

Area 08 San Diego-Imperial Counties

Pre-Conference Assembly

April 4, 2020

Assembly Via Zoom due to Social Distancing Order

Zoom meeting number: 638 894 255

Spanish speakers need to connect to the language translation bar on Zoom.

Doris gave instructions for Spanish Speaking members how to utilize the translation piece.

Welcome to everyone for our first ever digital Assembly-Blaine H. Mistakes will be made today, be patient with each other.

1. Mute yourselves when not speaking or presenting
2. Rename yourself-first name followed by service position-creates name tags on how to communicate today.
3. Speaker view vs. Gallery view-speaker view is suggested.
4. Participants Bar and Chat Bar
5. Raise hand to participate on the participant bar also to lower hand-same as walking to the mic
6. Chat feature-don't over use with unnecessary business.
7. Managing distractions: Zoom bombing or Trolling-this will be managed by area officers. We will act as swiftly possible to rid the room of intruders.
8. There may be pauses to take care of any zoom issues.

Meeting Called to Order

- Meeting called to order at 9:00 am by Blaine., Area Chair, opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, then led the group in the recitation of A.A.'s *Declaration of Unity*:

This we owe to AA's future: to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on AA unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come.

- Introductions of new GSRs, DCMs, Committee Chairs, Past Delegates and guests
- Various birthdays were celebrated since the last Assembly.

Approval of the January Orientation Assembly Minutes – Renee R., Secretary. Minutes are emailed out in both English and Spanish to all DCMs, Chairs, and Officers and their alternates. DCMs and Chairs please send the minutes out to your committees and GSRs. If you are not receiving the minutes and would like a copy emailed to you, please email the area secretary at secretary.area8sd@gmail.com Please keep your information updated with the Area Registrar. Motion to approve Orientation Assembly minutes was made and postponed until a quorum could be made. To be voted on later in the day.

A quorum was met, but Minutes and Treasurer's report were not voted on.

Treasurer's Report: Joshua H in place of Cheryl. Also won't be voted on until a quorum has been determined later in the day.

- Written report submitted.
- Remind groups who contribute to the Area to include an email address so we can process contribution acknowledgements electronically, and at a lower cost.
- Have your group get or find out what their GSO six digit code is. It will help the incoming Treasurer.
- Please make sure to submit any reimbursements before the end of the year.

Question/ discussion:

From February 2020		YTD	2020 Budget 61,860.00	Variance with Annual Budget
Group contributions:	4,187.05	9,752.53	61,860.00	3,450.48
Individual contributions:	58.91	1,303.09	0.00	1,303.09
District contributions:	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00?
Total contributions:	4,455.96	14,265.62		4,963.57
Total budgeted expenses:	3,191.60	12,176.05	61,860.00	-49,684.77
Contributions less budgeted expenses:	1,264.36	2,089.57		
Total unbudgeted expenses:	0.00	236.00		
Total expenses:	3,191.60	14,201.05		
Contributions less total expenses:	1,264.36	64.57		
Total Cash Balance: February 2020	17,002.94		25% of budget	
Prudent Reserve Balance	5,000.00			

Plan for the Day//Delegate's Report **Jerry S:** Honored to serve as your area Delegate. And this has been a ride! With current circumstances, GSO Conference has been cancelled the usual format (in person meeting in New York) The GSO staff has been helping us out greatly, also working to stay healthy. Jerry had an emergency Pacific Regional Delegates last night-conversation: all digital, limited conference. The details are not known yet, but the conference will start with legal necessities. Thank you all for working with the digital devices to stay . We are working with faith and trust. The right of decision-(3rd Concept) This principle in practice is helpful when circumstances become suddenly different. We are in unique circumstances-so if your group conscience can be gotten, then that is preferable, but if not possible please practice this concept. The Conference is a macro echo of our entire Fellowship. We are being asked as faithful servants to go with the flow of the movement of the current world-wide circumstances. As your Delegate I am tasked with getting as much of your conscience today. Thank you for the lengths of service you are doing to participate today. Let's keep this fun, we have wonderful participants and presenters today. We will be taking polls. Board of Trustees 21 members, Class B are alcoholics and Class A trustees (7) non-alcoholic. They work out of love to serve our organization. I have invited some of our Class A Trustees to join today.

2020- A Clear Vision For You

Conference Presentation/Discussion Topic (7minutes)

Unity-Practicing Our Principles: Christine C. I am really glad to be here, I am a Class A Trustees. We have been using Zoom for our quarterly meetings-pretty frequently//now we are doing everything on Zoom//Extra thank you to techi people//Columbia Missouri-retired Judge//3 years on the board//when working I was involved in drug court//I am hear to make amends on that account//I am trying to bridge the gap between treatment and AA//I do have a service sponsor//I have been asked to speak to you today on Unity-Bill described Unity as our most cherished possession//true harmony and love-quoted from As Bill Sees It//Common welfare is highlighted//AA groups are realizing how we need to stick together in these times of thy coronavirus//Language of the heart, we are all able to communicate//this translates in all cultures//I have been working with other Class A Trustees all over the world//trying to find what we have in common//the twelve traditions highlight some of our defects-for the sake of our entire society-we need to lay aside all desires to divide and separate//the corona virus is an outside issue, but unity is our most cherished position and fundamental to AA. Thank you for letting me be a part of your assembly, and I anticipate a great conference.

Questions: just one comment from a member who graduated from Drug Court.

Committee Agenda Item Presentations (3 minutes)

CPC Vito:

Agenda Item B: Consider a request to create a pamphlet for Mental health professionals.

Keep in mind this is just to consider a request//financial burden of this is negligible//1991 this first came up in a committee//this is for a narrow margin//but we already have many pamphlets that serve a narrow margin.

Open Mic (12 min) I am a recovery professional and there is a limited amount of information out there for professionals//they try to set time on completing the steps//this would be a great pamphlet//This

will get more out there into the mental health industry of what AA is and what AA is not//not every mental health office has a recovering individual working and they don't really understand AA//We are not telling the story of AA outside of AA very well//treatment centers put out negative info on AA//We don't share our stories on a public level, so it is not known how AA works//this pamphlet would be of great help//Pamphlets are not the vehicle, but perhaps a podcast using our Class A trustees to educate professionals//has GSO ever considered putting out a book rather than the multitude of pamphlets out there.

Poll (3 minutes)

Do mental health officials have a clear understanding of what AA is?

Yes:17%

Not Really:27%

Kind of:41%

No:15%

Does your group agree with the creation of this pamphlet?

Yes:81%

No:4%

Abstain:15%

Finance Joshua H.:

Agenda Item I: Review Pamphlet "Self Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix."

Briefly-revise the pie chart? Pre 1996 publication//Contribution percentages to service entities-explain what each entity does and let the groups decide//Consider to draft language regarding virtual baskets

Open Mic (12 minutes) my group believes in the right to decision for the Delegate//my group wants to go back to pre 1996 pamphlet for pie chart//we use venmo and this needs to be codified//my group didn't understand about pie chart but we are for virtual baskets//

Poll (3 minutes)

1. Does your group agree with changing the pie chart to pre 1996?

Yes: ?

No: ?

Abstain: ?

2. Should we add instructions that each group investigated services available to them?

Yes: ?

No: ?

Abstain: ?

3. With the information discovered, suggest that groups create their own unique pie chart.?

Yes: ?

No: ?

4. Does your group agree with adding information regarding the virtual basket?

Yes: ?

No: ?

5. Does your group agree with the language in the suggested Q and A?

Yes: ?

No: ?

*Not answered, problem with the poll, only half the body voted.

Conference Presentation/Discussion Topic (7 minutes)

Service-Keeping AA Relevant Sister Judith Ann: I am grateful to participate today//I wish we are in person but we are in spirit//Class A Trustee-soon to be 1 year//I am honored to serve//I have been drawn to AA in a personal way//I have been living around AA for many years//As a pharmacy tech-at the first hospital treatment center//Sister Ignasia helped begin our program-Rosary Hall Solarium//I used to see her walking the halls of the hospital//I knew many people in the hospital from my father's restaurant//I got a lot of information about the 12 steps and traditions//I went into the ministry and became a healthcare administrator//proud of what Sister Ignasia did//I enjoyed the last AA Convention being a part of the Georgia Dome and seeing all the people participating//my partner passed yesterday, she really knew Sister Ignacia//5th tradition-carrying the message-our lives depend upon it//when Bill handed over the reigns, he understood AA would be sustainable because of all of you//we just received a letter from a professional-studying the success of the program of AA//When I joined the board I was really impressed with the declaration of responsibility//this was so moving for me//each member is the heart of the hand reaching out//This is how AA is sustained//the 3 legacies//Service-communicating the message to all who want it//Service is about us reaching out to the alcoholic who wants it//12th Step of carrying the message//this is a way of life//a life of service to others//we are all human and we strive to live for each other and the suffering alcoholic//Fiduciary board-who reports to whom? AA is not organized//I have a master in Health Admin//how can we be focussed on the need//the Patient is on the top of our upside down triangle in the health world-administrators were on the bottom of the pyramid//our board of trustees serves the Fellowship//we are accountable to the fellowship//we are there to respond to the needs and the wants of the Fellowship//All are welcome in AA//the services provided are all about the mission of AA//We are the stewards, not a power thing, to give support to all above us on the triangle//I am extremely grateful to be on the AA service board//the fellowship is the heart and the hand of this mission//this will make AA sustainable//your love and care makes this up//thank you all//I wish I could meet all of you.

Poll results will be posted on the website//Jerry receives the poll a day later.

Committee Agenda Item Presentations (3 minutes)

Grapevine Jerry S:

Agenda Items D & E: Revising the AA Preamble with gender neutral pronouns
I put these together but they are separate agenda items//take the reference out to men and women and replace them with people or even taking people out.

Open Mic (12 minutes)at PRAASA there was a very spirited discussion as is when we attempt to change our literature//if a word or two is changed-that won't cause me to leave//but to a new person a word can make the difference as to whether they leave or not//I was looking for a reason that I didn't belong when I first joined//This might be really important to a new person//my group was pretty much split on this-polar opposites//gender neutral for any literature was considered by our group-we looked at Tradition 10//we shouldn't change our literature//if we don't make any changes-what is the best way to send the AA signal that we don't wish to be involved in public controversy-so no decision is best//my group was pretty

favorable to this change//the Akron pamphlets addresses this//our group is against this-concerned about if we make this change, what else will be changed//

Break 5-7 minutes 11:06-11:12am

Agenda Item F: Consider a request to develop an AA Grapevine pamphlet on how the AA Grapevine can be utilized to carry the AA message.

Open Mic (10 minutes)No discussion

Agenda Item H: Consider a request for AA Grapevine, Inc. to establish an Instagram account in line with the Twelve Traditions. 2017 this was first requested

Open Mic (10 minutes):technology in AA, this isn't going fast enough-Instagram isn't the best platform for this//there are better ways to do this than Instagram-it doesn't address the next generation of technology//we would like to see AA to hire a professional for social media who would know which platforms will be used//if Grapevine presented this, then they should do it and if they didn't, then they shouldn't be forced to do this//we've been against all the online media, the Fellowship is in the rooms//the more we put online the more we lose the face to face of fellowship//anonymity was the biggest issue for my group//there are other mediums that would be better than instagram//I am for Instagram-this is a very influential way of presenting things and attracting Alcoholics//it can be anonymous and follow other accounts in an anonymous way//it's another way to reach out to alcoholics like PSAs on TV.//there is already an app and we need to keep this as simple as we can//for AA we need to use everything to reach out to alcoholics but we can not break our principles//if this keeps you from in person connection in AA then I am against it//This should be delegated to a specific staff member to utilize the best of technology//Fellowship is really face to face, but we use what we have available.

Poll (5 minutes)

Does your group agree with changes to Preamble?

Yes 53%

No

Should we change the Preamble?

Yes 50%

No39 %

Do your group members use the Grapevine to carry the message?

Yes 30%

No 30%

Abstain 30%

Should we create the suggested pamphlet on how the grapevine can be used to carry the message?

Yes 44%

No 28%

Does your group support the Grapevine social media strategy?

Yes 24%

No 06%

More or less 44%

Not really 26%

Break (10 minutes)

Conference Presentation/Discussion Topic (7 minutes)

Recovery--Who is Missing in Our Rooms? Cecil L.: What parameters do we use to determine who is missing from the rooms? Age, Sex, Color, Social Status? I am Native and there are very few Natives in the rooms of A.A., but as our rooms reflect our society as a whole, Natives comprise less than 1% of the population in the U.S. Who is missing socially? In my home group we have had celebrities sitting alongside people who were sleeping on the streets. As for age, we are seeing more young people in the rooms. Our Great Responsibility-talk by Bill W.-his vision for the future of AA which is still relevant today//Bill focussed on Inclusion. In 2016 we had a Forum to reach out to the Native tribes in the San Diego area. There are many seniors still living with untreated alcoholism who are absent from the rooms. Also persons with disabilities such as the hard of hearing-early on we didn't have interpreters but now we do//11 Tradition-Attraction not Promotion-to reach those missing from the rooms-ques-are we attractive enough for those outside of the rooms to want to join? This lock down may open the doors to more persons via the internet.

Lunch Break

Conference Workshop Sharing Session (35 minutes)

When you consider who a plain language version of the Big Book might help and serve, who comes to mind? Do you have any experience connecting and working with these persons?

Young people find it humorous and silly

Women find it offensive

Prison groups find it difficult comprehend

Plain language would allow for broader carrying of the message

Deaf community has difficulty due to English language not being their primary language

ASL is not like contemporary spoken/written language making it difficult to work with newcomers

Phrasing/translation booklet may be a good idea to propose to Literature Committee

A simple language version would promote carrying the message

A simple version book would be an alternate version like French, etc.

2. When you sponsor others, or work through Big Book Studies, how do you explain some of the outdated references and cultural or religious concepts presented?

Women find this information offensive

Concepts have to be translated into current ideology like same-sex partnerships

Clarification needed to whether the first 164 pages of the standard big book versus the plain language are being proposed for alteration.

Although separate, a 5th edition is in consideration to just alter stories and this may take years, so these proposals may take even longer to be brought forward.

3. Knowing that Dr. Bob and some of the early members created what became known as the Akron pamphlets to help blue-collar working class members discover the message of the program, what are your thoughts on a workbook to help similar alcoholics today?

We all agree this might be a good idea,

Like modern bibles, there are translations of old language

There was little direct knowledge of the Akron pamphlets, but

4. What are your experiences (good or bad) with the chapters "To Wives", "The Family Afterwards" & "To Employers"? Do you think we should edit or change any portion of these chapters? Why or why not?

Plainer language would be beneficial

Women sometimes find this offensive and they have to reverse the gender language

Workbook would be plain language possibly in combination with the plain language Big Book

Big Book Considerations-Breakout Session

1. When you consider who a plain language version of the Big Book might help and serve, who comes to mind? Do you have any experience connecting and working with these persons?

Incarcerated Inmates, Mentally Disabled persons, deaf persons, and illiterate persons are all people we have had some experience with or know of others who have had experience with these people and using the Big Book. One person shared that their first introduction to the BB kept him away from AA, kept him from getting sober. One participant shared that we need to stay open minded and that this is not really a vocabulary issue as it is a cultural and spiritual issue, while another said that changing pronouns has no effect on the actual message. And finally, we were reminded by someone in the group that it is up to AA as a whole, not YOU alone.

2. When you sponsor others, or work through Big Book Studies, how do you explain some of the outdated references and cultural or religious concepts presented?

Participants in this discussion spoke about the focus on sponsorship as a tool to understanding the Big Book. We also heard about people who do not have consistent connections with anything resembling a sponsor. Some relayed that they just say, “Yeah, this was written a long time ago,” and move on. Some skip some parts of the Big Book. Some did not know that the chapter to the wives was mostly written by Lois. There’s a whole different conversation going on about the religious concepts the Big Book presents.

3. Knowing that Dr. Bob and some of the early members created what became known as the Akron pamphlets to help blue-collar working class members discover the message of the program, what are your thoughts on a workbook to help similar alcoholics today?

Allowing that Lois contributed her writing to the chapter in the Big Book entitled, To Wives, it is questionable as to who actually contributed to the Akron Pamphlets. Only a couple of the members that were participating in this room had read or even heard of the Akron Pamphlets. This question about a workbook doesn’t correlate with the Akron Pamphlets. Though there were participants who favored a workbook, it had nothing to do with the Akron Pamphlets.

4. What are your experiences (good or bad) with the chapters “To Wives”, “The Family Afterwards” & “To Employers”? Do you think we should edit or change any portion of these chapters? Why or why not?

One participant admitted they did not read To Wives with their sponsees. Editing these chapters seemed to be the answer to updating the message each of these chapters outlined. No one mentioned throwing them out altogether except possible the chapter To Wives. The conversation stayed focused on the myriad of other changes that needed to happen in the area of making the book more accessible to our changing demographics.

GSR Roundtable – Breakout Room 12

1. When you consider who a plain language version of the Big Book might help and serve, who comes to mind? Do you have any experience connecting and working with these persons?

- People less fortunate: learning disability, reading comprehension issues.
- Sometimes you have to consider explaining things differently to these people, often keeping things as simple as possible.
- It would help the ASL community, who in general have a lower reading comprehension level, since ASL is a different language than English.
- Incarcerated population comes to mind.

- It is a “first step” when talking about who it will help.
- There are whole chapters, or sections, that are no longer relevant or timely.
- A roundtable member works in recovery community and expressed that many in treatment are newly relapsed and in detox, and it’s hard enough to learn the program even without antiquated expressions and language.
- We should think of this as a translation, not a “change”. AAWS is very cautious about “changing” the big book.

2. When you sponsor others, or work through Big Book Studies, how do you explain some of the outdated references and cultural or religious concepts presented?

- Don’t try to “explain” so much as share experience.
- Explicitly “out” and draw attention to specific instances or language in the big book that is antiquated or hard to relate with, and then explain from our own experience.
- Encourage newcomers to read the Big Book with another sober alcoholic.
- Focus on highlighting the spiritual meaning rather than getting hung up on the specific language and taking it literally.
- This comes up often in “Young Peoples” meetings. Explain that this is a nearly 100-year old book, that community and culture have changed greatly since it was written. While there are people in the rooms that do work to update the literature, the process is slow.
- Admit to sponsee when you don’t understand something either, and you can figure it out together.

3. Knowing that Dr. Bob and some of the early members created what became known as the Akron pamphlets to help blue-collar working class members discover the message of the program, what are your thoughts on a workbook to help similar alcoholics today?

- Not many of us know about the Akron pamphlets, but workbooks are helpful.

4. What are your experiences (good or bad) with the chapters “To Wives”, “The Family Afterwards” & “To Employers”? Do you think we should edit or change any portion of these chapters? Why or why not?

- It’s good that there’s back and forth with this and that change is slow. That being said, there are specific parts of the literature which are especially “old”. What about a modern Doctor’s Opinion, like one from the 21st century?
- Group conscious is very hesitant to change to chapters.
- We are in favor of “modern notes” that accompany the original text.

When you consider who a plain language version of the Big Book might help and serve, who comes to mind? Do you have any experience connecting and working with these persons?

Do we really need to? A workbook might be a good idea for those who need it in plain text.

2. When you sponsor others, or work through Big Book Studies, how do you explain some of the outdated references and cultural or religious concepts presented?

One on One uses their personal experience to help explain those outdated concepts.

3. Knowing that Dr. Bob and some of the early members created what became known as the Akron pamphlets to help blue-collar working class members discover the message of the program, what are your thoughts on a workbook to help similar alcoholics today?

One person said no, others appeared in agreement that workbooks would be most helpful when they come from within AA (as opposed to outside AA, i.e. Hazelton).

4. What are your experiences (good or bad) with the chapters "To Wives", "The Family Afterwards" & "To Employers"? Do you think we should edit or change any portion of these chapters? Why or why not?

Do not remove the chapters,

Maybe use footnotes to clarify differences or noting the timeframe it was written.

If editing might consider editing just the portions that would be consider illegal or unethical.

Thank you

Rodie C.

GSR Dist 12

Agenda Item K: Plain, simple, accessible language common solution. Jerry S.: Cindy: anyone//Peter, generally positive, concerns that it will water down the message, no scenario where they hadn't been able to work with a sponsor//David, book is written at an 8th grade level, half of the U.S has a reading level below this. Has heard speakers say they could work through the book with the help of others. Unless some people who do not have sponsors to help them may slip through.//Cindy, a translation would help people to stay//David, in favor of the simple language book.//David, his group majority favors a simple language big book//Angelina, group fears that the big book is being changed, roughly 80% favor a separate simple language big book. In favor of it herself but also feels it is important that we are able to help others that are having a difficult time. Stay close to one another and teach each other.//Cindy her home group majority felt that as long as it was helping others they were all for it.//

When you sponsor others or work through big book studies how do you explain some of the outdated references and cultural and religious concepts presented?

Cindy, put it into simple language that they will understand.//Angelina, careful of crossing religious boundaries. Important as a sponsor to educate yourself//

The Akron Pamphlet... thoughts on a similar pamphlet.// Kyle, his group feels the benefits will outweigh any negative points. In the end it doesn't matter, as long as it is one alcoholic helping another.

Report Backs (25 minutes) Roxanne-concerned about who is not in the rooms//why aren't we more diverse/Akron pamphlets//language barrier for ASL Interpretation//Newcomers have a lower education level and need an easier version of the BB//Chapter to the Employers is very understandable//change wives to spouses//gender neutral is not wanted by everyone//workbook to the BB would be easier to edit//Sponsors can explain the language differences in the BB to their Sponsees//What would Bill think about inclusiveness today//many do not fit the mold when entering AA, but their sponsors help them to fit//people who leave AA did not leave for the reasons of language.

Poll (3 minutes)

Is the language in the BB easy to comprehend?

Yes 36%

No 45%

Abstain

Is the current language and cultural message in the BB comprehensible?

Yes 55%

No 30%

Abstain

Should there be a translation of BB to plain language?

Yes 65%

No 23%

Abstain

Does your group agree with creating a Workbook?

Yes 68%

No 13%

Abstain

Should the 5th edition remove To Wives, family afterwards and to Employers?

Yes 20%

No 66%

Abstain

Birthdays: 15 since the January Assembly

Chair's Report: Blaine H.: Friends, obviously a lot has happened around the world since our January Assembly. The viral pandemic has affected every aspect of our lives. Alcoholics Anonymous has not been immune to these changes. Our groups, districts and committees have been shut out of their meeting places. The General Service Conference has been postponed, the International Convention scheduled for July has been cancelled entirely. Social distancing has made reaching out to the newcomer quite difficult. Fortunately today we have the technology in use today to keep us together. Kudos to those who have set up Zoom meetings. A particular shout out to our central offices which have collected ever increasing listings of online meetings! One day at a time we will get through this.

I would like to call your attention to the following items:

The Finance Committee and Treasurers motions are currently with the groups. Hopefully the additional information which has been provided will assist the DCMs, GSRs, etc. in their evaluation.

Following the resignation of our Registrar, Bill S. has admirably moved into that role. We will need to have a special election for the position of Alternate Registrar. Currently that is planned for the May 16th assembly. Bill will be putting together a list of those eligible to stand and that will be distributed when available.

Hopefully as many as possible of you were able to attend PRAASA, and you found it as spiritually rewarding as I did. Many thanks to those districts which sponsored people to attend.

Regarding our future assemblies. Current circumstances and educated predictions indicate that quite possibly our May 16th assembly will be in Zoom format. Understandably we have been unable as yet to find a facility willing to host a live event on that date. Since 5/16 precedes the first stage of the planned GSC, it won't be a "post" assembly. More to come. NOW is the time for districts to bid to host our Fall assemblies, scheduled for September 12th and November 7th. Please step up remembering that both \$ and people are needed. Some districts are stronger in one or the other. Reach out!

In the interest of improving communication and the sharing of information within the Area, I would encourage EVERYONE to assist our Registrar in assembling a truly Area-wide roster with correct contact information. DCMs in particular please compile a roster of GSRs

and get that to Bill. Email is the quickest way to get out the message. Let's try to make that happen.

Thank you all for your service, and enjoy the Zoom!
District 8 -bided for Assembly in September

Alternate Delegate's Report: Monty C.-no report given

Committee Agenda Item Presentations (3 minutes)

Literature: Sasha:

Agenda Item L- Revise the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Add pages 3-41 from the pamphlet "The AA Group" as an appendix in the next printing) Compliments the AA service manual//covers Anonymity//How the Group functions//Group principles//how the group relates to AA as a whole//what AA does not do//Revise the first 164 pages-make it gender neutral with pronouns, passages that are no longer relevant//chapter to the wives and family afterwards//avoid changes to meaning of the BB.

Open Mic (12 minutes)a contentious topic to AA//changing pronouns-makes book more inclusive or accessible//goes against the 5th Tradition//What would Bill say today as he was for inclusion//the chapters in question addresses the male, and some change should be made to honor our primary purpose//Don't touch the language! It's a historical document, we should adapt to AA not AA to us//it right sizes us//slippery slope-one change may lead to more changes//many see the BB as sexist and racist and professionals might not want to send their patients to AA for this reason//keep the message contemporary//rotate the stories//add new appendixes // add footnotes//someone said that the BB is perfect and it really is a reflection of us (who are not perfect)//It should address those coming into AA today, reflections of the current society//we need to change with society.

Agenda Item M- (Develop a Fifth Edition of the Big Book of AA)Develop a Fifth Edition with stories and revisions//new preface materials and stories//include stories about mental health issues//revise chapters such as To the Wives//addendum about the gender bias.

Open Mic (10 minutes) did a poll in districts 4 and 14-32% wanted addendum//most don't want any changes to main verbiage.

Agenda Item N: (Develop a Fourth Edition of the BB Alcoholicos Anonimos) Carlos: would contain stories from new people//and also gender neutral language//I support this//I am hoping all the districts in Area 8 support us.

Open Mic (10 minutes)I do not agree with what was just said//The preamble of AA states that this is a community of men and women and that doesn't exclude anyone//we are all alcoholics and all have the same objective//I don't go to the groups to see if they are men or women or whatever-just what they do to not drink//the BB has worked for over 80yrs and it should be left as is//this is a historic group and is the

heart of our groups//the book doesn't need to sound nicer//members should learn this from their sponsors//we should have a Spanish 4th edition before we talk about an English 5th Edition//at PRAASA there was a huge cry for the Spanish 4th Edition

Poll (5 minutes)

Should we add pages 3-41 as an appendix?

Yes 54%

No 25%

Should we revise the BB to use gender neutral pronouns?

Yes 54%

No 39%

Should we edit sections of the BB that are not culturally consistent with today?

Yes 42%

No 50%

Should we edit sections of "to the wives" to be more acceptable?

Yes 52%

No 43%

Should we begin the process for a 5th Edition of BB?

Yes 64%

NO 24%

Should we revise appendixes 3 and 5 of the BB

Yes 38%

No 23%

Does your group believe an addendum about gender bias would help?

Yes 62%

No 21%

Should we develop a 4th edition Spanish BB?

Yes 82%

No 5%

Break (7 minutes) 2:20-2:27pm

Literature:

Agenda Item O: (Updating "AA for the Black and African-American Alcoholic") Darryl: from November last year//advisory action last year//updated and need recognized by General Service Conference//stories are similar//racism in the pamphlet//outdated//because of inclusion-this pamphlet should be updated//Darryl hasn't experienced any racism in Area 8, but possibly other areas.

Open Mic (12 minutes) people are more welcoming in NA and other recovery programs than in AA//African Americans don't feel as welcome in AA

Agenda Item P (Consider requests to revise the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions-remove the phrase "opposite sex", "lustful enough to rape") Sasha: has this very issue herself//shouldn't change because the book has worked so far//removing a few words would be helpful//a newcomer might take offense//previously went unchanged in another Conference//a change to this won't effect anyone's ability to

get sober//could be a trigger to some members who are sexual offenders//rape or sexual assault are not necessary words in the book//could cause someone to leave AA or a meeting.

Open Mic (10 minutes) safety in AA//many people in AA have been victims of sexual assault and are sensitive to such language//such things can happen in recovery//it changes when one has experienced this//we need to update all of our literature to the times we live in//this may contribute to the future decline of membership in the future//hesitate to change the language because the term murder isn't in question//the 7 deadly sins are being exemplified//rape is not a crime of lust, it is a crime of violence//understandable that some would be offended by this term//its homophobic and against a Christian God//for both of these changes//changes should not be made, but an addendum would explain such passages.

Agenda Item R (Revise text related to open meetings in the pamphlet "The AA Group") Jerry: open meetings was removed from the blue card about non alcoholics attending meetings//removing this would keep this policy in alignment.

Open Mic (10 minutes)

Agenda Item T (Revise the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship") Sasha -to change the suggestion that sponsor and sponsee be of the same sex//no equal access to sponsorship//should be avoided when there is a sexual interest is involved//transgendered people find barriers in AA //Service sponsorship-instead of making new literature but add section about service sponsorship//there are many references about service sponsors//3rd legacy is equally important to others.

Open Mic (10 minutes)

Agenda Item U: (addition of the GSR preamble in the pamphlet "G.S.R.: Your Group's Link to AA as a Whole) Jerry: as described above.

Open Mic (10 minutes)

Poll (5 minutes)

Does your group support revision of Black American pamphlet?

Yes 82%

No 4%

Remove "opposite sex" from 12 X 12?

Yes 57%

No 27%

Remove "lustful enough to rape" in 12 x 12?

Yes 70%

No 18%

Agree with non alcoholics as observers?

Yes 37%

No 44%

Should sponsor and sponsee be of same sex?

Yes 50%

No 34%

Service sponsorship added to pamphlet?

Yes 63%

No 15%

GSR preamble added to pamphlet?

Yes 93%

No 4%

Policy & Admission: Jerry S.

Agenda Item E: (Review and Consider Items not Forwarded to Committee) More about the conference circuit//spirituality of maintaining this circuit//usually only forwarded if agreed upon by board of trustees//this allows continued conversation about items not forwarded.

Open Mic (10 minutes)

Poll (1 minute)

Public Information: Jerry S.

Agenda Item E: (Adjust all A.A.W.S. video titles for search engine optimization (SEO) How one finds AA on the internet using search engines//using key words//if user doesn't know what specifically is being looked for might have problems finding what they want//

Open Mic (10 minutes) changing titles does not help in modern search engines//we need a professional to do this work//language of changing titles is already out of date//there is a new communications department at GSO and perhaps they are doing this?//search is local-for the Area and districts//communications audit done 3 years ago-whereby there is a lot of room for growth//this is why GSO added this department

Agenda Item I: (New Form(s) of Communication//Social Media) Katherine -request to start a conversation for anonymity on social media//there are already many documents about this topic//but group that put this forward because these don't seem to be enough//is there a need for a better format to reach members about breaking anonymity on social media.

Open Mic (10 minutes) Tradition 11 needs to be rewritten//bring up to date-anonymity is being destroyed//each platform offers ways for anonymity//facebook tagging hurts anonymity//this tradition was written when only press, radio and tv were existence//anonymity at the public level//Bill couldn't foresee the internet coming//we need to look beyond the next 5 years so AA can be around the next 80years//Anonymity in the digital age-we have the onus to teach new members coming in about anonymity//The 11 Tradition has been broken for years-it's time to fix it at this conference//this conversation needs to get going//communications committee or someone who owns communications for our organization-need to educate members on how to use social media and preserve anonymity//with zoom meetings a lot of things need to be adjusted this needs to be discussed now!//There is a printout Guidelines piece from GSO available for anonymity on the internet//MG18//

Agenda Item J: (Development of a Podcast) Katherine: Area 49-requesting a podcast for AA//radio shows that can be accessed from the internet//2015 already requested more audio visual sources//there are none right now from AA//topic based//

Open Mic (10 minutes) this is a great idea//an untapped resource//this is an asset and can reach the younger generation//early in my sobriety speaker tapes were helpful//this could centralize like a library//doesn't violate any traditions//I am against this because of people sharing their opinions on podcasts//from service structures it might be good or speaker tapes from groups//
//grapevine audio for stories//lots of people putting up personal content related to AA based on their own personal experiences and bias//if we are not there then only non AA //aspect of anonymity not respected//

Poll (5 minutes)

Do you agree to consider committee items not forwarded?

Yes 65%

No 5%

Do you agree with the process of search engines

Yes 58%

No 12%

Should AA develop a podcast?

Yes 61%

No 19.2%

Treatment and Accessibilities

Agenda Item B (Consider request to develop a Bridging the Gap Workbook) Blaine H. refers to individuals being released to volunteers within the AA community. Some areas this is an Area or District function or H&I. makes sense to create a workbook for this On a national level.

Open Mic (10 minutes) Simple program, workbook would show the process on how to connect with law enforcement or corrections.

Poll (1 minute)

Should w

Archives

Agenda Item B: (A History Book // Coming of Age II) Jerry S. to capture the history of AA from 1955 to present//this was first requested in 1985//and it was shelved in the late 90s//do we need a history book for this time//should we use or trash what was done in 1985?

Open Mic (10 minutes) What exactly would this book focus on? this could end up being huge considering the amount of time encompassed with the second period compared to the first period//concerned about who selects the writers of this//coming forward you would have to be careful of opinion and slant of author//we are a publishing company and we have writers that currently write our pamphlets and literature//do a story of AA in the covid situation//history is constantly being revised by interpretation and revision//potential problem that we have waited too long to meet this challenge//if not now when, if not us,

who?//probably will need to be broken up in parts-this is for the professionals to figure out//history tells a story, archives the facts//consider the scope of the project//So much has happened in these years since 1955//GSO has a great archives and the history is kept there//other books have been written outside AA about our history//AA needs to tell it's own story//This is worthwhile for us to go forward with by AA and not outside of AA//We need a contextual version of our history of these last decades//focus on the development of the General Service Conference and the 12 Concepts//advised to speak to Paul C. as he was there when this was going on at GSO//this doesn't speak to the newcomer-it isn't what saved my life//this is for a time when we are flush with money//“Women Pioneers in AA” booklet made for ARea 9-perhaps the history could be broken up into separate books like this one.

Poll (1 minute)

Should we develop a bridging the gap workbook?

Yes 91%

No 4%

Should we write a history book?

Yes 74%

No 11%

Review and Discussion Jerry S. Very pleased with how our assembly has happened despite current conditions//Thank you to all who attended inside and outside our area//Thank you all from the bottom of my heart//thank you for your leadership//Thank you for your service during this situation//We have all been elected servant leaders NOW!//There is a reason for this-we may not know//It definitely teaches us about making plans//167 participants -almost a full house!//over 200 signed in

Adjourn

4:02pm

Responsibility Pledge: “I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that I am responsible.”

Next Assembly: June 20, 2020