

Area 31 Fall Assembly Mini Conference

10/24

Start 1 pm

Mtg started at 1:03 pm

Fall mini conference

Moments of silence followed by serenity prayer

Area assembly read out of the General Service Manual.

Why do we need a Conference?

GSC in the spring was unable to get all agenda items to be discussed. Many will be discussed during this mini conference. This items should be covered at next years conference. Next assembly if still mtg with zoom, will have break out rooms.

Grapevine 1 Item #C

Literature J, K, M, O, T

The area will discuss these items and share with the delegate and Alt Delegate to provide to GSC in the spring.

Delegate Thanked everyone for being here and gravely appreciate the feedback, to best represent our Area at the conference. GSO tasked to consider the GSC not be virtual. Not 100% yes to be virtual. Apr 18 - 24, 2021.

DELEGATE EXPLAINED HOW HE TAKES area conscience and get feed back for the conference. Concept 4 read and shared an example on how he utilizes the concept with agenda items and explain how he can utilize his right to decision making.

1st item:

Grapevine Committee:

Item C- review progress report on actions taken from the survey.

Liked topics on reaching younger members: e magazine, website rebuild, grapevine staff attends the young people committee, you tube channel. Positive feedback from the survey. New grapevine website in 2020.

53 Participants

Literature

item J: Favor of changing the policy on updating pamphlets and other AA material? review AAWS policy on publication of (AAWS editorial and editing staff), flow chart regarding what category the material falls under. Significant change on how literature is changed, can be change without conference approval. Trustees Literature committee came up with this agenda item.

When it does go to conference for final approval, no changes can be made at that point.

93% no 7% yes

Item K: Plain language, simple language accessibility translations and large print of AA book and workbook for working the program. Can we simplify all in 1 agenda item.

- Fellowship feels this means replacing a Big Book but what it is an version with a workbook in addition to.
- Open to a 2nd English version of the program. Make it more accessible to everyone. Large print of the big book is a no brained but haven't seen one.
- Grp in CA came up with this item. Asked to come up under accessibility, which would be understandable. Workbook see dividing the fellowship, thought and opinions of individual, divide fellowship and not bring us together. don't like everything under 1 umbrella.
- Too many different things in this agenda item, should be separated out. Recommendations of how they would change the language: 4 examples didn't seem that much different.
- Pg 10 give sample: BB how it reads now, and how it will change: when i came to AA i was educated but was unable to decipher what the BB said let alone understand and that is why you use a sponsor.
- Another member agreed about simple language BB, need to utilize a sponsor.
- Past delegate: edition 4 sub committee member: in favor of anything to make easily accessible, different way to write. Not in favor of a work book.
- Not in favor of a workbook, cant just sit in your room and get well need to work with others.
- Hard to believe reading level of 2020 is lower than the reading level of 1930s. Agreed about open can of worms, if make workbook.
- A lot more minorities today then before.

Consider if proposed agenda items for plain languages simplified language, accessible translations and large print version of BB as well as work books to help study the program of AA can be addressed with a common solution.

Yes: 28%

No: 72%

Item M: 5th edition of BB. Trustees forward 5th edition of the Big Book AA. Updated stories, and appendixes.

- Published and revised happens about every 20 yrs. Last update early to mid 90s. Can't help but be More inclusive.
- Yes published (new edition) 1939, 1955, 1976, 2001.
- Question about what stories will be changed, only stories in the back? Yes.

- The revision would take a few years cause needs to be approved by a few conferences.
- Against 5th edition: huge undertaking, resources away from primary purpose, especially technology. In direct competition with grapevine (where you can get updated stories). Update them 5 -10 yrs from now, so can reflect the time now: how got sober in the time of Covid and stayed sober. Especially cause just took \$\$\$\$ out of GSO reserves.
- Only contact someone can get from AA is the big book, so if one of those stories can get that 1 alcoholic and help them, then they should be able to read a story that is more with the time.
- Revision of appendixes 3 & 5. Medical view and religious views. What these 2 appendixes reflect is our history. Question: would the revisions exclude this information cause this is our history and we should not be revising our history.
- Delegate provided more info on: Medical view on AA: introduce more info on mental illness, medication ( some-of AA need medication). Religious: include prospective from different faiths.
- Start moving forward with this new edition cause it will take many years.
- Process in which the stories are picked, changed from 3rd and 4th edition. We should be informed on how the stories are formed.
- Past delegate: stories choose by time frame, fellowship at large, committee formed for 4th edition: trustees, directors and staff about 9 people subcommittees of about 3. Anonymous, was it a good AA story, contemporary or diverse, reflect current member ship. Right of decision in group (minority opinion, was taken). Excellent AA stories, spiritual awakening. Forward to the conference literature committee, reviewed stories and made a decision.
- Another member agreed with putting \$\$ towards technology. How to reach the new members
- Able to find older edition on line. Only time I read stories on back of the book is at a mtg when someone reads it.
- Cost of producing the 5th edition: no cost: paid for by the sale of the book and the continued sale of the previous edition.
- Initial cost is what the concern is, resources 24 people from GSO retired. Another reason we drew from the prudent reserve for the early retirement. This will take away from other things that need to get done.
- Important how important this is for the newcomer. A lot fi different faiths now, as well as the mental health aspect more prominent.

Are you in favor of developing a 5th edition?

yes: 74%

No: 26%

Item O: Consider updated the Pamphlet for black and African American alcoholic be updated/progress report or draft be provided to 2020 GSC.

- Grp conscience: in favor, never harmful to review any pamphlet and if this revision occurs and helps someone will be beneficial.

Are you in favor of updating the Black/African American Pamphlet?

Yes: 96%

No: 4%

57 participants:

Item T: Questions and Answers on Sponsorship, exclude same sex sponsor? Expand section on service sponsor.

- sponsorship one of the most important tools we use in AA.
- Pamphlet dated 1983. What's the most current one? Provisions sound acceptable. Latest version 2019.
- Update would read, same sex from sponsor. Read the updated suggested version.
- LGBTQ pamphlet have examples of different sex sponsors. Grp not in favor of changing this pamphlet.
- Agree to add more information on service sponsor. Good info to know about.
- Confusion for the newcomer, thinking will need to get a sponsor and service sponsor.
- Transgender: what gender you id as?
- Service sponsorship: recovery sponsorship, many AA members unfamiliar with service sponsorship.
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- Are you in favor of revising the pamphlet "Questions & Answers on Sponsorship?"
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Yes: 40%

No: 60%

Important to separate those items in Item T. Putting more than 1 item on an agenda, is getting put up with a lot of resistance. We are having a business mtg tomorrow. Can be brought up there also.

1 pm for Tomorrow's Fall Assembly.

Close at 3:40 pm with the responsibility pledge.