

## Area 53 Panel 71 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Delegate Report June 6, 2021

Since the first quarter of 2021 I have attended all the Mini Conferences in Ohio, this really helped me to prepare for the 71<sup>st</sup> Delegates Conference.

The conference started on Saturday April 17<sup>th</sup> and went to 2:30 am on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The first few days were filled with board reports, sharing sessions, presentations from the Remote Communities and Archives.

Every day we started with an AA meeting, it was called the Serenity Meeting, for good reason. The third day we went into our respective committee to start the work of the committee. The days were long but so informative and intriguing they went fast, with lots of breaks to get up and move around. Sometimes it was hard to sit at my desk by myself with no other individuals to feel their presence and the presence of the conference. We all had to make do and do what we were sent to the conference to do; the business of Alcoholics Anonymous.

On Wednesday of the conference of region elected our new East Central Regional Trustee, Cathi C., we will be hearing from her at our State Convention. That evening we had a wonderful sharing session. I really liked those; we could bring anything up to the trustees for discussion.

Thursday, we started into voting on the committees. I will go in order of the committees as they were presented. I will not go over items that were not voted on in this report.

**Corrections:** The committee recommended that the language Inmate and Offender will be taken out of our literature and replaced with "Person in Custody"-Passed

**Treatment & Accessibilities:** The committee recommended the audio versions of the Armed Forces recordings-Passed

**Public Information:** The committee recommended to keep with the policy of actor portrayals of AA members using full faces in the new PSA's the "Wall" and "Party" and the voice over scratch tracks be replaced-Passed.

- The committee recommended a feasibility study of a PSA videos on streaming platforms including Netflix, Hulu and YouTube be conducted and brought back to the 2022 Conference-Pass.
- The committee recommended that a podcast be produced on information about AA be brought to the public and be reported at the 2022 conference-Passed.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community:** The committee recommended a develop a pamphlet to the Mental Health Professional be brought back to the 2022 conference-Passed.

- The committee recommended that the pamphlet ""Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics ask about Alcoholics Anonymous" be changed to "Faith Leaders Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous."

**Finance:** The committee recommended the addition of a watermark to the 2nd and 3rd pie charts with the word “SAMPLE” on page 13 of the pamphlet, “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix-Passed

**Trustees:** Review the Statement of Concern and motion to censure the General Service Board. The committee recommended that the General Service Conference charge the General Service Board with the setup of quarterly virtual meetings of Conference Members, to begin following the October 2021 General Service Board Weekend. These meetings would follow several weeks after each Quarterly Board Meeting, to allow Conference Members the opportunity to request additional information, ask clarifying questions, and to secure a greater sense of transparency. The committee agreed that the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most important treasure we have as a Fellowship. The committee also agreed that A.A.’s service structure is equally valuable-Passed

\*The committee noted that several major decisions previously made by the General Service Board and corporate affiliate, A.A.W.S. Inc., were not fully or promptly reported out to the Fellowship. The committee recognized that the lack of providing clear, comprehensible answers in a timely manner has caused many in the Fellowship to have strong feelings on all sides of this issue.

**Report & Charter:** The committee recommended the printed AA Directories be discontinued (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.)-Passed

- The committee recommended that the revised manuscript distributed to all Conference members in April 2021 with the inclusion of the Original Conference Charter be approved as the 2021-2023 Edition of The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service-Passed
- **NOTE:** The A.A.W.S. Publishing department will do a final proofing prior to publication to correct any inaccuracies.
- **The committee recommended that paragraph one, the Purpose statement of the Current Conference Charter, found in the Appendices of The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, which currently reads:** Purpose: The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of world services and of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Conference shall be a service body only; never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous. **Be changed to:** Purpose: The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of world services and of the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Conference shall be a service body only; never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous-Passed
- The committee recommended that a new section be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled “Amendments,” and that it contain an updated version of the Concept XI essay that incorporates the information in the current footnotes and endnotes, along with comprehensive descriptions of the current General Service Board

committees, and that a draft or progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

**Grapevine & LaVina:** The committee recommended that the AA Grapevine Board implement an Instagram account and requested that a report on the Instagram account be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Grapevine and The committee recommended that the AA Grapevine Board implement an Instagram account and requested that a report on the Instagram account be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña-Passed

**Literature:** The committee recommended that a Fifth Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action that: “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion,’ ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,’ and the Appendices remain as is,” and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature-Passed

- The committee recommended that, pending its development, the draft Fifth Edition of the Big Book would include a new foreword, an updated preface, and updates to expand on existing ideas in Appendices III and V-Passed
- The committee recommended a revision to page 117 in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, replacing the phrase “opposite sex” with the word “partner”-Passed
- The committee recommended that the sentence which includes the phrase “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six” of the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, be revised to refer to the Seven Deadly Sins without specific mention of examples that are severe in nature as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context as to the basis for the change...The change to read: “No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust, or gluttony”-Passed
- The committee recommended that the pamphlet, “The A.A. Group... Where it All Begins,” be revised to omit the line on page 13, “Non-alcoholics may attend open meetings as observers,” be changed to “Open meetings are available to anyone interested in Alcoholics Anonymous’ program of recovery from alcoholism”-Passed
- The committee recommended that the Long Form of each Tradition be included at the end of each essay for that Tradition in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, and that the complete set of Traditions at the back of the book be retained as is-Passed
- The committee recommended that a Fourth Edition of the book, Alcohólicos Anónimos, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership, and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference-Passed
- The committee recommended that the paragraph containing the suggestion that sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex on page 12 in the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” be revised as follows: A.A. custom does suggest one limitation: sponsorship should be avoided whenever a romantic entanglement might arise between sponsor and sponsee. We A.A. members, no matter how long we have

been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from “our primary purpose.”

- The committee recommended that a draft version of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition), be translated into plain and simple language and be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible and that a progress report or draft be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature-Passed

**Agenda:** The committee recommended the following theme for the 2022 General Service Conference: “A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service.”-Passed

- The committee recommended the following presentation/discussion topics for the 2022 General Service Conference: 1. How do A.A.s go to any lengths to Recover, Unify, and Serve? 2. Going Beyond Fear 3. How to Reach Anyone, Anywhere-Passed
- The committee recommended the following workshop topic for the 2022 General Service Conference: The Warranties – Our Promise to the Fellowship and the World-Passed

**Policy & Admissions:** The committee recommended that the procedure for floor actions which is currently as follows: The chair shall ask if there is a motion that the Conference **decline** to consider the floor action. Be changed to -the chair shall ask if there is a motion that the Conference **consider** the floor action-Passed

- The committee recommended that the trustees’ General Service Conference Committee make use of virtual meeting technologies to develop a process for polling the General Service Conference between annual meetings, in order to enable real-time discussion and debate, broad participation, and greater efficiency than the current process-Passed
- The committee recommended that the Equitable Distribution of Workload Process, as detailed in the Report from the 2020 trustees’ General Service Conference Committee, be implemented for the 72nd General Service Conference on a three-year trial basis, with a progress report to be brought to the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions after each year of the trial-Passed
- The committee recommended that the U.S./Canada General Service Structure recognize online groups and encourage their participation, listing those groups who ask to be listed within the group’s preferred district and area, with the default option being the location of the group’s primary contact. This supersedes the 1997 Advisory Action that designated online groups as “International Correspondence Meetings.” Passed
- The committee recommended that the General Service Board form a committee to explore future possibilities for the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada General Service structure-Passed

Please contact me if you would like a delegates report at your home group district or committee I am available to give a more detailed report anytime.

You can email me at [delegate@area53aa.org](mailto:delegate@area53aa.org) or call 614-446-4433.

In Love & Service-Donna Keen Area 53 Panel 71 Delegate.

