



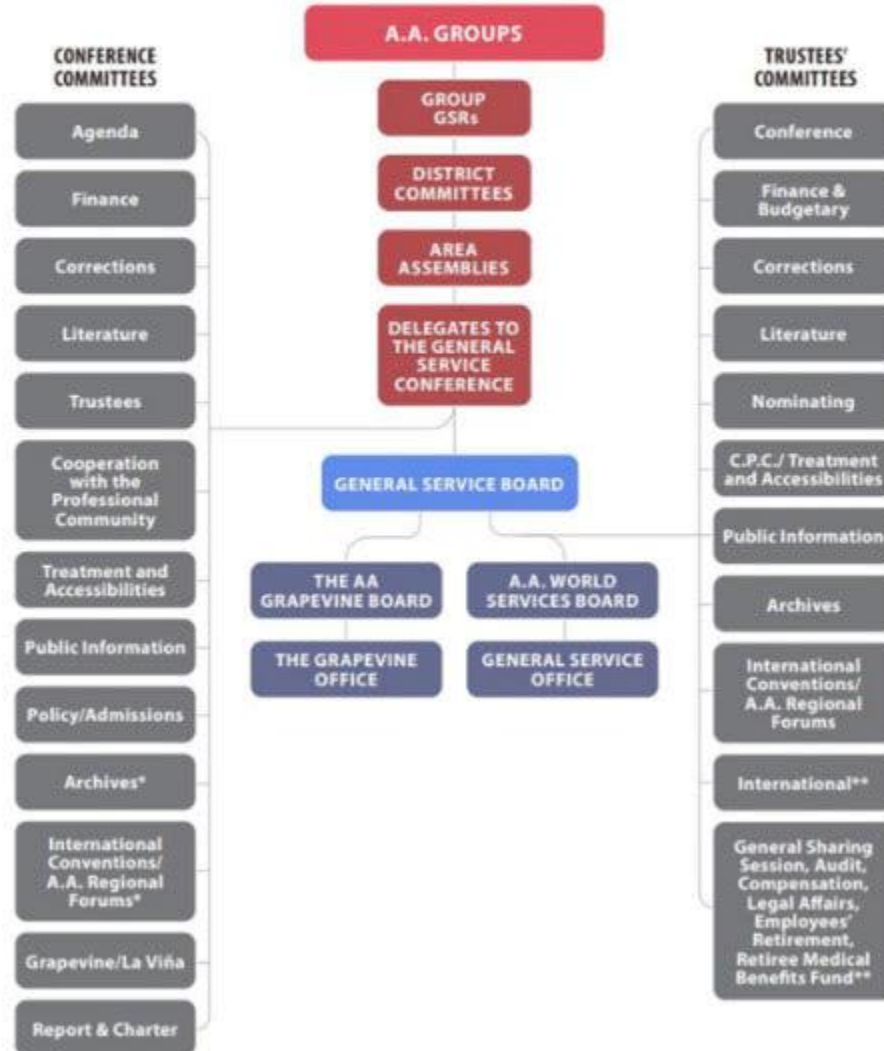
Five of the Responsibilities of the G.S.B.

- ❖ Act as the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance.
- ❖ Serve as custodians of the two affiliate corporations (A.A. World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine Inc.), ensuring the best possible communication and unity among them, the General Service Office and the General Service Board.
- ❖ Act as guardians of A.A.'s steps, traditions, and concepts.
- ❖ Oversee and adjust when needed, a sound, wide-reaching public relations policy that is inclusive of all who may be of help in raising awareness of the Fellowships' existence to all who may benefit from it.
- ❖ Communicate with and maintain relationships with general service structures worldwide- providing support to help ensure the growth and welfare of the Fellowship.

General Service Conference Structure

STRUCTURE WITH CONFERENCE & TRUSTEE COMMITTEES

THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE STRUCTURE *U.S. and Canada*



Trustees Committees

- ❖ Conference
- ❖ Finance & Budgetary
- ❖ Corrections
- ❖ Literature
- ❖ Nominating
- ❖ CPC/ Treatment and Accessibilities
- ❖ Public Information
- ❖ Archives
- ❖ International Conventions/Regional Forums
- ❖ International



Class-A Trustees

❖ Class-A trustees are nonalcoholic “friends of A.A.” selected primarily for their professional experience, expertise, and familiarity with A.A. and its program of recovery.

❖ The board looks for people who have: a proven track record in their own fields, a demonstrated interest in A.A., experience in working with A.A. and its members, leadership skills, and time to fulfill trustee duties and responsibilities.

❖ The seven Class-A trustees serve two consecutive three-year terms.

Class-B Trustees

8

Regional

4

General Service

2

Trustees at Large

Class-B Regional Trustees

2 from Canada

- ❖ Eastern Canada
- ❖ Western Canada

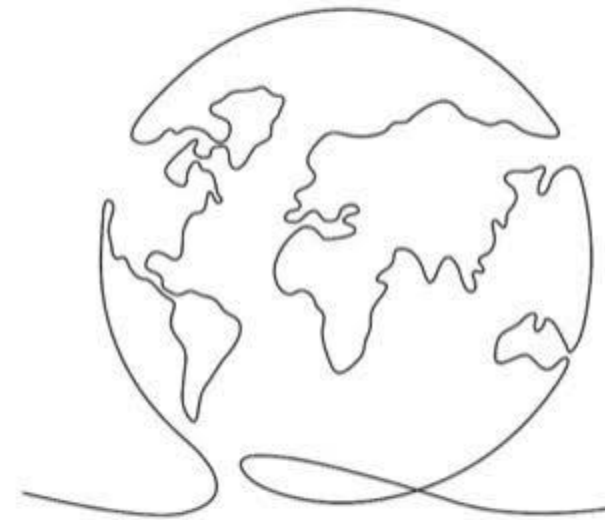
6 from the U.S.A.

- ❖ Pacific
- ❖ Southwest
- ❖ West Central
- ❖ East Central
- ❖ Southeast
- ❖ Northeast



Class-B Trustees-at-Large

- ❖ 2 Trustees-at-Large are selected for their service experience and familiarity with A.A. principles. They bring to the board's discussions a broad perspective informed by their ongoing contact with the international A.A. community.
- ❖ The board recommends that Trustees at Large have 10 years of continuous sobriety, leadership skills and experience.
- ❖ Trustees-at-large are members of the trustees' International Committee as well as other committees. They represent the U.S. and Canada as delegates to: The World Service Meeting, The Meeting of the Americas, Regional Forums in both the U.S. and Canada, as well as other A.A. service activities.



Class-B General Service Trustees

- ❖ The general service trustees are A.A. members who serve on the respective boards of A.A.W.S. and Grapevine. There are four general service trustees—two from the A.A.W.S. board and two from the Grapevine board. General service trustees serve up to four successive one-year terms.
- ❖ The Conference has suggested general service trustees have seven years of continuous sobriety, although this is not mandatory. A background in business or other professional experience has been found to be essential.
- ❖ In addition to the responsibilities of every trustee outlined above, general service trustees must be available for all meetings of their respective boards (eight or more each year) and for consultation with G.S.O. or Grapevine staff members at any time.



Composition of 73rd General Service Conference by Gender

	F	M	GF/NB	TOTAL
DELEGATES	47	46		93
DIRECTORS	2	6		8
STAFF	7	7	1	15
TRUSTEES	13	6		19
TOTAL	69	63	1	133



So, what did we do???

It was a week that started on Saturday and there was a jam-packed schedule from 12PM on Saturday to 12PM the following Saturday.

My room wasn't ready when I arrived, so I dropped my bags at the concierge desk and began my journey.

There was a meet and greet but before that was an A.A. meeting which was already in progress. I saw a couple of familiar faces. One was Rick W. past Chair of Area 49. He moved to Area 65 Northeast Texas a few years back and immediately got involve in their general service structure.

He quickly moved down the service triangle and we served as Alt Delegates together. Now we get to serve together as Delegates for Panel 73. I also got reacquainted with Meg who was a past County Chair (DCMC) for Staten Island and is now a Panel 73 Delegate from Area 36 Southern Minnesota.



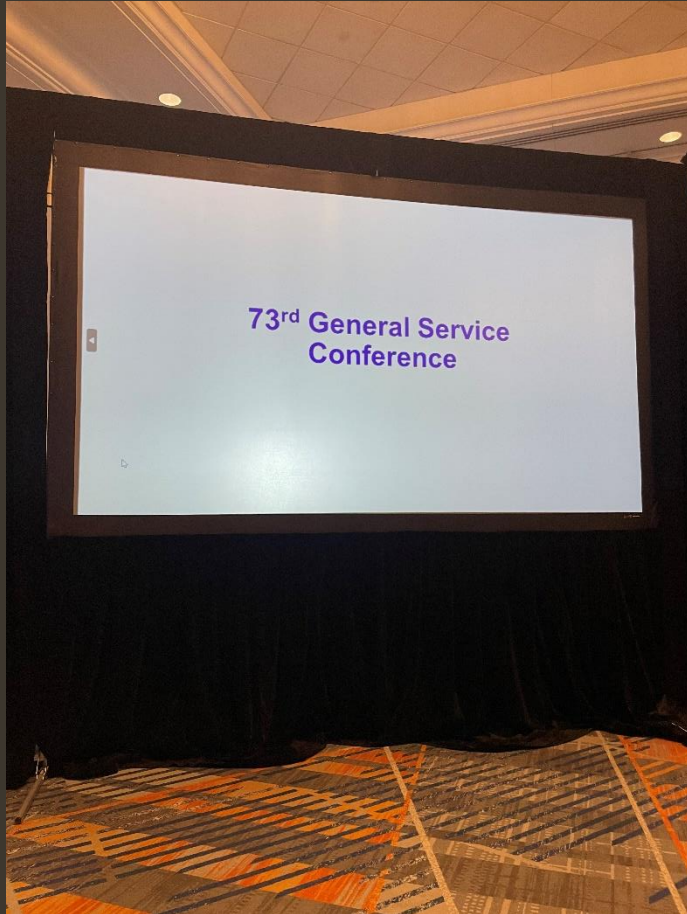
Area Swag!

I went to the meet and greet and started introducing myself to the other delegates and their guests. It was a rigorous session of hellos and exchanging Area Swag. These are the pins I collected in the first hour or so.

My pin was a real hit!



Banquet Room Saturday Night



Saturday Evening:

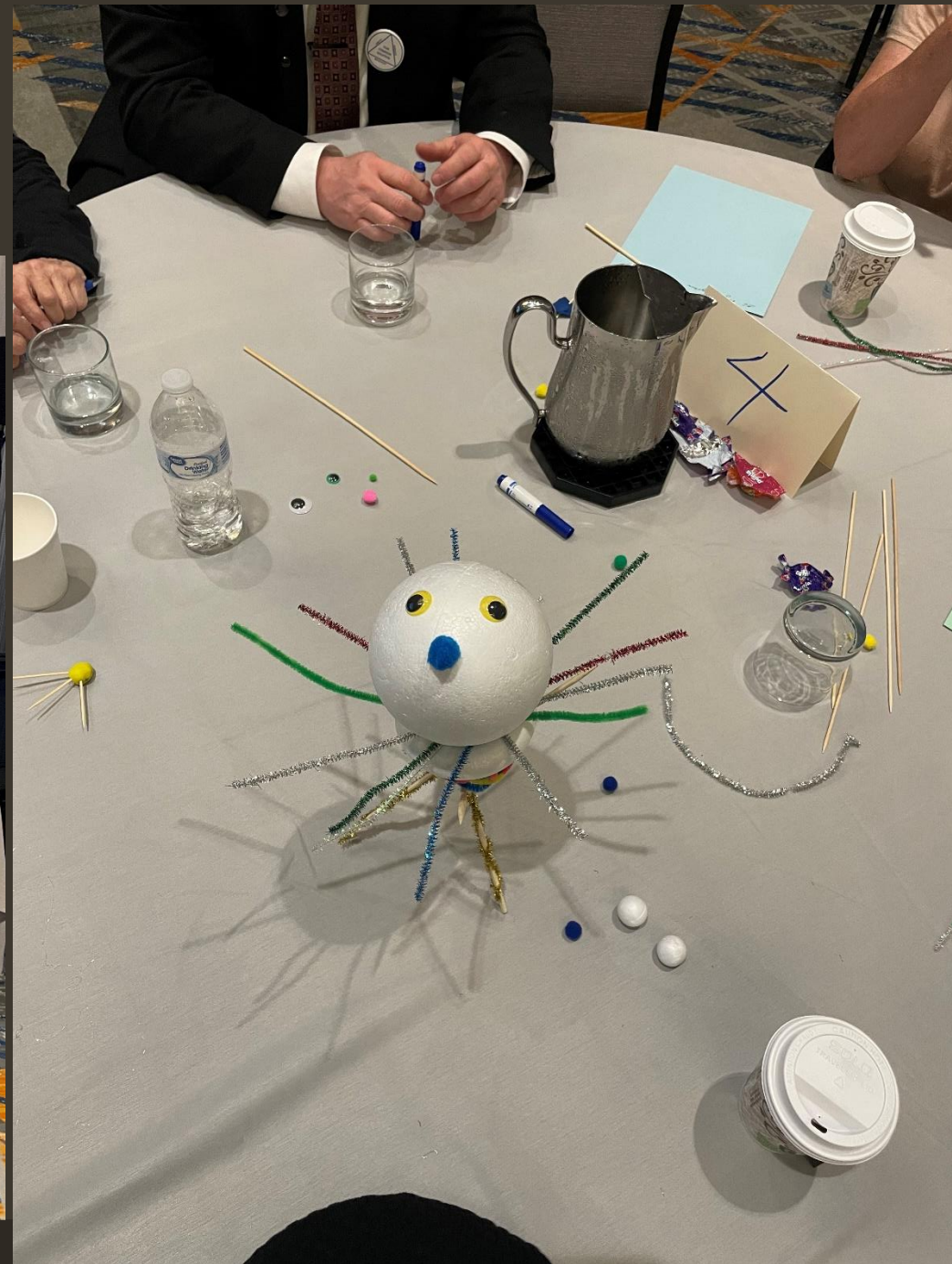
We had a Delegates only meeting and then our Delegate Chair Tammy, had a plan to help us get to know each other and start bonding.

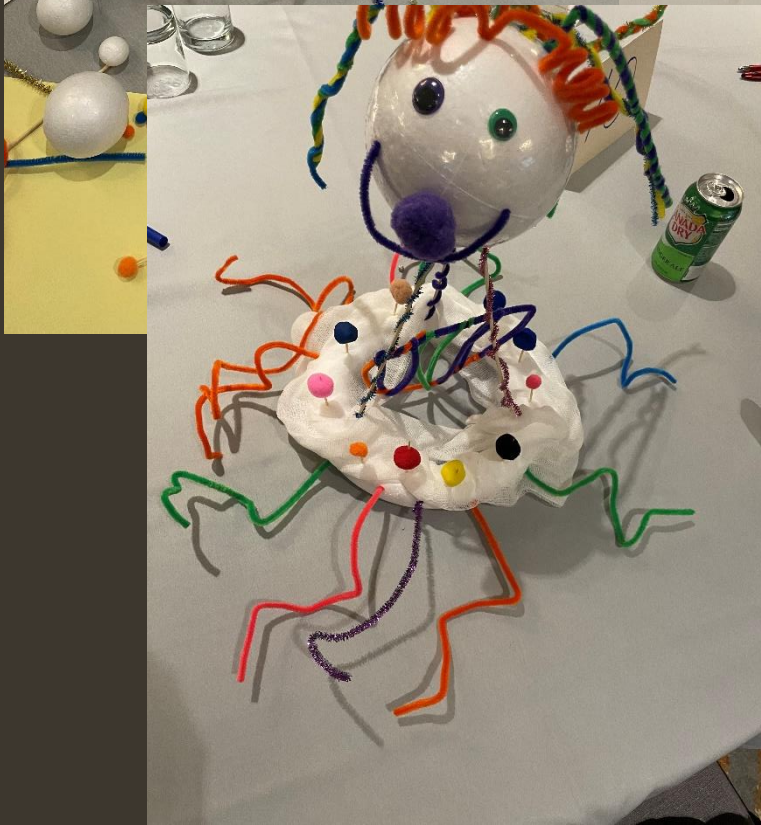
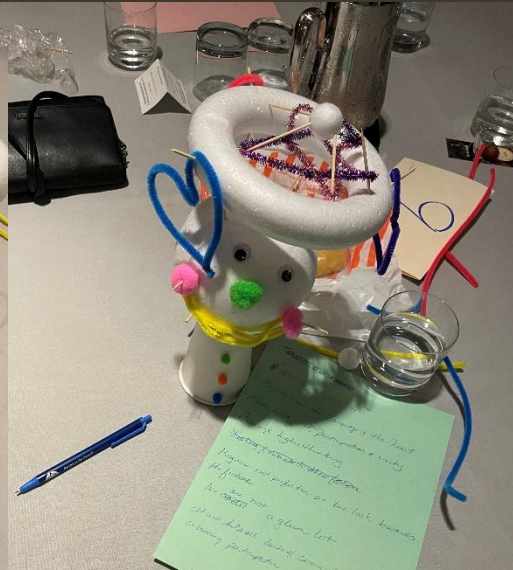
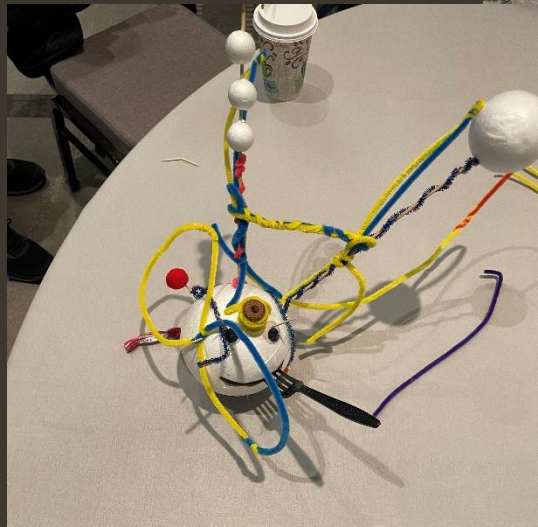
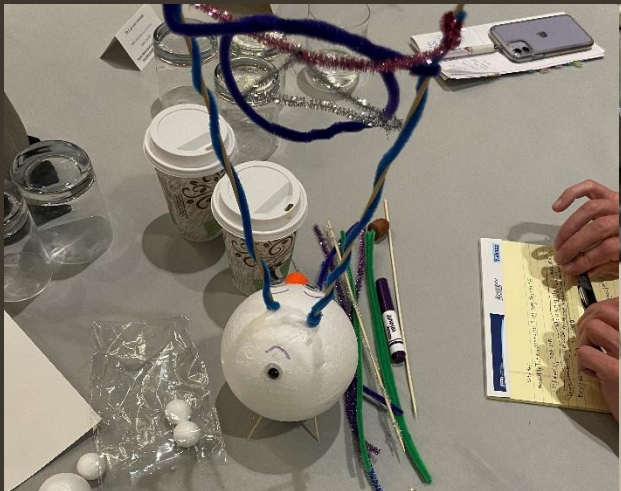
She separated us into teams of 7 or 8 delegates each. Then we created these masterpieces of artwork. I forget what we named my team's creation.

We also got to ask questions and that is when we found out we could "request" the conference scheduled be modified.

(I'll let you know how that turned out later in my presentation)

Not a competition: Thank God!







More Swag!

I was able to meet other Delegates as the day moved to evening so I got more Area Swag.

I sent Nisaa this picture on Sunday morning as I got ready for my second committee meeting and vote which started at 8AM.

One of the Canada Delegates was unable to attend. The Alt Delegate couldn't replace them due to issues with their passport. The Area Chair was also unavailable to attend.

The Area sent their Alt Chair (which in French Canada they are called the Vice President). My committee (Policy and Admissions) is responsible for admitting substitutes. We recommended the Area Vice Chair attend in place of their Delegate. This happened before roll call on Sunday morning.

I texted Nisaa (Area 49 Present!) at 9:34 to tell her she was off the hook.

I forgot to tell you:

Each new Delegate is assigned a Conference Buddy which is another Delegate who has already served one year of their rotation (Veteran assigned a Rookie!)

My Conference Buddy! Tandy from Alaska Area 72





Switch Seats

My conference buddy told me we should switch seats regularly to get a different perspective and to sit with different people throughout the conference.

Also, let's not forget our
NERD Candidate
Jane E. Delegate
Area 49 Panel 69
She was my guest at the
Opening Dinner





Someone sent
me flowers!
Guess who!?!

It was really nice to go to my room
every night since the scent of
flowers filled the air.

Thanks Jane!

Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

These are the days and times my committee met before and during the conference. I only attended meetings after January 1, 2023.

August 16, 2022, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

February 13, 2023, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

April 23, 2023, 8 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

April 23, 2023, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

April 24, 2023, 9 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

April 25, 2023, 8 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday morning Committee Meeting 7:54 AM

Our committee met an hour earlier on our last day to make sure we had time to finish discussion and vote on the rest of the items on our agenda and to discuss and vote on an item submitted by one of our committee which was not on the original agenda.

Yes, that can happen!

BTW, I didn't like the yogurt since it had artificial sweeteners, but I did have a nice cranberry muffin in the bag.





Trip to GSO Tuesday 1-4PM

Conference members and their guests were invited to tour the GSO offices. This heart was on the outside of the subway car I rode in.

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE
A.A. WORLD SERVICES, INC.
AA GRAPEVINE, INC.

Votre BSG et
les bureaux du
Grapevine
souhaitent la
bienvenue à
tous les invités
et membres de
la 73^{ème}
Conférence
des Services
généraux

Sus oficinas de la
OSG y del
Grapevine les dan
la bienvenida a los
miembros de la
73.ª Conferencia
de Servicios
Generales y a los
invitados

Your GSO
and
Grapevine Offices
welcome all guests
and members
of the
73rd
General Service
Conference

GSO Welcome in
all 3 languages:

English

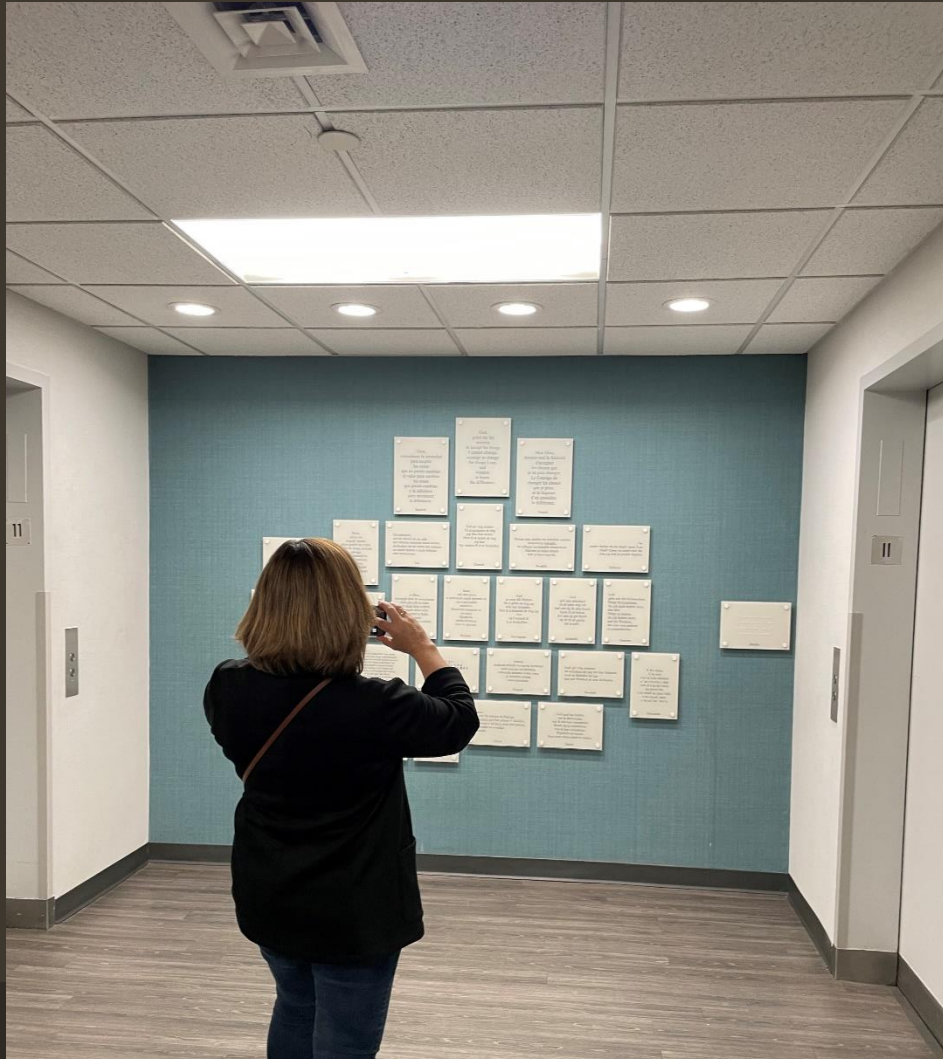
French

Spanish

They gave us a pin before the tour started



1. Serenity Prayer in many languages w/one of the NERDs
2. Grapevine Editors office w/Paola Grapevine staff

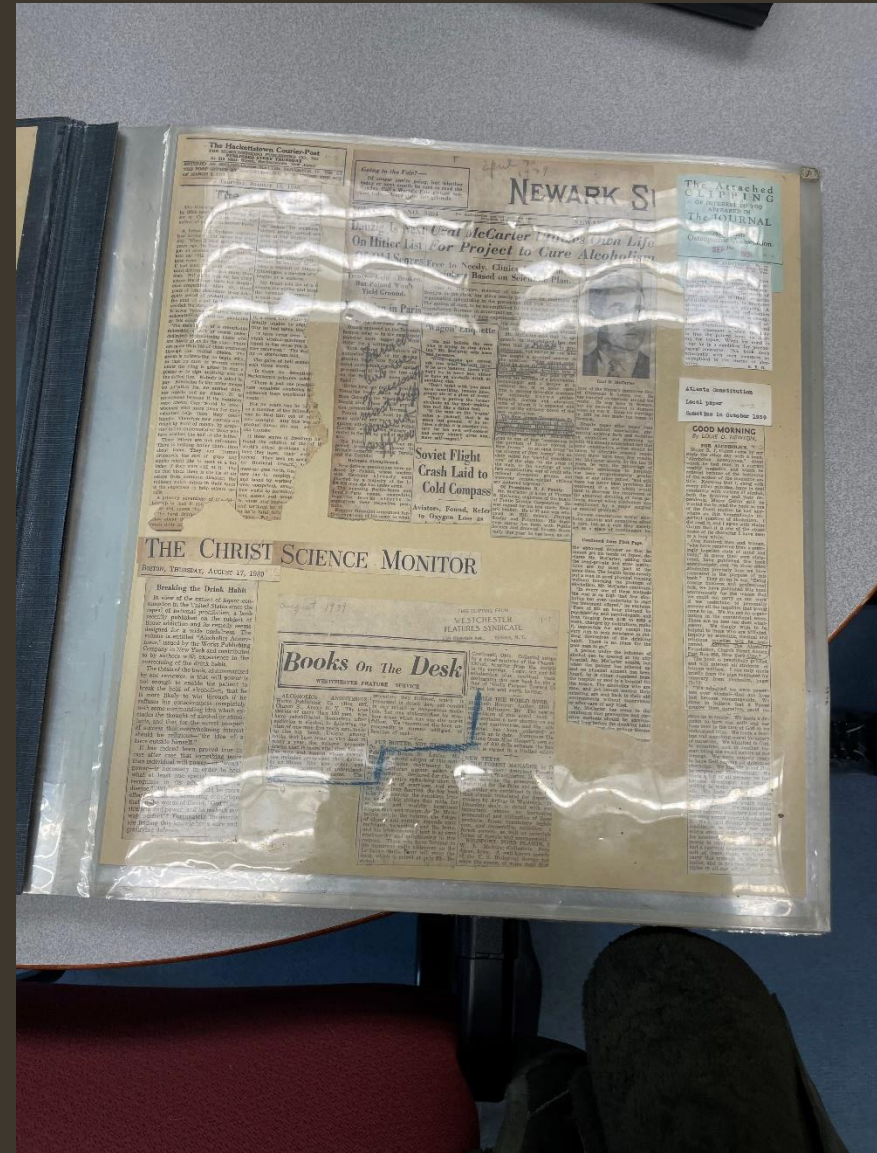
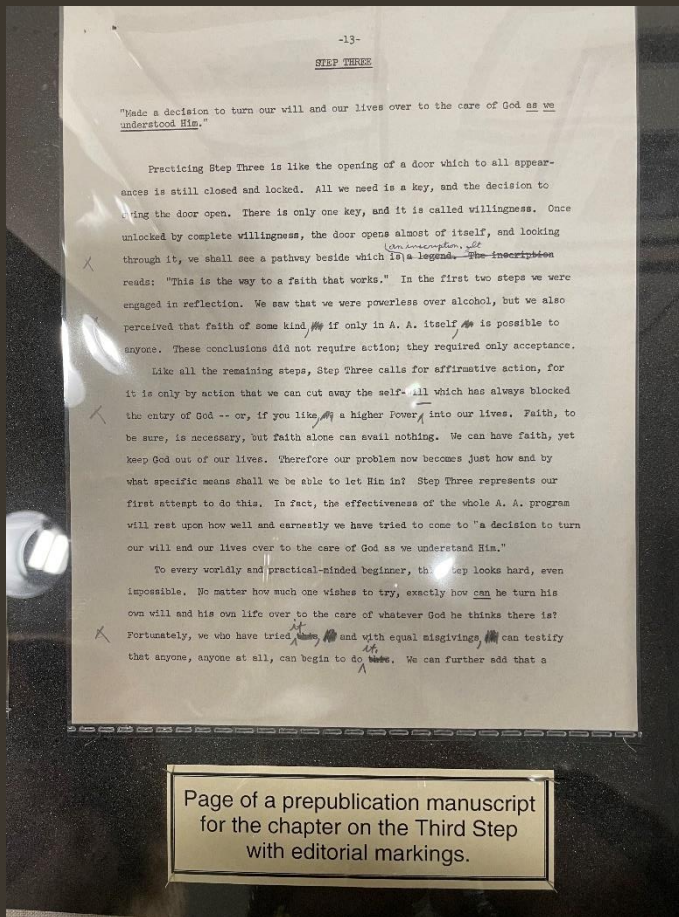
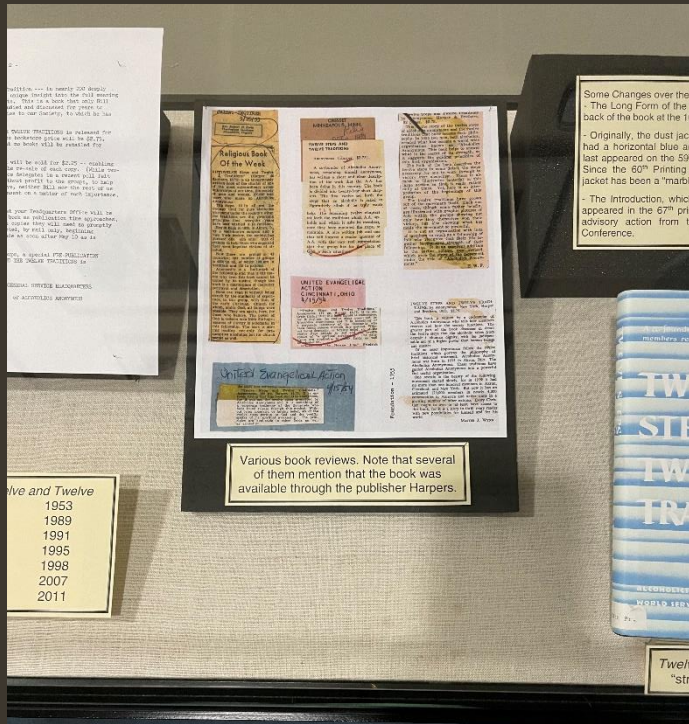




SENY Area 49

There is a file for each Area in the U.S. and Canada

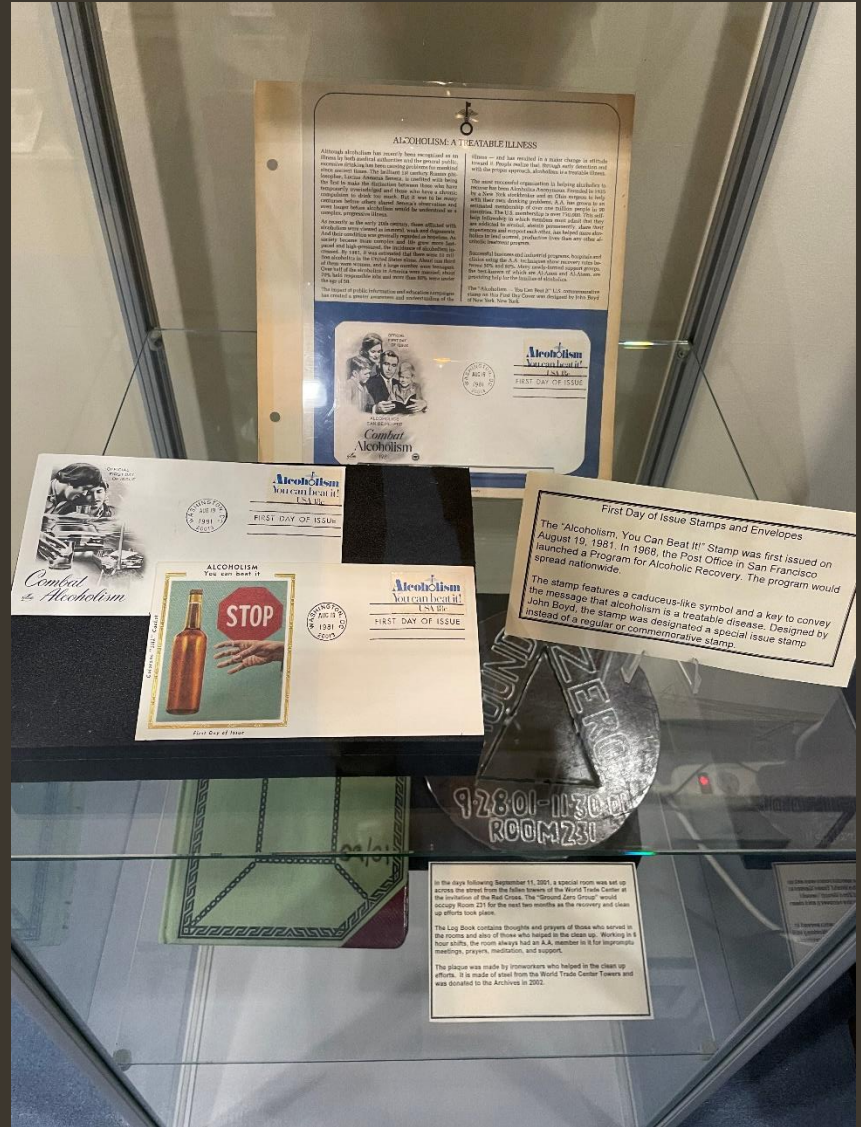
GSO Archives Displays



More Stuff!



Delegates voting at the 1955 General Service Conference





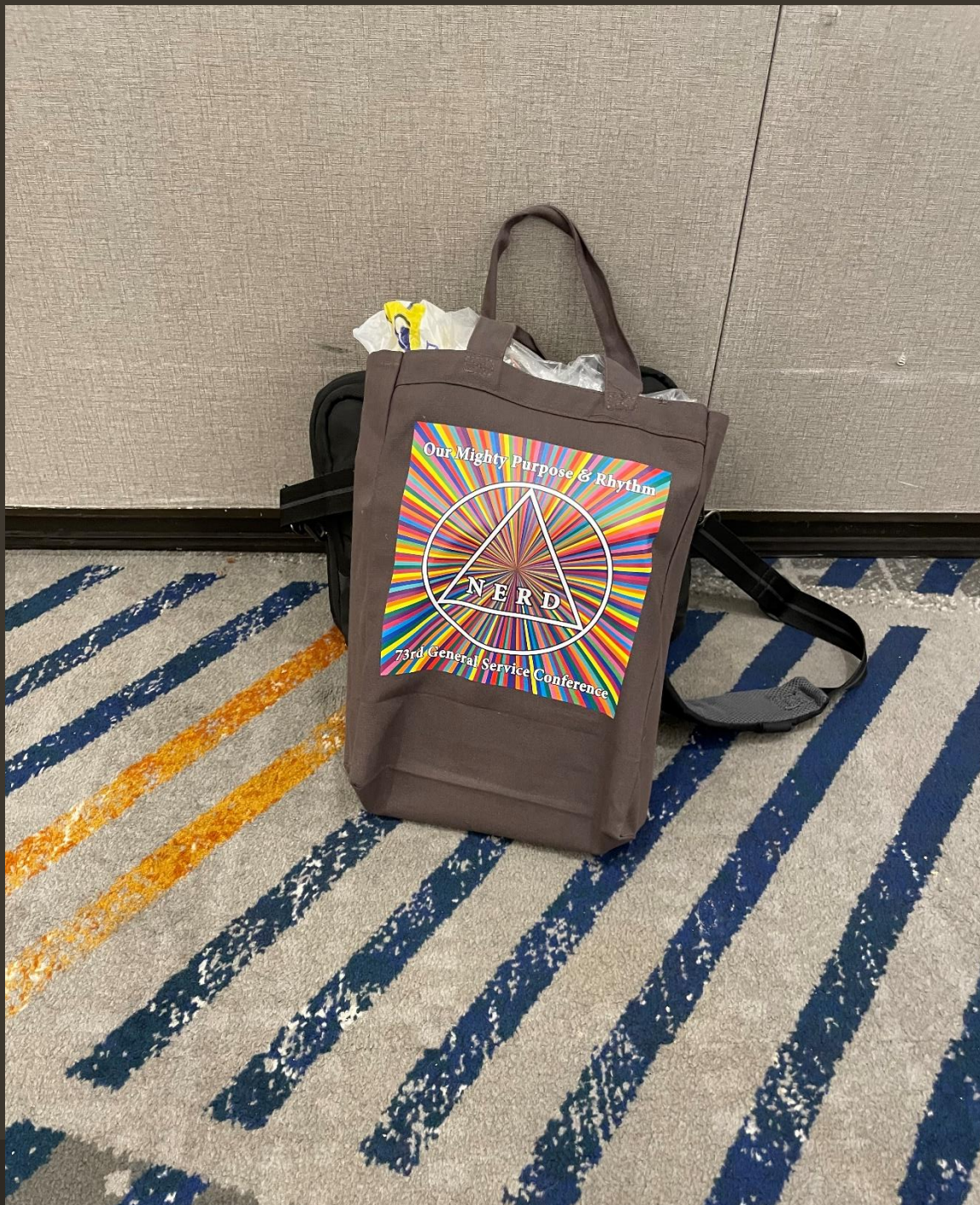
GSO General Manager Bob W.

During the tour we stopped in and said hello to the staff including Bob our General Manager. I gotta get a sign like his for my office door!

Group Pic

This was my group for the GSO Tour





My NERD Bag

One of the NERDs had these bags made up and each of the NERDs contributed to it. It is known as a Thrive Bag.

Thrive Bag Contents:

Serenity Prayer – a note to take time with your Higher Power

Almond Joys and Mounds – reminds us that sometimes, at the Conference, we feel like a nut and sometimes we don't

Stress Balls – work It out, don't carry the stress

Erasers – we all make mistakes

Fidget spinners – a reminder to relax and have fun

NERD candy – to remind you that you are never alone

Postcards of New York – don't forget to get outside

Hand clappers – Your fellow NERDs are cheering for you

Cotton Balls – for a soft landing upon arrival, also to cushion your step back into reality following the GSC

Mirror – “You Got This!” – because you do; you didn't get here by accident

Paper Clips – a reminder: we have help to keep it together

Water – to ensure your thirst will always be quenched with something appropriate

Penny – reminding you that your thoughts are important and meant to be shared

Kisses – Keep it simple, soul mate

Hand sanitizer – stay well and be safe this week

Rubber band – represents our suggested flexibility

Tea Bag – Let the day go with a cup of sweet dreams & honey (honey wasn't on the list but Area 44 bought some)

Mask – to remind us of anonymity and safety

Tissues – to dry those tears of joy & gratitude; be sure to have these on hand for Roll Call Sunday morning!

Wednesday-Delegates only lunch & NERAASA Bid

We Didn't win the 2026 bid – Yay!



2024 Area 60 Hershey, PA



2025 Area 13 Washington, DC



2026 Area 28 Maine



2027 I will bid again if you want

The NERDs, our NERT Francis, and a couple of photo bombers: Cara and Katie from West Central Region





Warning Bell

This is Nye ringing the warning bell when a scheduled break was over. Many times, I needed the bell because you get to talking with someone, grabbing coffee or going to the restroom and time flies.

FINANCIALS



AROUND THE PICNIC TABLE



Kevin Prior, CFA, CPA
Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustee
General Service Board Treasurer

AUDIT RESULTS



- 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) compared to 5 in 2021

The AAWS recommendations are:

1. Perform year end inventory counts and reconciliations during the year (\$822K audit adj to inventory)
2. Optimize cybersecurity based on self-assessment
3. Establish a written functional expense allocation policy

The GV recommendations are:

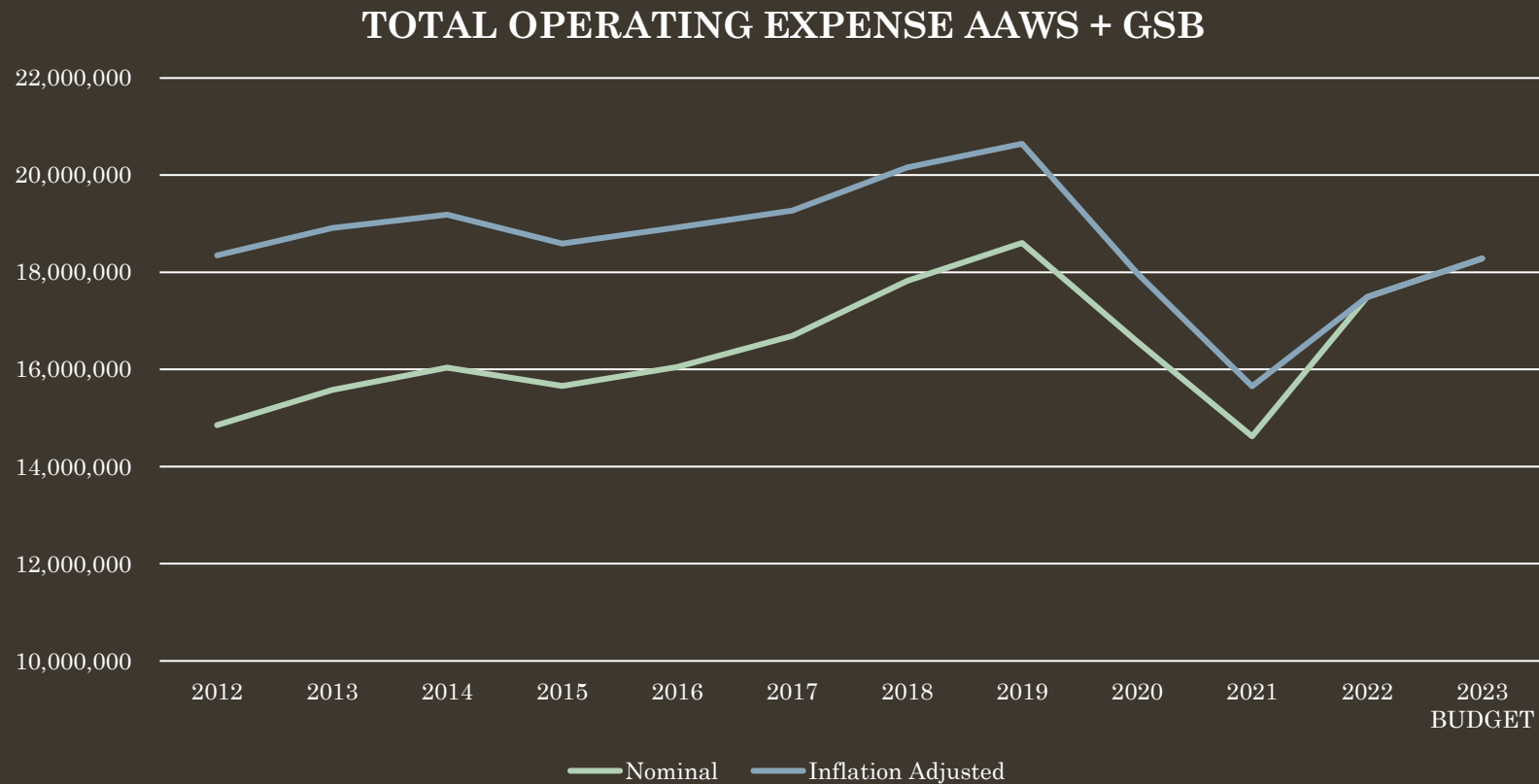
1. A member of the GV Board approve the Publisher's credit card charges
2. Establish a policy for calculating an allowance for doubtful accounts receivable

2022 GSO Financial Highlights

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

INFLATION ADJUSTED GSO EXPENSE HISTORY

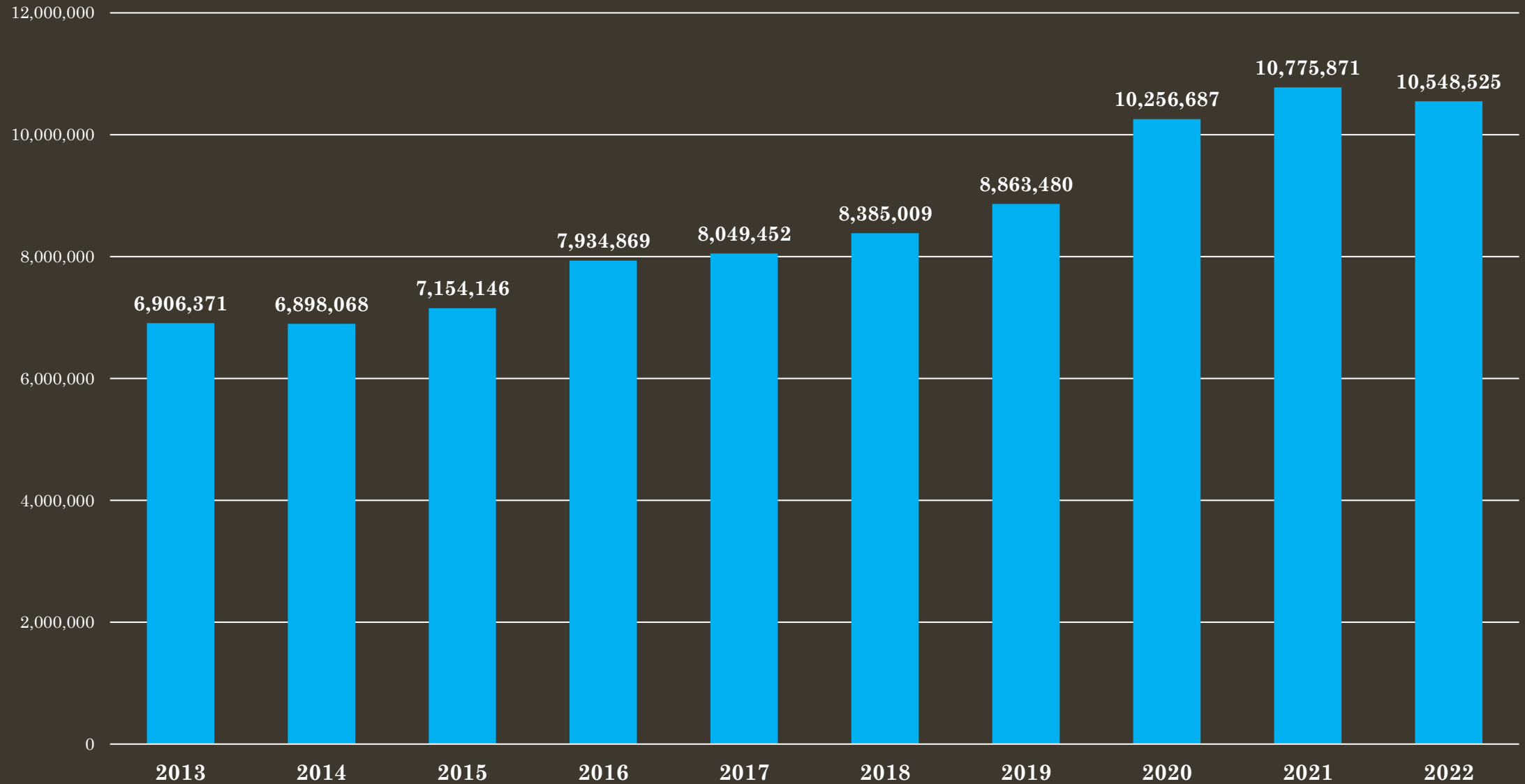
- ❖ In 2022, operating expense was lower than inflation adjusted operating expense in 9 of the past 10 years.



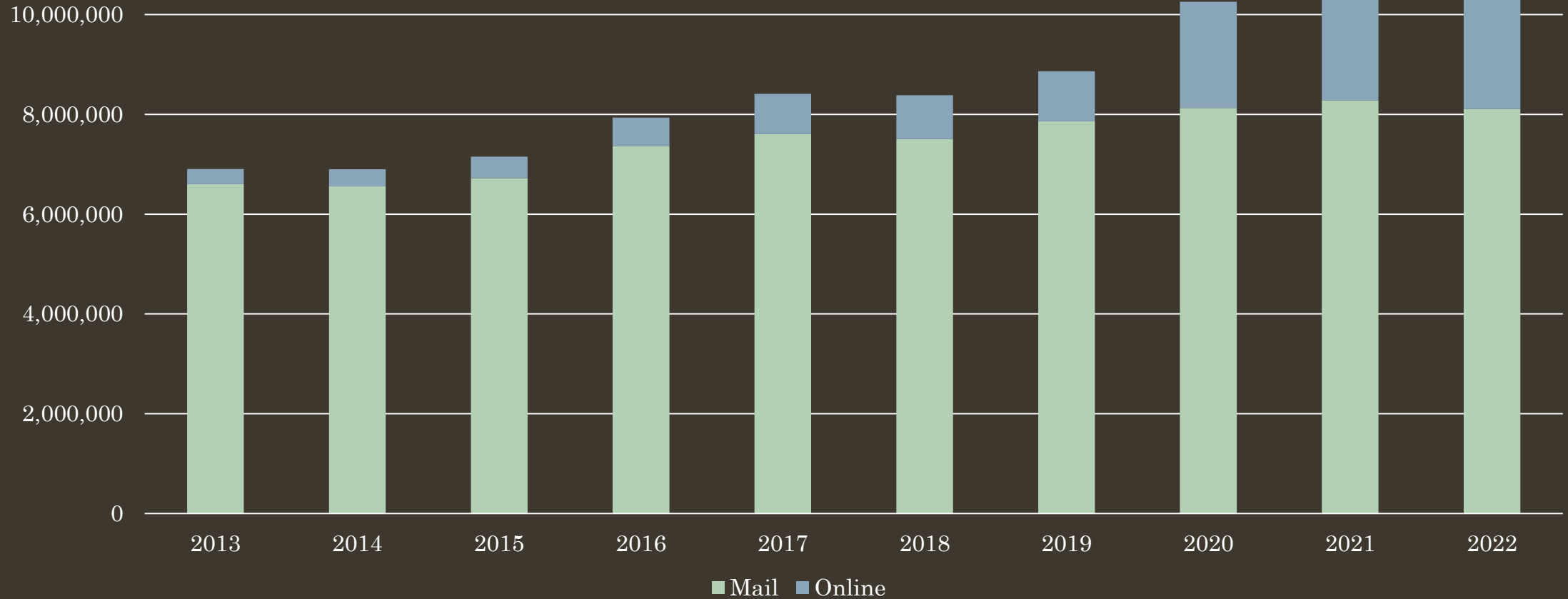
2023 GSO BUDGET

- ❖ Operating revenue \$18,791,320 compared to \$15,910,334 in 2022.
- ❖ Contributions \$10,500,000 compared to \$10,548,525 in 2022.
- ❖ Literature gross margin \$7,950,000 compared to \$4,894,113 in 2022.
- ❖ Total operating expense \$17,085,479 before \$1.2M depreciation compared to \$17,821,142 in 2022.
- ❖ Operating surplus of \$505,841 after depreciation compared to \$1,579,305 deficit in 2022.

7TH TRADITION SELF-SUPPORT – 2013 – 2022

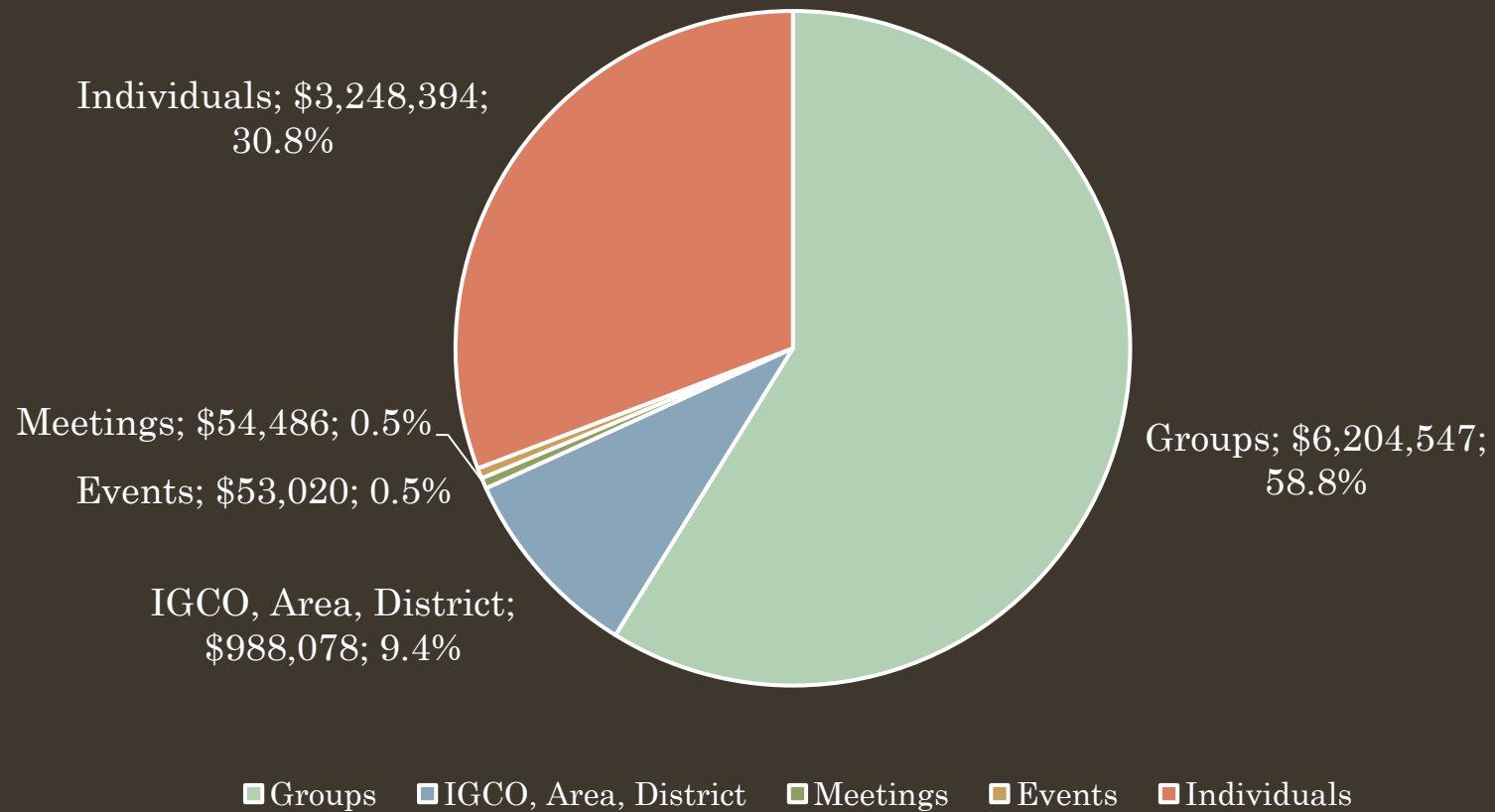


GROWTH OF ON-LINE CONTRIBUTIONS 2013 – 2022



A mail contribution costs \$5.60 to process. An online contribution costs \$2.93 to process, a \$2.67 savings.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY TYPE OF CONTRIBUTOR



CONTRIBUTIONS STATISTICS 2022

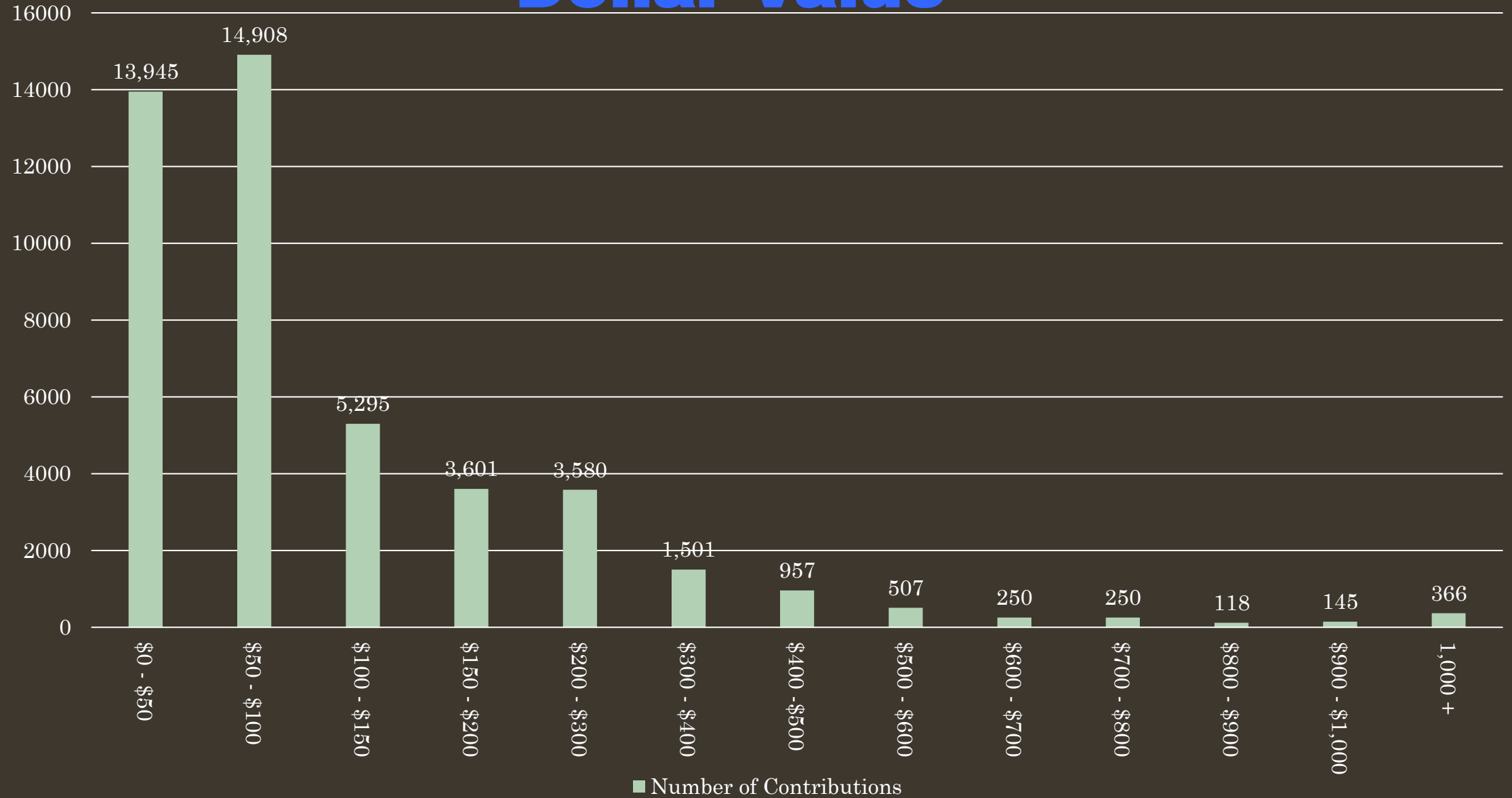
INDIVIDUALS

7 th Tradition Self-Support Contributions	\$3,248,394
Average Contribution	\$121.79
Most Common Contribution	\$50.00
Number of Contributions	26,671

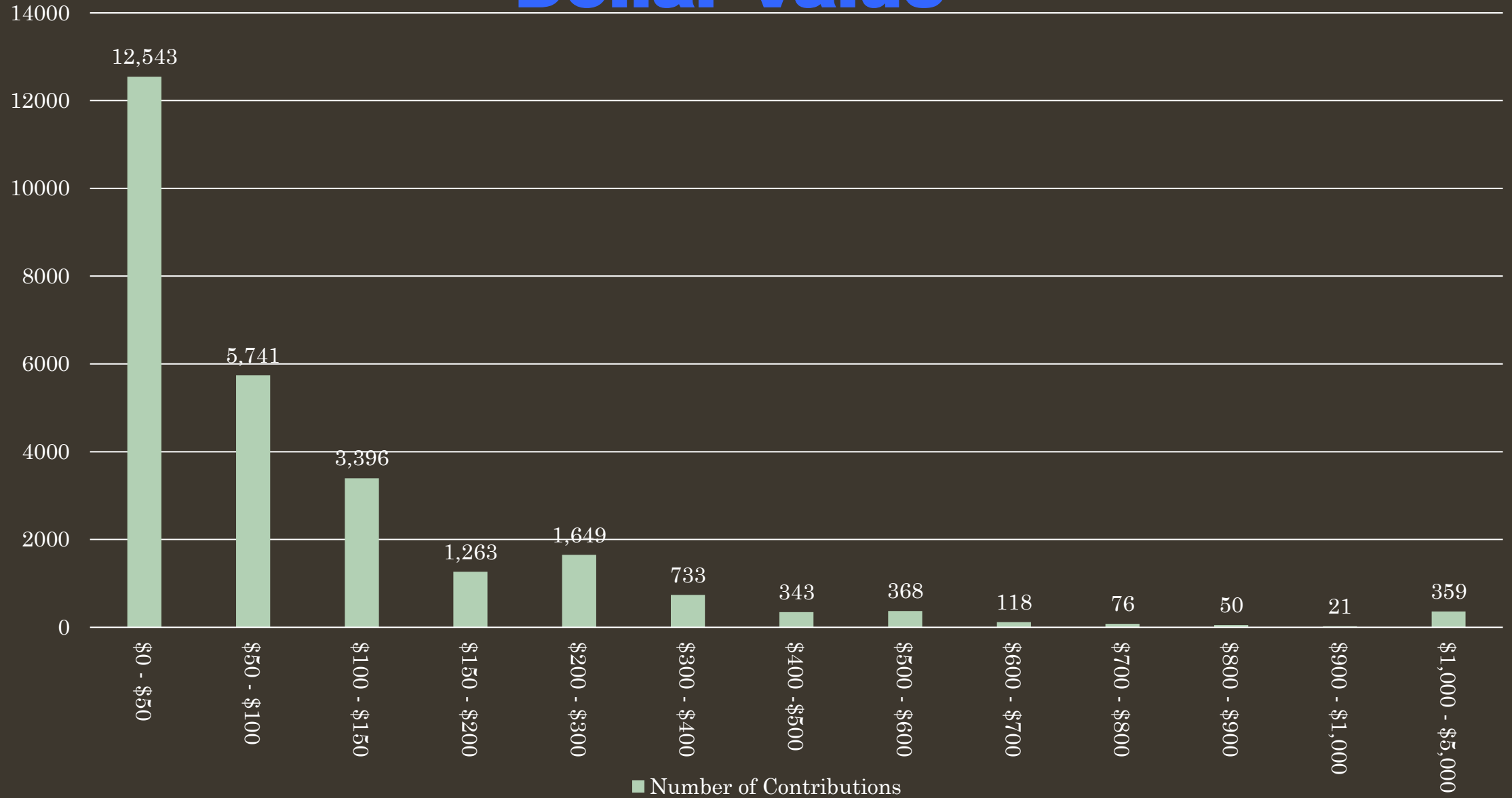
GROUPS

7 th Tradition Self-Support Contributions	\$6,204,547
Number of Active Groups	58,455
Number of Groups Contributing	19,572
Percentage of Groups Contributing	33.48%
Average Contributed by a Group During the Year	\$317.01

Number of Group Contributions by Dollar Value

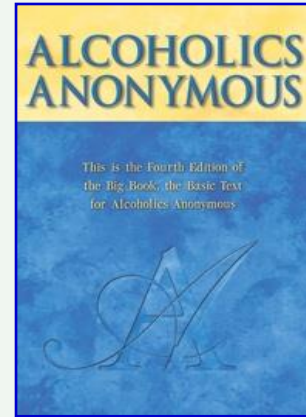


Number of Individual Contributions by Dollar Value



G.S.O.'s TWO BASIC FUNCTIONS

Publishing



Services on Behalf of the G.S.B.



Fellowship Connection

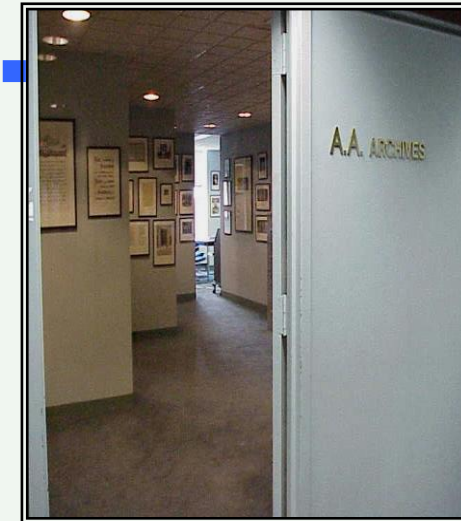
Returning User
Required *

Email Address *
koningstein@aa.org

Password *
.....

Forgot password?

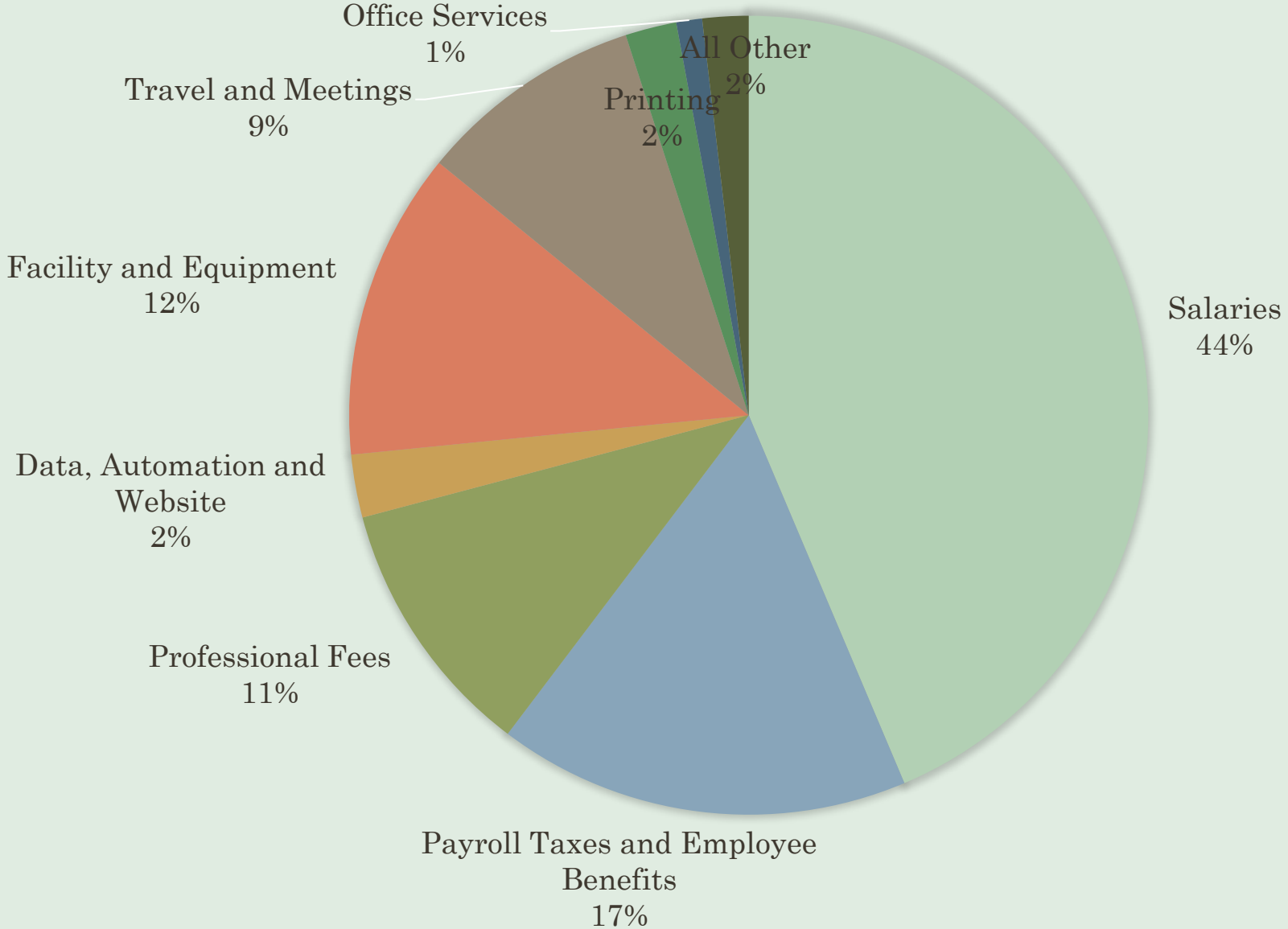
Log In



AAWS – PUBLISHING – 2022 ACTUAL vs 2022 BUDGET

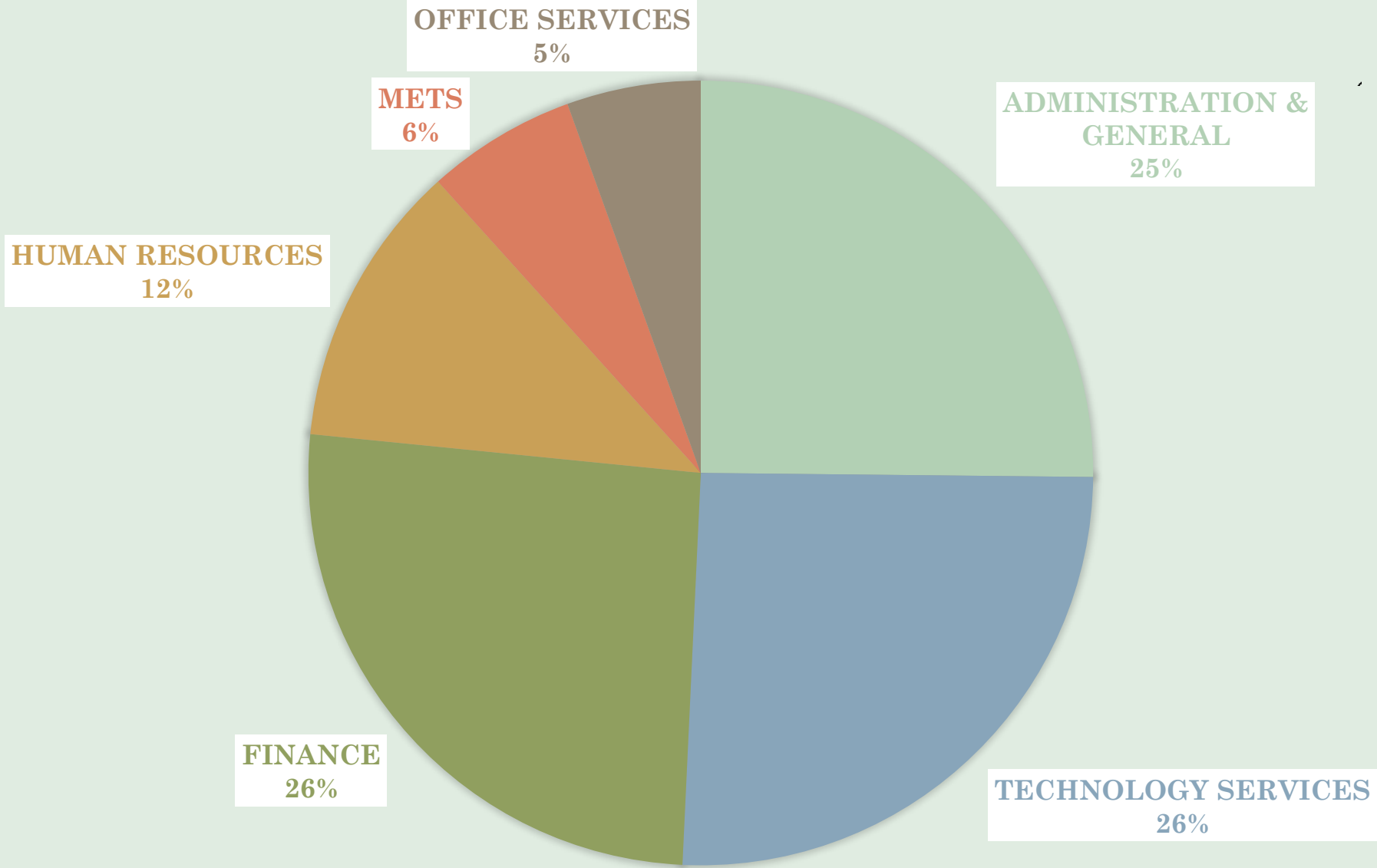
	2022 ACTUAL	2022 BUDGET	INCREASE (DECREASE)
Gross Sales – Literature	11,999,441	11,000,000	999,441
Discounts	(479,173)	(550,000)	(70,827)
Shipping Charges	277,893	330,000	(52,107)
Net Sales - Literature	11,795,265	10,780,000	1,015,265
Cost of Literature Sold - Printing	6,901,151	5,390,000	1,511,151
Gross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

CONSOLIDATED (GSO + GV) OPERATING EXPENSES – 2022 – \$20.3 M
FINANCIAL STATEMENT EXPENSE CATEGORIES
PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN



CONSOLIDATED (GSO + GV) SUPPORTING SERVICES

\$7.57 M



2022 PRUDENT RESERVE

Beginning Balance January 1, 2022	12,852,286		
Investment Earnings	96,774		
Change in GV subscription liability	200,000		
Drawdowns	(200,000)		
Additions	0		
Ending Balance December 31, 2022	12,949,060		
Composition of Ending Balance			
Cash			2,727,969
Certificates of Deposit (CDARs)			11,444,990
Accrued Interest			19,601
Less Grapevine subscription liability			(1,243,500)
Ending Balance			12,949,060
Number of Months Expenses Held		Based on 2022 expenses	Based on 2023 expenses
January 1, 2022		8.32	7.29
December 31, 2022		8.38	7.35

RESERVE FUND – 2023 Activity

	Gross Reserve Balance	Funding for GV Subscription Liability	GV % of Subscription Liability Funded	Net Reserve Balance
December 31, 2022	14,192,559	(1,243,500)	72%	12,949,059
Grapevine App Funding (A)	(500,000)			(500,000)
Grapevine App Withdrawal (A)	(670,488)			(670,488)
Reduce GV Funding % (A)		670,488	(38%)	670,488
Ending Balance 2/1/23	13,022,071	(573,012)	34%	12,449,059

The Reserve Balance as of 2/1/23 covers just over 7 months of 2023 GSB, AAWS, GV and LaViña Expenses

(A) These actions were approved by Trustees Finance and Budgetary Committee on January 29, 2023 and the General Service Board on January 30, 2023.

USES OF GSB's RESERVE FUND

- ❖ Concept of GSB's Prudent Reserve – not same as in your Home Group's reserve
- ❖ GSB's Reserve Fund covers much more
- ❖ In 1967, the General Service Conference Issued the Advisory Action that “The GSB make use of the Reserve Fund for whatever purpose the Board may authorize”.
- ❖ Broadly, this could include, whether planned or unplanned:
 - ❖ Operating Deficits of AAWS or Grapevine
 - ❖ Periodic expenditures such as an office renovation or major technical upgrade
 - ❖ Extraordinary expenses outside of “normal” operations

Average Cost to service each A.A. member

- No challenge offered this year
- Average in prior years:

2018 - \$7.27

2019 - \$8.04

2020 - \$8.16

2021 - \$7.34

2022 - \$5.14

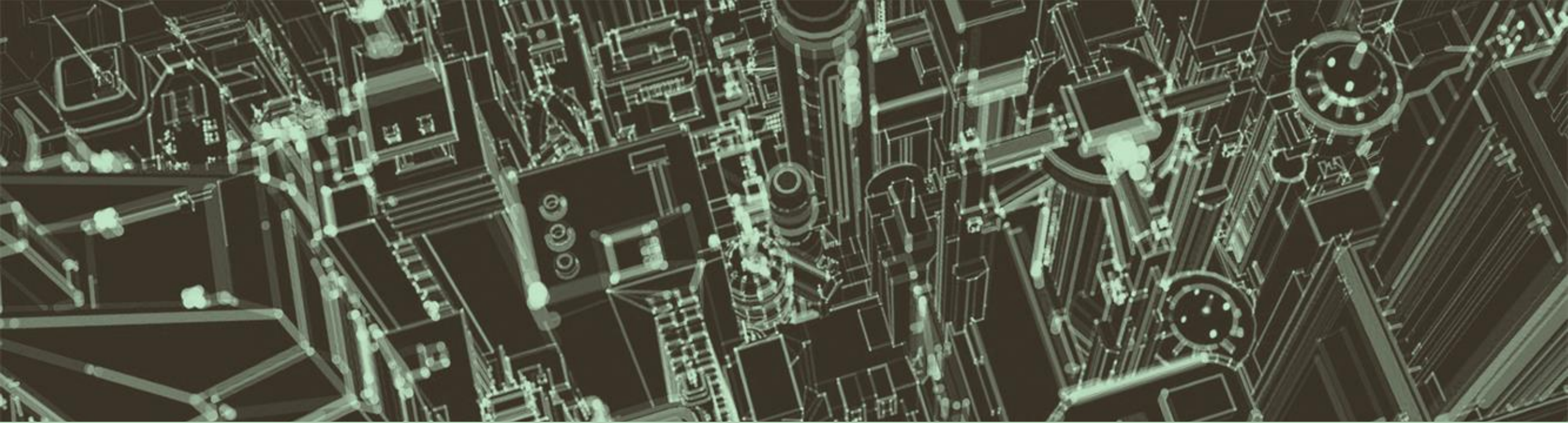
2023 ~ \$12.20



Grapevine Table



AA Literature Table



Grapevine App

An update on progress



Grapevine & La Viña Apps

AA General Service
Conference
April, 2023



iPhone



Android

Periodical Publishing Industry Revenue

- 2007 \$46 Billion
- 2020 \$24 Billion



- A 48% decrease in revenue in magazine publishing

Meeting readers where they are

- 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.



Keep Tradition, Enliven Digital

- Print continues as flagships for traditional subscribers to Grapevine and La Viña, Corrections, H&I, groups and for 12th Step work. The magazines are not going away!
- Invest our finances, time and resources in the infrastructure and staffing for digital delivery of content and services.



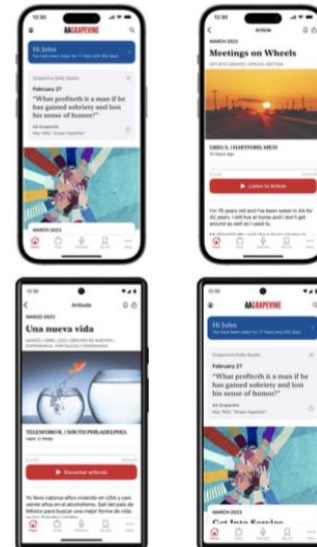
AA Success in mobile digital delivery

- AA Grapevine podcast
 - 436,000 downloads to date
 - 92% using mobile devices
 - 22% growth in listenership over the last 90 days
 - Listenership in top 5% of all podcasts
- Meeting Guide app
 - Currently on 627,460 smartphones
 - 596,000 active users
- Instagram: Grapevine and La Viña
 - Over 11,000 followers



Grapevine and La Viña apps

- iPhone and Android
- Easy to use
- One tap access, passwords embedded
- Fun to engage with: Interactive, sharing thoughts, sharing stories, sharing info
- Personalize with sobriety date, favorite meetings, and spiritual maintenance checklist
- Exclusive content for app users
- Share your Experience, Strength and Hope on articles
- More opportunity to publish your articles
- Share articles with your group, with friends



Other Recovery Apps

Reframe
Interactive program

\$13.99 Month

I Am Sober
Sobriety Tracker

\$9.99 Month

Meeting Guide
AA World Services

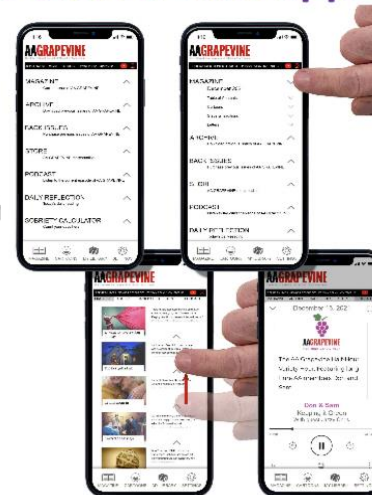
Free

My Spiritual Toolkit
AA Steps App

\$0.99 Month

Enthusiasm for Grapevine and La Viña apps

- Fellowship support and ideas
 - Regional Forums
 - Assemblies
 - ICYPAA
 - National AA Technology Workshop
 - Audio playlists
 - Sharing comments, stories
 - Discussion topics



Survey Summary and Key Insights

- Survey “A strong opportunity”
 - High interest in apps based on response—shut down survey after 4 days
 - \$2.99 monthly price appropriate
 - Discounted yearly rate appealing
 - Respondents comfortable with using recovery apps and Grapevine can be added to their daily digital usage.
 - Content is king for GV and LV — current and past stories get highest scores

Increase Engagement with Trusted Servants



- Going forward, Volunteers from 93 Areas
 - Additional paid staff members
 - in the field attracting subscribers and content creators
 - Vetting App exclusive content
 - Curating event schedules
- Strengthening of in-house digital publishing staff

Investments

- Grapevine Board
 - Draw from subscription liability fund \$670,488
- General Service Board
 - App Capital funding \$500,000

App Budget

- Treeline app development \$ 250,000
- North Studios, APIs \$ 77,000
- Apple and Google fees \$ 1,200
- Attraction efforts \$ 27,200
- Total \$ 355,400**

Circulation Growth, from 5-year Plan

2023
Circulation 54,000

2024
Circulation 71,000

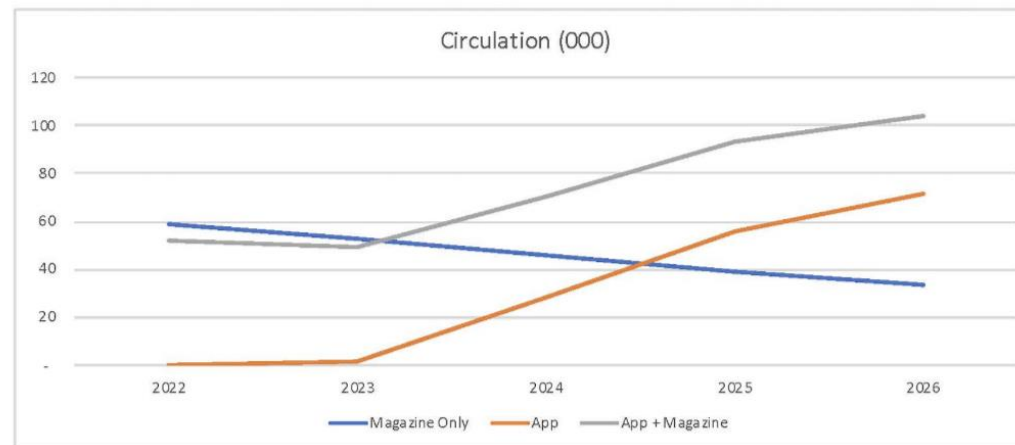
2025
Circulation 93,000

2026
Circulation 104,000

In the year 2026

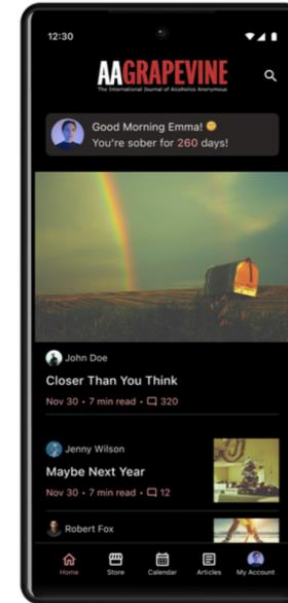
New plan has 104K combined subscribers and a net profit of \$1.1 Million

Status quo shows 34K magazine subscriptions and a loss of \$1.1 Million



App Project Timeline

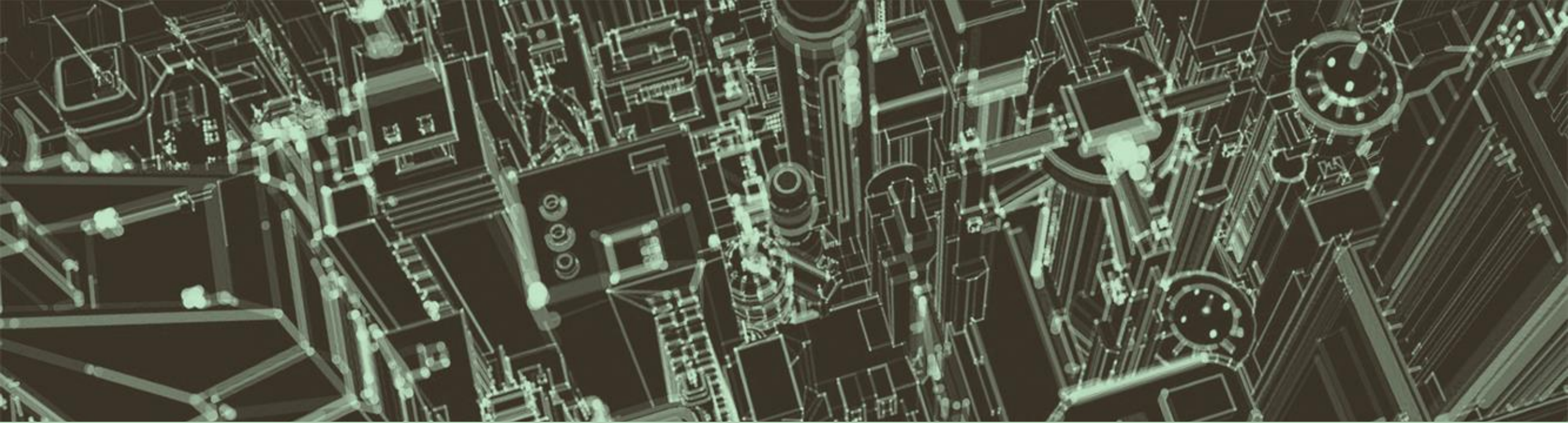
- App development underway
- Report to Conference Committee
April 2023
- Complete development June 2023
- Test July and August 2023 with Beta release
- **Launch September 2023**



App Attraction Efforts

- Grapevine and La Viña magazines
- Podcast
- Grapevine and La Viña News
- Banners on websites
- Daily Quote
- Instagram
- E-mail blasts
- YouTube
- Regional Forums, ICYPAA, other events
- AAWS — Box 459 and Meeting Guide App
- General Service Conference Members





Policy and Admissions

Committee Recommendations and Committee Considerations



Committee Recommendations: Pre-Conference

- The committee recommended that Daniel G., trustee member of the Peru General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, or their substitute, be admitted to the 2023 U.S./Canada General Service Conference as an observer. (The substitute who attended the Conference was Luis S., General Manager, GSO Peru.)
- The committee recommended that Gonzalo M., General Custodian of the Southern Territory for Central Mexico General Services of Alcoholics Anonymous, or their substitute, be admitted to the 2023 U.S./Canada General Service Conference as an observer. (The substitute who attended the Conference was Fernando Enrique R., Southwest Regional Trustee, GSO Mexico.)
- The committee recommended that an International Delegate, on behalf of the Poland General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, be admitted to the 2023 U.S./Canada General Service Conference as an observer. (The person who attended the Conference was Tadeusz C., Trustee, GSB Poland.)
- The committee recommended 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.

Committee Recommendations

- The committee recommended that the “Process for Polling the General Service Conference Between Annual Meetings Using Virtual Technology” be approved as amended below:
- Process for Polling the General Service Conference Between Annual Meetings Using Virtual Technology

Videoconference Meeting

- Meeting Time and Date: With as much notice as possible, and the fewest possible conflicts, the Conference Coordinator sets up a videoconference call in Eastern Time, keeping in mind that circumstances involving great emergencies may have their own deadlines.
- Quorum and Abstentions: The Current Conference Charter states that for Conference business, “A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of all the Conference members registered.” To determine a quorum for polling between Conferences, abstentions will be counted. Abstentions will not be counted in the vote totals. The responsibility to vote is incumbent on each Conference member. Alternate delegates should be invited by the sitting delegate if the delegate cannot attend. The Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions will plan to meet virtually, prior to the General Service Conference, to accept admissions.
- Notifications about the Poll: Notice of the poll determination will be emailed to all Conference members. To help guarantee the availability of each Conference member to participate, anyone whose email bounces back will be contacted by telephone. Amendment failed – Recommit failed- Recommendation Passed 92-36 (88)

Committee Recommendations

- The committee recommended that, to foster unity, trust, and transparency in the Fellowship, the members of the General Service Conference meet outside of the annual meeting for general sharing sessions at least two times per year utilizing virtual meeting technology. The General Service Board Chair and Delegate Chair will set the date and time as well as determine what issues currently facing the Fellowship would be chosen as topics. Amendment failed 85-44 – Recommendation passed 118-12 (87)

(It is the hope of this committee that these sessions will help build trust and unity.)

Committee Considerations (DQ)

- 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.

(Once these questions are available, I will schedule virtual sharing sessions with the online groups to gather feedback.)

Committee Considerations

- The committee reviewed the progress report from the 2023 Subcommittee on the Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) regarding year two of the three-year pilot. The committee appreciated the improvements made to the joint meetings and the simplification of forms and processes. The committee requested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee (TGSCC) explore all possibilities for extending the deadline for submitting Proposed Agenda Items (PAIs) to allow areas more time to consider items at their Fall assemblies. The committee also requested that TGSCC conduct a survey of delegates to find out the effect EDW has had upon their areas, especially related to the submission deadline and the engagement of members and groups in the group conscience process. Finally, the committee requested that TGSCC consider creating a simple video or other communication that would reinforce the idea that PAIs can be submitted year-round, as well as help the Fellowship better understand the role of PAIs as a document to reflect the outcome of a group conscience rather than a petition or suggestion box.

(I have a virtual meeting scheduled with the chair of the ad hoc EDW committee on July 18 at 7pm.)

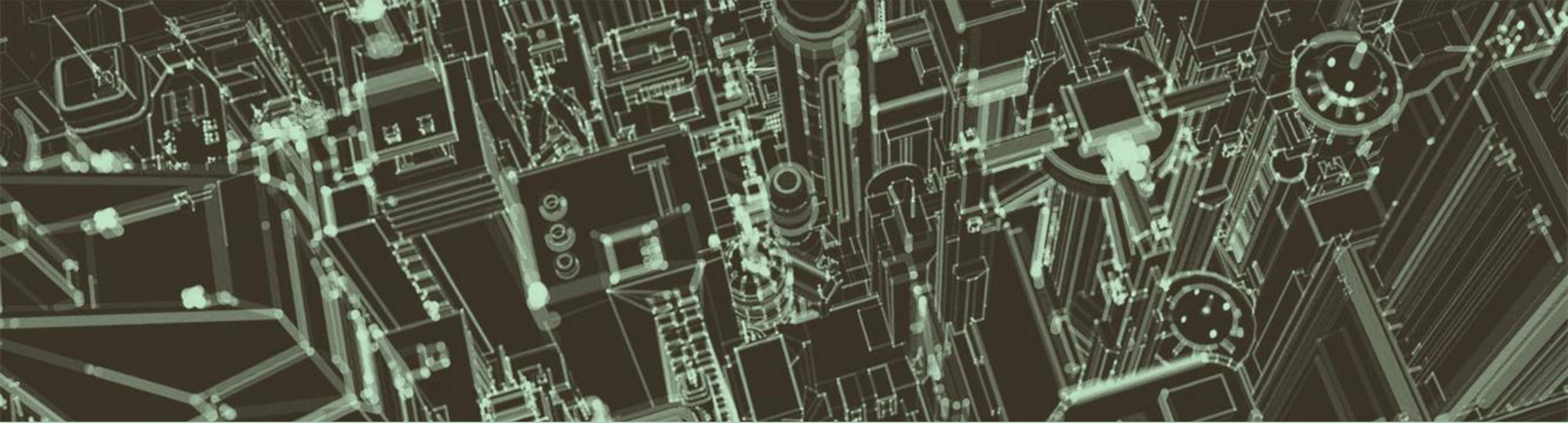
Committee Elections

- The committee elected Jo Ann M., Delegate for Area 49, Southeast New York, chairperson, and Molly E., delegate for Area 27, Louisiana, alternate chairperson.
- Just so you know; 5 NERDs (Northeast Region Delegates) were elected to chair their conference committees.



Switching Seats

We sat on the other side of the room sometimes. We had to strategically sit where there was no air vent since it was very uncomfortable having air blowing down our necks.



Conference Committee on Agenda



Committee Recommendations

A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2024 General Service Conference (GSC).

(DQ) The committee recommended the following theme for the 2024 General Service Conference: “Connecting with Love, Unity and Service.” Passed 128-1

B. Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2024 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended the following presentation theme and topics for the 2024 General Service Conference: Passed 126-3

Presentation Theme: “Responsibility in Service: When and How to Give”

Presentation Topics: 1. “Safety throughout the Structure in our Fellowship”

2. “1728 Sponsorship”

3. “Overcoming the Barriers to Participation”

C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2024 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended the following workshop topic for the 2024 General Service Conference: “Connecting Home Groups to the Conference Throughout the Year, to Better Inform the Group’s Conscience.” Passed 125-2

Committee Recommendations

D. Consider request to suspend reading the Area Highlights from the 73rd General Service Conference and include in the 2023 Conference Final Report, to allow discussion.

The Conference committee on Agenda **recommended** that the reading of the 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.**



We did get to do the Northeast Region Area Highlights but no slideshows. This was one of my pictures.

Committee Recommendations

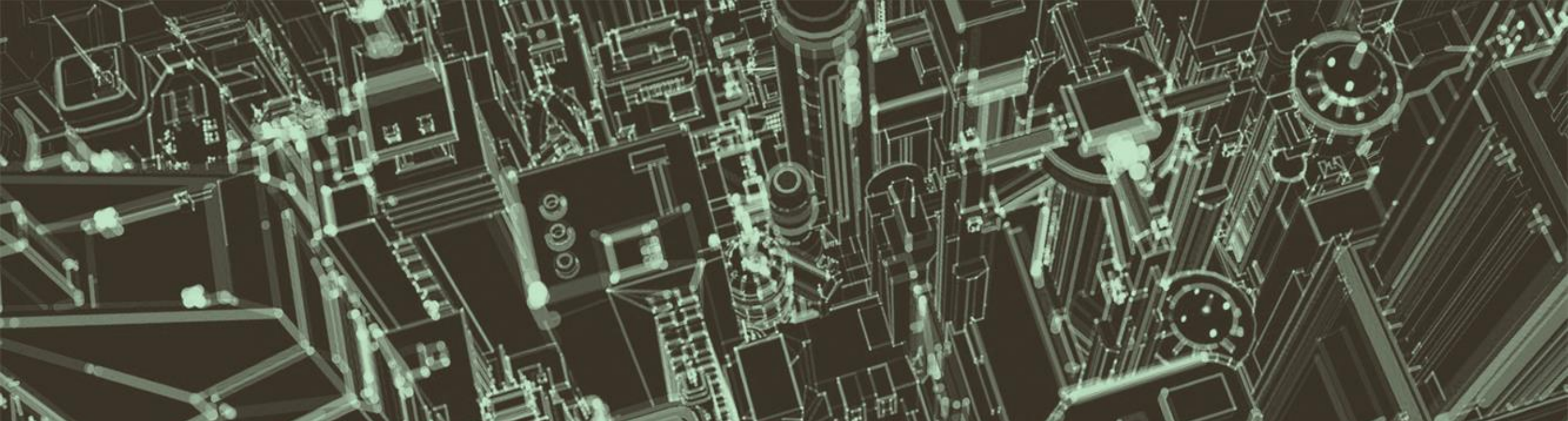
E. Review a report and draft plan for a future Conference Inventory:

The committee recommended that the General Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself during the 2025 General Service Conference and that a Conference Planning Committee be established by the General Service Board to develop a comprehensive inventory plan, timeline and cost estimate, to bring forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on Agenda for consideration. **Recommit Failed 27-104**

Recommendation passed 99-32 2/3rds 88

Additional 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, nontrustee directors, and staff members from the General Service Office and AA Grapevine.
- The committee discussed the current use of virtual meeting technologies and electronic surveys and noted that the GSB Quarterly report could help communicate updates about the development of a Conference Inventory Plan. The committee suggested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee consider the use of modern communication technologies that could advance the development of the Conference Inventory plan.
- The committee reviewed the questions and framework of the 2013-2015 Conference Inventory Plan noting that it received extensive time and preparation. The committee also noted that the 2013-2015 Conference Inventory did not produce a report on procedural flaws. The committee requested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee consider the same framework in the development of a 2025 Conference Inventory plan.



Conference Committee on Archives

No Recommendations or Committee Considerations Made





Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community



Cooperation With the Professional Community

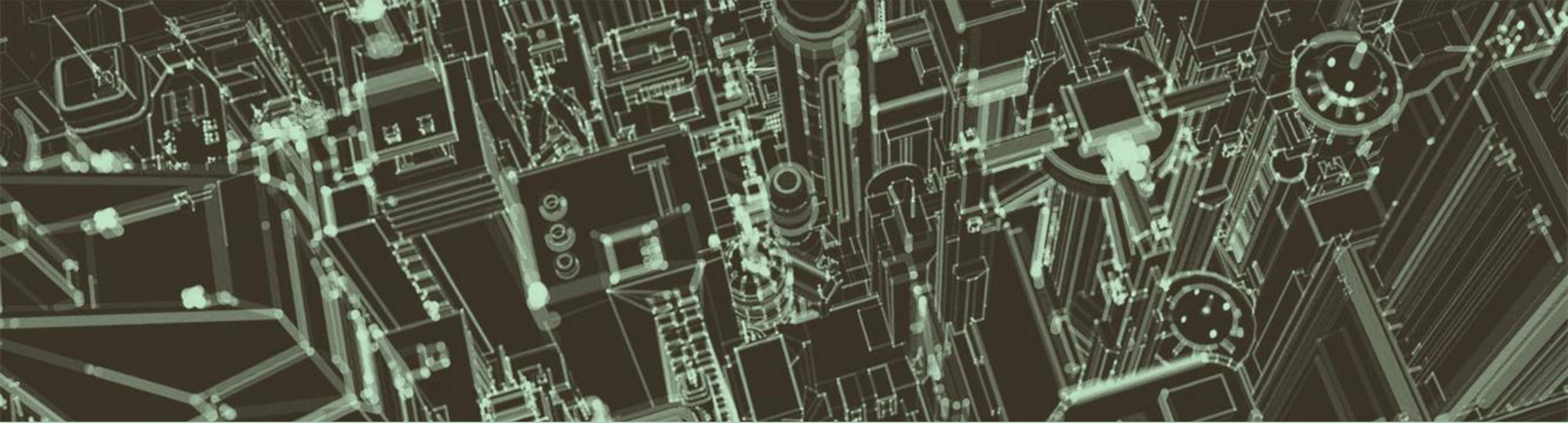
” The committee recommended that the pamphlet “A.A. in Your Community” be approved with minor editorial changes.
Passed

Additional Committee Considerations:

(DQ) 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.

The committee reviewed the progress report on the LinkedIn page and received a verbal update from the Communication Services Department. The committee noted the improvement in the consistent cadence of posting and expressed their appreciation for the strategic planning and thoughtfulness which goes into posting to the LinkedIn page. The committee commended the sustained activity and strategy, mindful of A.A. Tradition, to ensure consistency and the best possible results with a continued focus on content for the professional community. The committee looks forward to receiving a progress report submitted to the 2024 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community.

The committee reviewed a progress report on the development of an outward facing pamphlet for mental health professionals and expressed their appreciation for the work completed to date. The committee supports the continued efforts to interview additional mental health professionals with a focus on professionals who are not A.A. members. The committee suggested a theme and direction to move forward, and that interviews seek to identify the myths and misconceptions that could prevent a clear understanding of Alcoholics Anonymous. Additionally, the committee suggested the trustees’ CPC/TA Committee consider other vehicles of communication beyond a pamphlet to make the message more relevant for current mental health professionals. The committee requested that a progress report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community.



Conference Committee on Corrections



A. Review Conference Committee Composition, Scope and Procedure.

The committee recommended that item #5. in the Procedures of the Conference Committee on Corrections which currently reads:

“To maintain correspondence with committee secretary and other committee members during the year,”

Be revised, to read:

“To maintain communication with committee secretary and other committee members during the year.” Passed 130-1

B. Consider a request to include content to existing A.A. literature on sponsorship of persons in custody by outside members of the Fellowship.

The committee recommended that the following section be added to the pamphlet “A.A. in Correctional Facilities” on page 12 between the sections titled “Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS) – a special kind of A.A. service” and “The following-through – released A.A. persons in custody”:

Sponsorship Like all A.A. members, persons in custody can benefit from sponsorship. For more information, please refer to the Corrections Kit and Workbook or contact your local Corrections committee. Passed 127-4

Additional Committee Considerations:

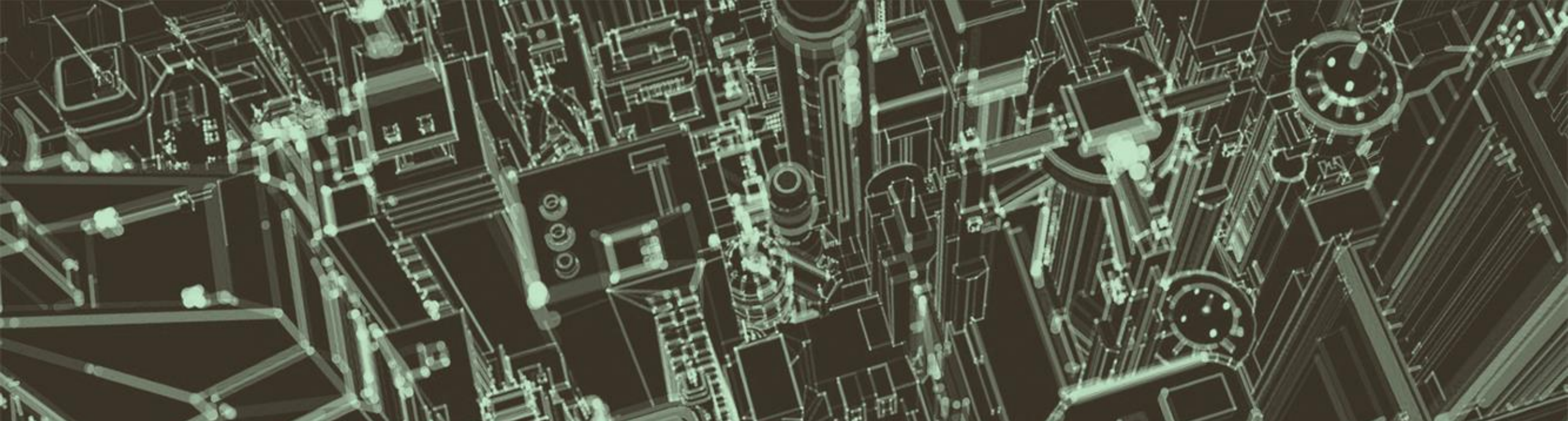
- The committee suggested that the assignment of new delegates to the Conference Committee on Corrections be balanced to allow for a more even rotation of panels.

*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.

- (DQ) The committee discussed the 2021 and 2022 versions of the service piece “Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare” SMF-209 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.

Suggested minor edits:

GSU and feeling pressure to adapt; politics, religion, predatory behavior, anonymity(crime), italics, emergencies, respecting rules of facility (meeting space).



Conference Committee on Finance



Recommendations

A. Consider requests that materials produced and maintained by A.A. World Services, AA Grapevine, La Viña, and General Service Office (GSO), clarify that the General Service Board (GSB) is the entity which receives all voluntary A.A. contributions and that GSO performs contribution processing.

- The committee recommended that the materials produced and maintained by A.A. World Services, AA Grapevine, La Viña, and the General Service Office (GSO), clarify that the General Service Board is the entity which receives all voluntary A.A. contributions and that GSO performs contribution processing. Any text changes should be implemented when each item comes up for reprint or revision. Passed

B. Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.

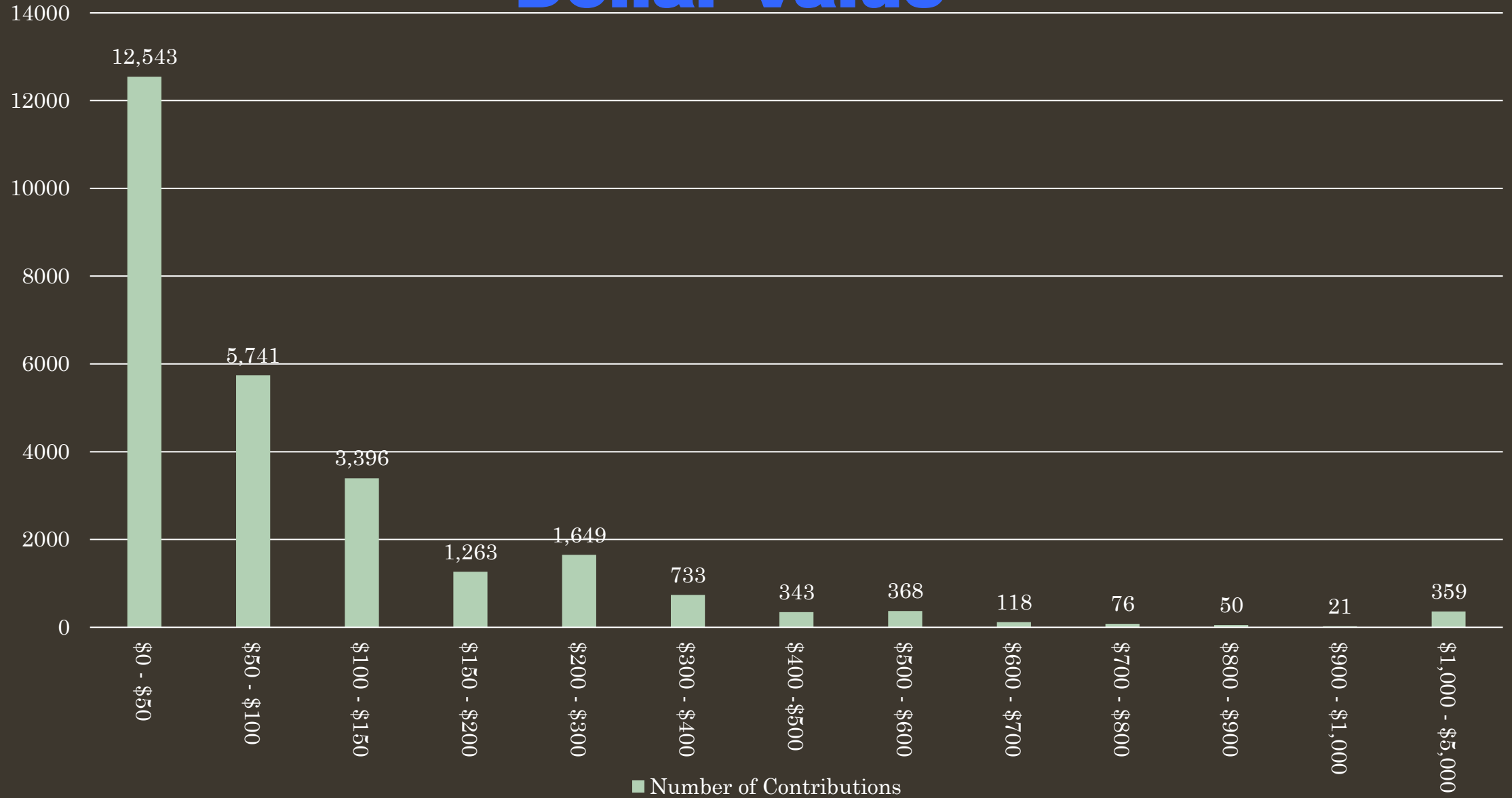
- The committee recommended that the suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference be increased from \$1,800 to \$2,200. Passed 123-4
- The committee recommended that the Trustees Finance & Budgetary Committee develop additional ways to report quarterly the fiscal performance of the AAWS, GSB and GV Boards throughout the year to the members of the General Service Conference for the purposes of transparency and assisting in the reporting to the A.A. Fellowship. Passed 126-4

Committee Considerations: (DQ)

- The committee reviewed the Conference-approved level of \$10,000 for individual Bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members and **took no action**. The committee feels the level was doubled in 2019 and is still appropriate as is. The committee also felt that the current limit captures the spiritual elements embodied in our principles reminding us that modest personal contributions align with the concept of personal anonymity.
- The committee reviewed the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$5,000 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member and **took no action**. The committee felt that the current limit was satisfactory and captures the spiritual elements embodied in our principles reminding us that modest personal contributions align with the concept of personal anonymity.

Most of our Area referred to inflation adjustment if needed or said leave as is.

Number of Individual Contributions by Dollar Value

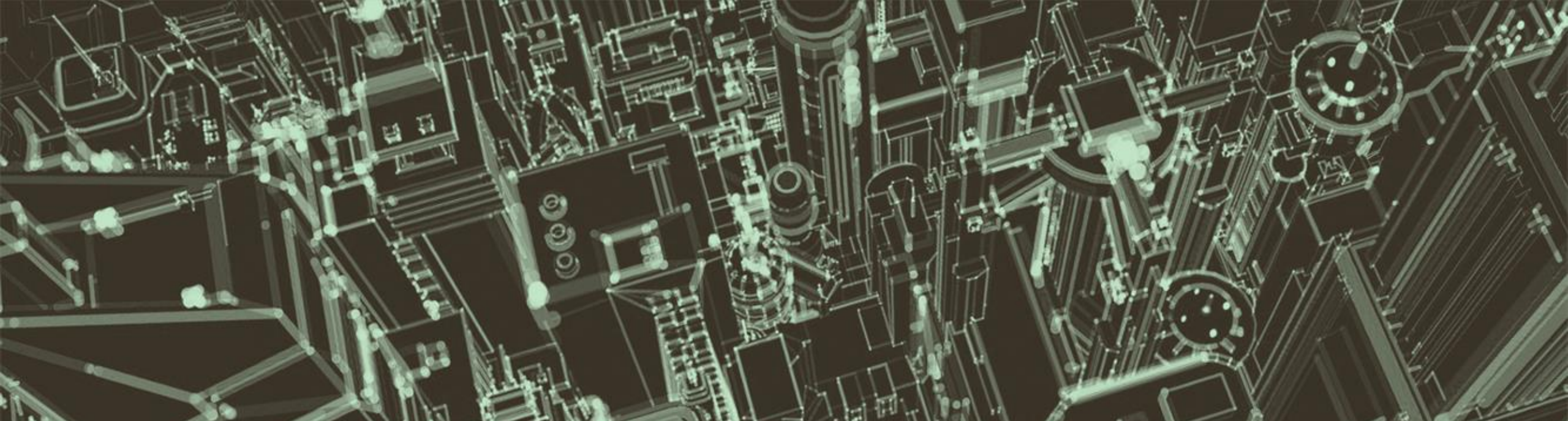


Additional Committee Considerations: (DQ)

*(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. (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?



Conference Committee on A.A. Grapevine and La Viña



AA Grapevine and La Viña (DQ)

- A. Consider a request to provide all area alternate delegates with the same Conference materials as sitting delegates.

Note: As a result of the 2022-23 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, this item was moved to the Committee on AA Grapevine and La Viña from the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions.

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.

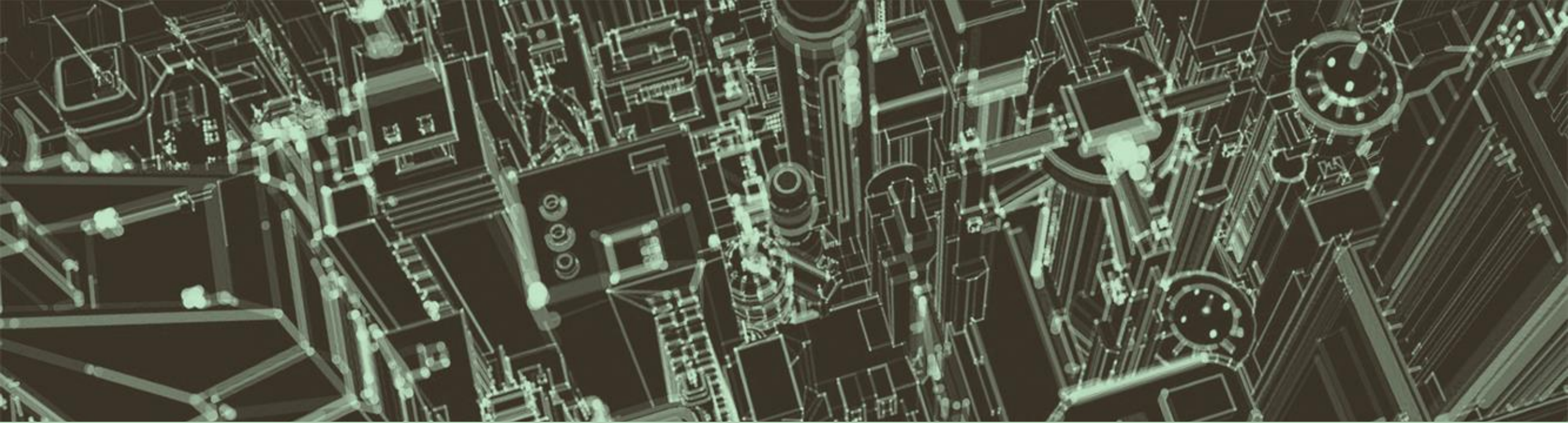
Originally this recommendation passed 97-33 (88 was substantial unanimity) and then came the minority opinion. Motion to reconsider (simple majority 65-62) discussion then some people wanted to change their vote 80-49 recommendation failed

AA Grapevine and La Viña

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

The committee agreed to forward to the AA Grapevine Board the suggestion that AA Grapevine, Inc. produce in the year 2024 or later:

1. Grapevine Cartoons & Jokes III (working title) (GV book)
2. Emotional Sobriety III (working title) (GV book)
3. Veteranos Hispanos en AA (Voices of Oldtimers) (working title) (La Viña book)
4. Cómo llegamos a creer (How We Came to Believe) (working title) (La Viña book)
5. Spiritual Awakenings (La Viña book) (GV book translated into Spanish)



Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums



Recommendations

A. Selection of cities to be considered as a site for the International Convention in 2035.

- The committee recommended that the following three cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2035:
- Phoenix, Arizona
- Indianapolis, Indiana
- New Orleans, Louisiana

(These bidders will need to send more information on hotel and other items and then the committee will pick the best location.) Passed 130-1

B. Inviting up to 21 non-A.A. speakers to participate in the 2025 International Convention at A.A.'s expense.

(DQ) The committee recommended that up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2025 International Convention at A.A.'s expense. Passed 127-4



Conference Committee on Literature



Recommendations

- A. Review revised draft of the existing version of the pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”

The committee recommended that the revised draft of the existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” be approved. Passed 122-6 (a graphic in Tradition 9 was found to be offensive and was changed)

- B. Discuss request to revise the pamphlet “Too Young.”

The committee recommended that the print version of the pamphlet “Too Young” be retired and that the content be repurposed as an animation video at an estimated cost no higher than \$70,000. The committee requested that a progress report or a rough cut of the video be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature. Amendment to recommendation was requested and discussed but failed 56-75. Final Vote 104-26

- C. Review draft pamphlet based on A.A.’s Three Legacies.

The committee recommended that the work on the draft pamphlet based on A.A.’s Three Legacies be ceased. The committee noted that the material gathered would be most useful as service material. Passed 109-14

The Ninth Tradition

A.A., as such, ought never be organized but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.



The words "Let's keep it simple" were the last Bill W. heard from his fellow founder of A.A., shortly before Dr. Bob's death in 1950. Aware that "it" means our *recovery* program, Bill later wrote, "We need to distinguish sharply between spiritual simplicity and functional simplicity. ...When we get into questions of action by groups, by areas, and by A.A. as a whole, we find that we must to some extent *organize* to carry the message—or else face chaos. And chaos is not simplicity."

When Tradition Nine speaks of "A.A. as such," it goes to the heart of the A.A. experience, to the "spiritual simplicity" of one alcoholic's saying, silently perhaps, "Help!" and another alcoholic's answering, "I know how you feel. We're here to help you." Such a relationship couldn't be organized. Or could it?

A nonmember familiar with modern business procedures might examine the A.A. practice of sponsorship and see it as a haphazard operation. How about computerizing it? Then an A.A. behind an intergroup desk might say, "So you want help? First, you need the right sponsor. We have personality profiles of all our sponsors fed into our computer. We'll match you up to the best one for you if you'll just fill out this questionnaire. ...Where are you going? Come back!" *That* would be an attempt to organize "A.A. as such." (Please—nobody get any ideas!)

But in "action by groups," we find that we do need some degree of organization. If everybody thinks somebody else is going to make the coffee, what's the result? No coffee! To avoid such a disaster, one or more members agree

to be responsible for preparing meeting refreshments. All the way from coffee-brewers to trustees on the General Service Board, those who take part in A.A. service work are assuming responsibility—not taking on authority. (Here, Traditions Two and Nine interlock.) Group officers are responsible to the members of the group; intergroup committees, to the groups in one locality; institutions committees, to A.A. groups in treatment facilities and correctional facilities; area committees, to all groups in their areas; Conference delegates and committees, to all groups in the U.S. and Canada; the General Service Office and Board and the board's committees, to all groups and members everywhere.

In an average business corporation, the board has final power to determine company plans and policy. Our board of trustees serves in a custodial capacity; trustees vote at the Conference—but as individuals, with one vote apiece. In industry, branch offices jump when the home office speaks. Our G.S.O. is just a clearinghouse of A.A. information, offering *suggestions* based on experiences reported to it by groups.

And yet, with so small a degree of organization, A.A. miraculously does work! One reason may be that Tradition Five applies to each A.A. committee and board as directly as it does to each A.A. group. By cleaving to this "one primary purpose" in all its activities, the Fellowship retains "spiritual simplicity." To diffuse that purpose, to embroil A.A. in issues apart from its true concern, would create dangerous complications....

WE DO SET UP COMMITTEES AND BOARDS . . .

But whether they make coffee... or help organize groups in deepest Africa... **THEY ONLY SERVE**





A.A. shortly before
distinguish sharply
y groups, by areas,
we face chaos. And

e "spiritual simplic-
ow you feel. We're

ponsorship and see
might say, "So you
into our computer,
you going? Come

thinks somebody
e members agree

to be responsible for preparing meeting refreshments. All the way from coffee-by Service Board, those who take part in A.A. service work are assuming respon (Here, Traditions Two and Nine interlock.) Group officers are responsible to the r committees, to the groups in one locality; institutions committees, to A.A. groups tional facilities; area committees, to all groups in their areas; Conference delegat in the U.S. and Canada; the General Service Office and Board and the board members everywhere.

In an average business corporation, the board has final power to determine con of trustees serves in a custodial capacity; trustees vote at the Conference—but as in industry, branch offices jump when the home office speaks. Our G.S.O. is just a offering suggestions based on experiences reported to it by groups.

And yet, with so small a degree of organization, A.A. miraculously does world 4 Five applies to each A.A. committee and board as directly as it does to each A.A. g many purpose" in all its activities, the Fellowship retains "spiritual simplicity." To dil in issues apart from its true concern, would create dangerous complications....

DS . . .

or help organize groups around the world... **THEY ONLY SERVE**



General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full

Committee Considerations

- 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.
- (There is a really nice animation that I want you see)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qN6t4jAXJd0>

- 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.

Committee Considerations

- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding development of a Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos* (Spanish) The committee requested that a progress report or draft manuscript be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature. 115 Spanish stories submitted but some authorizations still needed.
- 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. 2,586 English stories submitted. 1,200 stories for 4th Ed.
- (DQ) 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 section during the 2023 General Service.



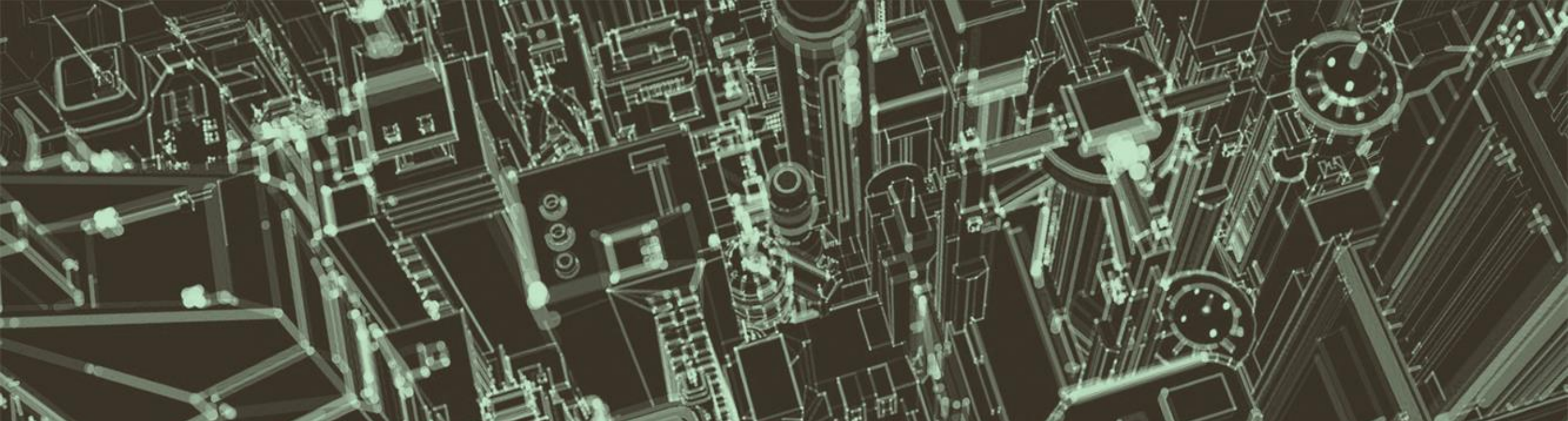
Plain Language Big Book

Sharing Session Report Back



What happened?

- All conference members were given 1 hour time slots to read the draft chapters
- My time slot was 7:45 AM on Thursday
- It really wasn't enough time to read through everything
- On Friday afternoon from 1:30-3:30 PM, we had a sharing session where the TABB committee was provided with feedback.
- The session was recorded so the writer could also hear the feedback after the conference.
- As I sat, listened and waited for the line to shorten, I took notes of what the others were saying.
- It was suggested, if you heard what you wanted to say, refrain from going to the mike
- I heard what I wanted to say so I sat and continued taking notes
- I want you to hear what everyone had to say
- These notes will be available on the website for you to share with your groups



Conference Committee on Public Information



Recommendations GET VOTE COUNT ON THIS

A. Review report on 2022 A.A. Membership Survey Results Reporting.

- The committee recommended that the Membership Survey pamphlet be updated to reflect the findings from the 2022 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey, with minor editorial changes.

B. Review report on analytics.

The committee recommended that the AAWS Board prepare sufficient periodic analytics reporting on our current communications platforms to be provided to the trustees' Public Information Committee and the Conference Committee on Public Information.

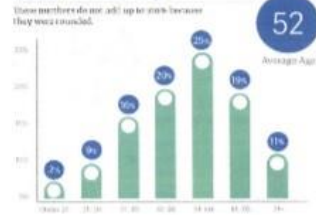
(Note: This replaces the 2004 Advisory Action which is outdated and no longer adequately serves as the basis of our communication channel reporting.)

Membership Survey

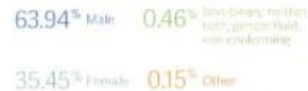
Public Information
Item P
Doc.2

Who is a member?

Age of Membership



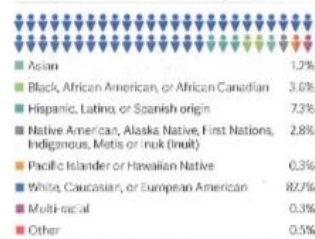
Gender of Members



Relationship Status of Members



Composition of Membership



Members Occupations



A.A. PREAMBLE*

"Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

"The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.

A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes.

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety."

A.A. can be found in more than 115,000 groups throughout the world. We welcome opportunities to cooperate with others who are providing help to alcoholics. Look for A.A. on our Meeting Guide app on our website aa.org to find meetings near you.



Scan this QR code to learn more about the survey at aa.org/survey.

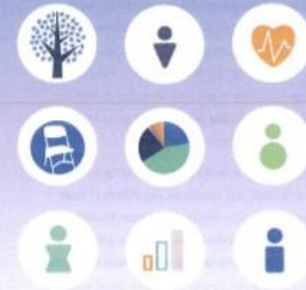
P-48

©2022 A.A. World Services, Inc.,
Box 500 Central Station,
New York, NY 10163
XAM - 4/23 (GP)



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

2022 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY



This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.

Membership Survey

Introduction

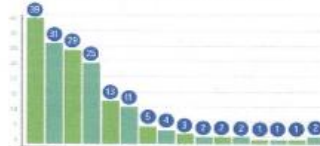
IN 2022 more than 6,000 A.A. members from the U.S. and Canada participated in a random survey of the membership, conducted periodically since 1968 by the General Service Office to keep members informed on current trends in membership characteristics. The survey also provides information about A.A. to the professional community and to the general public as part of A.A.'s primary purpose to carry our message to those who still suffer from alcoholism.

The information gathered in this survey is not only of great value but is extremely encouraging. However, survey results should not be used to project figures for either the Fellowship of A.A., alcoholics in general, or the population. A.A. members who filled out the questionnaire represent only those who attended one of the randomly sampled group meetings at which the survey was conducted.

Anyone with a desire to stop drinking is welcome in A.A. meetings, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, income, or profession. You don't have to pay anything to attend. You can just sit and listen and learn more about recovery, or you can share about your situation. It's completely up to you.

What got you here?

A remarkable effect takes place when an alcoholic asks for help, and someone shares with them that Alcoholics Anonymous can be a possible solution. Other A.A. members, professionals, families and even information found surfing the Internet or on social media have led them to their first A.A. meeting.



These numbers do not add up to 100% because respondents were allowed to select more than one.

A.A. Member	39%
On my own	31%
Treatment Facility	29%
Family	25%
Counselor or mental health professional	13%
Judicial system	11%
Medical professional	5%
Non-A.A. friend or neighbor	4%
Employee or fellow worker	3%
Al-Anon or Alateen member	2%
A.A. Literature	2%
Correctional facility	2%
Newspaper, magazine, radio, or TV	1%
Member of Clergy	1%
Internet or social media	1%
Other	2%

Length of Sobriety



What keeps you here?

Meeting Attendance

Members attend an average of **2 A.A. meetings per week**.
*See more information on aa.org.

Most A.A. members find it important to belong to one group they call their "home group." This is the group where they attend meetings regularly and try to sustain friendships with other members. While all A.A. members are welcome at all groups, the concept of the home group helps to maintain a strong bond with the Fellowship.

Additional Help

Percentage of members who received some type of treatment or counseling (such as medical, psychological, spiritual, etc.) related to their drinking, either before or after coming to A.A.

BEFORE coming to A.A.

60% 73% of those members who received treatment or counseling said it played an important part in directing them to A.A.

AFTER coming to A.A.

56% 87% of those members who received treatment or counseling said it played an important part in their recovery from alcoholism.

Relationship with Healthcare Professionals

53% Referred to A.A. by a counselor, medical or mental health professional. **77%** Members' doctors know they are in A.A.

Type of Meetings

75% of members* that have attended an A.A. meeting virtually (online or by phone).



Sponsorship and Membership



SPONSOR: In A.A., an alcoholic who has made some progress in the recovery program shares that experience on a continuous, individual basis with another alcoholic who is attempting to attain or maintain sobriety through A.A., someone with whom that person can talk freely and confidentially.

Recommendations

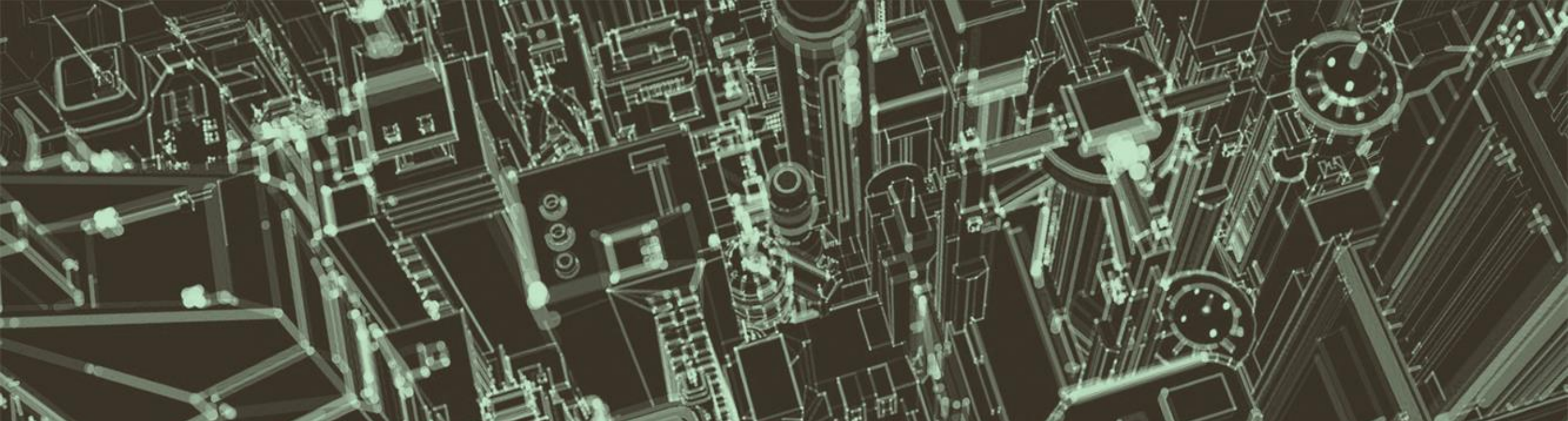
- The committee discussed a request for Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. to establish an Instagram account in line with the Twelve Traditions and encouraged Communication Services to continue with planning for the account. The committee suggested that Communication Services provide additional information on the intended messaging, target audiences, analytics, and total cost to maintain the account. The committee requested that a new proposed plan be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information. The committee offered suggestions which are too many to list.
- The committee discussed research on the feasibility research of paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms. The committee noted that paid placement is an important new addition for airing and tracking our already produced, relevant and useful PSAs on streaming platforms. The committee requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee consider several vendors and develop a plan detailing target audiences, analytics, and cost for how we would begin to use such streaming platform channels in the U.S./Canada Service Structure and that a report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information.

Additional Committee Considerations

- The committee reviewed the report on the 2022 A.A. Membership Survey process and offered the following suggestions for improvement for future surveys.
 - Provide the survey method process, including the timeframes and actions that delegates will need to perform, to the Conference Committee on Public Information each year that a triennial membership survey is requested to be considered.
 - Encourage all the delegates who participated in this 2022 A.A. Membership Survey to complete the process evaluation to inform process improvements as needed.
 - Design a pilot study to complete two surveys using convenience sampling, which focuses on gaining information from participants (the sample) who are “convenient” to access. These samples could be collected using the A.A. website, and the A.A. Meeting Guide App, and the same questions as the 2022 A.A. Membership Survey.

Additional Committee Considerations

- 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 trustees' Public Information Committee and staff secretary focus on developing and administering 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.
- This was originally an agenda item submitted a few years back which is still in process. Some processes take longer than others.



Conference Committee on Report and Charter



Committee Recommendations

A. The A.A. Service Manual, 2023-2025 Edition:

The committee recommended that The A.A. Service Manual not be printed in 2023 and that a new edition be published biannually (i.e., every two years), beginning in 2024.

The committee recommended that a full rewrite be conducted of chapters 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 to correct inaccuracies and to better clarify the roles, responsibilities and relationships between the General Service Office, AA Grapevine, and A.A. World Services, Inc. in The A.A. Service Manual and that the trustees' Literature Committee forward these draft sections or a progress report to the 2024 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. Passed 118-10

B. Consider posting an anonymity-protected Conference Final Report on aa.org.

(DQ)The committee recommended that anonymity-protected Conference Final Reports be posted annually on aa.org beginning with the 2023 General Service Conference.

Passed 114-16

Committee Considerations:

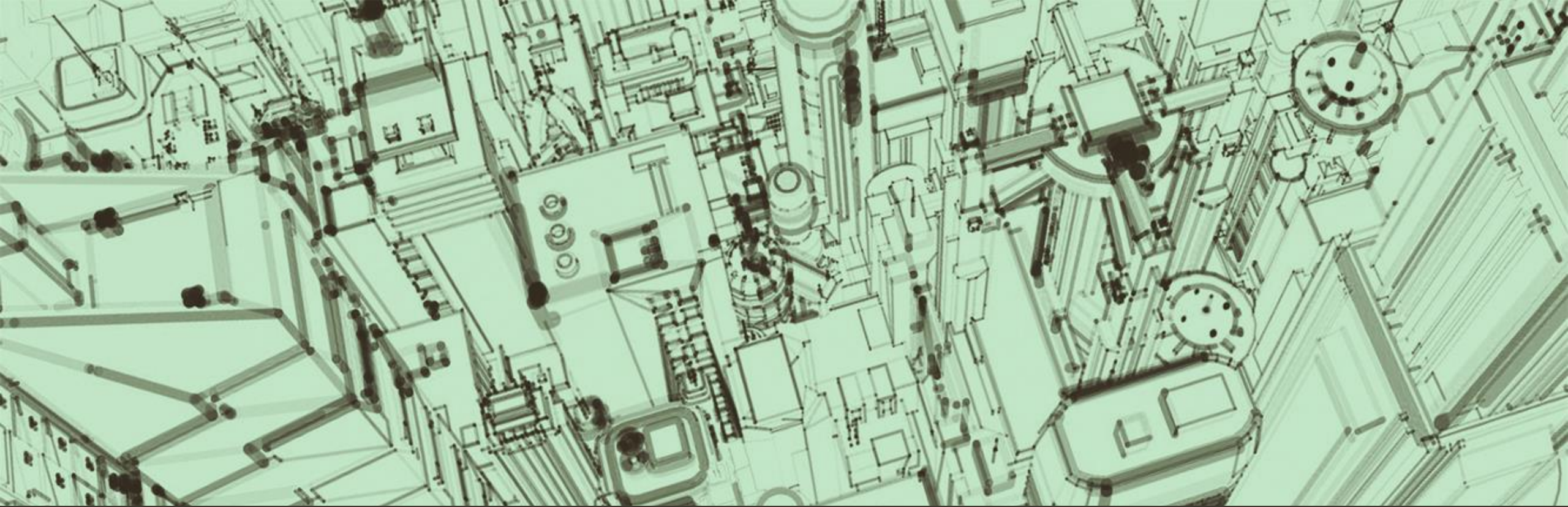
- The committee noted that some sections of The A.A. Service Manual need more detailed review of language clarity by the General Service Board and affiliate boards before being revised. The committee asked that the Publishing Department “short order” supply of the current A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2021-2023 Edition to ensure sufficient inventory until a proposed 2024 printing.
- The committee provided suggestions regarding The A.A. Service Manual to be forwarded to the three boards, GSO, and the Grapevine Office.
- The committee considered a request for specific changes to the 2021-2023 version of The A.A. Service Manual, and suggested that the requests be considered in the 2024 review of the updated manual.
- The committee considered a request to rescind the 2018 Advisory Action regarding a footnote in the Resolution concerning “register” and “Groups” and **took no action**. The committee noted that the footnote sufficiently clarifies the current terminology for groups that list with the U.S./Canada service structure. However, the committee suggested the following:
 - Add the following text from footnote 4 in The Resolution: “A.A.W.S. neither monitors nor oversees the activities or practices of any A.A. group. Groups are listed solely for purposes of accurate communications” to the A.A. Group chapter of The A.A. Service Manual.
 - That GSO provide clear and consistent language disclaimers on GSO digital platforms and informational materials to clarify that the purpose of listing groups at GSO is distinct from listing meetings on the Meeting Guide App.

Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed a GSO Publishing feasibility report for an ASL translation of The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service. The committee noted the importance that A.A. materials be translated in the order of the most widely expressed needs of the Fellowship.

The committee asked that the staff secretary forward notes from the committee to the trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee to continue discussion on this important topic, to gain insight from members of which ASL materials are most in need for members and potential members.

(If you remember back in February at our Area Assembly, we voted to support a PAI on ASL translations, but this Agenda Item was/is already in process)



Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities



Committee Recommendations

A. Review progress report on update to the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic—Never too Late.”

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

B. Review progress report on Military audio interviews.

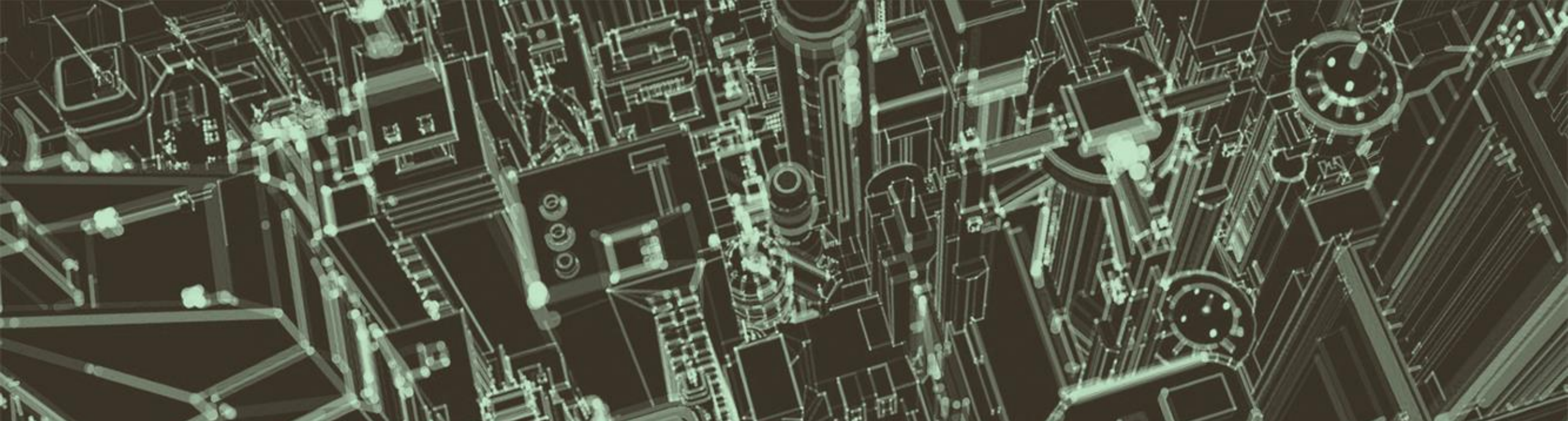
The committee recommended that the 22 interviews recorded to date as part of the Military Audio project be approved, giving the General Service Office (GSO) the latitude to distribute the audio interviews in various formats and on various platforms, and that an update report be provided to the 2024 Conference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

Committee Considerations (DQ)

- 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.

Additional Committee Considerations

- The committee discussed carrying the message to alcoholics with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities, and suggested that:
 - The trustees' CPC/TA Committee review accessibility-related service material and consider updating it with new shared experience on this topic.
 - The AA Grapevine consider publishing an issue dedicated to the experiences of people with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities and those who sponsor them.
 - The committee requested that the trustees' Literature Committee consider revising the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" to add language on working with alcoholics with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities.



Conference Committee on Trustees



Slates recommended for approval

- GSB Slate – Passed 101-25
- GSB Officers – Passed 103-28
- AAWS Board – Passed 107-23
- AA Grapevine Board – Passed 114-19

- Vote for censure 25-104 (Failed)



Pitch Forks?!?!?

Okay, Okay, I am exaggerating;
There were no Pitch Forks.

Although the slates passed and the motion to censure failed, there were a bunch of recommendations passed that should help with restoring Trust and Unity.

Recommendations passed to foster Unity & Trust

- The committee recommended that, to foster unity, trust, and transparency in the Fellowship, the members of the General Service Conference meet outside of the annual meeting for general sharing sessions at least two times per year utilizing virtual meeting technology. The General Service Board Chair and Delegate Chair will set the date and time as well as determine what issues currently facing the Fellowship would be chosen as topics. Amendment failed 85-44 – Recommendation passed 118-12 (87)

E. Review a report and draft plan for a future Conference Inventory:

The committee recommended that the General Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself during the 2025 General Service Conference and that a Conference Planning Committee be established by the General Service Board to develop a comprehensive inventory plan, timeline and cost estimate, to bring forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on Agenda for consideration. Recommit Failed 27-104

Recommendation passed 99-32 (88)

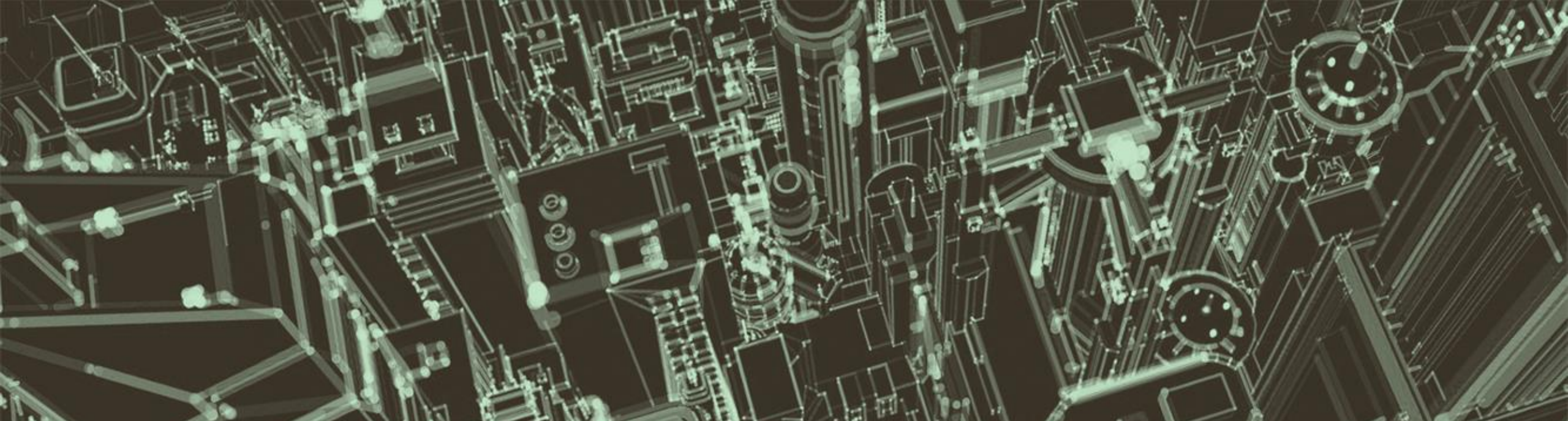
Recommendations passed to foster Unity & Trust

- **Floor Action #5:**

It was recommended that:

In an effort to improve communication, ensure Board policies are reflective of our principles, and reestablish 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.

- Motion to decline to consider failed 79-52 (84) then discussion
- Question called passed 112-19 (84)
- Motion failed 74-51
- Minority Opinion – then motion to reconsider passed 112-19 then more discussion
- Question called passed 121-11
- Final vote – Motion passed 112-19



Floor Actions

AKA – Hostile New Business



10 Floor Actions – submitted starting right after rollcall and all were discussed on Friday after all other business

- **Floor Action #1:**

It was recommended that:

Starting in 2024, voting for trustee elections may utilize paper or electronic ballots.

- **Floor Action #2:**

It was recommended that:

The 2016 Conference Advisory Action stating: “General Service Conference delegates be provided a copy of the final approved annual General Service Office and AA Grapevine budgets with the Pre-Conference material for all future Conferences” be reconfirmed.

- **Floor Action #3:**

It was recommended that:

The 73rd General Service Conference censure the General Service Board due to poor communication to the Fellowship regarding the resignation of the former Chair of the General Service Board and for the process that was followed regarding the acceptance of her resignation.

10 Floor Actions

- **Floor Action #4:**

It was recommended that:

To enhance trust among General Service Conference members, the following actions be taken:

The General Service Board prepare a report delineating the history of their Confidentiality Policy and the reason(s) for enacting it, submitting it for review to the Conference Trustees' Committee at the 2024 General Service Conference.

The General Service Board initiate a review regarding the need for a less restrictive Confidentiality Policy, submitting a draft or progress report to the Conference Trustees' Committee at the 2024 General Service Conference.

The existing Confidentiality Policy of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., be made null and void.

10 Floor Actions

- **Floor Action #5:**

It was recommended that:

In an effort to improve communication, ensure Board policies are reflective of our principles, and reestablish 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.

10 Floor Actions

- **Floor Action #6**

It was recommended that:

The General Service Board create an Ad Hoc Joint committee on Communications throughout out service structure that includes trustees, delegates, and staff members.

- **Floor Action #7**

It was recommended that:

Following the work of the trustees' ad hoc committee on policy review, Conference members be asked to sign a code of conduct which guides how we work together including but not limited to:

- ❖ Confidentiality
- ❖ Communications
- ❖ Mutual respect
- ❖ Social media
- ❖ Transparency

This code should include an acknowledgement that mistakes will be made and should suggest mechanisms for righting any wrongs.

This code should follow in spirit and language the principles outlined in our 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts and our Conference Charter.

This code should be reviewed annually by the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions.

10 Floor Actions

- **Floor Action #8**

It was recommended that:

The General Service Board begin to develop supplemental reporting focused on the actual costs of the various service items we provide, with an initial draft being brought back to the Conference Committee on Finance for review at the 74th General Service Conference.

These reports should include the budgeted costs of these items, any changes to the budgeted amounts, the long-term trends of the costs, as well as a reasonable projection of future costs for the services, when possible. Expenses to consider shall be regarding initial development, ongoing content creation, maintenance & upkeep, as well as any other substantive ancillary costs.

10 Floor Actions

- **Floor Action #9**

It was recommended that:

Beginning with the 2024 GSC, the delegate chair and alternate delegate chair for the following year's GSC, will be elected in the Conference session scheduled immediately following completion of all committee reports and completion of the discussion of, and voting on, floor actions (if any). Following the election of the delegate chair and alternate delegate chair for the following year's GSC, each primary Conference committee will convene and elect their own committee chair and alternate committee chair for the following year's GSC, according to each Conference Committee's own Composition, Scope and Procedure, with the newly elected delegate chair and alternate delegate chair ineligible to stand for primary or secondary Conference Committee chair or alternate chair. Following the election of the primary committees' committee chair and alternate committee chair, each secondary Conference committee will convene and elect their own committee chair and alternate committee chair for the following year's GSC, according to each committee's own Composition, Scope and Procedure, with the newly elected delegate chair, alternate delegate chair, and committee chairs ineligible for secondary committee chair or alternate chair. At the Conference session immediately following the election of all Conference Committee chairpersons and alternate chairpersons, the newly elected chairpersons and alternate chairpersons will be announced to the full GSC.

- The process for selecting the delegate chair and the alternate delegate chair for the following year's GSC will be:
 1. The first and second-year delegates from a region will nominate one candidate from among the willing 1st year delegates of their region by ballot, utilizing the Third Legacy procedure. A first-year delegate may decline to be considered as a nominee for election for delegate chair or alternate delegate chair.
 2. From the nominees (one per region), two of the nominee names will be selected by lot, i.e. by "going to the hat."
 3. From the two names selected by lot, the delegate chair for the following year's GSC will be elected by third legacy procedure, with each region casting one ballot per a decision process of that region's own choosing. The candidate elected/selected by the regions in the Third Legacy procedure will serve as the delegate chair for the following year's GSC, beginning at the close of the current GSC. The second candidate will serve as the alternate delegate chair for the following year's GSC, beginning at the close of the current GSC.

10 Floor Actions

- Floor Action #10
- It was recommended that:

The options for closing the Big Meeting at the International Convention be the Serenity Prayer or the Responsibility Statement.

Of the 10 Floor Actions submitted, only 1 passed and 1 was recommitted back to the IC Committee. The rest were Declined to consider.

This session ended at 12:22 AM Saturday morning. Then we heard from the 72's until 1:30 AM. My head hit the pillow a little before 2 AM and we were back at 8:30 AM for our farewell breakfast.

What I Saw, Heard and Felt

- The conference process at work
- Sincere love for our fellowship
- The minority voice heard
- Disagreeing Agreeably
- Mutual respect
- Rule 62

NEW GSR & DCM KITS

- I attended NERF in Boston a couple of weeks ago and was told 5000 GSR kits have been sent out to date.

Thanks to Moe DCM District 305, for being my recorder during the workshop I moderated at NERF.

2024 General Service Conference April 14-20, 2024, Brooklyn Bridge Marriott





Thanks for Listening

Questions?

