

April 16th, 2025

## **Pre-Conference Assembly Report: Tom F, Alt DCM District 21 Area 07 CNIA, GSR GFN Men's**

Area 7 groups presented their group consciences to the Delegate over two days. The conference was well attended with groups joining both in person and on Zoom. Sharing was divided into in person and on Zoom. We started with two in person shares, then one Zoom. Groups presented on the range of agenda topics. There were approximately 150 people in person and 40 online. Most chose 3-5 topics.

**Report and Charter B. Consider a request to expand Article Three in the Conference Charter to protect the co-Founders' writings:** My sense of the shares was that most groups continue to favor not changing any of the founder's writings. Minority opinion was that this was a reactionary measure, that it will stifle future updates, and was not in the spirit of "God will constantly disclose more to you and to us".

Financial situation at GSO was covered masterfully by Riley, our Pacific Regional Trustee. She reported that the events that had rocked the budget in the past, had always been overcome and that the groups responded when asked. Examples were Covid \$4M reserve fund draw. Current financial situation is vastly better than last January, when the fellowship was down to a week's worth of money, and is now stabilized. A \$500,000 draw from the reserve fund helped cover the shortfall. Reserve fund sits at 6.41 months, down from 7.3 months in Dec 2023.

**Literature J. Consider request that the Twelve Concepts for World Service and essays on the Twelve Concepts for World Service be included in the current publication, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.:** A majority of groups favored this change. Objections were cost, already in other literature, takes focus away from steps and traditions.

**Literature K. Consider a request to update the book Living Sober.** Living Sober in publication since 1975, has been proposed to be updated. Groups were mixed but most favored the update.

**Literature E: Review progress report of the Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous.** Groups protested removing all the stories from the 4th Edition, specifically wanting to keep the "Keys to the Kingdom", "Freedom from Bondage", and "Acceptance is the Answer", and of course, "Dr. Bob's Nightmare"

**Literature L. Discuss Plain Language Big Book review process.** PLBB revision process proposal: The groups were in favor of the groups having a say about any substantive changes being made in the PLBB. There was a proposal put forth by Scott H., Chairman of the GSB, to have any changes reviewed by the groups but that the editorial content would be reviewed by a qualified professional consultant

My suggestion would be that editorial changes would not be considered by the Conference, but substantive changes would be considered and would be routed through TLC with the aid of a qualified professional consultant. In order to respect the translation process, my thought would be that any changes forwarded to CLC by TLC would be on an "accept or reject" basis. If rejected, suggestions could be made by CLC to go back to the consultant and TLC for further review. That course would seem to respect the Conference actions already in place, the integrity of our ongoing Conference process and the value of professional translation.

**International Conventions/Regional Forums C.** Consider that all Sovereign States flags be a part of the Flag Ceremony at an International Convention. ( This came about because some Sovereign Nations wanted to fly their flag at the International Conference. Most groups favored being all inclusive and allowing these nations to present colors.

**Finance A. Consider a request to reaffirm the 1975 Advisory Action that delegates emphasize to the groups the effect that inflation has had on the contribution of dollar:** Most groups in favor of this. Minority opinion that it might offput newcomers. Lots of discussion on different experiences of groups: Making a larger donation at your home group, using online pay apps, etc.

**Finance C. Review the Conference-approved level of \$10,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members.** See below.

**Finance D. Review the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$7,500 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member.**

Groups voted in favor of both measures.

**Report and Charter A: Discuss the A.A. Service Manual, 2026-2028 Edition Item 3. Consider a request to remove the word “woman” from the Concept IV essay.** More language cleanup.

*The preservation of the principle of “Participation” in our service structure is, to those of us who already understand its application and benefits, a matter of the highest importance to our future. Experience suggests, however, that some of each new generation of Delegates and Trustees will inevitably try to weaken, modify or toss out the principle of corporate “participation.” Every year, a few Delegates will question the “right” of the corporate directors, staffs and even of the Trustees to vote in Conference. New volunteer corporate directors will ask why any paid woman staff member should also be a director and thereby have a vote as good as their own. Every now and then a move will be made to abolish A.A. World Services, Inc. and The AA Grapevine, Inc. It will be urged that these separate corporations ought to become “departments” or “committees” of the General Service Board, mainly managed by Trustees. To my view, it is so vital that we preserve this traditional “Right of Participation” in the face of every tendency to whittle it down that we should here bring some of our pioneering experience to bear upon the problem.*

Most groups are in favor of the change to the language.

**Report and Charter G. A Group consider a request to remove the phrase, “A group may also decline to hear reports from a GSR at all” from page 10 in the A.A. Service Manual.** Unanimous to remove this line from the Service Manual.

**Corrections E. Consider request to update Appendix IV in the book Alcoholics Anonymous to include other awards and commendations received by AA since 1951.**

Most groups were in favor of adding updates to this section of the Big Book.

**E. Discuss shared experience in informing professionals how A.A. can serve as a resource for unhoused and neurodivergent alcoholics.**

Groups were in favor of this agenda item.

This was the majority of the agenda items brought to the Area by the Groups. Matthew, our delegate will be preparing to go to the Conference this week. He will no longer answer emails or inquiries after the 21st of April as he will be otherwise engaged.

Post Conference Assembly will be in May in Grass Valley.

Yours in service, Tom Fagan, Alt-DCM CNIA 07 D21