

ITEM D: Review CPC videos for effectiveness and relevance.

Background notes:

Excerpts from the October 29, 2023 meeting report of the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities:

The committee discussed ways to update the videos focused for professionals and what approaches should be considered concerning the content, cost, and other factors that would influence the development of new CPC videos.

The committee noted the current language of the videos and asked for consideration to be made to assist in focusing the content for pre-professionals as well as professionals. The committee requested staff explore these suggestions and work with Communication Services and Publishing to bring additional background and an updated report to the January 2024 meeting.

Excerpts from the January 28th, 2024 meeting report of the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities:

The committee reviewed the update on a proposal to revise the three CPC videos on aa.org. The committee requested that the term "pre-professionals" be replaced with "para-professionals" to ensure that we are including those who work alongside the professionals in supporting roles, members of the professional staff, offices, etc. along with students, and other future professionals as part of the target audience. The committee noted the estimated production costs appear reasonable.

The committee agreed to forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on CPC the proposal to revise all three CPC videos.

Current videos:

[A.A. Video for Healthcare Professionals](#)

[A.A. Video for Legal and Corrections Professionals](#)

[A.A. Video for Employment/Human Resources Professionals](#)

Update report:

The Publishing Department produced a summary outlining suggested steps and estimated costs to initiate the update to the three videos.

Creative Concept

- To revise all 3 CPC videos using both stock music/footage.
- The recommended duration for these videos is one to two minutes each, with additional versions of fifteen and thirty seconds of each of the three videos.
- Publishing will make copy changes as part of the revision to reflect current usage across all platforms.
- When possible, applicable assets will be repurposed from the current videos.
- French and Spanish versions will feature dubbed audio.

Budget (all costs estimated)

- Video Editing - 6 rounds of Revisions \$3,000
- Stock Music - Adobe Stock Footage \$2,000
- Translation - French and Spanish \$1,100

Total production cost: \$6,100 (estimate)

ITEM E: Consider a request to develop a pamphlet on the unhoused alcoholic in A.A.*
*** 2024 EDW distribution**

Background Notes:

Excerpt from the October 28, 2023, trustees' Literature Committee meeting report: The committee considered a request to develop a pamphlet on A.A. and the Unhoused Person that specifically addresses alcoholism, what A.A. is and is not; and includes personal stories from A.A. members who have experienced homelessness and agreed to forward to the 74th General Service Conference.

Background:

1. Request to develop pamphlet for the unhoused alcoholic in AA **Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.**

Consider developing a pamphlet on AA and the Unhoused Person that specifically addresses alcoholism, what AA is and is not; and includes personal stories from AA members who have experienced homelessness.

What problem does this proposed item address?

1. Addresses a growing population with relatively high rates of alcoholism
2. Fills a gap in existing literature
3. Creates an opportunity for AA to begin gathering data and tailor outreach to a community that has perhaps until now been overlooked
4. Reaches out the hand of AA to an underserved remote community
5. Creates a resource for professionals working with this population
6. Allows an unhoused person to see themselves as a member of AA and to know that they're welcome
7. Creates a tool for sponsorship for those working with unhoused individuals
8. Addresses challenges that an individual may encounter with spiritual precepts of the AA program, such as the Seventh Tradition
9. Elucidates accessibility barriers unique to this community that may make regular meeting attendance difficult to sustain
10. Provides guidance to newly-sober unhoused individuals on maintaining their sobriety
11. Creates a space for formerly unhoused AA members to share their experience, strength, and hope

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.).

This agenda item is being proposed by the AA fellowship of Area 40, Montana. It was first proposed by a group who recognized a need in their community within District 41. The group was specifically asked to provide literature for the unhoused to a local shelter and found there was nothing specifically addressing this demographic of people. The group put the idea through to their District and then brought it to a workshop on writing agenda items. The District and the Workshop attendees submitted it for consideration to the Area 40 Fall Assembly. The Area 40

Literature Committee passed the motion within committee and brought it to the floor of assembly where it passed with substantial unanimity. The motion passed with 64 in favor, 5 opposed, and 6 abstentions.

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

A member of Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) was approached by the executive director of St. Vincent DePaul in Great Falls, Montana requesting a meeting for the unhoused in Great Falls to be hosted by AA at St. Vincent's Angel Room, a location where the unhoused can get food, clothing, haircuts, showers, and laundry service. The executive director noted that many of the unhoused feel stigmatized by their lack of housing to attend established AA meetings, and many of these meetings are logistically difficult for this population to attend. While deliberating the feasibility of this request, this member of AA researched which AA material would be most appropriate to have at the Angel Room. Much to her amazement, she discovered there is no pamphlet, brochure, or any other type of AA literature specific to the unhoused population. This proposal is to rectify this grievous omission. Before submitting this item, we reviewed current AA literature and were unable to find any references to the unhoused or homeless, including in any of the following pamphlets:

- From Safety and AA: Our Common Welfare
- Access To A.A. - Members Share On Overcoming Barriers
- Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community
- Problems Other Than Alcohol
- Do You Think You're Different?

The following articles provide some general background information on the prevalence of homelessness and ways in which alcoholism affects this population. They are included as background material for the committee's consideration.

- Mike Loverde, InterventionHelpline.com, Homeless Alcoholics – A Double Stigma That Can Interfere With Recovery (May 24, 2019), available at <https://interventionhelpline.com/blog/homeless-alcoholics-a-double-stigma-that-caninterfere-with-recovery/>
- Peter Grinspoon, MD, Harvard Health Publishing, Poverty, Homelessness, And Social Stigma Make Addiction More Deadly (Sept. 28, 2021), available at <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/poverty-homelessness-and-social-stigma-makeaddiction-more-deadly-202109282602>.
- AddictionHelp.com, Addiction and Homelessness (April 28, 2023), available at <https://www.addictionhelp.com/addiction/homelessness/>

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

The hope is that when this item is approved, a pamphlet will be developed for Alcoholics Anonymous and the Unhoused. This pamphlet can be used in both inward and outward facing capacities. Members from the AA fellowship will have the opportunity to share their experience, strength, and hope with being homeless or unhoused as content for the pamphlet. The pamphlet will allow people from the unhoused population to see themselves in and on the front of some of our literature and know that they have a place in AA. Professionals will also be able to use this pamphlet as a resource specifically for the unhoused and homeless. There is an understanding that, in the future, this demographic of people may be addressed within the "Do you think you are different?" pamphlet, and we believe this is needed as a separate and distinct pamphlet not to be buried in the pages of another pamphlet and grouped with other "issues".

ITEM D: Consider a request to develop a pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in A.A. *2024 EDW distribution

Background Notes:

Excerpt from the October 28, 2023, trustees' Literature Committee meeting report:
The committee considered a request to develop a pamphlet entitled "Experience, Strength, and Hope: A.A. for the Transgender Alcoholic" and agreed to forward to the 74th General Service Conference.

Background:

1. Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) Submission Form - PAI 30
2. Presentation to Area 06 assembly (2019)
3. "LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A." pamphlet

Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Area 06 (California Northern Coastal) requests that a pamphlet entitled "Experience, Strength and Hope: AA for the Transgender Alcoholic" be produced.

What problem does this proposed item address?

Gender identity and expression is different from sexuality, and the unique barriers of transgender, non-binary, genderqueer, gender-fluid, and gender non-conforming alcoholics could be better addressed in a separate pamphlet.

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 proposal was discussed at Queer Femmes: A Meeting for Trans Women and Queer Femmes of All Genders, a group in Oakland, and then forwarded to the District in Alameda County North, where discussion occurred for the better part of 2018 and passed the District with substantial unanimity. At the suggestion of the Area Chair, members of District 07 waited to present this motion to the Area until the revised pamphlet for the LGBTQ alcoholic (published in 2018) was available for their review. After the pamphlet was published, members of the District strongly felt that there was still a need for a separate pamphlet. The motion was then presented at our Pre-Conference Assembly in California Northern Coastal Area 06 in April 2019. The Area had fruitful discussion over the course of the next two years at four separate assemblies. Because of the pandemic, the discussion stretched over two years. The motion passed with substantial unanimity in April 2021; the vote was 166 in favor, 5 opposed, 13 abstentions. There was no motion to reconsider after

the minority opinion. Our Delegate at the time submitted a proposed agenda item, at which point the Trustee's Literature committee discussed the proposed agenda item and took no action. The committee agreed that due to the overwhelming number of pamphlets currently in development or in revision, as well as the projects carried over from the 70th and 71st General Service Conferences, new pamphlet requests cannot be addressed at this time. The trustees' Literature Committee invites the submitter to consider resubmitting in the future for consideration. The proposal was submitted again last year, again resulting in no action. The Area Grapevine/Literature/La Vina sharing session discussed this proposal again this year and requested a sense of the room at our most recent assembly in August 2023 on whether to re-submit this proposal for a third time, emphasizing the continuing need for this pamphlet. The Area voted again with substantial unanimity to submit this proposed agenda item. Members from several other Areas attended our sharing session and emphasized the importance of producing literature for the trans alcoholic.

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

Attached: Presentation to the Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous of California Northern Coastal Area 06 April 13th, 2019 by Grace L. from District 07 (Alameda North)

The attached presentation from the makers of the motion outlines it best, but to recap some of the issues unique to this community: restricted access to gender-focused meetings; confusions arising from the informal AA tradition in which men sponsor men, and women sponsor women; lack of access to gender-neutral facilities in AA meetings; for those who transition after getting sober, the informal tradition of resisting “making any big life choices in the first year of one’s recovery,” which can sometimes sound like an attempt to stop people from transitioning; difficulties of disentangling trans life from alcoholic patterns of action; confusion and sometimes outright hostility concerning trans people’s identities and lives; confusion within the Fellowship concerning the nature and purpose of hormone replacement therapy for trans people; gendered language in AA scripts that some trans people find off-putting. Statistics show this community has a higher rate of alcoholism and is more likely to encounter discrimination. While some in our Area felt current literature was adequate or that this could be addressed through better 12th step work at individual and group level, it was our Area conscience that an ever-growing and strongly expressed need from members of our Fellowship warrants the creation of a separate pamphlet. Pamphlets are inexpensive to produce, serve as invitations to welcome new and potential members, and help educate their sponsors and others.

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

That a separate pamphlet be created for this community, which would also serve to educate the Fellowship, and could be used as a resource for doctors and

counselors who refer people to AA. Some stories could also remain in the LGBTQ pamphlet. We understand that as part of the Conference process, if this were to become an advisory action, the final title could well be different from that in our motion. As always, the goal is to be respectful and inclusive.

Final comments:

Area 06 strongly emphasized that they were resubmitting this agenda item because the need for a pamphlet continues and that sexual orientation and gender identity are not the same thing. This was a multi-year discussion that resulted in an informed group conscience.

Presentation to the Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous of California Northern Coastal Area 06

April 13th, 2019

Grace L. (District 07)

Dear Fellows,

The primary purpose of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is to carry the message of recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers. In order to better fulfill that purpose, our Fellowship has from time to time considered circulating pamphlets addressing particular groups within our communities, whose particular needs or barriers to recovery may need particular address. In assessing whether or not to consider a new group for such a pamphlet, we have often applied the standard of *demonstrated need* that is, we have investigated whether there is a particular need for a pamphlet among the group we are considering addressing. If ever there were such a need, it exists among the group I am addressing today: transgender, transsexual, non-binary, genderqueer, Two Spirit, and gender non-conforming people, whom, for the sake of concision, I will refer to as “trans people.” For this reason, on behalf of District 07 it is my privilege to propose to this Assembly that we request that a pamphlet be produced entitled “Experience, Strength, Hope: AA for the Transgender Alcoholic.” The demonstrated need for recovery among our community is strong - indeed, it is far stronger than among other groups that have been the subject of AA pamphlets. There has been a wealth of scientific research published on trans people and alcoholism, and the findings are uniform, trans people experience significantly higher rates of alcohol abuse than the rest of the LGBTQ community, which itself experiences significantly higher rates than heterosexual people. Among LGBT people, the rate of alcohol abuse is 25%; among heterosexual people it is 10%. Among trans people, perhaps in the region of 50%. These statistics do little to convey the struggles that individual trans people have with alcohol - struggles that all of us in this Fellowship can remember well. Perhaps this statistic will do so more clearly: 48% of trans people in the UK have attempted suicide. Trans people are dying of alcoholism every day, and we have a message of recovery that can help.

Alcoholics Anonymous has already registered this material need, and has indeed begun to address it. A recent pamphlet entitled “Experience, Strength, Hope: LGBTQ

Alcoholics in AA” contained moving and inspiring stories from trans alcoholics in recovery. Says Chris, a trans man quoted in that pamphlet, “I had always known that I was in the wrong body, and alcohol helped push that thought to the recesses of my mind. It was hard living a lie and pushing the masculinity bar further and further to fit in with what society told me I had to be. But like I said, alcohol helped me live a lie.” (p 14) Chris's words resonate with many recovered trans people in our community, for whom alcohol served just such a purpose. Moreover, a recent note in “Box 459: News and Notes from the General Service Office of AA,” a couple of fellows, Jesse and David, talk about their experiences as trans people in recovery. Yet Jesse also puts his finger on an important issue: “although Jesse appreciates the LGBTQ pamphlet, he still feels there should be one specifically created for transgender and gender-non-conforming members.” (Winter 2018, p.2) Jesse is right.

Since District 07 began discussing the possibility of a trans pamphlet in early 2018, we have conducted research to determine the particular barriers that trans people face when trying to access recovery. We believe that, at present, the best way to address these issues is through the creation and circulation of a new pamphlet. Those issues are: confusion within the Fellowship concerning the nature and purpose of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) for trans people, usually testosterone (a controlled substance) for men, and estrogenating hormones for women; restricted access to gender-focused meetings - e.g., women's meetings in which trans women are welcomed; men's meetings in which trans men are welcome; confusions arising from the informal AA tradition in which men sponsor men, and women sponsor women. Trans people seeking recovery may either find such principles to be inappropriate, or (especially for those people who are trans but not male or female) inhospitable; lack of access to gender-neutral facilities in AA meetings and Fellowships; for those of us who transition after getting sober, the informal tradition of resisting “making any big life choices in the first year of one's recovery,” which can sometimes sound like an attempt to stop us from transitioning; for those of us who were already out when in active addiction, the difficulties of disentangling trans life from alcoholic patterns of action; confusion and sometimes outright hostility concerning trans people's identities and lives; gendered language in AA scripts that some trans people find off-putting.

None of these problems is, alone, insurmountable and I stand before you with my trans siblings in recovery to attest that we are here, and we do recover. The point is that these are barriers that impede our ability, as a Fellowship, to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. And we have an opportunity to alleviate those conditions, and to demonstrate to trans people that AA is a place where they belong.

Over the last two years, a number of meetings focused on trans people have emerged in the Berkeley and Oakland area, as trans people have come together to save our own lives. My own home group is the meeting for “Trans Women and Queer Femmes of All Genders,” which meets at the Rockridge Fellowship at 8pm every Tuesday; other groups for all trans people, as well as special groups for trans masculine people, exist in our area. We are active members in service to our local Fellowship, and we are each of us profoundly grateful for the gift that AA has given us, the gift of a power greater than ourselves that can restore us to sanity. For some of us, myself included, the sanity my higher power had in mind for me was a gender transition—a difficult, costly, and frightening step that I took with

the support of a caring sponsor and many loving Fellows. We bring you this motion with gratitude in our hearts.

There are at present 1.5 million trans people in the United States alone, and the rates of alcohol addiction among that group are extremely high. That community is proportionately under- represented among our Fellowship. Our primary purpose here is clear: let us produce a pamphlet, and carry the message of a spiritual solution directly to trans alcoholics, living and dying of alcoholism today.

Grace L. (Berkeley, CA)

Background notes:

The content listing for the pamphlet P-32 “LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.” on aa.org says: Thirteen LGBTQ alcoholics chronicle their experience before and after joining Alcoholics Anonymous, and how – despite their trepidations about A.A. – they discover that the tie that binds us all together is freedom from alcohol. Includes stories by recovering alcoholics who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and transitioning, and queer.

ITEM A:

The General Service Board should 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 75th General Service Conference.

Background:

1. Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) Submission Form - PAI 41
2. Memorandum from Trustees Finance and Budgetary Committee to Conference Finance Committee

Submit a clear and concisely worded motion. PAI #41

The General Service Board develops 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 75th General Service Conference.

These reports should include information such as:

- Budgeted cost
- Any changes to the budgeted cost
- Estimated total cost

Additionally, the relevant parts of the new report(s) would be included as background information for any agenda item listed in the report(s).

What problem does this proposed item address?

The intent is to provide better insight as to what our various services cost and better inform the fellowship of where our contributions are being spent. As we begin to increase our creation of online materials (podcasts, apps, Instagram accounts, etc.), they come with more long-term costs such as server fees, development costs as platforms evolve, and ongoing content creation, to name a few, and this will only increase over time. While these

tools have wide popularity amongst the fellowship, many of them, such as The Meeting Guide app, are free but can come with significant costs.

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 am submitting this on behalf of Area 47 Central New York, which passed it unanimously at our assembly on June 11th.

- Christopher M. Area 47 Delegate

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

As we begin to increase our creation of online materials (podcasts, apps, Instagram accounts, etc.), they come with more long-term costs such as server fees, development costs as platforms evolve, and ongoing content creation, to name a few, and this will only increase over time. While these tools have wide popularity amongst the fellowship, many of them, such as The Meeting Guide app, are free but can come with significant costs.

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

As we begin to increase our creation of online materials (podcasts, apps, Instagram accounts, etc.), they come with more long-term costs such as server fees, development costs as platforms evolve, and ongoing content creation, to name a few, and this will only increase over time. While these tools have wide popularity amongst the fellowship, many of them, such as The Meeting Guide app, are free but can come with significant costs.

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

If approved, new reporting would be developed to communicate better the costs of the services being provided to the fellowship.

Additionally, the relevant parts of the new report(s) would be included as background information for any agenda item listed in the report(s).

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Christopher M.

Area 47 Panel 73 Delegate

Final comments:

Another Area opted to discuss this PAI to provide some more information that may be of potential benefit. They did not have their assembly until after Area 47 held our vote, so I'm including their input here. (They were clear from the start that they would not be voting on it simply because they were not involved in its creation)

- Revenue #s for items we sell (and identify “free” items, perhaps separate sections priced items vs. free items)
- Reporting on the item’s origin (advisory action, staff idea, board decision, etc.)
- Reporting on any draws from the reserve fund for any item (both historical and prospective)

Memorandum

November 29, 2023

To: 74th General Service Conference

From: Zenaida Medina, Secretary to Trustees Finance and Budgetary Committee

Re: Proposed Agenda Item 41

At its October 29, 2023 meeting, the Trustees Finance and Budgetary Committee (TFC) of the General Service Board (GSB) considered Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) 41, a request that the GSB develop supplemental reporting focused on the actual costs of various service items, with an initial draft being brought back to the Conference Committee of Finance (CFC) for review at the 75th General Service Conference. The Committee agreed to forward this PAI to the 74th General Service Conference.

The TFC requests that the CFC consider:

- Which service items to report on
- The frequency of reporting (quarterly or annual)
- The level of detail reported (summary or line item)

Suggestions for service items to report on include but are not limited to:

- Development of certain new literature titles
- Cost of certain capital projects such as software, app, and website development
- Maintenance cost of software, apps, and website
- International services

Background

The following service costs are currently reported to the General Service Conference as part of the audited financial statements, which are also available upon request to any member of the Fellowship:

- Literature Development and Distribution
- Communications
- Group Services
- Public Information
- Cooperation with the Professional Community
- Treatment/Accessibility
- Correctional Facilities
- Loners and Overseas Services
- General Service Conference
- Regional Forums
- Archives
- Nominating
- World Service Meeting
- Grapevine.
- La Viña

ITEM C: Discuss the cost effectiveness of continuing to print La Viña.

Background notes:

Past Conference Advisory Actions and Committee Considerations:

1995: It was recommended that: Based on an expressed need, a Spanish edition of the Grapevine be produced, contingent on the following: that the Grapevine Corporate Board proceed to gather information and develop a business plan for a bimonthly Spanish edition of the Grapevine, for presentation to the trustees' Finance Committee, and that funding for up to five (5) years be obtained from the General Service Board Reserve Fund, with start-up costs estimated at \$84,000 for the first year. It was further recommended that if a Spanish edition is established, the monthly Spanish articles be removed from the English-language Grapevine, and that if, after five (5) years, the Spanish edition of the magazine is determined to be no longer feasible, publication be discontinued.

1999: Committee Consideration: Being mindful of the demonstrated effectiveness of La Viña and the need for it expressed by the Hispanic community, and considering its spiritual benefits and benefits as a Twelfth Step tool, the committee wishes to express strong support for its continued publication.

2000: Committee Consideration: The committee reviewed the five-year history of La Viña. Being mindful of the demonstrated effectiveness of La Viña and the strong support for it expressed by the A.A. membership as a whole, and considering its spiritual benefits as a Twelfth Step tool, the committee wishes to express strong support for its continued publication.

2001: It was recommended that La Viña continue to be published by the A.A. Grapevine and supported by the General Service Board as a service to the Fellowship. It was recommended that La Viña continue to be published utilizing A.A. Grapevine resources in order to achieve efficiencies in production and distribution.

2010: The Committee recommended that La Viña achieve spiritual parity with the A.A. Grapevine, beginning in the following manner:

- Publishing La Viña as a bimonthly, perfect-bound, black-and-white, 68-page issue at an additional estimated cost of \$21,400 per year for one year beginning in 2011 followed by a year of review and assessment in 2012. The results of this review and assessment will be brought to the 2013 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine.

- Content and substance be of primary importance.

- An announcement will be published in La Viña magazine beginning immediately and throughout the trial year, encouraging increased submissions and subscriptions, moving toward the goal of being self-supporting.

2013: Additional Considerations that did not result in Conference Advisory Actions: The committee reviewed the results of the 2012 assessment of La Viña as a bimonthly, perfect-bound, black and white, 68-page magazine and concluded:

- The committee recognized that funding La Viña as a service, through the General Fund, is an issue affecting the overall Fellowship.

- The committee acknowledged the increase in circulation by 8.6% from January 2011 to December 2012 may be tied to the changes in format and additional content.

- The committee acknowledged that the 2012 increase in La Viña deficit results in

large part from allocation of pension funding expense.

- The committee expressed concern that funding La Viña through the General Fund of the General Service Board while A.A. Grapevine Inc. has responsibility for the production of La Viña may suggest an imbalance between responsibility and authority. The committee requested that the GV board submit a proposal to the 2014 Conference Committee on Grapevine magazine that would significantly reduce the La Viña deficit.

2014: Additional Considerations that did not result in Conference Advisory Actions:

- The committee reviewed the A.A. Grapevine Board's suggestion that a new business plan is required for La Viña and requested that a new business plan be developed for La Viña and be brought back to the 2015 Conference Committee on A.A. Grapevine for review.

2015: Additional Committee Considerations that did not result in Conference Advisory Actions:

- The committee reviewed the A.A. Grapevine Board's 2015 Office Report on La Viña and agreed that La Viña is published as cost effectively as possible given existing parameters and conditions. The committee agreed with the A.A. Grapevine Board's suggestion to develop and implement a communication plan that utilizes (but is not limited to) A.A. Grapevine, Inc.'s newsletters, Forum presentations, and *Box 4-5-9* to clarify to the Fellowship La Viña's unique status as a hybrid entity that is at once a service to the Fellowship and is also required to strive to become self-supporting.

2017: Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee discussed the spiritual value of Grapevine and La Viña in carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous and agreed that the magazines are important Twelve Step tools, noting that they serve as a beacon of hope for alcoholics in treatment centers and prisons and alcoholics all over the world. The committee recognized that Grapevine and La Viña cannot accept contributions and are self-supporting only through subscriptions and sales of books and other items.

2018: It was recommended that La Viña be published at its current frequency of six times per year as a service to the Fellowship, with perfect binding, at 68 pages, and in full color.

2020: It was recommended that the name of the Conference Committee on Grapevine be changed to the Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.

Background:

1. PAI #103 Submitter Form

2. AA Grapevine Office Report on La Viña

2024 Office Report

La Viña Finances

This is a review of La Viña magazine circulation, revenue, costs and the contribution from the General Service Board over the past 6 years, and the corresponding budget for 2024. Note that La Viña's circulation peaked in 2019, but then dropped dramatically in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID shutdowns hurt circulation in 2021 and 2022 as well. A rebound has been slow, but circulation did improve in 2023 and we expect that trend to continue. *The column "Other Revenue" refers to La Viña books and other items from the catalog. The budget for 2024 shows improved circulation and a reduction in costs and GSB contribution.

Year Circulation

Magazine

Revenue

Other

Revenue* Costs

GSB

Contribution

2018 Actual 9,635 65,343 15,392 229,202 148,467

2019 Actual 10,150 68,338 15,749 373,401 288,594

2020 Actual 6,435 21,831 12,425 426,881 252,080

2021 Actual 6,415 24,159 17,005 429,810 388,646

2022 Actual 6,685 96,151 59,710 714,086 636,604

2023

Reforecast 7,281 109,000 100,754 865,144 754,451

2024 Budget 7,836 115,187 101,304 688,373 569,512

GRAPEVINE Service Conference Background

General Service Conference (G.S.C.)

Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form

Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

That the Conference review the overall cost effectiveness of continuing to print La Vina and whether the ongoing annual financial loss from continued publishing of La Vina is sustainable.

What problem does this proposed item address?

The financial loss that is absorbed annually from the La Vina publication.

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.).

I am submitting this PAI on my own after reviewing the Financial Reports over the last five years.

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

In the final financial report for 2022 it states that La Vina experienced a loss of \$670K.

In June 2023 the Q2 financials show that La Vina is currently at a net loss of \$343K.

This tracks that to be a more substantial loss than 2022. In a year where our financial state is tight absorbing another loss of this magnitude may no longer be prudent. In

2021 the loss was \$429K. In 2020 the loss was \$385K. In 2019 the loss was \$329K. In

2018 the loss was \$72K. In 2017 the loss was \$62K. Each of these amounts are from the final financial reports released by the General Service Board.

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

The intended outcome is that the General Service Conference would, in the spirit of good stewardship, be willing to assess the cost effectiveness of continuing to print La Vina. And consider that there may be other avenues to reach the intended audience for La Vina that are more financially appropriate.

Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Laura B.
Home Group: Hopeful Agnostics Big Book Study
District 13
Area 68
Southwest Region

Final comments:

I believe in the usefulness of La Vina as I do in the usefulness of the Grapevine. I am not necessarily in favor of discontinuing the magazine but believe the continued increased loss annually deserves the Conference's full attention and hopefully an informed group conscience decision based on the principle of good stewardship.

ITEM E: Consider a request to develop a pamphlet on the Asian and Asian-American alcoholic in A.A.* 2024 EDW distribution

Background Notes:

Excerpt from the October 28, 2023, trustees' Literature Committee meeting report:
The committee considered a request to develop a pamphlet for Asian and Asian-American alcoholics with stories of experience, strength and hope from Asians and Asian-Americans and agreed to forward to the 74th General Service Conference.

Background:

Submit a clear and concisely worded motion. PAI #74

Area 49 office manager respectfully proposes to have a new pamphlet for the Asian and Asian-Americans. With stories of experience, strength, and hope from other Asians and Asian-Americans that are still in recovery.

What problem does this proposed item address?

This item reaches out to alcoholism in the Asian and Asian-Americans.

What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item?

This idea comes from an Area committee member from Area 49. It has been discussed that AA needs to reach out to our Asian brethren. The proposed agenda item was also discussed during our Area Assembly on September 10, 2023. It was seconded, there was discussion and then a vote. Area 49 supported this proposed agenda item with substantial unanimity by a vote of 90 in favor of supporting, 2 opposed and no abstentions. The proposed agenda item is supported by Area 49 with substantial unanimity.

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

The committee member is an Asian in recovery in Area 49, it was hard for him to relate to people in the rooms. Since there were no Asians in the meetings, he couldn't feel like I belonged. Even if an Asian comes into the room, they find it hard to identify themselves as a

newcomer or as an alcoholic. The drinking culture is slightly different from Western drinking culture. Culturally Asians don't think drinking alcohol is a problem at all. They think it's a mindset of having a sense of control. Also there is the culture of honor and shame, if admitting that they are alcoholics; it means the family will not have honor and will be shamed in society. During the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, some Asian members of the fellowship have been dropping out of the program. This is because they were being verbally/physically assaulted on the streets. Most Westerners didn't really know what to say or do while this was happening to their Asian fellows, so they rather say and do nothing. In AA, the minority myth is rampant; if an Asian male comes in, most don't come up to him. And if an Asian female comes into the rooms, everyone comes up to them. It seems like if Asians come into AA, most Westerners think they could figure things out for themselves. The Chinese translated Big Book only contain the first 164 pages of the Big Book, and not the personal stories in the back because Asian don't identify with the stories of Westerners. The 12th step say we carry the message of recovery to the next suffering alcoholic.

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

To reach out to the Asians and Asian-Americans who are still sick and suffering.

Provide a primary contact for the submission.

This agenda Item is being submitted by Jo Ann McC., Delegate Area 49 Panel 73

Final comments:

We believe that this will help the program of AA evolve to the next level of acceptance, compassion, and understanding.

ITEM C: Discuss the reporting of Simple Majority Items.

Background notes:

Excerpts from the January 27, 2024 meeting:

"The committee thoughtfully discussed concerns raised by Conference members and A.A. members about the section in the Final Conference Report, "Recommendations Passed by Simple Majority." The committee noted that this section comes from a 1986 Report and Charter Advisory Action:

"If a committee recommendation does not receive the two-thirds vote required to become a Conference Advisory Action, but has a majority of votes, it automatically becomes a suggestion and will be duly noted in the Conference Report."

"The committee discussed the ambiguity of the Conference Group Conscience when a recommendation that fails by a Simple Majority is automatically forwarded to a Trustees' Committee as a consideration and felt that this could unintentionally foster disunity within the Fellowship. The committee noted how the Final Conference Report is used to clearly communicate the Group Conscience from the General Service Conference, and raised concerns that the Simple Majority section could lead to misunderstandings and confusion."

"The committee felt that sentiment within the Fellowship may have shifted since the 1986 Advisory Action and agreed to forward a request to the 2024 Conference Committee on Report and Charter to discuss if the practice of communicating items that failed to achieve substantial unanimity as suggestions is still desirable, and if the

Conference would like to continue the reporting of these items separately from other items that did not carry from a General Service Conference.”

“The staff secretary will include additional sharing from the committee as background to aid a discussion about this topic.”

Secretary’s Notes:

The idea of a simple majority vote of the Conference being a strong suggestion to the General Service Board does not appear in the Conference Charter. Bill references this idea in Concept V saying “More often they [the GSB] go along with a simple majority of the Delegates, especially when prompt action on less critical matters is clearly needed. But the choice is always theirs whether to veto a simple majority or to act with it. Here again is a recognition of the constructive value of a trusted minority.” (The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts, p. 22)

This idea is reiterated in two places in the Service Manual, in the introduction “A.A.’s Legacy of Service” (p. 11), in the section on the General Service Conference (p. 57). The idea is also expressed in the introduction to the Conference Charter in Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age (p. 295). We do not have history of whether or how this was implemented before 1986. There is limited information about how the General Service Board handled these “strong suggestions.” The first appearances of this situation were two “strong suggestions” recorded in the 1989 Final Conference Report. The last was recorded in 1995. It has not been a practice for many years to record the count on each vote at the General Service Conference. In the 2022 Final Report a note was included below the section “Recommendations Passed by Simple Majority that stated: “There were no recommendations passed on a simple majority vote that did not receive two-thirds vote necessary to become a Conference Advisory Action.”

Background:

1. Communication – Conference Members and A.A. members
2. Additional Sharing from trustees’ General Service Conference Committee

Memo

To: 2024 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

From: 2023-2024 Trustees’ General Service Conference Committee

Re: Additional Sharing on the reporting of Simple Majority Items

Background Notes:

At their January 27, 2024 meeting, the chair of the trustees’ General Service Conference Committee welcomed all in attendance with a special welcome to Conference committee delegate chairs and the 2024 Conference Committee on Agenda chair: Rebecca H. The chair expressed gratitude to be joined by JoAnn McC., chair 2024 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions; Mary E., chair 2024 Conference Committee on Report and Charter; and Mary A., Conference Delegate chair. The committee asked the staff secretary to forward the following additional sharing on the topic of Simple Majority, and invited the delegate committee chairs to participate:

Additional Sharing:

- On page 48 of the 2023 Final Report it lists three sections.

- o Recommendations Passed by Simple Majority
- o Recommendations Not Resulting in Conference Action
- o Floor Actions Not Resulting in Conference Advisory Actions.
- Questions and concerns have been received that using the wording “**passed**” in conjunction with a recommendation that did not pass but received a simple majority may cause confusion. Particularly if this section has no editor’s note to clarify.
- There is also concern as to whether the Group Conscience as reflected in an Advisory Action resulting from substantial unanimity can in turn be fully respected if simple majority items are noted distinctly in the Final Report.
- The Conference Report communicates the Group Conscience from the General Service Conference.
- Does the 1986 Advisory Action still have a place? What is the intention of an item that did not pass but received simple majority being posed to the Board as a suggestion, suggest for the Board to do with that item? Does this bypass the Conference process? If the General Service Board decides to take action or not take action on an item that did not pass, what would be the parameters on delegated authority?
- Is it really a suggestion?
- The recommendation actually failed by a Simple Majority.
- What category does this fall into? It is not really the same sense as a Committee Consideration or should it be treated as a Conference consideration to the Board?
- The wording, “Strong suggestion” may contradict the group conscience of the Conference and defeat the discussion on the floor.
- A first step might be for clearer language in the Final Report. A second step might be to look at this overall topic from a policy level.

Caorlyn W. – Chair of Trustees Conference Committee
 General Service Board
 October 7, 2023

Dear Carolyn and Member of the Trustees Conference Committee,
 One of the delegates from the West Central Region raised a question about the Final Conference Report: Why do we have a category called “Recommendations Passed by Simple Majority”? (see Table of Contents and page 48 of the 2023 Final Report) That title seems misleading because the consideration did not “pass”. Will you please consider a different description for reporting the Committee Consideration(s) that failed to pass by substantial unanimity, but did gain a simple majority of the votes?
 Thank you in advance for your time to consider this issue.

Sincerely,
 Kerry Meyer – Class A Trustee

Correspondence from **GSB member** to TGSCC **Chair and committee**
 Correspondence from Conference Committee on Agenda Chair to TGSCC Chair
 On Sat, Oct 28, 2023 at 09:01 AM

Hello Trustees Committee on Conference. Please see below for some feedback, consistent with what else I have heard from the fellowship. Since this came from the

delegate chair of our corresponding conference committee (agenda) I thought I would pass this on to help inform our discussion today.

Carolyn,

I am assuming you are already at Board weekend and this is probably too late but just in case.... We talked about the final conference report listing agenda items that passed with simple majority and the confusion it causes. It is very confusing even as a delegate. The first reaction was that those items were passed even though they did not pass by substantial unanimity at the conference. It felt like the vote we held at the beginning of the conference did not mean anything which was very disappointing. It also felt like the work we did on these items wasn't important since it showed up in the final report that they passed. I feel like I didn't get a clear answer about this either until I talked to you about it, thank you for that! I am assuming a member that actually reads the final report would automatically think that item passed. I hope in the future this can be more clear or not included in the final report at all.

Have a great Board weekend! I look forward to hearing about it when we meet.

In love and service,

Becca H.