

**VIII.**

**REPORT  
AND  
CHARTER**

**AGENDA**

**Conference Committee on Report and Charter**

\*Sunday, April 23, 2023, 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Sunday, April 23, 2023, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Monday, April 24, 2023, 9 a.m. – noon

Room: TBD

Chairperson: Denise M.

Secretary: Karina C.

**Conference Committee Members**

Panel 72

Denise M.\*

Jack M.\*\*

Tami L.

Panel 73

Mary E-K.

Ryan F.

Pablo H.

Meg H.

Mike M.

\*chairperson

\*\*alternate chairperson

- ◆ Introductions – Karina C., secretary.
- ◆ Review Conference Committee Composition, Scope and Procedure – Denise M., Conference Committee chairperson.
  1. EDW Summary Results
  2. 2021 Conference Literature Committee Composition, Scope and Procedure
- ◆ Review History of Conference Committee – Karina C., secretary.

- ◆ Report of A.A.W.S. Publishing department – Ames S., executive editor.
- A. *The A.A. Service Manual, 2023-2025 Edition:*
  1. Review list of editorial updates
  2. Consider the request to rescind the 2018 Advisory Action concerning a footnote in the resolution concerning “register” and “Groups.”
  3. Consider the request for specific changes to the 2021-2023 version of *The A.A. Service Manual*
  4. Review progress report from A.A.W.S. Publishing on a new section to be added at the end of the *Twelve Concepts for World Service* titled “Amendments.”
  5. Review feasibility report of a ASL translation of *The A.A. Service Manual Combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service*.
- B. Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*.
- C. Consider posting an anonymity-protected Conference *Final Report* on aa.org.

## 2023 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

### ITEM A: *The A.A. Service Manual, 2023-2025 Edition*

1. Review list of editorial updates.
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#### **Background note:**

##### *From 2009 Conference Advisory Action:*

The General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board annually review *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

##### *From 2018 Conference Advisory Action:*

The General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board, and the A.A. Grapevine Board review *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter biennially, only in printing years.

##### *From 2022 Conference Advisory Action: 2022 final conference report - report and charter*

That chapters 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of *The A.A. Service Manual* be revised to correct inaccuracies and to provide clarity and consistency on the roles, responsibilities, and relationships between G.S.O., A.A. Grapevine, and A.A.W.S. Inc.

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#### **Background document attached:**

1. List of editorial updates (Committee eyes only)

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## 2023 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

### ITEM A : *The A.A. Service Manual, 2023-2025 Edition*

2. Consider the request to rescind the 2018 Advisory Action concerning a footnote in the resolution concerning “register” and “Groups.”

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#### Background note:

##### *From 2017 Committee Consideration:*

In keeping with the 2009 Advisory Action that the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board annually review The A.A. Service Manual and forward necessary updates to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter, the committee reviewed the updates from the General Service Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board and suggested some revisions. *Note: The committee suggested that the General Service Board reconsider a change that had been forwarded by the General Service Board.*

##### *From 2018 Advisory Action:*

In the section, "AND IT IS UNDERSTOOD," a footnote be added to the portion of the Resolution attached as part of the Original Conference Charter and the Current Conference Charter with the following text: *“Bill uses the term “registered.” 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.”*

Secretary’s Note: *The request for this revision was originally made by the General Service Board for the 2017 General Service Conference.*

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#### Background document attached:

1. Proposed Agenda Item #54

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1. Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

***Rescind the following Advisory Action of 2018*** – Found in the 2018 Final Report: *Pages 47-48*:

In the section “AND IT IS UNDERSTOOD” of The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service, a footnote be added to the portion of the Resolution attached as part of the Original Conference Charter and the Current Conference Charter with the following text: Bill uses the term “registered.” 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.

2. What problem does this address?

- Distinguishes the groups registered with the General Service Office and unregistered groups or meetings for purposes of adhering to the language in the 1955 Resolution which provides:

**1955 Resolution - Service Manual – Appendix L - Page 123 (2021-2023 Edition)**

AND IT IS UNDERSTOOD: That neither the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous nor the warranties of Article XII of the Conference Charter shall ever be changed or amended by the General Service Conference except by first asking the consent of the registered A.A. groups of the world. [This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world.]<sup>3</sup> These groups shall be suitably notified of any proposal for change and shall be allowed no less than six months for consideration thereof. And before any such Conference action can be taken, there must first be received in writing within the time allotted the consent of at least three-quarters of all those registered groups who respond to such proposal.

- Concern that the interpretation of “listed,” may allow for groups not registered (that do not have a group number with the General Service Office) to provide consent ***if and when the time comes*** that the consent of the registered known groups of the world was needed.
- The Meeting Guide App does not distinguish between A.A. Groups and A.A. Meetings. Not distinguishing between the two causes great concern, ***if and when the time comes*** that the consent of the registered known groups of the world was needed. Especially with the push to include the Meeting Guide App in the various kits and pieces of literature. There is a danger that the Meeting Guide App would circumvent the groups registered with the General Service Office.
- Our translation history being always in another language, and then using examples of the cartoon pamphlets and the “Illustrated” pamphlets showing that when we want simple writing, we simply author the item at a different reading level, and hence, it is an abuse and misapplication of the term “translation” for the plain language book.
- The misapplication of the term “translation” ***may intentionally or unintentionally allow for the wording of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and/or the six warranties of***

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# CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

## Area 76 Wyoming Proposed Agenda Item for 73<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference

**Article XII to be edited without “first asking the consent of the registered A.A. groups of the world. [This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world.] - 1955 Resolution - Service Manual – Appendix L - Page 123 (2021-2023 Edition).**

- Inconsistency with current footnotes for listing groups and the 2022 Background Information for Public Information regarding membership surveys note registered versus unregistered groups and unregistered meetings not “listed.” Mixed messages are being sent to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.
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.)
- Area 76 - Panel 68 Registrar, who is now currently serving as Panel 72 Delegate, spoke with sponsor and other members of Area 76 during the last couple of years. Member posed question about “registered vs. listed” at the 2021 West Central Regional Virtual Forum to General Service Office General Manager. Response was declined by the Chairman of the Board. Area 76 – Panel 72 Delegate initiated question again at the 2022 West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference to the General Manager. Response was “Now more than ever we need to have this discussion, I hope there will be an agenda item in the near future. The General Service Office has received calls from all over the world since the 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference regarding Advisory Actions with the A.A. Grapevine Preamble and other literature.” A floor action was presented at the Winter Business Assembly, March 26, 2022. Area 76 has the support of 28 General Service Representatives, 6 District Committee Members, 8 Area Committee Chairs, and 5 Area Officers (47-0) supported the motion.**
4. Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal.

### **1955 Resolution - Service Manual – Appendix L - Page 123 (2021-2023 Edition)**

AND IT IS UNDERSTOOD: That neither the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous nor the warranties of Article XII of the Conference Charter shall ever be changed or amended by the General Service Conference except by first asking the consent of the **registered A.A. groups of the world.** [This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world.]<sup>3</sup> These groups shall be suitably notified of any proposal for change and shall be allowed no less than six months for consideration thereof. And before any such Conference action can be taken, there must first be received in writing within the time allotted the consent of at least three-quarters of all those **registered groups** who respond to such proposal.<sup>4</sup>

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# CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

## Area 76 Wyoming

### Proposed Agenda Item for 73<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference

3 Resolution: It was resolved by the 1976 General Service Conference that those instruments requiring consent of three-quarters of the responding groups for change or amendment would include the Twelve Steps of A.A., should any such change or amendment ever be proposed.

4 Bill uses the term “**registered.**” 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.

#### **THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS TAKEN FROM THE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 1951-2021**

**1953: Any group** with a regular secretary, **registered with Headquarters**, shall be entitled to one vote in a state assembly meeting.

**1954: Any group** with a regular secretary, **registered with Headquarters**, shall be entitled to one vote in a state assembly meeting.

**1966:** The present policy of listings in the World Directory be reaffirmed: (Floor Action) “Traditionally, any two or more alcoholics meeting together for purposes of sobriety may consider themselves an A.A. Group, provided that, as a Group, they are self-supporting and have no outside affiliation. **Groups listed in the Directory are registered at their own request.** A Directory listing does not constitute or imply approval or endorsement of any Group’s approach to, or practice of, the traditional A.A. program.”

**1976:** It was resolved that those instruments requiring consent of three-quarters of the responding groups for change or amendment would include the Twelve Steps of A.A., should any such change or amendment ever be proposed. In case a change is needed in the Twelve Traditions, Twelve Steps, or Warranties of Article 12 wherever the words “**registered A.A. groups of the world,**” “**registered groups,**” or “**directory listed groups**” appear in The A.A. Service Manual and Twelve Concepts for World Service, a bracketed sentence be inserted to state: “This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world.”

**2018:** In the section “AND IT IS UNDERSTOOD” of The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service, a footnote be added to the portion of the Resolution attached as part of the Original Conference Charter and the Current Conference Charter with the following text: Bill uses the term “registered.” 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.

**2021:** The compilation and printing of the **A.A. Directories** (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.) **be discontinued.** (*Emphasis added*)

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# CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

Area 76 Wyoming

Proposed Agenda Item for 73<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference

The following is information taken from the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference background information to show “registered versus unregistered” is being discussed for the Membership Survey. “Listed groups” is not in this background information.

## 2022 BACKGROUND INFORMATION - PUBLIC INFORMATION: ITEM L - WORKGROUP ON MEMBERSHIP SURVEY: 2020 – DOCUMENT 1

- So, rather than applying the target percentage (1.3% of groups) to all active, **registered groups** in the US and Canada, the target is applied within each area, so that 1.3% of the groups in each area are selected. Pg. 3
  - RECOMMENDATIONS: We recommend a series of stepped improvements and projects be implemented to allow for a reasoned approach to the Membership Survey and its data collection. These recommendations assume resumption of in-person meetings by fall 2021. Should this not occur, we would recommend that the Trustees PI committee be given the latitude to postpone data collection. 1) Year 1, 2021, conduct the survey using our current, sound methodology, with the proposed improvements and procedural changes noted below. The target sample size will equal 1.3% of **registered groups** in each area (see procedures below). Note is made, and affirmed, that methods review confirms that the current stratified random sampling technique and sample size is sufficient to yields a representative sample of membership within our **registered groups**.
  - Year 2, in 2022: a) Design a pilot study of collecting two convenience samples: 1) AA website, 2) AA Meeting Guide App, using the same questions as 2021. Examine differences in data patterns across the three collection methodologies. Add basic questions such as member city/state and whether or not their home group is listed with GSO to assist in understanding the membership responding in these formats (\*note: we may learn a bit about **registered groups** versus meetings with this methodology). Ideally, collection of this pilot data would follow collection of the traditional membership survey data within 1-2 years so that no portion becomes dated.
  - And finally, outside the scope of the membership survey: A number of related matters arise when discussing the survey, such as the matter of inactive groups, or the many AA members who attend **unregistered AA meetings**. These members are a part of the fellowship and these meetings are served by the products and services of GSO. At some point, it may be valuable to better understand the scope of both inactive groups and **unregistered groups**. We recommend these be brought to the attention of the AAWS board for consideration, when appropriate. a) Consider collecting simple data on the number of **registered groups versus unregistered meetings**. This might easily be executed through DCMs, who are familiar with groups and meetings in their ‘jurisdiction’
5. What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?
- Clearly distinguish the difference between registered groups and unregistered groups or meetings.
  - Protect the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and Six Warranties of Article XII from inadvertently being changed even in the event of a Plain Language translation.

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# CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

Area 76 Wyoming

Proposed Agenda Item for 73<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference

- Ensure there are **no questions** as to who is to be contacted regarding the registered known groups of the world.
6. Provide a primary contact for the submission.  
***Mary M.***
  7. Final comments:

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**2023 Conference Committee on Report and Charter**

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

3. Consider the request for specific changes to the 2021-2023 version of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

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**Background notes:**

This proposed agenda item was submitted by several groups and members with the intended outcome to clarify where more information can be found in the appendices.

*“These changes would reflect omitted wording from previous service manuals and note page numbers and appendices to clearly state that there is more information available on what is being stated on that particular page.”*

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**Attachments:**

1. Proposed Agenda Item #90.

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

Please consider making these changes to the current Service Manual 2021-2023.

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

These changes would reflect omitted wording from previous service manuals, and note page numbers and appendices to clearly state that there is more information available on what is being stated on that particular page.

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**(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.*

I, Kathy M , member of the Lakeside Group in Rockwall, TX, am submitting this proposed agenda item.

This item has been discussed and supported by the following:

**A.A. Groups:**

- A Vision for You Group in Hurst, TX
- Miracle Group in McKinney, TX
- The Lakeside Group in Rockwall, TX

**A.A. Members:**

Wayne H.

Home Group: Shivering Denizens Frisco, TX

- Gary M

Home Group: Lakeside Group Rockwall, TX

- Dave H.

Home Group: McKinney Miracle Group McKinney, TX

- Jill H.

Home Group: McKinney Miracle Group McKinney, TX

## CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

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

1- **On page 2** paragraph 7 reads:

"This structure would bring to bear the collective conscience of the groups on matters affecting "A.A. as a whole". At the heart of this structure would be the A.A. groups themselves, providing both the conscience and financial support for AA services throughout the Fellowship. It would be a structure to take the place of government in A.A., ensuring that the full voice of A.A. would be heard."

To reflect wording in past manuals, change to:

"This structure brings to bear the collective conscience of the groups on matters affecting "A.A. as a whole". At the heart of this structure is the A.A. groups themselves. The groups provide both the collective conscience of A.A. and financial support for AA services throughout the Fellowship. It is a structure that takes the place of government in A.A., ensuring that the full voice of A.A. will be heard and guarantees that the desired services will continue to function under all conditions."

2- **On page 3**, Please add a sentence at the bottom of the page that says:

"Note: There is a Glossary of General Service Terms on page 85."

3- **On page 4**, where it says: How this works is illustrated below.

Add: (See appendix C, page 1, for an illustration.)

4- **On page 4**, under The Area,

Change from: (See Map A for a map of the 93 areas in the U.S. and Canada)

Change to: (See Map A, page 88, for a map of the 93 areas in the U.S. and Canada)

5- **On page 7**, after the first paragraph, add back in the rest of page S25 from the Service Manual 2018-2020. This is a very good description of the A.A. Group.

6- **On page 7**, add back in one of the qualifications of a GSR is to "have the confidence of the group".

7- **On page 16**,

a) Put in another heading in to read:

### **REDISTRICTING**

If a district is growing and is having trouble servicing all the groups in the district effectively, a district may need to be divided. (See appendix F)

b) Then remove FAQ #5 on page 17.

8- **On page 27**, In the box, 'Some Tips for Chairing an Assembly Meeting', after the last bullet point;

Add: (See Appendix G - Third Legacy Procedure.)

9- **On page 32**, under The Delegate heading, the use of the phrase "prepare for the future" in the second sentence is vague and open to interpretation. Change this to say "look toward the future and what might be best for A.A. as a whole".

10- **On page 40**, under 'Voting Ratio and Unanimity' and **on page 49**, under 'General Service Board'; after the Conference Charter Quote,

Add: (See Appendix K for the Original Conference Charter and the Current Conference Charter.)

11- **On page 44**, under conference committees, after paragraph 2:

Add: (See Appendix C, page 2, for an illustration.)

12- **On page 53**, under Regional Trustee at Number;

Change from: (See Map B for Regional Map of General Service Conference)

Change to: (See Map B, page 89, for Regional Map of General Service Conference)

13- **On page 69**, Add a sentence under the STAFFING heading to say:

"See Chapter 11 for a list of the services the General Service Office provides."

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

The outcome is to clarify where more information can be found in the appendices.

**(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.**

Kathy M

**(7) Final comments:**

I like the format of the new Service Manual 2021-2023. I think the layout is really well done with all the appendices. To me, this format allows for a better understanding of each chapter. Each subject can be looked at and studied one appendix at a time. In previous service manuals, when reading just a few pages, it can create information overload. This manual still has all of the information about our A.A. Service Structure, but is much easier to understand with guidance from a (service) sponsor.

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**2023 Conference Committee on Report and Charter**

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

4. Review progress report from A.A.W.S. Publishing on a new section to be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled "Amendments."
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**Background notes:**

*From 2021 Conference Advisory Action:*

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.

*From 2022 Conference Advisory Action:*

The committee reviewed the progress report from A.A.W.S. Publishing on a new section to be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled "Amendments." Bill W. references an Amendments section in the introduction to the Twelve Concepts for World Service and the committee wanted to reaffirm the 2021 advisory action 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." The committee requested that the staff secretary work with A.A.W.S. Publishing on a draft update of the section to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

A progress report was submitted in 2022 by the Publishing Department to the Report and Charter Conference Committee; of a total of four options, the fourth was selected and is included here:

VERSION 4: This approach represents the new "Amendments" section requested by the Advisory Action and incorporates new text from the A.A. Service Manual to update the GSB committee descriptions and folds the information originally contained in the ten footnotes and one asterisked comment into the original Concept



## CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

XI text, creating a new "updated" version. For contextual continuity, however, this version also deletes some of the original text that is deemed out of step with the incorporation of the existing footnotes into the actual text. (Paradoxically, the removal or incorporation of the footnotes leading to the deletion of some sections of the original text may require footnoting itself to maintain the integrity of the original.)

### **Current progress:**

The above-mentioned changes will be reflected in the revised draft that will be made available to the Conference Committee prior to Conference week.

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**2023 Conference Committee on Report and Charter**

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

5.     Review feasibility report of a ASL translation of *The A.A. Service Manual/ The Twelve Concepts for World Service*.

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**Background notes:**

*2022 Report and Charter Conference Committee Consideration:*

The committee discussed a possible edition of *The A.A. Service Manual* in American Sign Language (ASL). While aware of the long list of projects and current workload at GSO, the committee requested that the AAWS Board research the need for and feasibility of a translation of *The A.A. Service Manual/ The Twelve Concepts for World Service* into ASL and that a report be brought to the 2023 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. In addition, the committee encouraged local areas, districts, and Intergroups/Central Offices to make ASL interpretation and service opportunities more accessible to the Deaf community.

In researching the need for and feasibility of a translation of *The A.A. Service Manual/ The Twelve Concepts for World Service* into ASL, the office explored three aspects that warrant further consideration. The three, which are described below are: steps to production, estimating costs, and additional factors to consider.

I.     Steps to Production

The steps to production are based on the current process for implementing an ASL translation of literature, which has recently been utilized for the translation of the Big Book and the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

- A) Expressed need: As a recent example of a similar requested project, we had received a substantial number of ongoing requests from the Fellowship regarding the need to update and revise the previously produced BB and 12 x 12 ASL videos. At that time these materials were about ten years old, and the request was to better reflect A.A. current ASL vocabulary and usage and to be easily understood and “read.” We acted on the group conscience and largely expressed need.
- B) Base text: To firm up the base text for the exact scope of the project, options to consider are whether the translation would be for *The Service Manual*, the 12 Concepts or both combined.

## CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

- C) Budget: The process to establish a budget would first involve the selection of the production house and would be based on a request for three bids, the identification of the size of the team that will be needed for the translation, coaching and talent (signers). The budget would then be presented to the AAWS board for approval.
- D) Participation of AA Deaf and hearing communities: A communication would then be prepared to AA communities informing them of the project launch and inviting the participation of sample AA Deaf communities in selection of talent from audition samples.
- E) Production: Costs associated with setting up and arranging for: travel, studio space, audio to accompany ASL production (bids, talent selection, recording), rehearsals and prep, and the timeline for weeks of production.
- F) Postproduction: Rough samples would then be shared with participating AA Deaf communities, with space for several rounds of revisions and other postproduction activities.
- G) Posting and distribution: The translation's description would be posted on aa.org and sent out for the production of a DVD format.
- H) Communication to AA Deaf and hearing Communities: Placement of but not limited to, DVDs on AAWS webstore for purchase. A Profit and Loss (PNL) can be provided to determine costs and the number of units sent to the warehouse.
- I) Other versions: The process would then need to be repeated, if requested, for QSL/ LSQ and Spanish sign language.

### II. Estimate of Costs:

Referring to the previous timeline, three items can be further reviewed in context of a specific request to move forward with such a project. The three that will be elaborated on are: a. base text, b. budget and e, g and h under the umbrella of participation of the AA community.

For the base text, an audio format is not presently available for the *Service Manual* and would need to be produced. Additionally, an initial production of these translations typically takes about two years, which is important to note since the Conference has called for a new edition to be printed every two years. Revisions to ASL video materials are difficult and costly to undertake and implement, this factor should be considered in the decision-making.

In terms of a proposed budget, after carefully reviewing the actuals for our book, *Alcoholics Anonymous* and the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* with the Finance department, the ballpark costs for an ASL production of the *Service Manual and Twelve Concepts* is being projected as \$75,000 - \$90,000.

## CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

These costs do not include talent payment rates for an estimated four sign language interpreters, airfare, or chapter revisions of the service manual. If we receive approval to move forward, the production company can provide an estimate for both talent cost and travel expenses. We would also have to estimate individual travel for guests or employees.

The participation of the Fellowship is an aspect that has been important to the development of ASL formats from inception. We have in the past responded to large “expressed need” to proceed with new or revised formats, not limited to ASL productions. Requests are weighed against the present financial outlook. ASL translations that are in the “consideration” stage are: *Living Sober*, *Daily Reflections*, *Came to Believe*, as well as some of our most-distributed pamphlets – “Is A.A. for You?”, “The A.A. Group”, “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship,” “Women in A.A.” “Many Paths to Spirituality,” and “The ‘God’ Word”.

### III. Additional factors to consider:

We need an assessment of sign language communication and formats as a larger topic with feedback from the Accessibilities desk and Communication Services Department.

We need to invite the Fellowship of ASL, QSL and Spanish sign language users themselves into the decision-making on what is selected as the next large-scale sign language video production undertaking, with Accessibilities committees’ active involvement.

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**2023 Conference Committee on Report and Charter**

**ITEM B:** Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*

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Background:

1. 2022 General Service Conference *Final Report*

**Note: The electronic anonymity-protected version was emailed to the committee and is also available on the conference dashboard.**

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## CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

### 2023 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

**ITEM C:** Consider posting an anonymity-protected Conference *Final Report* on aa.org.

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#### Background notes:

*Excerpt from the January 2023, trustees' General Service Conference Committee meeting:*

The TCGSC committee discussed the request to post the anonymity-protected *Final Conference Report* on aa.org. The committee noted that local AA service areas and entities currently post it on their websites. The committee **agreed to forward** this request to the 2023 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

*Note in Digital version of the 2022 Final Conference Report:*

“This edition of the 2022 General Service Conference Final Report has been formatted to protect the anonymity of A.A. members (who are represented by first name and last initial only) in order to make the report more widely accessible to the Fellowship. Our many nonalcoholic friends, trustees and employees are noted by their full names.”

*Note in Print version 2021 Final Conference Report:*

“Since the report is a confidential A.A. document, for members only, it contains members full names. This usage -to facilitate communication within the Fellowship- was approved by the 1975 Conference. Such confidential use respects our tradition of anonymity in public communications and with media (press, radio, tv, etc.)”

*Excerpt from the February 1, 2020, trustees' General Service Conference Committee meeting:*

The committee considered a proposed agenda item to “Discuss distribution of the electronic anonymity-protected version of the Conference *Final Report* by posting to the A.A. website” and took no action. The committee felt there are sufficient avenues for distribution of the Conference *Final Report* by the Conference delegates. The committee agreed this is not a public-facing document for carrying the A.A. message to the general public.

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## CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

### Secretary Notes:

To further research the current presence of the Conference *Final Report* on Area websites, a query was made using “2022 final conference report alcoholics anonymous”.

Here is the hyperlink (<https://tinyurl.com/3vk9hurn>) to the complete search results. The background document contains the list of the first eight results for the query. The full results include websites from Areas 87, 53, aa-montana, 61, 11, 86, 83, 20, 32, 16, 26, 05 and 52.

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### Background:

1. Memo from A.A.W.S. chair
2. Search engine results of Conference Final Report

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Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

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Please direct all  
communications to:

P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
Fax: (212) 870-3003

## Memorandum

TO: Jimmy D., Trustees General Service Conference Committee, chair

FROM: Deborah K., A.A.W.S. Board, chair

DATE: November 14, 2022

RE: Final Conference Report

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During the October 28, 2022, A.A.W.S. board meeting the following motion was passed:

“To ask the Trustees General Service Conference Committee to engage in a discussion regarding the public posting of an anonymity-protected version of the Final Conference Report on aa.org.”

Thank you for receiving this request. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

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Hyperlink: <https://tinyurl.com/3vk9hurn><https://area53aa.org> › gso › 2022-final-report-from-gen...

### 2022 Final Report from General Service Conference ... - Area 53

Sep 2, 2022 — The anonymity-protected, digital version of the 2022 General Service Conference Final Report is available for **online** viewing or downloading.

<https://www.aa87.org> › general-service-conference-of-a...

### General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous – Final ...

General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous – Final Report. **Publication date:** **September 3, 2022**; **Categorie(s):** Delegate.

<https://www.aa.org> › 24th-alcoholics-anonymous-world...

### 24th Alcoholics Anonymous World Service Meeting

F-150 24th Alcoholics Anonymous World Service Meeting - Final Report. A detailed report of the biennial World Service Meeting includes presentations, country ...

<https://aainri.com> › News & Event Information

### Final Report 72nd Annual General Service Conference Now ...

Sep 6, 2022 — **Final Report 72nd Annual General Service Conference Now Available!** - **Alcoholics Anonymous** in Rhode Island.

<https://www.aa-montana.org> › pdf › area › 2022\_FL...

### “A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service”

30000 copies — The **72nd Annual Meeting** of the General Service Conference of. ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. 2022 FINAL REPORT. ANONYMITY-PROTECTED DIGITAL...  
168 pages

<https://ct-aa.org> › wp-content › uploads › 2022/06

### 72nd General Service Conference - CT-AA.org

72nd General Service Conference. **April 24th through. April 30th. 2022.** Brooklyn ... Full report will be in the Final Conference Report (to be digitally).  
134 pages

<http://www.aanapa.org> › wp-content › uploads

### Results of the 72nd General Service Conference

Discuss General Service **Conference Final Report**. ... to perform a sound membership survey, a **2022 A.A. Membership Survey** be conducted.  
34 pages

<https://area86aa.org> › ...

### Final Conference Report 2022 - Area 86 – Western Ontario

2022 Final Conference Report: AA In A Time Of Change English Edition French Edition Spanish Edition.

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