2023 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña

ITEM D: Consider a request to provide all area alternate delegates the same Conference materials as sitting delegates.

Background notes:

The Conference Dashboard is where Conference reference documents, committee background, and other essential information is posted for delegates who can access it remotely in English, French, and Spanish. The current software provider for the Dashboard is HyperOffice.

The estimate of the cost to add 93 additional HyperOffice licenses, after discounts, would be $3,254. Adding new user information takes a minimal amount of time and is not a cost factor.

The Tech Services department is considering moving to a new software provider for the Dashboard. The cost implications of adding 93 additional users would depend on who the new vendor is and what kind of user agreement could be negotiated.

Background:

1. PAI #78 Submitter Form
2. Conference Dashboard Tip Sheet

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Back to Agenda

Committee on the Conference for direction.

If a proposed agenda item does not rise to the level of a Conference action the topic could be programmed during Conference in a different way like a presentation/discussion or workshop.

This overview is general and includes many but not necessarily all the possible routes a proposed agenda item follows in the trustee, G.S.O. and Grapevine review process. There is no “one size fits all” procedure and, on a case-by-case basis over time, there may occasionally be inconsistencies.

(1) **Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.**

Move that elected Alternate Delegates, of the 93 Areas, be given access to the Dashboard and Committee "Eyes Only" Material to ensure fully informed Area representatives arrive a the General Service Conference as fully Informed as possible if circumstances require their attendance.

(2) **What problem does this proposed item address?**

This ensures that the chosen possible Area Representatives from the 93 Areas arrive at the General Service Conference as fully informed as possible. This helps greatly when the common event of an alternate being tasked, at last minute, to attend. The 72nd GSC was a perfect example - 2 days notice and the Delegate from NY on the Trustees Conference Committee was sick and the alternate was tasked. The alternate was not aware of much of the dashboard information, background information, and had not been privy to any of the "Eyes Only Material" The present process is contrary to the intent of the 93 Areas when they elect both a Delegate and an Alternate-Delegate. The obvious intent is that the Area identifies 2 people (Delegate and Alternate Delegate) that they intend, depending on circumstances, to represent that Area at the General service Conference. The bottom of the triangle deciding that they only need to fully inform one of the two amounts to the lower triangle servants over-riding the desires and intent of the

Groups (Ownership) of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are no longer mailing packages of reams of paper. We are no longer limited by the inability to achieve mass electronic communication. The days of limiting access due to inconvenience and extraordinary burden are excuses of the past. The groups expect and the fellowship deserves the complete communication and transparency necessary to ensure that an area's representative is kept completely in the loop by the bottom of the triangle especially if a last-minute substitution is necessary. If it were reversed and the necessary communication for the equal participation in the conference was held by the fellowship to provide background and process --- the office would scream for reciprocity.

(3) **What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).**

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

This topic was a presentation and detailed discussion at the 72nd GSC Delegate's Only Meeting. The discussion resulted in broad support among the Panel 71 and Panel 72 Delegates. It was a consensus of the group that access should be granted and that this proposal be brought to the 73rd GSC via the Proposed Agenda Item Submission process.

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(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

SERVICE MANUAL CHAPTER 3
"The areas hold an important position in the U.S./Canada General Service Conference structure. The areas are directly connected to the A.A. groups and their members through DCMs and GSRs. At the same time, they participate in the decision-making of A.A. through area delegates."

SERVICE MANUAL Page 34
"THE ALTERNATE DELEGATE Areas also elect alternate delegates. The alternate serves as a valuable assistant, often traveling with the delegate or giving reports for them. In some areas, the alternate delegate may serve some special function on the area committee. Many area committee treasuries recognize the need to support the alternate s expenses separately from the delegates".
Pg 38 FAQ #2
2." As the alternate delegate for my area, should I be prepared to step in for the delegate if for some reason they cannot attend the Conference? Yes. An alternate, when stepping in, acts with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a delegate until the delegate is again available to serve. Therefore, an alternate will want to eagerly serve the area in order to be prepared for just such an instance. Since the alternate may stand in the next area election for delegate, this is experience that will not be wasted".

SERVICE MAMUAL
Pg 85

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

That the decisions of the Top of the Service Triangle are understood and respected, and the right of the groups to be heard through fully informed representatives is not impeded (directly or indirectly) in any way.

Areas choose a delegate and an alternate to ensure their voice is heard at the GSC and expects and deserves that whoever attends the GSC on their behalf fully informed on process, expectations, responsibilities and clearly able to discharge the duties they have been task - The GSO and GSB need to facilitate this with Transparent, Open, and Full Communication to the possible GSC Attendees.
That the bottom of the triangle provide both possible attendees with access to all conference related material, and be privy to committee eyes only material?
Ensure, as best possible, that an alternate delegate is tasked to attend at the last minute has had access to pertinent data and truly arrives as a fully informed participant?
Facilitation of communication that allows groups and their representatives easy access to all information that promotes effective accomplishment of their assigned duties and responsibilities. Many in the fellowship ask...Why produce material that on a few trusted servants have a right to see?

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Wayne H.
A65 P71

(7) Final comments:

There is no reason alternates cannot see the material sent on the dashboard (firsthand view) even if it is read only!!!
OR
Perhaps specifically inform the area delegates that sharing of the dashboard password and Committee "Eyes Only" Material, with Alternate Delegates, is both preferred and strongly encouraged.

I thought I was well informed as an alternate delegate, but it was only after becoming the area delegate that I realized how much information had been passed up and down the triangle that I was not made aware of or privy to. Then I realized just how lacking I would have been if called on the spur of the moment to fill the delegate role. Alternates should be brought out of the dark and be completely and consistently informed. This is the primary intent of areas when alternates are elected!

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Submit completed forms to the GSO Staff Member on the Conference Desk:

EMAIL: Conference@aa.org

POSTAL MAIL:

Attn: Conference Desk
General Service Office
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station New
York, NY 10163

Updated 7/22

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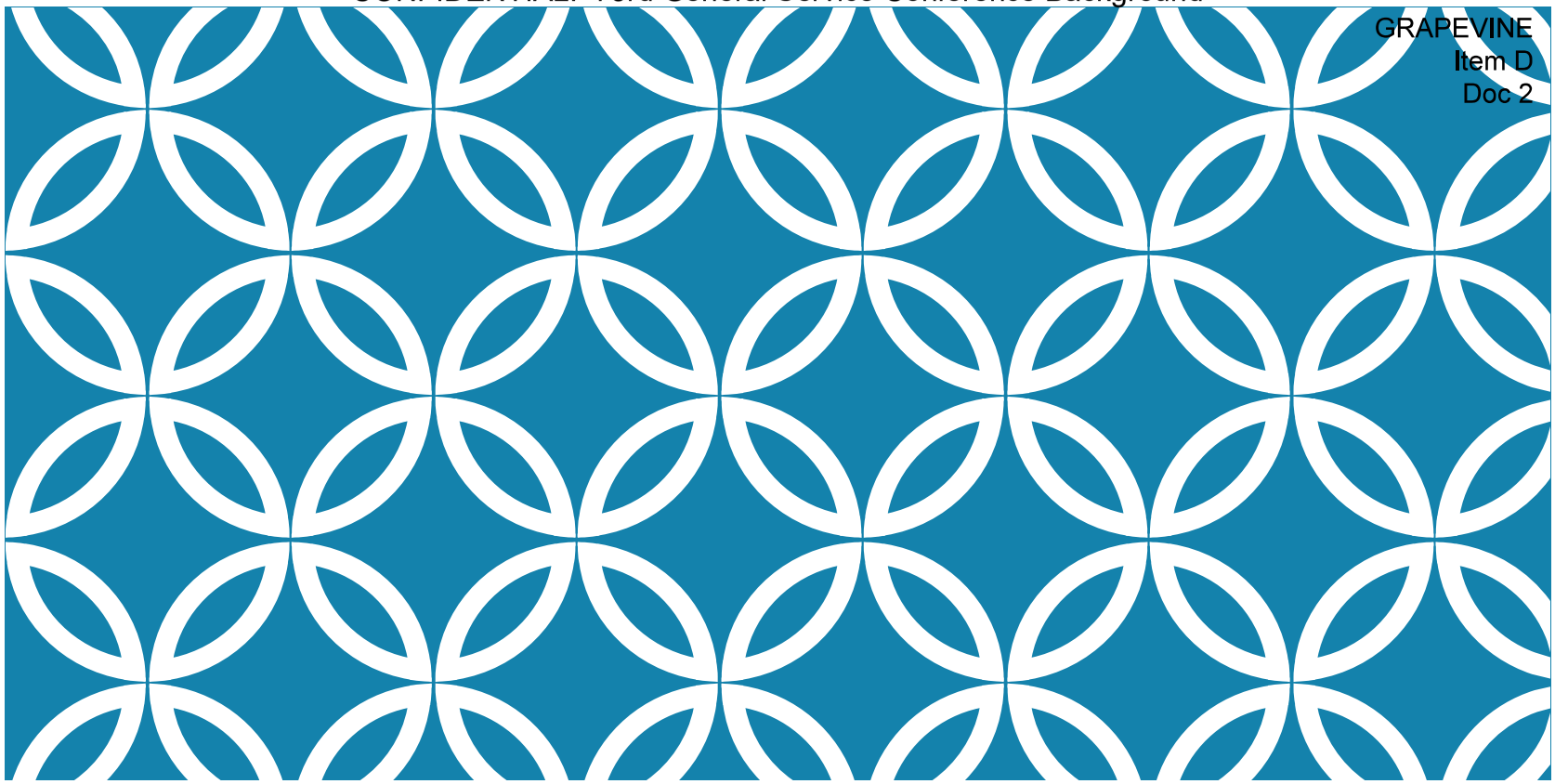

CONFERENCE DASHBOARD TIP SHEET

January 5, 2022

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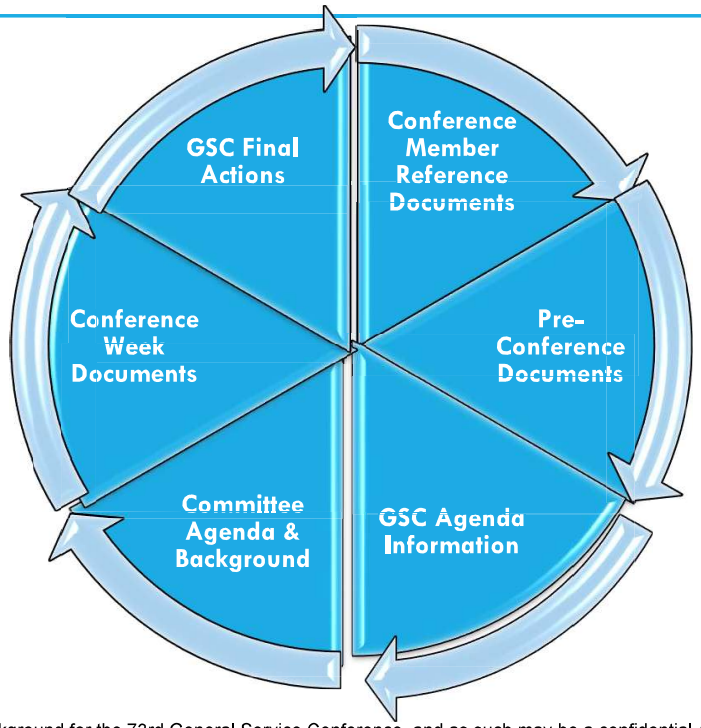
ENHANCE THE ORGANIZATION OF THE INFORMATION PRESENTED ON THE DASHBOARD

The Conference dashboard is setup with six main folders for easy access to the information needed for full participation in the General Service Conference process throughout the year.



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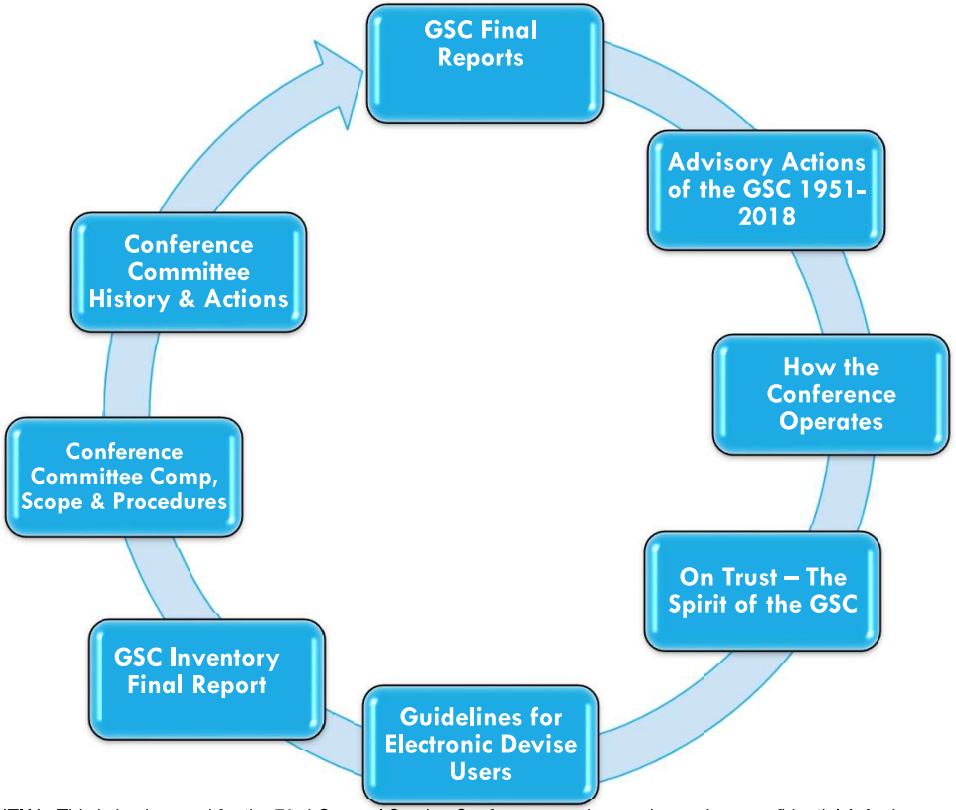
CONFERENCE MEMBER REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

These folders contain documents that support your overall journey as a Conference Member.



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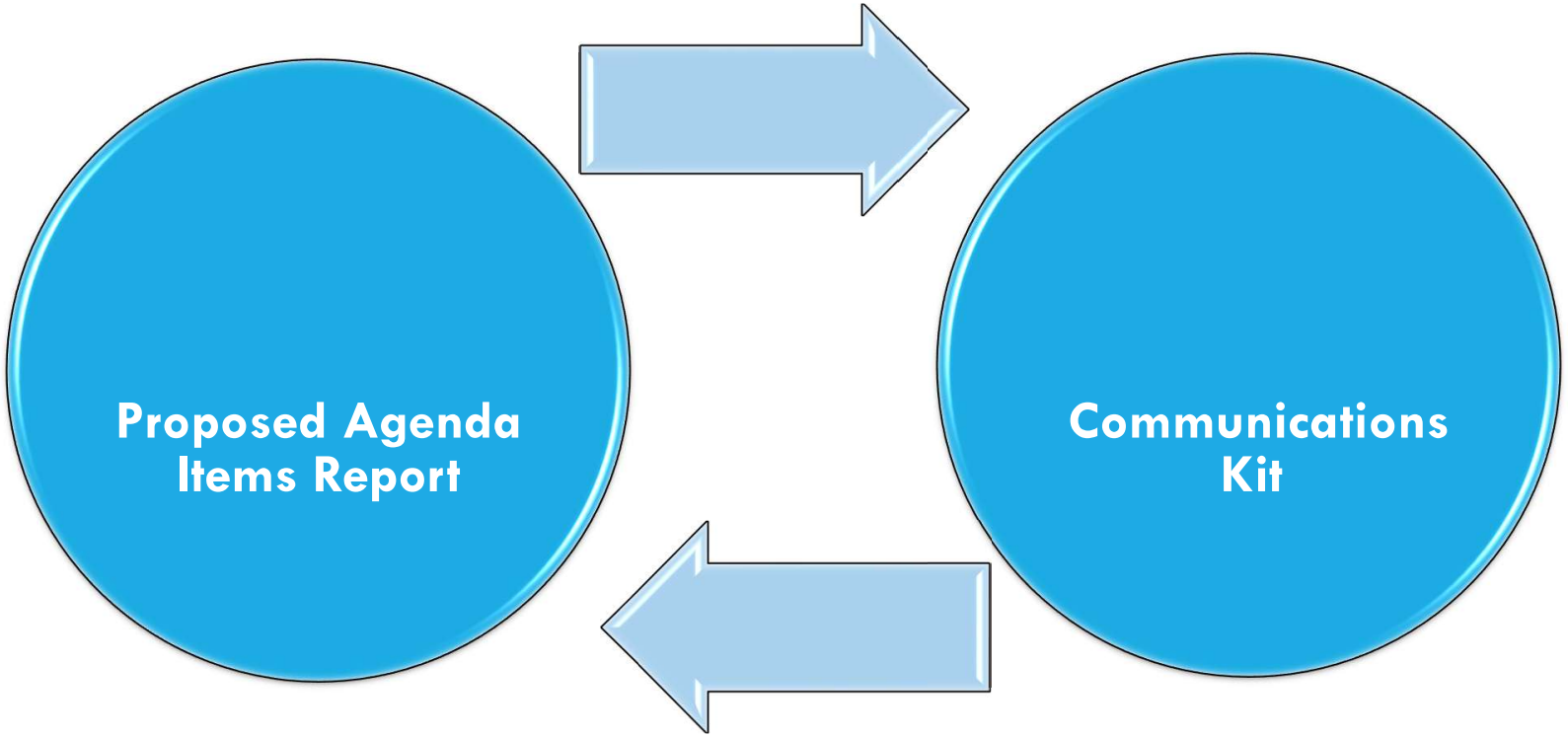
PRE-CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS

These folders contain documents that you need to use to prepare for the General Service Conference. The Communications Kit includes documents you need to return to the Conference Coordinator Staff Assistant by January 31st and March 1st.



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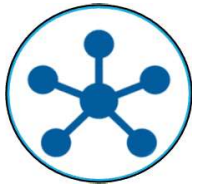
GSC AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

These folders will contain documents that detail the final disposition of Agenda Items after the January General Service Board Weekend.

Final List of Agenda Items



Final Proposed Agenda Item

Agenda Items Not Forwarded to Conference

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COMMITTEE AGENDA & BACKGROUND

These folders will contain the Conference Committee Agendas and Background. It will also have a combined file that includes all committees.

All Agendas & Background

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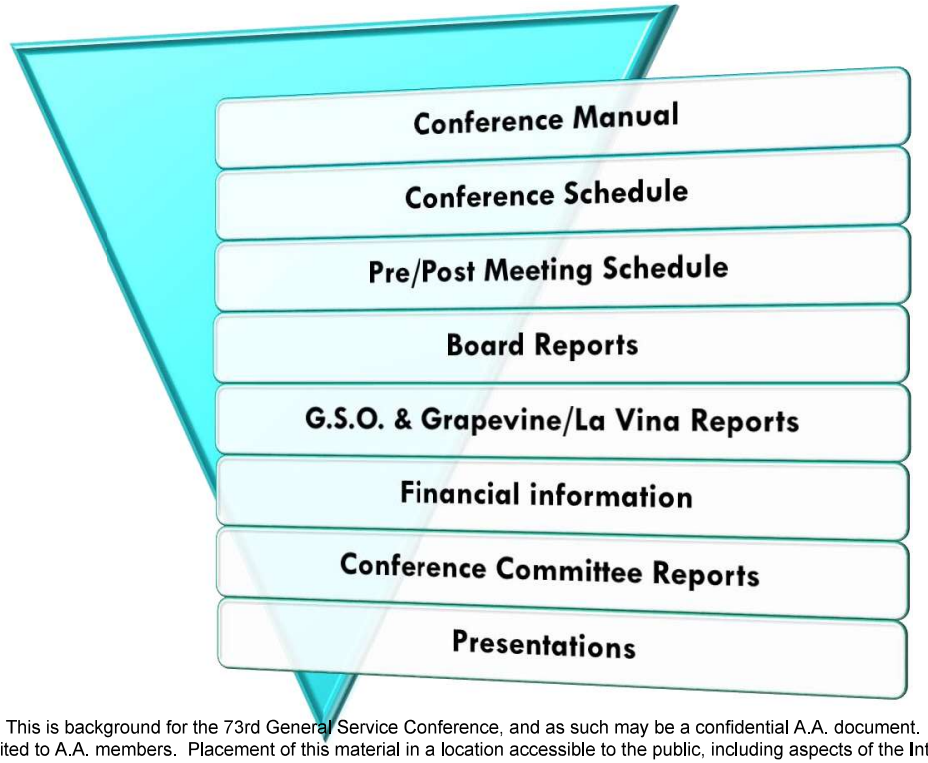
CONFERENCE WEEK DOCUMENTS

These folders contain information that Conference Members will use during the General Service Conference week, allowing you the privilege to participate in the collective conscience of A.A. as it emerges…lighting a path forward.



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GSC FINAL ACTIONS

These folders contain the Final Actions of the General Service Conference.

- **Advisory Actions**
- **Committee Considerations**
- **Evaluations Summary**
- **Final Report (Anonymity-Protected**
- **Items NOT Resulting in Advisory Actions**

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DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION TIPS – PRE-CONFERENCE

Guidelines for Conference Members regarding the documents posted under the following 5 Conference dashboard folders:

1. Conference Member Reference Documents
2. Pre-Conference Documents
3. GSC Agenda Item Information
4. Committee Agenda and Background
5. GSC Final Actions

TIPS

- Individual user names and passwords are not meant to be shared.
- These Conference dashboard materials are posted for your use as a Conference member or for distribution to the members you serve.
- Background materials and Conference documents are anonymity protected and confidential A.A. documents meant for internal discussion in the Fellowship, and not the general public.
- Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material.
- In accordance with the Conference Charter, we leave to the discretion of each area delegate the extent to which copies of these materials are further distributed to interested members in the area.

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DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION TIPS – DURING CONFERENCE WEEK

Guidelines for Conference Members During Conference Week:

At the beginning of each Conference, members are asked to agree to some guidelines for Conference Week.

1. That personal devices such as smart phones, tablets, laptops, etc. will not be used during Conference sessions for communication about Conference business.
2. The limitation applies to communication with Conference members or others inside or outside the Conference sessions and committee rooms.

TIPS

- Please do not share documents posted during Conference week meant for communication about Conference business.
- Items posted could be draft literature for Conference member discussion.
- Conference Committee reports might be posted so Conference members can access them electronically for deliberation - not for sharing.
- Best tip is to wait for Conference week to conclude and then share what you used to participate as a Conference member.

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SYSTEM USAGE TIPS

User's Guide: General Service Conference Dashboard

TIPS

- For any technological issues refer to the User's Guide for support posted on the dashboard or email DashboardSupport@aa.org.
- For technical assistance weekdays during regular office hours (9:00 AM – 4:30 PM Eastern Time) call : 212-870-3288
- Mobile device platforms such as tablets and smartphones are workable depending upon the browser and capabilities of the specific device and installed software, G.S.O. recommends the use of a Microsoft Windows or Apple Mac OS based computer.
- For questions about Conference content on the Dashboard please email: conference@aa.org or call: 212-870-3122.

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