

VIII.

**REPORT
AND
CHARTER**

AGENDA

Conference Committee on Report and Charter

*Sunday, April 24, 2022, 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

*EDW Items – Joint Meeting w/Trustees' Literature Committee
Room: TBD

Sunday, April 24, 2022, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Room: TBD

Monday, April 25, 2022, 9 a.m. – Noon
Room: TBD
Chairperson: Geene D.
Secretary: Craig W.

Conference Committee Members

Panel 71

Geene D. *
Russ R. **
Mark B.
Sherri P.
Russel R.

Panel 72

Tami L.
Jack M.
Denise M.

*chairperson

**alternate chairperson

- ◆ Introductions – Geene D., Conference committee chairperson.
- ◆ Review Conference Committee Composition, Scope and Procedure – Geene D., Conference committee chairperson.
 1. EDW Summary Results.
 2. 2021 Conference Literature Committee Composition, Scope and Procedure.
 3. A.A. World Services, Inc. Policy on Publication: Keeping A.A. Literature Current.

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- ◆ Review History of Conference Committee – Craig W., secretary.
- ◆ Report of A.A.W.S. Publishing department – Ames S., executive editor.
- A. Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*.
- B. Review *The A.A. Service Manual, 2021-2023 Edition*.
- C. Review progress report from A.A.W.S. Publishing on a new section to be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled “Amendments.”
- D. Consider request to include a G.S.R. preamble in the pamphlet “G.S.R.: Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole.”
- E. Consider requests that the chapter titled “The Doctor's Opinion” be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition.

2022 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

ITEM A: Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*

Background:

1. 2021 General Service Conference *Final Report* (see note)

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

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ITEM B: Review *The A.A. Service Manual*, 2021-2023 Edition.

Background:

1. [*The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts For World Service*](#)

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ITEM C: Review progress report from A.A.W.S. Publishing on a new section to be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled “Amendments.”

Background:

1. Progress report from A.A.W.S. Publishing
2. Four versions of sample text for Concept IX (***Confidential - Committee members only***)

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PROGRESS REPORT

To: 2022 Conference Report and Charter Committee
From: Ames S., Executive Editor, GSO
Date: January 21, 2022

Advisory Action #44 from the 2021 General Service Conference:

A new section be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled "Amendments," and that it contain an updated version of the Concept XI essay that incorporates the information in the current footnotes and endnotes, along with comprehensive descriptions of the current General Service Board committees, and that a draft or progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

Commentary:

As the Publishing department has reviewed this Advisory Action, some concerns have been raised regarding the proposed new section titled "Amendments" and the impact of such a change on the basic editorial structure of how the Twelve Concepts as a whole are presented in the volume *The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service*, by Bill W.

The basic structure of the presentation of the Concepts was initially developed to provide updated material, where appropriate and as needed, through the use of footnotes and the occasional asterisk. This structure allows the publication to maintain the integrity and phraseology of the original writing of the Concepts by Bill W., while providing factual and/or statistical updates reflective of current process and procedures, leaving intact the "flavor" and original tone of the original -- capturing Bill's "voice" and perspective on the fundamental characteristics and history of the Concepts.

As noted in the Foreword to the Twelve Concepts:

Following the recommendations of an ad hoc committee of the A.A. General Service Board, the 1985 General Service Conference recommended that future publication of the Concepts in "The A.A. Service Manual" and the booklet "Twelve Concepts for World Service" be in the original 1962 version, with required factual changes provided as numbered footnotes at the end of each chapter. The only exceptions are certain

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footnotes written by Bill W. in the years following the first appearance of the Concepts: these are marked by asterisks that appear on the same pages as the text they refer to.

While the footnotes may require some back and forth by individual readers to be apprised of any updates, it keeps intact the original flow of thoughts and explanation provided by the author.

Of course, one Conference is not confined to the actions of another and, as noted in the 2021 Advisory Action above, one of the concerns articulated by the Conference committee in Concept XI is that the number and function of the trustees' committees described have changed since the writing of the original document, and, while the growth in number of the committees is noted traditionally in a footnote, the committee descriptions are not updated.

The Advisory Action targets this issue, requesting "comprehensive descriptions of the current General Service Board committees." Yet it is the feeling of the Publishing department's editors, in consultation with the G.S.O. Archivist, that the proposed solution to add an entirely new section ("Amendments") to the volume as a whole that would contain such updated descriptions and incorporate the other existing footnotes into the text, as needed for context, would fundamentally alter the basic editorial framework of the writing. In addition, for the sake of continuity, wouldn't this approach have to also be considered for each of the remaining 11 Concepts, thereby adding considerably to the size and, ultimately, cost, of the Service Manual?

In consideration of these matters, the editors have put forward three sample versions for how the intent of the Advisory Action could be expressed, while still maintaining the current integrity of the existing editorial approach, along with a fourth sample of the proposed "Amendments" section as noted in the Advisory Action. *These samples are presented as information for the committee only and are not intended to be distributed beyond the members of the committee.*

A brief description of the actions represented in each version is included below.

VERSION 1: This approach keeps all the existing footnotes in place, but refers readers to the section in the A.A. Service Manual where the current General Service Board committees are described, with the following text added to footnote #1: "For updated descriptions of all current General Service Board committees, see pages 57-60 of The A.A. Service Manual. These updated descriptions were requested by Advisory Action of the 71st General Service Conference." This is the simplest and most direct approach.

VERSION 2: This approach incorporates the updated descriptions of the current GSB Committees into the existing footnote #1, adding: "As requested by Advisory Action of the 71st A.A. General Service Conference, descriptions of the current standing committees are: [text added from the A.A. Service Manual]..." This approach, while lengthier, keeps all the new information in one place, under one footnote. (It could also be shortened by not including the

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information on the five oversight committees of the GSB and just presenting the info on the committees with corresponding Conference committees.)

VERSION 3: In this version, the first two footnotes have been revised and the actual text of the Concept has been altered to incorporate the updated committee descriptions from the A.A. Service Manual. Essentially, this entirely removes the original text covering the committee descriptions, adding the note: "Due to an Advisory Action of the 71st A.A. General Service Conference, this listing and the committee descriptions that follow have been updated, replacing the original descriptions. The original descriptions of General Service Board committees are available, upon request, from G.S.O.'s Archives."

VERSION 4: This approach represents the new "Amendments" section requested by the Advisory Action and incorporates new text from the A.A. Service Manual to update the GSB committee descriptions and folds the information originally contained in the ten footnotes and one asterisked comment into the original Concept XI text, creating a new "updated" version. For contextual continuity, however, this version also deletes some of the original text that is deemed out of step with the incorporation of the existing footnotes into the actual text. (Paradoxically, the removal or incorporation of the footnotes leading to the deletion of some sections of the original text may require footnoting itself to maintain the integrity of the original.)

With these potential versions in mind, the Publishing department is seeking guidance from the Report and Charter Committee regarding which approach to formalize when the changes are introduced following the 2023 General Service Conference. Once determined, this format will be implemented for the 2024-2026 edition of the Service Manual.

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2022 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM D: PAI #22 - Consider a request to include a G.S.R. preamble in the pamphlet “G.S.R.: Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole”.

Note: As a result of the EDW plan, this item is on the agenda of the Conference Report and Charter Committee

Background Notes:

Excerpt from October 30, 2021 TLC Meeting Report.

The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2022 General Service Conference a request to include a GSR preamble in the pamphlet “G.S.R.: Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole.”

The committee forwarded the proposed agenda item, its background, and the Scoring Tool to the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference for review by its Subcommittee on Equitable Distribution of Workload.

Background:

- [1. Submission Form- PAI #22_GSR Pmplt Chng_GSR_Preamble](#)

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PAI #22 Submission Form

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Consider adding the G.S.R. Preamble to the pamphlet G.S.R.: Your Groups Link to A.A. As A Whole (P-19).

Note: This proposed agenda item (PAI) was submitted prior to the creation of this new standard PAI submission form yet is still under consideration. In support of the new Equitable Distribution of Workload process, the GSO Conference Coordinator has included sharing from the originally submitted PAI to complete this form and accompanying Scoring Tool.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

As outlined in our proposal, my home group believes adding the G.S.R. Preamble to the G.S.R. pamphlet would be beneficial for the following reasons:

1. The G.S.R. Preamble is a clear-cut directive to G.S.R.'s regarding their responsibility.
2. Adding the G.S.R. Preamble to the pamphlet, would provide consistency and thus unity across A.A. as a whole.
3. If added, it would affirm Conference approval when read at District and Area Functions.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

This proposed item came from the How It Works Group in Belleville, Illinois, and received unanimous approval from District 14. Later, it was passed by substantial unanimity at the December 8, 2019, Area 21 Assembly.

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

Proposed Agenda Item

The How It Works Group of District 14, Southern Illinois Area 21, proposes that the 70th Annual General Service Conference consider the G.S.R. Preamble be placed in the pamphlet G.S.R.: Your Group's Link to A.A. As A Whole (P-19).

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The exact wording is: "We are the General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of A.A.

We realize the ultimate authority is a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that they can reach an informed group conscience. In passing along this group conscience, we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship.

Let us, therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our group and A.A. as a whole."

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

Adding the G.S.R. Preamble to the pamphlet

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Bobby D., The How It Works Group of District 14, Southern Illinois Area 21

(7) Final comments:

N/A

Updated 5/14/21

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2022 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM E: PAI #52 and #55 Consider requests that the chapter titled “The Doctor's Opinion” in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition.

Note: As a result of the EDW plan, this item is on the agenda of the Conference Report and Charter Committee

Background Notes:

Excerpts from the TCL October 2021 meeting:

The committee considered the request that upon the creation of a Fifth Edition of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the chapter titled: “The Doctor's Opinion” be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition, published in 1939. The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2022 General Service Conference a request that upon the creation of a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* the chapter titled: “The Doctor's Opinion” be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition, published in 1939.

The committee considered the request to restore the original page numbering of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, by making "The Doctor's Opinion" page one, not "Bill's Story". The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2022 General Service Conference a request to restore the original page numbering of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* by making "The Doctor's Opinion" page one, not "Bill's Story."

The committee forwarded these proposed agenda items, their background, and their Scoring Tools to the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference for review by its Subcommittee on Equitable Distribution of Workload.

Background:

1. [PAI #52-Retrn_Doctor's Opinion_Pg1_BB](#)
2. [PAI #55-Restore_Pg_Nmb_Dr Opinion](#)

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(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

I move that upon the creation of a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the chapter titled: **“The Doctor's Opinion”** be returned to page one, as it was in the First Edition, published in 1939.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

“The Doctor’s Opinion” was moved from page one to the Roman Numerals when the Second edition was published. Data suggests that the average reader does not read the Preface and Forwards. Instead, they start on page one. If the suffering alcoholic, without a sponsor or guidance, starts on page one they will miss the only medical explanation of the disease presented in the Text, Alcoholics Anonymous. How can we take the chance of losing even one alcoholic to the disease because at some time in the past “The Doctor’s Opinion” was moved away from page one? How many have already left AA without answers to vital medical (Physical, Mental, Spiritual) questions contained within this life-sustaining chapter?

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

Former District 10 DCM Dave T. brought forth a motion to his Salem Noontime homegroup on 1/23/2021 asking to return The Doctor’s Opinion to page one which was approved with substantial unanimity. The motion was then brought forth to the District 10 Committee Meeting. GSR’s were asked to bring the motion back to their home groups for discussion and a vote. On 4/15/2021, all participating groups voted with substantial unanimity in favor of the motion. It was then decided to bring the motion to the Area 43 Assembly for endorsement with a final vote taken on 8/21/2021. Of those in attendance 60% voted in favor of the motion; 67% was needed for Assembly substantial unanimity approval.

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

Click these live supporting document links:

“Returning The Doctor’s Opinion” web page.

- <https://seacoastaa.org/return-tdo>

A slides document presented to the NH Area Assembly on 8/21/2021.

- <https://www.seacoastaa.org/docs/Archives/TDO-PPT.pdf>

Original Motion by David T., to the Salem Noontime Group on 1/23/2021.

- <https://www.seacoastaa.org/docs/Archives/TDO-Proposal.pdf>

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

Back in 1939, when this chapter first appeared, the Foundation was mailing the Big Book out and newcomers were reading it without any guidance. The AA Fellowship saw exponential growth. This content packaging worked.

The suffering alcoholic, without a sponsor or guidance, will begin reading The Doctor’s Opinion on page one and absorb the only medical evidence presented in the book, Alcoholics Anonymous. Furthermore, readers will be validated with a sense of surety, freedom and well-being in learning that alcoholism is a disease and not a moral failing.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Contact: David T.

Email: **On the Web:** <https://seacoastaa.org/return-tdo>

(7) Final comments:

- Research indicates that people begin reading a book on page one.
- By returning The Doctor’s Opinion to page one we eliminate the possibility of losing (even one) alcoholic because they did not understand the medical nature of our disease.
- Review graphic below and notice The Doctor’s Opinion appears on “PAGE 1.”

The Doctor's Opinion in the First Edition: Contents and Page One.

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THE DOCTOR'S OPINION

*W*E of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the reader will be interested in the medical estimate of the plan of recovery described in this book. Convincing testimony must surely come from medical men who have had experience with the sufferings of our members and have witnessed our return to health. A well known doctor, chief physician at a nationally prominent hospital specializing in alcoholic and drug addiction, gave Alcoholics Anonymous this letter:

To Whom It May Concern:

I have specialized in the treatment of alcoholism for many years.

About four years ago I attended a patient who, though he had been a competent business man of good earning capacity, was an alcoholic of a type I had come to regard as hopeless.

In the course of his third treatment he acquired certain ideas concerning a possible means of recovery. As part of his rehabilitation he commenced to present his conceptions to other alcoholics, impressing upon them that they must do likewise with still others. This has become the basis of a rapidly growing fellowship of these men and their families. This man and over one hundred others appear to have recovered.

I personally know thirty of these cases who were of the type with whom other methods had failed completely.

i

<p>(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.</p>	<p>Trustees' Literature Committee PAI#55 Submission Form</p>
<p>Proposal - Restore the original page numbering of the book Alcoholics Anonymous by making the Doctors Opinion page one, not Bills Story.</p>	
<p>(2) What problem does this proposed item address?</p>	
<p>AA has succeeded in getting millions of copies of the Big Book in print. This is a remarkable feat in the history of publishing. However, many oldtimers like myself, have noted that newcomers are likely to skip the Doctors Opinion when they first come in contact with the book. I believe this is due to the fact that the Doctors Opinion has been accorded roman numeral page numbering.</p> <p>The Doctors Opinion is a document of "paramount" importance. Among its several points, the idea that the alcoholic must first and foremost become 100% de-toxed before much progress can be attained is pointed out several times. This, as all recovered alcoholics know, is because until the physical craving is eliminated, any spiritual effort will be without result. I and others observe that when studying the Doctors Opinion with a sponsee, they tend to be nearly entirely closed minded to the Doctor's admonition "These allergic types can never safely use alcohol in any form at all." This is likely due to their being quite insane when it comes to alcohol. A good sponsor, however, can generally win the sponsee over to the Doctors opinion on this by using comparisons to fatal peanut, allergies, shellfish allergies, etc., showing that people with such allergies NEVER get those substances on them or in them.</p> <p>But what about the new comer who has no sponsor, who, being only in possession of the book, skips the Doctors Opinion entirely? He has no idea that his Listerine, his hand sanitizer, his hair gel, his cologne, his aftershave, etc singly or collectively ignite the phenomenon of craving in hsi bathroom every morning? Persecuted throughout the day by this physical craving, he fails to get even a week, let alone longer, in dry time and concludes "I can't do this", not understanding that he can , if only he could first get de-toxed. 100%</p>	
<p>(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).</p>	
<p><i>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></p>	
<p>I am submitting this request as an individual, continuously sober since 14 July 1995, who has sponsored hundreds of alcoholics, and with the approval of my sponsor, who has been continuously sober since 28 July 1982 and who has sponsored thousands of alcoholics.</p>	
<p>(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:</p>	

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

I am not asking for anything new, but rather a restoration to the original page numbering. Surely there will be lots of resistance this idea. People become comfortable having memorized their favorite page numbers. But which is more important? Comfort, or a correction of a mistake made long ago which cannot fail to help more newcomers have a better chance at sobriety?

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Eric B

(7) Final comments:

District has voted in favor of this proposal

The Group has voted in favor

A group, dist., has voted in favor PPG

W has voted in favor

Group has voted in favor

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