

XIII.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/ REGIONAL FORUMS

AGENDA

**Joint Meeting of Conference Committee on International Conventions/
Regional Forums**

and

Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Room: TBD

Chairperson: Anne S.

Co-secretaries: James H. and Sandra W.

Trustees' Committee Members

Francis G.*
Christine Carpenter+
Ino F.
Tom H.**
Deborah K.
Jan L.
Paz P.
Kevin Prior+
Irma V.

Conference Committee Members¹

Panel 71
Tim B.
Caroline N.
Anne S.*
Karla Y.**

Panel 72
Shannon C.
Darin H.
Mary M.
Richard M.

* Chairperson

** Alternate and/or vice chairperson

+ Nonalcoholic

¹ Members of this committee serve on this as a secondary committee assignment.

- ◆ Introductions – Francis G., trustees' committee chairperson.
- ◆ Review Conference committee Composition, Scope and Procedure – Anne S., Conference committee chairperson.
- ◆ Review History of Conference committee – James H. and Sandra W., co-secretaries.

Note: 1989 Conference Advisory Action

Each Conference Committee carefully consider their Agenda items and strive to make their recommendations for Advisory Actions to the Conference at the policy level. To be more financially responsible, when a Conference Committee recommendation involves a substantial expenditure of money, an estimate of cost and its impact on the budget be part of that recommendation.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 72nd General Service Conference Background

- ◆ Report of trustees' committee – Francis G., trustees' committee chairperson.
 - ◆ Discussion of trustees' committee report.
 - A. Discuss update report on methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention.
 - B. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.
 - C. Election of chairperson. *
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* Election of chairperson

1. All Panel 72 members are eligible except for the 2023 delegate chairperson and 2023 Conference committee chairpersons.
2. All committee members vote by written ballot (no verbal nominations).
3. Election by plurality. Second place becomes alternate chairperson.
4. New chairperson serves one year beginning at the close of the Conference.

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2022 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

ITEM A: Discuss update report on methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention.

Background Notes:

2021 Conference Committee on ICRF consideration:

The committee had a thoughtful and wide-ranging discussion regarding methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention, particularly the use of the Lord's Prayer and the understanding that although the prayer is part of the history of A.A. and is widely used and supported in some areas, it could make some members feel excluded and support the perception of A.A. as a religious organization. The committee also discussed possible options to the Lord's Prayer including, the Third Step Prayer, the Seventh Step Prayer and A.A.'s Declaration of Unity.

The committee agreed that it would be beneficial to gather additional shared experience from the Fellowship to make an informed decision. The committee requested that the trustees' International Conventions/Regional Forums Committee explore the preference of the Fellowship regarding methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention by use of a survey through multiple communication platforms (e.g., *Box 4-5-9*, AA Grapevine/La Viña, etc.); and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums.

Background:

1. [February 2022 update report](#)

**METHODS OF CLOSING THE BIG MEETINGS AT THE
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

February 2022 Update Report

At their July 29, 2021, meeting, the trustees' committee discussed the Conference committee consideration regarding use of the Lord's Prayer and agreed that a survey distributed to the Fellowship may be the best method to gather wider sharing from the Fellowship regarding the use of the Lord's Prayer at International Conventions; however, the committee agreed it best to table implementation until 2022/2023.

At their October 2021 the committee reviewed and discussed the draft survey designed to gather information from the Fellowship and utilize the responses to help inform the planning process. The committee provided suggested revisions and requested that the Staff secretary implement the changes and provide a redraft to the committee prior to finalizing the survey.

At their January 2022 meeting, the committee reviewed and discussed the draft survey designed to gather information from the Fellowship to help inform the planning process for the 2025 International Convention. The committee requested revisions that the staff secretary will implement and provide a redraft for the committee's review and approval at the special meeting in February 2022.

It should be noted that it is anticipated that a question regarding the use of the Lord's Prayer will be added to the survey dispatched at year end and not the initial survey.

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2022 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

ITEM B: Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.

Background:

1. [Summary Suggestions 2016 to 2021](#)
2. [2021 Virtual Northeast Regional Forum Questionnaire Summary](#)
3. [2021 Virtual West Central Regional Forum Questionnaire Summary](#)
4. [2021 Virtual Southwest Regional Forum Questionnaire Summary](#)
5. [2021 Virtual East Central Regional Forum Questionnaire Summary](#)

**Summary of Suggestions on Ways to Encourage Interest in Forums from
Conference Committees on International Conventions/Regional Forums
(2016-2021)**

The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first time attendees, and suggested:

2021

- Consider using the meeting guide app to further convey Regional Forum information.
- Continue using videoconferencing technology to broadcast portions of future in-person forum programs allowing members who may not have resources or time to travel to participate.
- Ensure future host regions are well informed about dates, locations, programs, and ways the local membership can participate.
- Extend outreach materials to invite the Spanish-speaking and LGBTQ communities to attend Regional Forums.
- Conduct at least one presentation or workshop in Spanish and/or French at each Regional Forum.

2020

- Providing options for remote attendance.
- Providing digital access to Regional Forum materials and presentations (including use of the Meeting Guide App or mobile app).
- Developing service material for host committees providing shared experience on hosting a Regional Forum and stimulating participation.
- Developing a “video invitation” from the G.S.B. chair.

Suggestions for implementation at the local area included:

- Early and consistent communication about Regional Forums, including “What is a Regional Forum; no registration fee; what happens at a forum.
- Involve members at all levels of service; do “sponsorship road trips.”

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Use the Regional Forum video after it is released.

2019

- Compile notes from the first-timer sharing at a Forum for later distribution to encourage members to attend a future Forum.
- Consider developing a Regional Forum app.
- Consider developing a micro-site in addition to postal mailing the Regional Forum flyers.
- Increase awareness at the local level, including “intentional” outreach to different populations (i.e., young people, Spanish-speaking communities).
- Encourage local welcome committees to create “Save the Date” flyers.
- Consider inviting A.A.W.S./AA Grapevine directors to “non-service” A.A. events to increase awareness of Regional Forums.
- Place information about Regional Forums in the AA Grapevine and La Viña.

2018

- When possible, provide bilingual written and PowerPoint presentations, especially important when the Regional Forum is held in an area with a large population of non-English speaking members.
- Consider providing “meet and mingle” opportunities for Forum attendees to meet with trustees and G.S.O. staff in informal settings (i.e., lunch).
- Provide members the opportunity to register earlier than the current two months lead time.

Suggestions for Forum workshops include:

- Lengthen workshop times;
- Trustees and G.S.O. staff could lead more workshops to foster more interaction with Forum attendees;
- Adding workshops that would specifically address the topic of our Primary Purpose;

- Providing additional Spanish workshops.

2017

- Communicating information to groups that are a car ride or day trip away from the Forum site;
- Looking for attractive sites for Forums;
- Forwarding any and all announcements from G.S.O., including when pre-registration opens;
- Forwarding announcements to states that are in other regions when Forum sites are nearby;
- Utilizing FNV for email blasts to communicate with trusted servants about upcoming Forums.

Additionally, one area through its Assembly Development Committee organizes ride sharing and room sharing for Forums; and one delegate shared that they bring a laptop to A.A. gatherings and use it for pre-registration.

2016

- Providing more information about what happens at a Regional Forum such as meeting trusted servants and special workers, workshops, opportunities for questions and answers, and fellowship;
- Including event details of Regional Forums on local Area websites with links back to G.S.O.'s website, aa.org;
- Encouraging members to attract other members through “bring a buddy” and “get on the bus” approaches;
- Informing members from outside of your region about upcoming Forums.

**2021 NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL FORUM – (June 4-6 2021)
Questionnaire Summary**

227 participants members of the 2021 NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL FORUM completed their evaluation questionnaires. A summary of their responses follows.

1. How did you hear about this Forum?

Area 121 (58.7%)
District 32 (15.5%)
Local Intergroup/Central Office 7 (3.4%)
Home Group 5 (2.4%)
www.aa.org 54 (26.2%)
Friend 22 (10.7%)
Other

Responses from other:

Grapevine (4)

Delegate (2)

NERAASA (2)

My sponsor

District 7 Meeting

Probation

Received an Email

I attended last year and liked it so much that I made sure that I put it on my calendar for this year

It has been on my calendar for more than a year.

GSB/459/GSO/2020 Forum

NY/PENN Intergroup

On the board

NERDS

A.A.W.S

GSO

Email from GSO

GSO Staff Member

GSO Employee

I'm a past delegate from the area, I've known about the forum for some time.

Eastern Canadian Trustee

Web

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Aaseny.org and Members Events and Anniversary List

2. Please list any suggestions for future virtual Workshop or Presentation topics:

The following suggestions/comments were provided by the members for future virtual Workshop and Presentation topics:

- How Less Fortunate Members can Participate. I know members whose phone plans don't allow them to dial into some conference calls. Zoom meetings are a problem because of data plans
- Information for Newcomers
- Online groups; Virtual AA
- Diversity in AA; How we doing?
- How to Navigate the Site (for those not Computer Savvy)
- Presentations based more on some of the advisory actions of the General Service Conference Week
- What does Bridging the Gap look like as Covid restrictions are lifted?
- Getting people excited about service in A.A.
- Changes/Updates Proposed or Made to the A.A. Structure and/or Procedures
- How the Conference Works (in plain language)
- A topic like "Who's Not in the Rooms" could be adapted to this topic- "Who's in the AA Doorway? Coming, Leaving, Hesitating and how we show love and tolerance as our code"
- Spirituality and Money
- Is "Alcoholic" the defining characteristic of a member of the fellowship?
- Carrying the Message through A.A. Literature: how the Office Processes Literature Orders; and how the ERP works
- Specific Operations from each of the GSO staff desks.
- Q&A with the GSO
- Applying the Concepts to local service and even to our own lives (practicing the Concepts in all our affairs)
- Remote Communities
- Hi-Lights from the Most Recent Conference
- How to be More Welcoming - Radical Hospitality
- Why is Diversity and Inclusion Important in AA?
- Change - the one Inevitability
- Traditions and Change - How do we keep from becoming obsolete?

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- Safety in AA - How to Develop Safe Practices through Informed Group Conscience
- Will we ever be Fully Self-Supporting through our own Contributions?
- Inclusivity- Tradition 3
- Safety in AA (Using our Traditions)
- Leadership in AA - Servant Leadership
- Tradition 10: Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
- Carrying the AA Message in our AA Groups!
- Effectively Reaching the Newcomers- How am I an Attraction of A.A.?
- Getting Involved in Service- How to Share the FUN!
- Carry THIS message - A Message of Depth and Weight
- A Day in the Life of G.S.O. Staff Member
- Anything on the Concepts / Service Manual
- How the GSC Actions Effect the Operations of staff / The New York Office isn't this Mystical Place Disconnected from everything else
- Upside down Triangle - How G.S.O. doesn't tell Groups what to do
- Changes in the 5th Edition of the Big Book and How it will Help Future Alcoholics
- The Family Afterward: Your Experience, Strength, and Hope with Family in Sobriety
- How a PSA is Created at G.S.O., and by Local Public Information Committees
- What does a Board Weekend look like?
- Meet your Appointed Committee Members
- Virtual Meetings (Group, District, Area, Conference) Post-Pandemic
- How is the Distribution of Workload Implementation going?
- What did we learn about Accessibility with Virtual Platforms during the Pandemic, and How can we Continue to Encourage Access by Homebound Members?
- What is an outside issue according to our Tradition Ten
- In what ways is Alcoholics Anonymous a Microcosm of the Larger Society within which we exist
- Let's talk about outside controversial issues described in Tradition Ten. What is and What isn't an outside issue
- An introductory session for those are relatively new to General Service.
- An Explanation on how an Idea Becomes an Advisory Action

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- How the Corporate Boards Operate
- Resolving personal grievances within the actual structure of AA.
- Addiction or Alcoholism?
- The Importance of Making Amends in Service
- The Importance of Taking Personal Inventory in Service
- The Importance of Personal Recovery and Step Work in Service
- The Most Important Leadership Activity: Preparing Our Successors
- The General Service Conference Process
- Fostering Modern-Day Dr. Silkworth's and Jack Alexanders: How to Gain the Trust of the World Outside of A.A.
- Self-Support/What Services are Provided Vs. What is Asked for by the Fellowship as a Future Subject
- The annual budget of G.S.O.
- Are Area committees relevant in places with strong Intergroups?
- Safety in Meetings
- Technology in A.A., presented by people with hands on experience. How is Google AdWords working, LinkedIn and YouTube responses, Meeting Guide, etc
- Unity
- 3 Corporate Boards, their Relationship, and How they Work Together
- Communication through the Structure - What Works, What Needs to be Improved or Changed?
- The New Agenda Item Submission Process
- An Explanation of groups'/individuals' roles in bringing change in AA via agenda items. A step-by-step PowerPoint with appointed committee members. What they do/ how to apply.
- How to get more involved in the Area, District, Local Intergroup
- Safe Return to pre-Pandemic Gatherings
- Always Inclusive... Never Exclusive.

Comments:

- Great combination of programming. For me, it's important to get an agenda out early so that we can plan our weekend accordingly. It can be hard to attend all the programming.

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- I totally enjoyed the presentations, and the opportunity to see and virtually meet our trustees and A.A.W.S. and Grapevine Board members. I have no suggestions to improve what you showed us this last weekend.
- It was wonderful! I especially enjoy hearing from our Class A Trustees and Board Chairs.
- I think a lot of effort should be spent trying to get people to not be afraid of (what may be to them) unknown technologies as they come out.
- Can anything be done to help members who are financial unable to use a lot of technology? I know members who can't even call into Conference call meetings, let alone use Zoom.
- Stick to the written agenda
- Get trustees that know what they are talking about. Francis was an EMBARRASSMENT to AA.
- Dinner break should be later, maybe at 7PM
- I do not like the webinar format AT ALL. I want to see the faces of other participants, or at the very least a list of participant names. The webinar format is very isolating.
- A little description so I can better pick which to attend when multiples are running simultaneously.
- Webinar format was difficult and felt a bit disconnected from fellow participants. On the other hand, I did want to know the Spanish to English interpretation, but the AI style service didn't make sense at times. So, that was lacking. Otherwise, it was well done; I appreciated attending.
- To be able to view participants. It's much more interactive that way. Webinar is actually boring, slower, and people tend to pay much less attention.
- I understand why chat is disabled. However, it would have been nice to see which of my friends that I've met throughout my service (NERF, NERAASA, or elsewhere) were in attendance, so I could text them LATER for a virtual hug. Virtual events such as these leave that very heart-warming experience to the wayside. Yes, we could go into a breakout room but that would have been dependent upon (1) knowing that they were in attendance and (2) which room they were in.
- It was VERY difficult to attend every minute of the forum. Even though I arrived at noon on Saturday, my eyes were burning by the end of the day from the prolonged exposure to the computer screen. Eye drops only helped for about 15 minutes. I understand that it's difficult to plan a schedule around the side effects of prolonged EMF exposure, but it should be addressed.

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- We were informed that the forum was being recorded for Archives which is understandable. However, to alleviate the EMF exposure, the recordings could have been made available, even if it was for just a week. This would have allowed participants to freely step for a panel to rest their eyes because they would know they could follow up later and listen to the recording. And yes, I'm aware that the Office will be sending out a report with the highlights from the panels, but that's just it. They are highlights that have been filtered and presented. Not the comments made as a whole by the attendees. How important are the actual comments? Ask any delegate, past or present, that have changed their vote based a comment made by another. These experiences has made me think twice about attending of attending of the upcoming regional forums.
- Topics will reflect the time of the Forum - different concerns vary.
- All in all, I thought this went SO WELL! I am sober 50 years, was a delegate Panel 45 (1995-1996) and have attended MANY area, regional and international (1980-2015) conferences/conventions/forums.
- I can't think of any suggestions for future workshops at this time. I thought this forum was educational and very interesting.
- Make it easier to find and log on to
- I find the workshops to be informative, and provided me with some answers to certain problems common to my district.
- Fewer biographies of delegates and trustees.
- Have means of sending in questions to delegates and trustees in advance of forum.
- Breakout rooms for specific service committee folks to meet and greet their Staff assigned counterparts from the G.S.O.
- Send out the Agenda one week before to gain interest, and greater attendance.
- I especially appreciated getting a better understanding of what people in various positions do.
- I'm still a little fuzzy on how trustees work within A.A.W.S.
- I would have liked to see the faces of the audience on Zoom similar to NERAASA's Assembly
- More Breakout Virtual rooms
- Letting people know they can call GSO and ask question about stuff

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- Being informed about the general service office, all the different positions and how they serve the fellowship was really fantastic. It was certainly the highlight for me.

3. At future Forums would you like to see:

	More	Less	Just Right	No Answer
Presentations	70 (38.3%)	9 (4.9%)	104 (56.8%)	
Workshops	83 (45.1%)	13 (7.1%)	88 (47.8%)	
Sharing Sessions	59 (33.1%)	36 (20.2%)	83 (46.6%)	

4. What was effective and what improvements might be made to A. Presentations B. Workshops C. Sharing Sessions:

Comments:

Presentations

- Perhaps have more specific examples of tasks, goals, assignments - especially Trustees (I found their role(s) the most confusing)
- Loved seeing G.S.O. spaces and assignments
- Maybe follow someone's path through service in more specific terms, e.g. the GM.
- Like to know about dealing with drop in meeting attendance.
- Did not find answers RE: bending A.A. to every fringe group effective. In the quest for so called inclusiveness it looks like the bulk of membership forced to accept things that are scientifically unsound/false. If every philosophy / life style must be accommodated then we need to remove God from the serenity pray and all the literature. How about NAMBLA member, pedophiles, etc. should they too be accommodated. You get my point. Will I be unwelcome at a meeting if I decline to call a woman a man? Will speech now be controlled in AA mtgs. I find the excuse of quest for diversity a distraction to recovery. What does sexual preference have to do with alcohol addiction? Frankly, nothing. Stop dragging AA into clear public controversies. If you think my opinion, here is a minority. You

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need to think again. Most people are afraid to be labeled bigot or worse to speak up.

- The presentations were great but one-side (in favor of A.A. changing). We should hear presentations from the minority who want to "leave A.A. as it is". Although some of the audience spoke about being "old school A.A." in response.
- Have people with knowledge.
- Too many men
- The workshops were excellent, but the webinar format is terrible.
- I'm a straight white person would like to see more Inclusivity in A.A., such as BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+ and young adults give presentations.
- A more diverse group
- I thought the virtual platform was handled very well.
- The delegates who presented did an outstanding job. Honestly, they could have been longer, and taken away some of the time from the sharing sessions, in my humble opinion. I also loved the perspectives of the past trustees.
- While my preference is the interactive format, I understand the reason(s) for a webinar. Thanks for opening the chat. A workable compromise.
- Presenters should have Q&As directly after their presentation. There is so much info that it's hard to save all of the questions and comments
- Speaker on Sunday was fantastic!
- Grapevine was great!
- Give the presenters a better time slot.
- The presentations from delegates and staff were timely and just the right length. I would like to know a bit more about the presenters' service experience before they present on their topic.
- Years ago, it appeared more presentations were directly from staff, rather than delegates.
- As this is hearing from or connecting to our GSO, more reports directly from staff would be appreciated. At least from this alcoholic.
- Service position presenter was perfect!
- Experience of presenters was enlightening!
- Information carried by presenters was powerful!
- Presentations that included slideshows would be better served by providing the slide show to participants ahead of time, instead of dropping a link in the chat or, worse yet, waiting for the question "Can I get a copy of that slide show?". The

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latter especially wastes time and the presenter doesn't always know if they are permitted to share the slideshow or not, or how to do so.

- The participation of custodians is fine
- Professionals could be invited
- Spotighting all the presenters, closed captioning and people speaking slowly was wonderful.
- In the future it would be helpful to look at your presenters with an eye towards inclusion. The majority of the presenters were older, white, native English speaking, middle to upper middle-class men (who appeared to be cisgender and heterosexual). This does not feel representative of what AA is today - but perpetuates the "Old Boy" network. Rather than accepting who happens to volunteer - maybe seek out underrepresented groups. People feel more accepted when they see themselves represented, particularly in leadership roles.
- It might be helpful "only as a suggestion" to let presenters know that having their notes on the screen instead of on paper would be helpful to attendees. I learned after a lot of practice this way was much better, it would have been helpful to get a loving nudge.
- Framing that contributions of 2020 covered 94.9% of services is feel good stuff, and tells part of the story. Current framing could be construed by some as misleading. In 2020 we were about 2/3 self-supporting. Do we have the great responsibility to our membership to inform them that we are not fully self-supporting? There's a loving way to convey this, from any of our well-spoken trusted servants at the top, and/or, at the bottom of the triangle.
- On controversial issues, it would be helpful to have presentations from members who support different sides of an issue.
- I loved the virtual platform
- Very informative, and I am learning so much. ❤️
- Ditch the webinar, and have all on screen
- Make them a little longer. Like only a couple minutes or so. Some of them had to speak quickly to get everything in, which really hurts the translation services. But I enjoyed hearing six different presentations from six different delegates. That was cool.
- It was helpful that there was a time limit to presentations, which kept them interesting. The speakers were able to hold the focus of the topics and keep things moving.
- Make presentation material available with the notes at the end of the conference.

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- Alcoholics love to hear themselves talk.....
- The finance presentation was well presented by our new GSB Treasurer. The presentation could be helped by not having so much detailed information that gets lost during the presentation.
- It would be more effective to shorten the presentation to major highlights. For example, financial status of each Corporation, Contributions, Literature Sales. Changes in processes impacting making self-support contributions. Our current service provider overview and the projects they are supporting, costs.
- Consider removing the regional contribution comparison. It has the appearance of competition.
- I liked the fact that it was on zoom. I would not have been able to make it if it were out of town.
- The presenters seem to be rushing to fit all their material into the allotted time. Either give them more time, or ask for shorter presentations.
- More videos in presentations, the PowerPoints were good.
- Improvements? If they're being recorded for archives, is it really necessary to have them read when our technology now affords the ability to write the words, statements said. Their sources could be read just prior to the sharing sessions. Another option may be to offer another workshop similar to that of Tom's.
- Unfortunately, I was unable to attend this event due to unforeseen circumstances. However, the "gatekeeper" at the last event would not let me "enter" because I had no service position at the time even though the event was open to any AA member.
- The webinar format just doesn't work for AA. We need to figure that out.
- The G.S.O. staff were okay, but the two Corporate Board presentations were most informative.
- The presentation by the brand-new General Manager of G.S.O. was fine. I appreciated his talking about the downsizing of the office staff, and the coordination of staff working from home.
- The best presentation was the budget by the new G.S.O. Treasurer. Later on Saturday afternoon he talked about his very disfunction family and his experience with alcoholics among them. He is not an A.A., but he has a good grasp of the program.
- Saturday morning's highlight was an A.A. talk. I am glad that I got up early to hear his inspiring talk about his path to sobriety.

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- The delegate in the all too brief first morning session gave a rock-em sock-em talk about membership and belonging. That is when I started taking notes. Likewise, the workshop on the Third Tradition was terrific. Time allotted for each speaker was generous.
- I enjoyed listening to the presenters I heard. These presentations and discussions have prompted me to explore and identify the barriers to General Service participation for minorities in my region, and encourage and support their sponsorship into this service.
- The format for this forum was rather cold and impersonal. I didn't like the Chat being turned off, and also would have preferred to see the other attendees. It seemed too much like a one-way flow of information from G.S.O., which isn't the point of the forums, is it?
- Talking to other people in other areas, and see how the stuff runs
- I thought the treasurer presentation was very informative.
- Hearing A. Trustees stories was very good. I liked hearing from two of them...perhaps a third could be added.
- These are presentations that I enjoyed: "A.A. around the world", Class B Trustee-at-large Canada, which was amazing. "How AA is doing around the world", and the video presentation on General Service Office, The Grapevine and the General Service Structure was interesting, and put together very well. I liked the It's "A" Class Act sharing by Class A Trustees They both had interesting talks living with alcoholics. Finally, the sharing from past trustees, GS information, and also about the archives.
- As a past archivist and always history buff I, of course, would like to see anything from the Archives!
- It was nice that on Friday night the new G.S.O. manager and Treasurer volunteered to go to a breakout room. It gave us a chance to ask questions and get more Information. I thank them for that.
- I am provided information that I can bring to my G.S.R.'s not present and areas we can improve upon.

Workshops

- Technology was disappointing. Half the time I could not tell if my video or audio was on or off.
- Get people that are knowledgeable.

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- Change in workshops for next year.
- Improvement: more diversity.
- Meeting a Trustee and having a opportunity to see, hear, & learn from them some of what really goes on in NY
- Workshops were very good.
- Very informative. Could not attend the whole program due to engagements... Yet enjoyed it immensely.
- Workshops were quite effective. The leaders were well prepared, lots of views expressed.
- Experienced and prepared presenters made them effective.
- The use of the technology to show stuff was very well done.
- Less instruction, more engagement
- This was actually the best forum in a long while.
- It felt like I heard more from the office. Maybe I'm listening more.
- Workshops were most effective when the facilitator gave at least 15 minutes of presentation at the beginning. When facilitators opened up the floor for comments too quickly, the discussion was not sufficiently focused.
- It was wonderful to have options to pursue interests people had. I wonder if it might be good to have a third option which would be an online A.A. meeting during that time slot, in case people are not interested in the workshops.
- Count down timer was very useful, but the inconsistency of facilitators letting people go WAY over their 2 minutes was frustrating.
- Highly effective: participants got involved and the timer (an oldie but goodie, plus helps prepare "future delegates").
- Improvements? I heard about workshops getting off track from a brand new GSR, but I did not attend any that went off track.
- Webinar format was not effective, folks don't want to stare at one individual
- It was hard to choose between two great topics at the same time. I wish they were all presentations.
- I had a hard time getting in them...and did not find that the topic matched what was presented.....especially in Reaching Out to New Comers.....
- Some guy was talking about what they did three years ago.....
- Request the presenters to develop two to three specific questions, with the participants regarding the direction of the sharing, discussion and conversation to be had about the particular topics. Have more than one presenter.

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- Having to "leave" Zoom and then "Rejoin" prior to and after making a comment or asking a question from "the floor" was awkward. I am glad that I was able to make a comment when I wanted to.
- More people presenting, Chair did a great job!
- Again, I know and understand why the various are written. However, it started to become distracting as they read from a script. On the other hand one was like a breath of fresh air.
- Improvements? If they're being recorded for archives, is it really necessary to have them read when our technology now affords the ability to write the words, statements said. Their sources could be read just prior to the sharing sessions. Another option may be to offer another workshop similar to that of Tom's.
- I was disappointed by the Trustees' presentations. I learned little from what they had to say. In another program last fall, a Class A trustee was terrific in talking about the challenging to the Trustees in working with the prison system on behalf of the AA groups around the country.
- The workshops on Saturday morning from 9 to 9: 15 gave the speakers little time to get their points across. 7.5 minutes to talk about Virtual Technology and Diversity in A.A. Both of these are subjects warrant a much fuller discussion as the Sharing Session #2 demonstrated.
- And Saturday afternoons sessions--again weighty subjects of Accessibility and Who's Missing from our rooms--needed to be consecutive, not held at the same time. The man who began the "Who's Missing" discussion started out poorly with a bunch of negatives like " I am not an expert on diversity" or words to that I effect. I immediately exited that room and went to the Accessibility presentation which was outstanding.
- The two minute timer was a good thing
- Workshops are great, but often have strong personalities who talk too much. Come up with a way to control these personalities. You guys did great encouraging new folks to share at NERF.
- I was a little disappointed in the Saturday early afternoon workshop about innovative ways to grow with virtual. I had hoped for more ideas.
- I enjoyed The Third Tradition-Heart of A.A., (Saturday morning), Who's Missing from Our rooms (Saturday afternoon) which was insightful, and Singleness of purpose in corrections service.
- Need to make it more attend able. Keep the virtual format. Make the archive accessible.
- I find Zoom workshops very difficult

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Sharing Sessions

- All was excellent
- I thought Francis was great - low key, personable, friendly
- I was still a little intimidated to raise my hand, anyway! (But don't have any suggestion on how to make that easier!)
- It was a great idea to have first time attendees time, but unfortunate that others raised hands and spoke anyway
- Time limit was a good idea
- Interesting stories about challenges across the region and work
- I found the Regional Trustee did an excellent job
- Get people that are knowledgeable
- Stay on task
- I enjoyed the partnership participation and cooperation, and the round table discussion of transparency.
- Service Sponsorship should definitely be repeated, as it is so important and not always shared early enough as we journey through recovery and service. Because of the amount of us that came, staying with 2 minutes is the only realistic way to get more of us involved
- The projected hot topics be given more time
- Sharing sessions seemed to be some of the same people rehashing some of the same of their favorite topics - this year the language of the preamble back and forth - diversity and inclusion of the non-binary folks. I agree 100% about inclusion but all weekend? I got tired of every sharing session. Also, lots of time wasted with folks saying "Thanks Francis what a wonderful weekend" and keep to the 2 minutes - mute the mic after 2 minutes
- A knowledgeable and experienced moderator helps a great deal. The Regional Trustee is a gem!!
- If we could somehow stretch those sharing sessions, that would be ideal. Unfortunately, I don't know where to cut - it's all so good
- Hold people to the two minute time
- Perhaps explaining ahead of time what to expect when one wants to share -- the fact that you'll receive a request to use your camera and unmute
- Actually time people, as was done in the past
- Chairing was great!

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- Sharing time was perfect for me
- Q&A was amazing and just right
- It may be helpful to develop some sharing guidelines for participants. Especially for newcomers to the forum: they might be unsure what an appropriate share sounds like, or may "overshare", take too much time, or simply using their time to complain. Nor are newcomers the only ones who do this. A clearer distinction between sharing sessions and Q&A might also be helpful. Q&As might include some commentary, but each person should have a question to ask. Pure comment should be left to sharing sessions
- Translate the magazines into different languages
- Would have been nice to know how many people are queued up and where you fall in the queue
- Count down timer was very useful, but the inconsistency of facilitators letting people go WAY over their two minutes was frustrating
- Members enjoy the sharing sessions so much.
- Might we wish to add that sharing is two minutes "like the delegates have at the conference"? This will inform the newcomer and first time attendees (most don't know). Might we even want to say "because we have so many future delegates here, we adhere to the two minute limit"
- The balance between virtual mic and chat questions
- Longer
- I don't remember if it was at the end of a workshop or sharing session, but Saturday afternoon when I signed on about 2:30 PST, the group of 10-12 people were sharing with each other when they first attended a Forum and who (name dropping) was there. Tedious comes to mind. I didn't stay long
- Sometimes giving an alcoholic a microphone is just asking for trouble. Maybe remind or focus the sharing sessions more. Have one that is truly for anything, but make the others more focused. It was mostly this way, but often people just wanted to start sharing about anything
- Well run sharing sessions followed the guidelines for a sharing session, which felt respectful and safe
- There needs to be longer sessions
- Maybe a little more sharing sessions
- They are always one of the more interesting elements of regional forums, as they allow people to talk about their service and their unique solutions to many of the

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issues facing our service structure and our Fellowship, both locally and as a whole

- Limit the time at the mic to one or two minutes. Use a timer
- Informing the members who are waiting in line to speak that, if so desired, they can yield their time to the member who spoke before them. I've often heard comments that it would have been nice if they could have expanded on them. However, I'm not sure how many are aware that they can yield their time
- I really enjoyed hearing from our two new Class A trustees, especially their past experiences related to alcoholism. While I don't like censorship, I would suggest may be getting an overview of their comments prior their panel & sharing session to determine if they fit within the parameters of our traditions
- The good doctor's excitement over the latest research pertaining to alcoholism bordered on promotion, outside issue, etc. To this point, how many times have we seen the Grapevine's grey pages considered at conference, and as such they have periodically come and gone - and WHY. It kind of reminded me, too, of an article that appeared in Time magazine (or maybe Newsweek) about 20 years where they had an article that discussed a possible drug that could "cure" our alcoholism My partner at the time asked me if I would I take it should it become available; I told her no, that it's a threefold disease and I couldn't imagine a pill that could cure me of my spiritual malady. The same would hold true of any scientific research that might promote a cure - what about this malady?
- We need to have more of these - one of the most important aspects of the Forum and one of the primary reasons for the Forum is to hear from the Fellowship and answer their questions and concerns
- Many of these were wonderful. I loved hearing the voices of AAs around the NE and beyond. Their questions stimulated good discussions. It was good when the two minute clock was applied flexibly
- I believe the way difficult questions were handled was great
- I noticed that a number of people shared in multiple sharing sessions. Were there that few people raising their hands to share? One time my hand was raised and there wasn't time for me to share yet one or two people who had shared in other sessions were called upon. Perhaps looking for unfamiliar names (from those of us who were attending their first forum) should be called upon to share before the regular attendees who share in previous sharing sessions
- It must be hard to choose given how many attended
- I like the Sharing Sessions, but I became frustrated several times with leaving the main room to go to the workshop virtual rooms. It's probably my lack of computer

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skills. I talked to one of the computer techs who gave me encouraging words to continue forward

- The sharing sessions ran quite smoothly
- Need to make it more attend able. Keep the virtual format. Make the archive accessible

5. Please indicate whether this was your first Forum:

Yes 82 (37.4%) No 137 (62.6%)

6. Please select your current service position:

G.S.R.	42 (20%)
D.C.M.	19 (9%)
Area Officer	19 (9%)
Area Committee Chairperson	18 (8.6%)
A.A. Group Member	38 (18.1%)
Delegate	9 (4.3%)
Past Delegate	28 (13.3%)
Trustee	7 (3.3%)
Non-Trustee Director	0 (.0%)
Past Trustee	6 (2.9%)
Friend of A.A.	0 (.0%)
Other	24 (11.4%)

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Past Trustee	6 (2.9%)
Friend of A.A.	0 (.0%)
Other	24 (11.4%)

7. Did you pre-register online?

Yes 205 (93.2%) No 15 (6.8%)

8. Please list any suggestion to improve the online registration process.

- Please provide the link on www.aa.org's home page where we search for the Regional Forums
- I registered in April and never got the link to the forum until I contacted you
- It failed at every level
- It was easy and went well...
- I tried to register on Saturday 6/5 and thought I was successful. The site said I would get an email that would take me to the forum. I never received the email and I did check my junk emails as well. Since the directions said not to register more than once I did nothing else.
- Pre-registration was seamless. Well done. Can't wait for the report
- The website did not make it easy to find the registration itself
- Thank you for the opportunity to share: it would be very helpful to receive an email two weeks out (as a reminder) followed by an email one week out (to say that the Program and login codes are under development) finally an email three days away (saying the Program is complete and the login codes are being double-checked to ensure accuracy - watch your email in the next day or so). Several people, especially first timers, were "panicky" thinking that they may have inadvertently missed the Program and login credentials someplace along the way.
- Direct link to the registration portal with having to go through AA.org
- If we could get the general schedule a day or two earlier, it would really help our personal planning
- Although easy to register, info to link not as easy

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- I HAD TO GOOGLE NERF FOR REGISTRATION SITE!
- It was a little confused to me went I surveyed the Forum section. There is past information I got mixed up with
- It was so nice and easy this year!
- It was very easy. I especially liked receiving the email reminder about each day of the forum. Very helpful, login instructions were easy to follow
- Regional Trustee needs to call on participating/assigned trustees, directors, staff so members can meet them
- I sent an email to register. I'm not sure what you mean about PRE-registering
- The initial letter I received confirming my registration was a form letter that did not have any information that would help me attend, and stated I was registered for day two. It was disconcerting to not have a registration number or even my name on it
- When I sent an email to the GSO, and called to follow up with a message, it was resolved quickly
- The path to finding the link to registration on our A.A. Website is not easy for anyone to locate
- 2 registration confirmations in case of email problems, registration process went more smoothly than the east/west forums. Registered at indicated sign up listed on the email invitation
- Agendas need to be provided to registrants at least a week prior to the event.
- Please make the program available sooner than the night before the conference begins. I needed to arrange my weekend around this Forum
- Finding the right link to register was a little wonky. I didn't realize that it was run by a company in charge of registration
- A flyer would help spread knowledge of the Forums. On our website for events I was able to provide a link to the regional forums page, but especially now that things are starting to open back up flyers can be put on bulletin boards, and it is a great add on Area website calendars to have a flyer with additional information
- None. I used the link from a flyer and found it to be simple and quick
- The pre-registration was quick and easy.
- Need to make it more attend able. Keep the virtual format. Make the archive accessible

9. Please list any suggestion to improve the virtual Forum experience.

- It may be helpful to make the forums hybrid once we are totally back to in-person forums
- Good the way it is

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- It was very well done. Because of the online format, I was able to attend from California. This online format facilitates experience beyond one's beyond. It is good.
- I like it as it was.
- Ask all new (never attended before) attendees to introduce themselves
- Try to keep as much as possible on Zoom - perhaps use a "hybrid" approach, if necessary, next year
I would not have attended otherwise - even if it was possible - as I really did not understand what it was all about
I'm definitely glad I went!
Try to not have it conflict with things like Founder's Day or the Stepping Stones picnic (I missed much of Saturday as a result)
I would have liked to put something in the "ask-it basket" but it was not clear how I would do that (I'd thought I'd be using the chat feature)
- I liked it as was!
- It would be really, really helpful to have the details of the weekend made available sooner. You are asking people to hold three full days and not giving specifics about what is going to happen until less than 24 hours before it starts. More people would participate if they knew what was happening and could fit the weekend around their busy lives.
- Faces should be shown on Zoom if participants agree to it.
- Why wasn't translation available for the La Vina presentation?
- Top notch all the way!
- Get people that are knowledgeable. Embarrassing when trustees and other GSA employees can't answer simple questions. TERRIBLE ABSOLUTELY TERRIBLE!
- A little less on the Past committee members. They were popping in and out. It was distracting.
- Make it live
- A.A. needs to work harder at not representing the corporate world, but more like the world in which we live in.
- The only suggestion would be to have more breaks. It was very difficult to spend all that time in front of a screen. I am glad it will be available to see after the forum.
- It was very easy to navigate.
- Twice a year
- I just wanted to say how beautifully everything worked together. My experience was flawless and I can tell how much work went into helping all of this happen. Kudos for a job very well done. Thank you.
- Tech Team did a great job. Thanks for this opportunity - I think future forums should be offered both in person and also virtually for those unable to travel due to finances or time constraints

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- Having the ability to see other participants definitely helps makes you feel a "part of" the forum. Online can make some feel isolated as it is.
 - Meetings started too early for me.
 - Great experience!
 - While my preference is the interactive format, I understand the reason(s) for a webinar. Thanks for opening the chat. A workable compromise.
 - Use one interactive format. Going from Zoom to webinar can be confusing. Have attendees pre-register for workshops/sharing rooms, etc..
 - It was impossible for me to find out how to actually get into the event from AA.org site. I ended up googling NERF2021 and getting in through there somehow., but to be able to access directly I couldn't figure it out. I got onto forums section but... ???
 - It would be great to get the log-on and schedule sooner.
 - You did a fantastic job! The tech went smoothly (at least the parts that I could see.....), and I learned a great deal. Francis deserves kudos for being "on" the entire weekend. I could tell that an enormous amount of prep went into this, and it paid off.
 - Possibly consolidated zoom numbers, if even possible. Truly enjoyed and learned...
 - PLEASE ADD MY EMAIL ADDRESS TO YOUR LIST FOR SERVICE ACTIVITIES!!!
 - Not at this time. Thank you. Great Forum!!
 - I very nearly was unable to participate due to the delay in sending out the schedule. I ended up needing to contact an Area Alternate Delegate for help. The schedule should be set and sent out no later than a week before the start. In the very least, the general times should be published well before that, so that scheduled can be rearranged. In person events naturally require blocking off the whole weekend. But a virtual event invites intrusions of our personal lives into the weekend. Participants need to know if they need to request off work or secure child care. In my case, I have limited internet access. By sending out the schedule on Thursday afternoon, I almost did not get it in time to join in on Friday. I made a special trip to an internet access point on Thursday evening, but I did that only because the Alternate Delegate informed me that it would be sent then. I had sent emails to GSO on this matter, but received no response.
-
- I liked the move to see the person sharing on the Webinar format, brilliant! I hope this continues

I enjoy the Webinar format. I do not see online meeting format making for successful Forums at this time.

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The Webinar format helps presenters who are not comfortable in front of large crowds to share from the heart.

- Virtual disco dance spotlight was awesome
- see above
- I look forward to the next Forum being in person.
- Allow participants to save the chat. Sometimes there is valuable information provided that cannot be saved.

Overall, I really enjoyed the Forum. I'm not entirely sure it is my first. I think I may have attended a west coast forum last fall, but I'm not sure. I was able to attend more of this one, but found my attention waned after continuous viewing on Friday night & Saturday.

- Ditch the webinar format
- The meetings and presentations that were planned were helpful, cogent and to the point. Time was respected and there was good information and listening as well. In a few of the breakout rooms, some attendees took the room hostage by talking too long for a platform or cause they thought would be interesting to others, but were not. I usually left them.
- Please continue offering a virtual component for these events! It was so accessible and easy to attend and I really loved being able to participate! Even if it's only to virtually stream the event and not fully participate it would still be better than having to travel because I always have to work but I love aa service!
- none
- Have very limited Zoom webinar usage.

Much better in a Zoom meeting format.

- Not being able to chat to my AA friends at the Forum is a great loss for me.
- Have presentations going on at the same time as the sharing sessions and workshops.
- Inviting and welcoming, brilliantly organized.
- None
- More time for attendee questions & answers.
- A wonderful experience for me! Thank you for offering this online. Was GREAT to see GSO staff and trustees.

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- Suggestions have been previously mentioned. I really enjoyed the topics presented by all.

(LOL - except when I had two very close friends offering their workshops at the same time. Rather choosing between them though, I elected to choose my the topic.

- you did a great job!
- It was very enjoyable and well-done.

Two pieces of constructive criticism:

(1)

One thing that might have been helpful is to have an online live Google Doc containing the draft program, with the updates happening in real-time. This could have displayed the portions of the program in a skeleton format (general times) and as more was solidified, the document could have been updated. The registration confirmation email could have contained a link to this document with an explanation saying "check this link for updates to the tentative agenda." This is the best of both worlds. On the one hand, you don't have a "document" floating out there that ends up not being accurate (because Google Docs are updated in real time), but also it satisfies the people that were anxious to get their hands on at least a rough outline of the program.

(2)

Some of the Forum attendees wanted to talk about Conference agenda items and that might have been an excellent opportunity to encourage them to communicate with their area delegates.

- No more webinar format - AAs like to see and engage with other AAs in the virtual space.

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INTL. CONVENTIONS/
REGIONAL FORUMS
Item B
Doc. 2

- Connect with Areas through their Delegates not once but several times to announce a forthcoming Regional Forum. I heard about the NE Regional Forum last weekend only by chance, through being on a listserv for an area in Connecticut. Otherwise, I would not have known that there were such regional forums. I loved hearing people from the Northeast; they are smart, articulate, and keep to the time allotted. The overall chairperson did a splendid job keeping things moving, asking for another person's knowledge to answer a question or two.
 - Overall the Grapevine, Inc. presentations were sort of bland. The Saturday evening presentation by Chris C., Acting Director of GV, stood out because he enumerated the innovations and initiatives over the last year during the Pandemic. I was impressed by the remarkable achievements that the staff made during this difficult time of retrenchment.
 - I would like to have heard from AA Grapevine Editor, because no one in the discussions or presentations talked about the current editorial practices. Who is the intended audience of GV? Is the goal to make it as readable as possible and always end a story on a positive note? The special issues, Behind Bars, has lots of value, but in other issues, the original author's voice is unrecognizable. Instead the editors have really taken the heart out of the original story. The articles are just too alike in their tone and voice and hence not memorable. A presentation and workshop on ways to make GV more interesting would be good. I would rather read a story that has a mixed ending, not ones that have a "happy" ending. That's not real life.
 - Overall, the Regional Forum was amazing. Thank you for the sign language interpretations and the remarkable translators for Spanish and French attendees. I was glad that some AA's in Central and South America attended.
5. Design a Regional Forum about Diversity in our membership, Accessibility, Corrections, Tradition Three, Grapevine Editorial policies, technology for hybrid meetings. The presenters on these important topics this year are not Trustees, GSO officers, Board of Directors, etc., and their messages were terrific.
- Excellent experience. The USCAN's were great but this was exceptional.
 - get the word out so people can get online sooner
 - Have a break between each meeting, even if only 5 minutes. Some meetings were right up against each other with no break.
- I learned a lot (again) and look forward to future forums.
- It would be helpful for the virtual lobby to show as much detail as was visible on the PDF program.
 - Consider hybrid model for future when we can meet in person so those not able to attend in person can still attend.

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- Unfortunately I was able to attend I was hospitalized and still in Hospital at Present. Thank you, for all your Service
- It was great! After spending many years in service at the District and Area level I made the decision to live 3/4 time in Mexico. For me these Zoom Forums have been a positive bonus of the pandemic. I have so missed attending the forums. Thank you for making it possible.
- Very impressed with the online Forum experience. One of the best Forums I've attended.
- Need to make it more attenable. Keep the virtual format. Make the archive accessible.
- This was my first NERF. I was honored to be asked to be of service during the event. As this was a virtual event, I would say that, in my opinion, it was very well planned, presented and delivered!

I thank everyone involved for making my first NERF an informative experience!

Thank you all for your service to the fellowship!

- Need to go back in person, time to start to rebuild.
- Please have the schedule up way more ahead of time- at least a week. For those of us with medical conditions and disabilities, planning ahead can allow us to find times to rest, or to take care of ourselves.

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**2021 WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL FORUM – (September 10-12 2021)
Questionnaire Summary**

124 participants members of the 2021 WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL FORUM completed their evaluation questionnaires. A summary of their responses follows.

1. How did you hear about this Forum?

Area	59 (34.7%)
District	21 (12.3%)
Local Intergroup/Central Office	3 (1.7%)
Home Group	11 (6.47%)
www.aa.org	40 (23.5%)
Friend	21 (12.3%)
Other	15 (8.8%)

Responses to other:

I have been attending and supporting forums for about 30 years

I'm a delegate

Being a trustee

An A.A. member at another group in another state. I'm not in the West Central Region

Online Meetings

GSO

GSO Staff (2)

The D.C.M. for our district mentioned it in announcements during a meeting.

Grapevine (2)

From my sponsor

On the web

West Central Regional Trustee

I'm a delegate for the West Central Region

2. Please list any suggestions for future virtual Workshop or Presentation topics:

The following suggestions/comments were provided by the members for future virtual Workshop and Presentation topics:

- Adjustments/amendments to Conference Charter
- "Making Structure in A.A." It's important to let all members know how they fit into the decision, and what a privilege it is to have a voice in the future of A.A.
- Bringing newcomers into service
- Continue to use the topics from the conference because they include all of us.

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- The Difference Between an Alcoholic and an Addict – Identification
- I would love to have a workshop on how the services provided by G.S.O. helped local members to carry the message to the suffering alcoholic?
- G.S.O. Services: How do they help you with your Twelfth Step Work?
- Demography of A.A. membership across North America, and how can A.A. be more effective in carrying the message to those who are underserved
- I would love a workshop on Traditions and Concepts. I missed the [Traditions and Concepts] Jenga game and would love to be more informed on both.
- Time frame on getting a sponsor once you join A.A.
- How to do step works with, and without, a Sponsor
- Hold a session where veterans participate, with their respective interpretation to the Spanish language
- How to be of service virtually
- How to link or cooperate between virtual and face to face groups/meetings
- How to make service meetings more efficient
- Where to find answers in our Literature
- Eight out of every ten Forums focuses on Grapevine or Budget. Switch it Up Archives, C.P.C., P.I., etc.
- How the fourth edition Spanish Big Book translation is being developed
- Is it necessary to have the G.S.O. Staff rotary?
- How to reach a Conclusion when both sides have strong opinions
- Remote communities
- Traditions. The lack of knowledge and understanding was clear
- Self-support with our literature, how we don't encourage buying on outside locations like Recovery online bookstores
- When does an "outside issue" become an "inside issue" in Alcoholics Anonymous? - Experience from a Pandemic
- Primary purpose - I have been struggling to stay intact with the primary purpose in respect to the trump ideocracies and the short sighted anti-vaxxers. As you can see, I am for one way off the beam on this issue. It will be very hard to go back to meetings that have been friends on Facebook touting Trumpism and anti-pandemic suggestion.
- Informational session about our website, open for feedback or ideas
- Tips to help G.S.R.'s get their homegroups more involved in the big picture. My group seems to operate in a "bubble" and think that District and Area are just a

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bunch of politics, and I can't seem to relay to them the importance their voices have

- InterGroups/Central Offices: What is their role?
- Tradition 8: How do we stay non-Professional? What is non-Professional?
- Sponsorship
- More on Grapevine, I really liked that
- Ways to make General Service accessible
- Sponsorship
- W.S.M. and REDELA
- Zoom meetings
- Special events
- Accessibility
- The three languages of our structure, challenges and achievements
- Leadership a vital necessity
- Anonymity as the spiritual basis of the Traditions
- Unity as a fundamental principle for A.A.'s survival

Comments:

- I loved the "Markings the Journey" video
- A little more personal sharing on specific topics and not quite so much time on question-and-answer sessions. But overall, FANTASTIC!!!
- Are service meetings and service commitments really about having a vacation that somebody else pays for?? My ol' homegroup had \$450 in its prudent reserve to send to our G.S.R. to the Area Assembly. How much P.I./C.P.C. info could that buy for still suffering alcoholics? How many Grapevine/La Vina subscriptions could that provide for our group library to share with new members? Struggling members!!
- The North American Alternate Delegates have been meeting virtually for a year or more. Each region has been doing presentations
- Less topics concerned with recovery.
- This forum seemed better structured
- Fewer workshops and presentations and more "What's on your Mind?" sessions
- Presentations, etc. from office and boards were more informative
- The West Central has a history of "basic" service workshops that were used to share various efforts used locally for corrections, treatment, P.I./C.P.C., Grapevine and Literature, and Officer's sharing sessions. I have picked up

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formats used in the different areas and been able to energize and activate service efforts locally.

- It was great to hear Class A stories on Saturday evening!
- What happened to the inclusion/equity workshops?
- I wonder if face to face service meetings are a bit of a luxury at present, and maybe going forward. The equipment to create a hybrid meeting is very expensive, particularly for groups and districts. Online, completely virtual, meetings are quite inexpensive. Frankly, this type of expenditure is reminiscent of my ol' homegroup voting to spend \$1500 for an air purifier
- During this time with the pandemic, how do you help another alcoholic one-on-one if you are unsure that the new person could be infected with the virus. Every Friday night, my meeting reads the responsibility prayer. I think to myself, "am I helping another Alcoholic by only going to Zoom meetings?" If I do go back, it may be in 2022, because this pandemic is not going away any time soon

3. At future Forums would you like to see:

	More	Less	Just Right	No Answer
Presentations	33 (29.4%)	7 (6.2%)	72 (64.2%)	
Workshops	44 (41.1%)	3 (2.8%)	60 (56%)	
Sharing Sessions	31 (31.6%)	6 (6.1%)	61 (62.2%)	

4. What was effective and what improvements might be made to A. Presentations B. Workshops C. Sharing Sessions:

Comments:

Presentations

- The financial presentation was particularly effective in reviewing the fiscal issues and results of 2020. I cannot think of any improvements that could be made to the presentations
- The presentations were great, I just prefer participating, sharing, and hearing from members

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- All presenters were extremely effective
- I'm happy as they are
- They were just right
- I would like a PDF of Grapevine finances and A.A.W.S. finances similar to the GSB Treasurer's PowerPoint
- Allow a little more time for the presenter
- Great presentations
- I loved the Treasurer's report
- I thought the presenters were well prepared and had valuable information. I especially enjoyed the presentation from the US trustee-at-large about the international community
- Ain't broke - don't fix
- Finance: We need to have a better method of presenting the Financial picture to the Fellowship. Current facts, what is going well vs. what are the gaps, current needs, and current gratitude for Contributions. Real, True, and Current
- The "Picnic Table" format is outdated. The format makes it so that there is little time for the Treasurer to answer questions
- G.S.O. and Grapevine/La Vina presentations are always important, and getting to know both Class A and Class B Trustees is always a highlight of the Forums
- Send an email with all the presentations to the attendees. I saved what I could, but I feel that I missed some links sent in the chats
- Can we download presentations for future reference
- I can't think of any way to make the presentations better. I loved hearing from our staff members, delegates, and past delegates
- I love hearing from Staff and Board. I'd love to hear from more of them. I especially liked hearing from the Past Trustees
- Presentations were my favorite part of the forum! Speakers were soooo well informed and eloquent
- I truly enjoyed all efforts to be as inclusive as possible for the information presented. Thank you for a very professional presentation and program
- I would like presentations from current service members
- There were a few really powerful presentations by Delegates, and the Trustee-at-Large US
- I appreciate that Regional Forums provide the Region's delegates to provide information on a topic, and we can see and hear if they're on the beam with A.A. topics. These are our potential future Regional Trustees. We need to have a sense of "who" they are

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- I always enjoy hearing all of the stats, or numbers about A.A. Examples being number of calls, letters, visitors or any other statistical information about our World Wide Fellowship. This information helps me understand what I belong to..
- I loved the fact that a copy of the presentation was required. It assured that I was ready to present!
- I was just at the forum on Saturday. I thought the presentations were great and answering the question were excellent
Not sure if you have done any presentations on a walk through the office and how it all works, and/or the process of rotation with each committee such as C.P.C. or Treatment Facilities
- I really enjoyed the presentations and learned a lot. The GSB Chair really touched me. Her sincerely and genuine love and concern showed through in everything she said and did
- More discussion time at the end to help understand
- Presentations that we can receive copies of is always helpful- any PowerPoints
- It might be nice to have the Alternate Delegates present too
- Provide opportunities for group representatives and district structure
- I thought they were appropriate

Workshops

- The workshops were very informative, and I cannot think of any improvements that could be made
- Hear the pulse of Servants throughout the Fellowship and discuss concerns
- I appreciated the timer so one speaker didn't dominate the discussion
- They were just right
- If done virtually, the breakouts could be 25 to 30 minutes with a single topic of conversation, with virtual breakout groups assigned virtually.
- Ain't broke - don't fix
- Add in the ongoing workshop on outreach to "Who is not in the rooms." Can the format of it be improved from current experience?
- A.A.'s Future in a Digital World: I was disappointed that the focus of the workshop was entirely limited to groups' responses to the pandemic via virtual and hybrid meetings. This happened because the workshop moderator allowed the workshop topics to be defined by the first two suggestions from members, and there no time for anything else. I would have liked the workshop to truly explore A.A.'s Future on a Digital World. There is tremendous and unfolding promise for expanding how A.A. carries the message via digital resources by all

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of its organizational entities: group, district, area, regional, Conference, General Service Board, A.A.W.S., and Grapevine, Inc. How can we A.A.'s build on what we learned about using virtual tools and technology to expand our outreach and service into the future?

- How to Reach Anyone, Anywhere was a very good workshop with many excellent comments on how we as individual A.A.'s can carry the message. That being said, I would like to see this kind of topic specifically address how A.A. can more effectively practice inclusivity and expand accessibility to reach the diversity of suffering alcoholics in today's world.
- It always helps to improve quality of life
- The workshop topics were relevant and interesting.
- Prepared presentations about service experience and goals, and the A.A. as a whole mission are terrific!!
- I didn't really want to choose between the several workshops. More time for workshops would be better, I think.
- I enjoyed the workshops I attended and I'm looking forward to the email synopsis of the forum, so I can catchup on the workshop I didn't get to attend. Thank you
- I enjoyed the workshops.
- Workshops seemed to run more smoothly at in person forums
- Better prepared presenters. I realize they are volunteers and it's difficult to do. One of the workshops I attended we spent half the session deciding what we wanted to talk about
- We were read to too often. Encourage talking versus reading to attendees
- More structure rather than sharing
- More time, and audible timers
- All were really good. No improvements that I can think of
- Maybe have some questions presented that a first-time forum attendee wouldn't think to ask by attendees that are familiar with the process.
- To be honest, I was doing some other things at the same time, so I think I watched some workshops, but I'm not sure
- Clarify directions. People (attendees and sometimes moderators of the workshop) don't always understand the format. Maybe look for a new format, other than the pick of few questions at beginning, choose a few, and extrapolate from there. I don't know...
- I always prefer workshops with question/answer sessions to better understand things
- There was a lot of variation in the quality, and even the length, of presentations. It may be beneficial to require some form of "dress rehearsal" from workshop presenters, and guidelines for what expectations presenters should aim to meet

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- Don't make us choose which workshops to go to. Instead, if people are not interested, they can go to a hospitality room to fellowship and take a break.
- With a maximum of three people at the presentations
- Presentations on the principles, turnover, and the 6 guarantees
- I see no need for changes.

Sharing Sessions

- I only attended a sharing session. I thought it was great
- Many of the questions were appropriate, and I was impressed with the amount of transparency the staff had. However, many of these questions could be answered by simple communication with the area delegates
- The technical staff managed the queue of folks wishing to comment. The tech staff were very effective. I cannot think of any improvements that could be made to the sharing sessions
- I'm happy as they are
- We need a few more sharing sessions
- The operation of Technology Director and the METS team worked very well together, and gave people time to share equally. The two minute timer was a great addition
- Loved everything about the sharing sessions. A lot of things to think about and change attitudes. Great learning experience
- Ain't broke - don't fix
- They are really question and answer periods. Is there a place to really have a more interactive sharing session?
- Add a session or two toward the close of the forum or one at the close of each day, in which members of the G.S.O., G.S.B., A.A.W.S., Grapevine Inc., give their takeaways from members' participation in the sharing sessions. What did all of you learn/hear from all of us?
- Is it really ok for the moderator of a sharing session to thank a member for their comment when that member has made a blatantly discriminatory, demeaning, and hurtful comment about a particular group of members? This did happen at the forum
- Possible virtual guest book or option to connect to individuals. Some people that shared were phenomenal and I would have like to ask for their contact information
- It gives more strength & hope which works as a booster to live sober
- It was amazing that you were able to manage the sharing sessions so smoothly. Really nice job

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- Make sure that the Ask-it-Basket questions get answered
- The tech team was phenomenal
- I noticed that the same dozen or so participants were at the microphone throughout the forum
- I appreciated that announcement not to go back to the microphone until everyone who wanted to share got a turn. However, "got a turn" seemed to start over at every session! I was particularly surprised when participants who took the time and made the effort to go to the virtual "Ask-it-basket" were ignored in favor of questions from the same individuals who had already been at the microphone repeatedly throughout the weekend
- Expand the virtual "Ask-it-Basket". I am one who is hesitant to speak. Obviously, I am not the only one! We were "virtually" ignored! I bet some of us had worthy questions. In addition, the speakers could research and prepare their responses
- Could we have the option to attend a prepared workshop or presentation during the sharing sessions
- Sharing sessions went well, and most all who wants to share were able to do so. Great job of offering time for us to share and ask questions. Thank you
- More time, shorter presentations
- Really appreciate the staff answering ask it baskets and accommodating the raised hands
- The staff seem genuinely caring and interested in what the fellowship was asking
- Seemed to be a good balance of times. Ask-it-basket questions were not all answered
- Shut people off. Lol, we can't feel bad, we just mute 'em
- All were good. No changes. I'm pleased the sharing sessions aren't too long.
- Reminder of the time allotted. I was in one when the whole screen showed that time had run out. That seemed to really catch the attention of the speaker
- Sharing sessions went by pretty quickly, it seemed like we did not get through too many questions. I did like the Ask it Basket, I am curious as to how that worked
- If the chairs could have some ready information or comments to add during the "dead times" when no one had questions or wanted to speak
- Set time limits on questions and responses...good
- More of them
- Give more time for questions and answer
- Create a longer schedule for reflections
- I see no need for change

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5. Please indicate whether this was your first Forum:

Yes 37 (31%) No 82 (68.9%)

6. Please select your current service position:

G.S.R.	12 (10.7%)
D.C.M.	16 (14.2%)
Area Officer	8 (7.1%)
Area Committee Chairperson	13 (11.6%)
A.A. Group Member	28 (25%)
Delegate	4 (3.5%)
Past Delegate	13 (11.6%)
Trustee	2 (1.78%)
Non-Trustee Director	1 (0.8%)
Past Trustee	5 (4.4%)
Friend of A.A.	1 (0.8%)
Other	9 (8%)

Responses to Other:

Area 62 District 7 Secretary
 Newly Elected CPC/PI Chairman Area 14 District 7 (A & B)
 PI/CPC District Chairperson
 Area 15 District 10 Chair (Miami-Dade County)
 Alternate D.C.M.
 Alternate D.C.M. and A.A. Member
 G.S.O. Staff

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District Intergroup Representative
Area Archivist
Area 52 A.A. archivist
G.S.O. Staff
Alternate Delegate (2)
None at this time, but have held many Service Positions
District C.P.C. chair
District Grapevine Chair
Help Line. Telephone Service.
Trustee
Board of Trustees Literature Committee Member
Past Delegate

7. Did you pre-register online?

Yes 119 (91.5%) No 11 (8.4%)

8. Please list any suggestion to improve the online registration process.

9. Please list any suggestion to improve the virtual Forum experience.

- Transition between rooms could have been smoother. A schedule that is accessible virtually as the meeting is in progress
- Great to have the Zoom option
- Easier log on
- Online platform is great. We can have longer days on Friday and Sunday at a slower pace. A lot of materials and people, so slower is better. Longer breaks so we have a chance to catch up with people and information.
- Did a great job for the virtual meeting
- Recording for future viewing
- I thought it went really well. Went smooth and the tech team did great!! All of the people that put all the hard work into this forum did amazing!! Thank you for your continued service. It doesn't go unnoticed
- The technical support and organization was very well done. Scheduling was very good with short breaks
- I loved the virtual meeting format! It was much better than the webinar format
- Like to hear Area Delegates to introduce themselves briefly, maybe in between each main presentation by G.S.O./G.V.O. Many members never heard or know about their Delegates. Just a way to give them more visibility
- Shorter programming so there is for more time for general sharing

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- Really enjoyed sharing sessions after workshops
- The METS team and interpreters did a fantastic job/service in every capacity
Thank you!
- I think they're effective, they can just feel really long on zoom, so I often got distracted. That's probably a "me" thing, though, not so much a "you" thing
- Is it possible to have translations for all Forum activities?
- This is the first time I saw 3 interpreters from English to Spanish; it was AMAZING! The interpretation was very professional. The interpretation is a clear sign on how much is invested for our organization to be accessible for non-English speaking members. Thank you!
- Better motivation to districts and groups about the date and mechanisms for registration. Frequent reminders of the event

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2021 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL FORUM – (October 8-10 2021) Questionnaire Summary

189 participants members of the 2021 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL FORUM completed their evaluation questionnaires. A summary of their responses follows.

1. How did you hear about this Forum?

Area	81 (50.9%)
District	26 (16.4%)
Local Intergroup/Central Office	4 (2.5%)
Home Group	6 (3.8%)
www.aa.org	67 (42.1%)
Friend	7 (4.4%)

Responses to other:

I'm familiar with the NERF. As such I'm familiar with the other Regional Forums and their rotations

All of the above

Grapevine (5)

Grapevine ad

Grapevine article

Grapevine employee

Invited by GSO (3)

I'm an employee of GSO (2)

The meeting app (2)

Box 459

Online search

I'm a delegate...

Email & Central office events calendar

Regional Trustee and Forum Desk

Facebook Private Group, GSR

Trustee

Other forum

On board

Previous Virtual Forum

I searched and found this forum

G.S.B.

Fall assembly for Area 35 from our alternate delegate

2. Please list any suggestions for future virtual Workshop or Presentation topics:

The following suggestions/comments were provided by the members for future virtual Workshop and Presentation topics:

- Solutions based “Who is not in the Room?” topics
- Virtual Meetings
- Growing A.A. membership - what tools are we not using?
- Hybrid meetings
- Narrow the scope on the “Who is not in the Room?” workshop. Be more definitive
- Effective communication and transparency up the triangle
- Topics could include discussions of anonymity online, more about safety in the rooms, maybe a topic on using the traditions in the home group and another for how the concepts work in our lives.
- Managing the language of the original text
- Traditions: history and applications
- History on creation of Trustee and Regions
- Insurance for In-Person Meetings
- How Online Groups Participate in General Service
- Advisory Actions - The Process from Start to Finish
- Anonymity in a Digital World (Zoom)
- More Concept workshops
- A Finance 101 Breakout Session for those new to G.S.O. Finances
- D.C.M. and how they can do more for their district
- How the spiritual principles of the Twelve Concepts can apply to our personal lives, our home groups and to local districts and intergroups.
- The use of traditions, concepts, warranties -- using them to guide our service, using them to better inventory ourselves and our group/district/area's service
- Robert Greenleaf -- Servant Leadership
- Historically themed topics... e.g. history of sponsorship, 12 Concepts
- AA.org walkthrough of Resources for Groups, Districts, and Areas
- Transparency in A.A.
Keeping the fellowship informed outside trusted servants in an easier, more digestible info kind of way
- Sharing from service positions from the people that do the work, explains what they do
- Concepts and Warranties

- Communication down and up the service structure
- A workshop on the chain of positions and what they do; what is required and how it affects our local homegroup.
- Understanding (PI) (Archives) conference committee vs (PI) (Archives) trustee committee
How a change request goes from group to G.S.C.

Comments:

- The experience was a lot to endure due to the length and short breaks
- Each forum is a new experience. I trust our trusted servants
- Split into more workshops so that more people can share
- More interactive sessions
Share videos and pre-reads of presentations so that less time is spent talking to people and more time is spent discussing actionable work that can be implemented in the areas, districts, and groups.
- More virtual forums would be amazing! Less “What’s on your mind?” and more workshops
- Please give a clearer itinerary to enable members to talk to the group and gain interest
- We need to integrate some interactive experiences into these events, especially if the IC/RF committee pursues having hybrid options for future Forums.
We also need a more user-friendly and accessible way to handle online 'Ask it Basket' questions - emailing the spreadsheet is a process from the dark ages. There are ways we could fairly simply (stress the simple and cost-effective part) create an internal blog that would run during the Forum to collect questions and answers. Not via some massive and expensive development project (no RSM or Oracle please)- just the technology that most organizations avail themselves of to capture this type of data during a meeting or session. The results of the blog would be available by Sunday close for Forum attendees to pick up via an ftp/download site hosted by us
- I’ve never attended one before
- This was probably the best forum I’ve attended. My biggest suggestion would be to incorporate Virtual Forums into the mix in future years regardless of pandemic. Do the regionals in person, but add a virtual option: maybe only one or two days rather than 3, or provide at a minimum, a CSPAN type hybrid option so that folks can at least watch the content and submit ask it basket questions

- I would like to see more participation by the delegates in workshops and/or presentations, maybe schedule a couple extra sessions
- I felt this year was Great! Good balance between G.S.O. and Service info. It was a nice change
- "I have a dream" that that someday, the Recovering Alcoholic who is still languished in the corners of American society would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and happiness. All levels of social and political establishment will be some day proportionally represented by the Recovering Fellow Alcoholic
- A different format for the workshops. The two-question format wasn't great
- Make it easier to register for forum. I missed all of it, this forum and the last one. KEEP IT SIMPLE PLEASE THE REGISTRATION
- I enjoyed the emphasis being on the traditions, concepts, and communication!
- I appreciate the opportunity to attend the Forum as a member of A.A. Thank you!
- The workshops and presentations were awesome
- I thoroughly enjoyed the entire weekend!
- Try to not schedule them during a holiday weekend.
- Excellent job!
- Please eliminate the "Thank You's". We do not need more ego building
- My first Forum, I was impressed with it all
- I understand that face to face is preferred. However, I really appreciated the virtual format
- I enjoyed watching "Markings on the Journey", especially when I found out that I couldn't watch it on aa.org or buy it for myself
- I could not log in
- The session was very good
- I have been at three forums already this year. I love how I get to meet Trustees, Board members, and the General Manager. The top Kahunas! They are just like the rest of us in A.A. It is awesome how the forums are run, and I am truly grateful for the information and experience. The wealth of knowledge given to us members at these forums is limitless and I get to go back to my home group, sponsor and G.S.R. and share with them what was so freely given to me. You all work so hard to give back to us. I am so excited!
- The Presentations are excellent.
- First of all, it was a good presentation, and this is the first time I've seen another region. I'm just if is different. Anyway, thanks for all your work

- Please keep one virtual meeting. I'm from another area and really shouldn't give input since we do things a bit differently. Unfortunately, we had our election assembly, and I couldn't attend as much as I wanted to. I enjoyed the Forum, thank you
- More communicating about timing. Maybe send emails before starting
- I attended the forum from the 8th of October to 10th of October. I wanted to participate more. The meet ups there was mute by the host
- Hopefully the future will allow hybrid. Videos this time were good, but with so many Q&A plus "What's on your mind?", there left a lot of time to get restless and remove oneself from the sessions
- Based on the way this question is stated, am I to assume that all future Regional Forums will be virtual? If so, I think the Fellowship will suffer from the limited communication that is so greatly needed between the groups, corporate boards, G.S.O. Staff and the G.S.B.
- Much of the "What's on your Mind?" was dominated with attendees from other Regions, found it interesting and wondered if you felt like you got a sense of the group conscience in our Region, or if you even care
- Consider the experience of the long timers...the Forum felt more like a Y.P.A.A. convention and I personally found it trite and disrespectful. Long time members have been long time financial contributors, literature purchasers, etc. Our principle of Unity, includes the new members and those of us who have stuck around. I am sure it wasn't your intent, but it felt like it was underneath the surface of every presentation and comment
- I would like to participate more. In a few meetings, they muted us. I want to hear what others think and feel
- I liked all the choices this time
- Since I am from the Pacific Region, I enjoyed how participants were carrying the message in their C.P.C., PI, Accessibilities work. I would like to hear more of the innovative ways members are reaching the still suffering alcoholics in and out of the rooms
- I suggest adding a fifth Forum every year that is 100% Virtual if the other 4 are in person
- Less of the title "Who is missing from our Rooms?" and more of "Carrying the A.A. message into the community"
- The workshop topics you chose were excellent, especially "Who's Not in the Room" and two options on the Concepts

- The online or blended forum would be awesome to continue with. Would love to see more facilitated workshop discussions with like a 20 min topic and 40 min discussion. Would love to see

3. At future Forums would you like to see:

	More	Less	Just Right	No Answer
Presentations	41 (27.7%)	13 (8.8%)	94 (63.5%)	
Workshops	61 (41.2%)	6 (4.1%)	81 (54.7%)	
Sharing Sessions	41 (27.7%)	12 (8.1%)	95 (65.2%)	

4. What was effective and what improvements might be made to A. Presentations B. Workshops C. Sharing Sessions:

Comments:

Presentations

- If I call someone on the committee. and leave a message I would like someone to return the call, for example the Regional Forums Coordinator
- I was not able to log in - made numerous attempts. Complained by email
- The concept presentations are very good
- The presentations by the Delegates are often a waste of time. The presentations by the Trustees and staff were great
- I liked the interactions with ' audience ' input
- I thought it was perfect just the way it was this weekend.
- I would have enjoyed having more Delegate presentations during the forum. We heard from 5 and an Alternate Delegate. Involve them all in the presentations and the workshops
- Maybe make them shorter and not as detailed? I don't know what other people want/need/expect. This was my first forum. I especially liked hearing from previous trustees--how they see things and what they learned from their service.
- I felt the picnic table is formatted so that we see the same information every year and that is very helpful. Maybe others can use a similar format that is formulaic and repetitious so that it is easier understood after hearing it multiple times.

- Enjoyed all the presentations but perhaps cut out a couple so that sharing sessions can be extended. The “What’s on your mind?” sessions were a highlight for me
- Presentations were fine - they were short and addressed current topics within the Fellowship. The one thing we could do better is make these presentations available to Forum attendees as we require written submission of them prior to the Forum so we have them in soft-copy
- Overall, I think everything was very well done, from all the presenters to the organization of everything. The tech-support was also well done. I was very pleased and proud to be a member of A.A. Thank you for representing us, God bless
- The presentations were well done
- Very well done
- Loved the sharing of the past trustees. Enjoyed the new G.S.B. Chair
- Great Presentations
- Encourage more visual aids
- Presentations are just that
- It was great. Suggestion: give global info/statistics on the individual committees..i.e. I'm on C.F.C. in my district. Always good to pass info to the members
- Would like more presentations and workshops with less time for in hospitality sessions.
- Presenters stayed within the time they were given. Presentations were engaging
- Thanks for the opportunity to interact with the G.S.O. Board and Staff!
- Presenters need to prepare
- Great presenters
- It was effective to see footage from the archives office and founders
- Everyone did a great job with the tools that were available. Thank you everyone for all your efforts
- Always thoughtful and well-presented
- At least one should be made in a language other than English
- The Treasurer's report / presentation was excellent. He was very clear, concise, and thorough and covered the key items needed in a timely manner. Would have liked to have had more Q&A time there. I would observe that so far, my experience in A.A. is that our Treasurer positions at many service levels seem to be much larger in that the position often functions as the "Front" person for business operations info / discussions. Personally, I'd like to understand the

"why's" and "how's" behind the numbers much better. Maybe just a couple deeper dives in a Forum like these as even at nearly 2 full days, time is limited

- A more diverse group ...like people of color
- As an alcoholic, more is always better
- Enjoyed whole informative event
- They were just right
- This was my first time at a Forum so I enjoyed everything so much
- I was impressed that questions from participants were handled so well including getting them on screen as they spoke
- Love visual additions (like PowerPoint) to complement presentations
- Short presentations are effective. Loved meeting our Class A's
- The presentations were well planned and informative
- They were good
- Broad set of topics were very good.
- Excellent topics. If we're still using Zoom, use of visual aids, or some outline to help guide
- Could not log in, could not log in
- Allow for more time on Q&A after each presentation
- I don't see any problem with the effectiveness on presentations
- I like all of them
- Technology was seamless. The speakers were excellent
- It was GREAT!
- I had time conflicts during the weekend, and I had to go in and out of the forum so I missed most of the presentations.
- I especially enjoyed the presentations by the Class A trustees and the Finance Presentation
- I believe everything went well; maybe a little more breaks. Though I know you want to put in a lot of material
- I like that we could meet up on Zoom
- Maybe a little longer so that more detail can be provided
- The Fellowship Connections Presentation would have been more appropriate as a workshop for people who have a direct need or interest in the program
- I enjoyed hearing from the G.S.O. workers. Their enthusiasm was wonderful
- I really liked that this year was spent in less formal, more across-the-board sharing. I had determined to not go to any more forums, as they were so tightly controlled by G.S.O. that one couldn't really be a part of things. The tone set for this one seemed better, more inclusive, and less G.S.O.-speak, if you will. It isn't so much which presentation, or workshop - I'd like us to handle the difficult topics

here, bring them up and allow for the quiet conflicts going on to be discussed more readily

- Perhaps a two-minute reminder on time?
- Downloadable and printable material for virtual attendees for all presentations would be helpful
- It really came together when I received my monthly Intergroup email. The names and items discussed came together
- Do folks in the main office participate in assn management? It might be a good cooperative development tool, especially for even planning like this
- Love to see pictures of past compared to present
- It was a very professional workshop
- The participation by the fellowship!
- In the form that I attended; I don't believe there were any presentations
- The presentations need to be more speaker type of presentations
- Redundancies. I watched the videos on the website that started at 6:00. So as the evening progressed, they were also shown throughout the presentation. So ground was then covered. Again
- The Treasurer report was well done. Questions were answered honestly, and this helps build trust with the groups
- I like the open discussion
- I like having visual aids and that was done well. I like the personal stories of the trustees. I liked hearing how long the employees had worked at G.S.O. and that they were not alcoholics. I liked hearing how many people worked at G.S.O. These things all make G.S.O. more tangible and human. Without this information to help me visualize, I tend to feel disconnected and G.S.O. remains abstract and difficult to comprehend. I can't wait for the new Service Manual, hopefully it too will improve my comprehension

Workshops

- Workshops were great
- Perhaps proposing a list of possible questions would reduce the time it takes for the participants to come up with a couple of questions to address. At one workshop I attended, we spent half the workshop trying to decide which questions to address
- Need more of them so all people have chance to learn and share
- Would like to see recorded workshops. I missed while attending another
- Already perfect

- The workshops this year only consisted of group discussion. The workshop leaders only kept discussion going and didn't provide much in the way of information or guidance. It would be helpful to have more involvement from the actual G.S.O. staff as well as delegates (using their committee assignments) to direct discussion
- More structure in the topic/questions addressed
- Workshops have reverted to the same old boring presenter sharing their experience, strength and hope and then opening it up to others. Most of the time, the discussions are centered on what is wrong, and no real solutions are discussed. It would be great to engage more participants in discussing what could be done vs. what's not
- Due to a conflict with an area Assembly, I was not able to attend any workshops
- Workshops were great. Presenters were well-prepared and the discussions were solid
- Workshops aren't very effective because your target audience isn't who you really need to reach. But I'm not sure I have an answer to that conundrum so I will say the workshops were as effective as they can be in their current form
- Something that is more interactive would be very beneficial
- Overall, I think everything was very well done from all the presenters to the organization of everything. The tech-support was also well done. I was very pleased and proud to be a member of A.A. Thank you for representing us, God bless
- The workshops need to be more focused
- Loved the music choices. It helped make the event more fun
- More time
- The new members and their willingness to answer Q&A. Also, them getting back to us with the answers at a later date
- Very good workshops
- I thought workshops were all excellent. Again, visual aids might help
- I know they were explained how to do the workshops, but it seems they might need more guidance to get the best results
- Great workshop presenters
- It was effective to have people who understood the topic and asked for questions
- Something to think about is having people dialog about a step or have a skit about recovery, unity, service or foundational aspects of the fellowship
- Topics should be in the form of a question
- Enjoyed whole informative event
- They were just right

- The technology arrangements were awesome, so everything went smoothly
- I like the smaller room for the workshops. It allows for more discussion
- The workshops were well planned, informative, and related to current concerns
- Answer questions rather than just listen
- Clear, organized, themes / questions addressed in them very timely
- Could not log in
- I don't see any problem with the effectiveness of workshops
- I liked all of them, but I would ask for a sponsorship or beginner's workshop. How to treat a beginner, what to give them, what not to do, etc. There are clear messages in our Big Book and 12x12, but not everyone reads the literature. Same with sponsorship. My sponsor had me read the sponsorship pamphlet before we started working together. It definitely taught me about boundaries
- Well-organized presentations
- I did not fully participate in the workshops - I could only listen in on my phone. I thought the workshops were very good. I especially liked how much time was given to participants to share their thoughts
- So much depends on who is facilitating the workshops, and the ones I attended were well run by delegates and other trusted servants
- Include more historical presentations from the archivist
- Workshops on inceptions of when/how other (ALL) regions came into being. Short histories and about other countries how A.A. came into being there
- I feel being my first time I like hearing from people that were from France to Asia
- They were great
- Again, downloadable and printable material for each workshop
- I thought the workshop I attended was good. I'd like to see more juried presentations that would help to develop the agenda topics
- Had a hard time choosing which workshop to go to. Wanted to see both but they were happening simultaneously. Any ideas?
- Talk more about what is happening after the G.S.C.
- A lot of outside issues as topics. Would like to see more work toward attracting members into general service
- As I am searching my memory to recall the workshops. I vaguely see a man in a tan suit, and a women with dark hair. I think they were Delegates. I love seeing all the positions represented with faces, titles, sobriety stories and their experiences with the principles. The principles are still so difficult for me to comprehend. So, I don't remember the topics of the workshops but I hardly moved all weekend because I was so interested in the Forum. So, I must have liked it

Sharing Sessions

- Chairpersons' comments favoriting their friends... no
- They were great!
- A bit confusing at times
- When someone identifies themselves, I would like them to include where they are from. Area ____? Southeast Texas, for example
- In the virtual environment, a new twist develops. Participants from other regions can easily attend, and actually limited participation from those within our region. It seemed like more than a few questions consistently came from those outside of our region. I don't know how you monitor this, but it was noticeable
- Seems like we keep hearing from the same people over and over. I wish we could come up with ways to hear from other people
- LOVED THE SHARING TOMES! I was happy it was available for long periods of time
Discussing the Traditions in response to questions during sharing. Very informative
- Perhaps extend the time of one or two of the "What's on Your Mind" Sessions
- The sharing sessions this year went remarkably well, and I believe everyone stayed engaged and informed. One of the best aspects of this year's Southwest Regional Forum is that we had resources in the room that answered questions real time. It is never a good thing in any A.A. meeting of this type to keep saying 'I'm not sure but I will get the answer'. We don't make something up of course but we should always have the best possible resources available for these events
- Overall, I think everything was very well done. From all the presenters, to the organization of everything, to the tech support, it was well done. I was very pleased and proud to be a member of A.A. Thank you for representing us, God bless
- I feel the sharing sessions will be better if guidance would be provided to issues that will help with carrying the message
- Keeping the speakers in their allotted time. Not running over. Sticking to the schedule
- Well done
- More complete and transparent answers by Trustees and office staff. Seems like nobody there ever makes a mistake or admits to problems that need to be resolved. Seems like a circle the wagons event, with the same incomplete and

non-specific answers, even though transparency and complete communication were issues highlighted during 71st conference

- I thought sharing was handled very well
- The staff and board presentations were great. Relaxed, open sharing - not nearly as stuffy as most of the forums have been in the past. The financial presentation was light yet very informative. I really enjoyed the friendliness and banter between everyone from the office, I hope you can continue this culture at in person events!
- Sharing sessions were great and I liked how much emphasis were put on them during the weekend. I liked the format of having tech and a chair person run it smoothly
- Love them
- Wonderful
- Maybe need one more for Areas to share with other Areas what they do in their Areas?
- Having sharing times is important. I found having them at breaks or meal times didn't work for me
- Shorten the opening announcement
- None. I thought the sharing was good/informative
- Enjoyed whole informative event
- They were just right
- Sharing sessions seem to attract ego statements rather than profitable A.A. experience
- Would enjoy more sharing time
- I loved that there were so many sharing sessions, but did hear some of the same questions asked (of course people can't always make all the sessions to hear what was asked before). Maybe more Ask-it-Basket questions so repeat questions could be weeded out and avoided
- Sharing is great. Really enjoy our practice of open communication. Those in service are so gracious, humble & giving. We are blessed to have such people in leadership rolls
- Sharing sessions had easy access to speak, and were addressed professionally
- More on responsibility of the D.C.M.
- Was not able to attend Sunday sharing sessions
- Despite being on zoom, the members who facilitated did an awesome job and it felt easy to participate. Appreciated the personal sharing, getting to know the trustees, etc.

- Sharing by first time attendees is a waste of time. Time could be better spent for people who have questions either in person or via the Ask it Basket
- Could not log in
- Perhaps I am confused on what the "Sharing Sessions" means? I do not see these words on the agenda. Perhaps this refers to "What's on your mind?" sessions? If yes, no improvements other than more of these sessions
- I don't see any problem with the effectiveness on sharing sessions
- After this last forum, I was thankful when the GM, Bob, ask that we come to the podium more solution-based rather than a negative message
- I felt this was valuable and allowed many people who may not otherwise have the opportunity to share
- I thought the open sharing sessions were effective. They gave people the opportunity to bring up many topics and questions for all participants to think about
- There was plenty of opportunity for asking questions live or asking them through the ask-it-basket. That was idea
- Ability for folks to share and mostly definitive answers to questions, but future ideas events were kept close to the chest
- Muy bien
- Members were asked to share once, then wait until others have shared to come to the mic again. Some members missed the direction, and I suggest those chairing the sessions proactively ask those members to hold off. That way more members are able to speak at the mic
- I liked the sharing sessions, and the Ask-it-Basket idea. It would be great to continue to see these used to continue to educate throughout the year using social media
- Loved hearing the questions and the questions being answered respectfully and unhurried!
- It seems that there are always dominant members in sharing sessions and a lot of the people either A) don't get the opportunity to share or B) time runs out before they have the opportunity to share or C) some people are just intimidated by the others in the meeting
- I really liked the sharing sessions to get other perspectives
- No suggestions other than one or two staff/board that were always called on for answers
- The following isn't really relevant to the question. There was a man who spoke a foreign language. It seemed that he was trying to find the rules so they could be enforced and he could say "see here these are the rules, see this literature" then

he wouldn't really have to be responsible (make up his own mind) or discuss it and come to a group conscience. Maybe that isn't what he was saying. I remember thinking along those lines. I felt imprisoned. I didn't know what the rules were. I realized they were found in the A.A. literature. I realized they weren't actually rules, but were the principles of A.A. I knew they could be studied in the A.A. literature and if I kept participating with my home group it would start making more sense. I didn't have the motivation to read let alone really study the literature. So here I am 18 years later making slow progress. Thank you so very much

5. Please indicate whether this was your first Forum:

Yes 53 (29.9%) No 124 (70.1%)

6. Please select your current service position:

G.S.R.	25 (15.7%)
D.C.M.	21 (13.2%)
Area Officer	10 (6.3%)
Area Committee Chairperson	8 (5%)
A.A. Group Member	41 (25.8%)
Non-Trustee Director	1 (0.6%)
Delegate	8 (5%)
Past Delegate	20 (12.6%)
Trustee	6 (3.8%)
Past Trustee	2 (1.3%)
Friend of A.A.	5 (3.1%)

Other 12 (7.5%)

Responses to Other:

*District 9 Area 4 Treasure
Past DCM, past Intergroup chair, current Archivist for District 10/21 Area 86
Volunteer Technical
Alternate DCM (4)
Alternate Delegate (3)
District Crier
Intergroup chair
District Secretary and Area Tech Member
Member since 1980
Area Finance Committee, Central Service Board
Employee
Area 10, District 11, Grapevine chair
Group secretary; group treasurer
Group Newcomers Meeting Coordinator & past District & Area Committee's
Chairperson
Special worker at a local A.A. service center
Secretary of an A.A. International Online Group
Central Office Group Liaison
A.A. member who loves Regional Forums
I work with our local women's corrections
Grapevine employee
District Corrections Chair
Still alcoholic former G.S.R. & D.C.M. along with district committees
Zoom
Although GSR
Area 38 Dist. 20 P I CHAIR
Panel 72 Delegate Elect*

7. Did you pre-register online?

Yes 170 (96.6%) No 6 (3.4%)

8. Please list any suggestion to improve the online registration process.

- Registration was easy-peasy!

- It was easy to register. Would like to see agenda posted on screen during breaks?
- Awesome process. Very smooth in comparison to last year when I never received login info and had to call around to get ID's and passwords
- If possible, it would be great to have a program shortly after registering or at least the day before the forum starts. It would be helpful to plan for those of us who can't be at the whole forum
- Needs to open earlier
- I think that it went well
- Very easy
- I'm spoiled. Somebody else registered me as I was a presenter
- Very easy to register
- The confirmation email to delayed. I am used to instant confirmation emails - it assures me that my registration was recorded. I ended up reregistering because I did not reach the meeting info
- Please let us know the final schedule way more in advance so we can adjust our person and professional lives to ensure we can attend the Friday sessions and whole weekend
- I could not register, and my wife helped me and she couldn't get it to work so i missed the whole thing. So sad, so make registration easier
- It was easy and great
- None. It was simple
- Worked smoothly and quickly
- It was easy to register online
- It took several times to fully register and receive conformation
- I had a senior moment registering but Attallah helped me out and thank you for that
- Very easy for a non techie like me -- thank you!
- Overall, it is very good and I have attended the session first time
- It was harder than the last regional forum to join the forum workshops, presentations, ask it baskets etc... I had to login and off throughout the day
- I registered on Saturday because I could not attend on Friday
- Shorter reference numbers especially for seniors with memory problems
- Excelente
- Was automatically pre-registered as a presenter
- I suggest posting the schedule or the general hours ahead of time on the website so members can make arrangements with work, etc.

- The videos were interesting, but after the first two showings I felt kind of videoed out. Interaction is way more important to me when taking time out
- It was simple
- Online registration was very simple. Thank you to whoever set it up
- None, easy to register. The move right now is that they save money and time. Please note that the attendance was 1/2 of what we usually see in the Southwest Regions and there were only 150 or so online at any given time. We have found this to be true locally at our Areas, so we need to be careful we don't make assumptions and fool ourselves that this is the best for A.A.

9. Please list any suggestion to improve the virtual Forum experience.

- I love the virtual forums. They allow me to attend events that I would not be able to attend otherwise
- I love that it was online. That's why I could attend. I got a little lost sometimes between sessions, unclear about where I was to go and how to get there
- This was my first forum and I loved it! The Zoom technology worked well, and the interaction was great. It was helpful to see the "big picture" and put a face to a name (and personality) of our Trustees
- I think we have taken it as far as we can in emulating the in-person Forum as best as we can. It isn't the same, but that has nothing to do with what we haven't done...A.A. is just a physical place and depends on eye contact, gestures, pats on the back, conversations in the hallway
- I have been a part of other online activities, and I think this was the best
- The only thing I would have liked would have been to be let into Zoom rooms earlier for networking and fellowship
- I was only able to attend Friday and Saturday morning due to other commitments. Frankly, from what I observed this will be my last forum. I know I missed a lot of the presentations, but from where I sat if would have more productive watching Sesame Street, except for Friday night's speaker. I think the tech staff did a great job with the Zoom broadcast, signing and registration, but it the content of the Zoom meeting I didn't like
- Just keep some form of the in our bag of tricks
- Less time for hospitality sessions and more workshops/presentations. Hopefully we'll be back to in-person events soon!
- Announcement did not reach me throughout of my home group. The info came by unexpected finding via aa.org

- Sorry that I have no suggestions for improvement. I was extremely impressed with how well it went. It was very professional and without any drama. It was a breath of fresh air. The METS team are to be congratulated on a beautiful result
- Keep up the good work
- The online event seemed to be pretty flawless to me. Incredible job from the tech team
- I believe that having the Forums available via Zoom is a good thing and should be continued as a "hybrid" type meeting. I would not have been able to attend otherwise (this time). I realize this presents a variety of challenges, and there would have to be adjustments made to the way the format would work. Zoom will never be as good as in person. And, we do not want to take away from an in-person Forum in doing a Hybrid. I believe it is possible to figure out how to do both in a reasonable and effective way
- Well planned May include online availability in future events. All inclusive, never exclusive
- Great forum
- The forum was very informative. The presentations were clear and concise. There was ample time to ask questions and contact information and other ways to get in touch with people for further questions was given. The workshops were well done. The format of a small presentation of the topic with questions thought of for discussion went really well. Everyone was able to be involved if they wanted to! I always like to hear from the class A trustees. Their dedication to A.A. is amazing
- I cannot think of any flaws with the forum that I would be pointing out for improvement. They did a fantastic job
- Great experience. Great job!
- That G.S.O. New York would consider having an online Forum once a year in the future for interested service members from outside US/Canada to learn more how A.A. as a whole works
- Always have a virtual forum or at least hybrid one or more of the others
- Online was excellent. No changes
- I understand that chat needs to be limited during the big meetings. I would suggest that chat be opened up when those meeting are over as you did for the very last meeting of the Forum. That would allow people to chat about which workshop or breakout room they are going to and exchange contact information
- Could just be my weak techie skills.... may need more assist with use of break out rooms, spending time in chat rooms, etc -- was not sure how to access AND socially not sure how to engage. (Grateful for virtual but looking forward to in

person perhaps with a hybrid option.) I would not have been able to attend if this were only in person this year so I lean towards a hybrid approach

- The only other item for review in the main sessions/Q&A sessions -- the timer. Although it was showing, if the individual sharing has gallery view, you cannot see the timer very well. Perhaps giving us all a recurring reminder after every couple of shares/questions to look at the provided "countdown clock"
- I don't see any problem with the effectiveness on online forum
- Even after we return to in-person, thought should be given about holding one online forum a year to make forums more accessible. I'm not as interested in hybrid - I think that might lessen in-person attendance. A separate online forum for US/Canada would be great
- I wasn't able to attend 24/7 but thoroughly enjoyed when I did. Especially the Class Act, as always. Love those Class "A"s :)
- I suggest that different video titles be shown along with "Markings on the Journey"
- I have been to a live and now a virtual forum, and I thought the overall program went very well. Everything was planned out very well and the timeline was followed. Also loved the convenience of a click button on the forum website to join a specific session during breakouts. Great job and look forward to participating in the forums either virtual or in person when possible. Thank you all for a great job
- I'd like to have had a discussion about the new 'dummy book' and be able to be heard about why that is such a bad, fatally flawed decision for A.A. to make. I'd like to not be dismissed with a trite "offer a solution not a suggestion as a problem." I found that offensive and arrogant. I dislike arrogance in any of our trusted servants, whether staff or others, and it causes me to think that I'd not attend another one for fear of being ridiculed
- An interesting thing has happened with forums being virtual. There were quite a few members from areas outside the Southwest region, which was great and an interesting development. The only thing I wondered about was the mic during the sharing sessions. There were quite a few members from outside the region sharing at the mic, and I'm not sure if this adds to or takes away from the regional spirit of the event. Mostly I just want to say THANK YOU for the tremendous work on the back end to recreate the forum experience in a virtual format. It was wonderful
- Would like the agenda posted on screen during breaks?
- The on-line only could be shortened. There was too much "open time" that left the participant the ability too easily to leave. Sitting that long over the 3 days is very difficult from the home

- Return to in-person Forums. I've attended approximately 20 Forums in the Southwest and other Regions, I regret to tell you how much I disliked the experience. I felt like an outsider and that there was a controlled narrative of "This is how we are going to do things" and no real dialog between the groups and the Boards/G.S.O. staff. In all fairness, much of this may be due to the Pandemic and we will see what the will of the group is going forward
- The tech help and accessibility was great and prompt

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**2021 VIRTUAL EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL FORUM – (November 19-21 2022)
Questionnaire Summary**

133 participants members of the 2021 EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL FORUM completed their evaluation questionnaires. A summary of their responses follows.

1. How did you hear about this Forum?

Area	54 (46.6%)
District	15 (12.9%)
Local Intergroup/Central Office	4 (3.4%)
Home Group	5 (3.4%)
www.aa.org	50 (43.1%)
Friend	9 (7.8%)

Responses to other:

- Asked to be on panel (2)
- GSO (3)
- Grapevine (2)
- Grapevine employee
- Friend works in the General Service Office
- Box 459
- Our own area had it on its website
- Knew it was time
- Our Delegate and Alternate Delegate
- OIVAA
- I am an Area 54 Past Delegate & an Archives Committee member
- Area Assembly
- We were supposed to host the forum, Area 54
- Had to search for the correct Forum for my area
- Internet search
- East Central Regional Trustee
- Looked for it myself on aa.org
- National Trustee from Brasil
- General Service Trustee and 2nd term WSM delegate Brasil

2. Please list any suggestions for future virtual Workshop or Presentation topics:

The following suggestions/comments were provided by the members for future virtual Workshop and Presentation topics:

- Initiatives with the Professionals regarding communication about how A.A. is supportive for suffering alcoholics
- Presentations on the 12 steps. Workshops on service positions at the District level. I find that Both District 12 in Area 42 (where I moved from) and in District 7, Area 14 where I now reside both have many open positions including Alternates and Committee Chairs. Also, I would like to hear suggestions on how to get the general membership involved in service. When I got sober in 1982, our sponsors did not present service positions as optional. I now gather from talking to newer members that it is not presented in the same way, so perhaps a workshop on sponsorship would be helpful.
 - How to host workshops in your Districts or Areas
 - Submitting an Agenda item for the G.S.C.
 - Inviting G.S.O. staff and/or Trustees to attend your local functions
- How to help those who don't look like the others in the meetings (whether it be related to age, dress, color, sex, etc.)
- New G.S.R. and new D.C.M. workshops
- I didn't see a service sponsorship workshop. I'm new at this, but not A.A. It's been a brick wall trying to get a service sponsor for 3 years. I was completely unaware of the forum, and so glad I came to network. I'm all set, but there are many of us with 2-7 years, active steppers, ready to move to the next level in service. It would be great if there was something for us which outlined service positions, sobriety requirements and a Q&A session. Food for thought. Love you guys! The conference was great. Please keep up the good work. I want A.A. to be around for many more years to come :)
- How to attract new G.S.R.s for active service. Some groups are getting their information from Intergroup instead of their G.S.R.s
- Meeting vs. Group – the first vital steps to start a group
- Online Groups and Service positions
- How to spread the word to A.A.'s on how Vital the Traditions and Concepts are to our Society's Survival
- How Service and Recovery are linked beyond Group Service and Sponsorship
- Grapevine & Literature Writing Workshop
- Getting ACTIVE in service
- What is the G.S.R. REALLY doing in YOUR home group
- Service Sponsorship
- A dollar in the basket, where does it go (after it goes to the G.S.B.)?
- Concepts: their practical application
- The Big Book, and how it is seen in other countries. Inform members that it is not the same stories, and the first 164 pages are different, etc. I think it's important to talk about variety in the fellowship to best carry the message. Show a committee

such as Public Information what a virtual information session looks like for a high school etc. why not show it as an education for the students to write an essay after the presentation. Our C.P.C. committee did an amazing presentation for the C.I.U.S.S., social workers without any A.A. jargon, simply an educational what is A.A.? What we do, where we are, statistics with a baby, Zoom share after the 15-minute presentation. It is in French but I told him he should translate it.

- Tech or website round tables or workshops. Have the round tables not be presentations, but places where we could exchange ideas
- Get to know your Trustees
- A more detailed agenda would have been helpful, but that can be a significant problem, I know. A text or e-mail notice of updates to the forum site to registrants can be helpful, but I don't know how easy/hard that might be to do
- History of A.A.
- Presentations under the topic of service
- DUI classes
- Political Correctness vs. Being Considerate (or Being Loving and Tolerant)
The Realm of the Spirit is Always Inclusive (not just Christian)
- I would love if topics at all the Forums is negotiating digital media to better carry the message. Including virtual video meetings, digital payments, social media platforms. There is still so much fear and from that lack of information and pre-judgement
- I would love to hear more about the Grapevine. I really enjoyed the information that was given.
- More explanation about the structure from member down...
- Something specifically earmarked for the first-time attendees like a welcome and introduce yourself at the beginning. Rather than just the last session so they don't disappear
- Safety in Groups: Whose responsibility is it? Who is involved?
- Social Networks and A.A.
- Virtual Meetings and Group Consciousness
- I would like to see the topic of A.A.'s presence on social networks and digital ethics as topics to be discussed in a workshop
- From the book "Our great responsibility"
- The present and future of virtual meetings
- Where to meet when there is no money to pay rent?
- Opening of groups where there are none and where needed
- A.A.'s accessibility in a virtual world and service sponsorship
- The importance of World Service meetings and the Americas and other service areas

Comments:

- Make the Forums in person
- You could spread out the current workshop topics so that they do not overlap in time. The best one was "Who's Not There." The weakest presentations were a PowerPoint read work by word; and a delegate from Michigan gave two such presentations. The best G.S.O. presentation was by the Treasurer. He's a terrific presenter of timely and important budgetary matters for G.S.O. Change "Fun in service" to something else. The speaker did not convince me of "fun". I would rather be told about real life stories about the challenges and rewards of Service. It is not "fun." Best Delegate report was about the numbers of on-line meetings prior, during and since the Pandemic. Also Excellent was the panel "Accepting Virtual Groups in the Service Structure."
- I do not have anything to suggest. I feel we need to have in-person forums in the future unless the country is shut down. The rest of the world is opening up and people are going back to work. We in A.A. need to do the same
- I registered late, and I was afraid I wasn't going to be able to participate. That was not the case. The response was quick and helpful! I enjoyed Saturday and enjoyed everyone talking between the break
- I would like to suggest making the entry of the Zoom a little more user friendly
- The program was a little hard to read on my phone
- I didn't get to attend all the workshops I would have liked to. They were all appealing
- I enjoyed everything I did get in to
- I appreciate the safety aspects of Zoom that were taken. Just a little difficult to navigate
- The tips & tricks were good, both sessions. Maybe offer that again, with an outline of the event, for navigating the forum. I appreciated that the workshop addressed questions from those who were present
- None, it went very well
- Longer Sessions
- Really being more accessible and inclusive
- It was fine
- More time for sharing
- Please continue hybrid and/or virtual forums
It is so amazing to be able to participate in them and to "meet" the trustees and G.S.O./Grapevine staff
- Good the way it is
- No suggestions, I thought it was a very informative Regional Forum. I thought you guys did a great job

- Please consider making them hybrid. There are many many people who would love to come to a forum, but cannot due to distance, disability, etc.
- It was so wonderful! I have no suggestions! Thank you!
- I prefer in-person, but it was ok
- IN PERSON
- I really enjoyed it! I thought it went quite smoothly, and the tech problems were resolved very quickly. No one missed a beat! Thank you so much for making the forum available online. You made it possible for me to attend my first forum ever!
- In person is better, but I am so glad that we aren't giving up on life just because there is a pandemic
- I thought all was very well presented, and the topics/presentations were great!
- I wanted to know if any open A.A.'s are in existence via Zoom and when? Is it possible that this information can be acquired? Let me know please
- Better explanation of what the workshops entail. I was kind of confused with the "Participation" workshop. It seems that the panelists were dumping all of the responsibilities onto the shoulders of the G.S.R.'s. I thought that was the job of all members and the Delegate/Alternate and the District D.C.M.'s? Sometimes asking or talking to groups/meetings members about getting active falls on deaf ears, and there are a lot of those in Area 55. This was my first forum and I appreciate it being online. It wouldn't have been possible for me to attend otherwise, so thank you!
- Great Forum, very informative
- I, unfortunately, was unable to attend the forum. I'm sorry I missed it
- More presentations
- Have at least 2 virtual forums. It was awesome having people from other places
- Need more breaks, and/or a shorter time period. It was hard to stay focused on Saturday because it was on Zoom
- I missed the translation in Spanish at the meetings, unfortunately I was not able to attend the event.

3. At future Forums would you like to see:

	More	Less	Just Right	No Answer
Presentations	35 (34%)	6 (5.8%)	62 (60.2%)	
Workshops	52 (45.6%)	7 (6.1%)	55 (48.2%)	
Sharing Sessions	34 (33%)	12 (11.7%)	57 (55.3%)	

**4. What was effective and what improvements might be made to A. Presentations
B. Workshops C. Sharing Sessions:**

Comments:

Presentations

- The breakout room would be nice for hot topic subjects (racism) and then let each group come back with a summary and a suggestion in applying which tradition to the problem
 - I am a person of color. and my history outside of A.A. can identify the difference between prejudice (which we all have) and racism
 - I have seen whites and people of color act out about their preference and needing to be the boss and/or needing to be right. I see hurt people more than I see racism taking over A.A. Once someone who truly applies the traditions speaks up with these individuals, they are able to view their prejudice with different lenses and racist feelings are not expressed openly
 - Generalization and not practicing the traditions make outside issues the primary purpose. The history of Tradition 3; keeps racism at a distance. Early on in my sobriety, I judged a Southern African and a Skinhead member. Once I removed my prejudice, I had the best time with those individuals
 - The opinions were expressed but can we go beyond the opinions and help people to come out of their comfort zone. Zoom has an app where we can take poles and use traditional A.A. checklist questions to have fun. It will help to look at the opinions in a different light and have individuals look at their own behavior
 - I guess because I have my own feelings and fears about what is going on in the world - I want to safeguard what I think A.A. is and is not. For me it about saving people's lives regardless of their religion, race, and belief system
- Trusted servants giving talks
- More presentations from Delegates about the journey from G.S.R. to Delegate, and/or what really happens at the annual conference
- Presenters are prepared and knowledgeable
- Presentation from other committees besides Finance, Archives, and Grapevine
- This was my first time attending. I just enjoyed it tremendously, and I am excited to report back to my home group
- I believe we need to include Y.P.A.A. in the presentations
- Allow the presenters to have access to chat so they can answer questions. That is, if we do virtual ever again

- I thought all of the presentations were excellent
- Friday night presentations seemed too quick, and as a result were not as informative as they possibly could have been
- Loved them. They were perfect. No improvements needed
- Topics were very timely
- My favorites are the Past Trustees and the Class A Trustees
- Presentations were good
- The sharing sessions were very informing
- Varying speakers with videos and PowerPoint slides and such was quite good at keeping my attention throughout
- This was my first forum. I was blown away by the application of the traditions and the concepts. Thank you!
- I really enjoyed the presentations, they were informative and helpful. I also thought sharing sessions brought out questions, concerns and suggestions that were important to A.A. as a whole
- The presentations were good
- I thought they all did well
- They were great
- Not sure if this is already in effect, but Delegate presentations might want to be reviewed by staff for preparedness, accuracy and content. Everyone is trying to do the best they can and they're all great, but sometime a little constructive criticism might make a difference. There's a huge difference between G.S.B. presentations and Delegate presentations, and I'm not entirely sure if it's "production/creation assistance" or preparedness and content...Maybe assign presentation topics MUCH farther in advance that just a month or two
- Good, on-topic sharing sessions after each Delegate Presentations
- People need to talk slower, especially on Zoom
- Add 15 more minutes to the Q & A
- It was fine
- Loved the presentation on employee pensions, the transparency of the finances. In my area, you have to be specially invited to our work group on finances which is exclusive. It's a lost opportunity for members who might be able to contribute professional or service knowledge or just plain old interest as to what goes on in decision making. I understand that visitors have a right to speak at the end as is the case in all our area's committees, but to deny a visit when you are the person responsible for the committees, i.e. Alternate Chairperson does not reflect our traditions
- Speaker training might be helpful for those giving presentations. There are professional speakers that might give training to the group for free or at a reduced rate

- Just have more of them
- I like the la Viña presentation
- Clear instructions, daily helpful emails, great tech support
 - The GSB Chair was a terrific Chairperson of the Forum. I received chat messages from a past delegate, about accident insurance for group A.A. meetings. He picked up that my question was not answered well. Thanks you. I am prepared to talk about this topic with my District.
 - Best G.S.O. presentation was by the Treasurer. He's a terrific presenter of timely and important budgetary matters for G.S.O.
 - Change "Fun in service" to something else. The speaker did not convince me of "fun". I would rather be told about real life stories about the challenges and rewards of Service to A.A. It seems that "fun" means fellowship and not the grunt work part of service
 - Best Delegate report was about the numbers of on-line meetings prior, during and since the Pandemic
 - Weakest presentation concerned the Informed Group Conscience, because the presenter read his PowerPoint by word. What a missed opportunity for people to learn more about the G.C. There should be a whole panel on this decision-making part of the A.A. groups, especially since the G.C.'s are tackling difficult questions about in-person, Zoom, and hybrid meetings
 - Grapevine, Inc. needs to talk about its editorial policy because the stories are really "vanilla." What is their goal in heavily editing the author's manuscript? Why do they all have to end on a positive note. Is that real? The stories are "inspirational," and I get that. But they are shallow in my opinion. To be fair, I could not attend the Saturday evening sessions, but I heard a bland presentation at the Northeast Regional Forum
- Just to show my health growth with everyone and encourage others to do the same
- The topics and time given were effective for the presentations
- Good presentations all around - relevant and informative
- Presentations should be fun, informative, and short. Any more than 30 minutes is overkill. Leave more time for Q & A
- Move a little slower through the slides. I was trying to take notes, but I missed a lot because they moved through them too quickly
- Loved all the presentations and hearing information regarding how we carry the message, as well as listening to other A.A. members and their ideas or stories
- I enjoyed the few presentations I attended. Everything seemed fine
- Everything's fine
- Safety in A.A.

- How to improve the unity
- The Workbooks of the Action Committees, especially that of Treatment Centers, are tools for Puebla Mexico
- I like the kindness, and the start times could be respected

Workshops

- I may be biased, but I was thoroughly impressed and before I go trying to get what I want to hear, I need to remember how much work is put into doing these workshops
- Workshops on how to reach out to newcomers in the age of Zoom, and how some groups are handling this as it appears Zoom will be here for some time
- Make sure shares are timed
- Expectation of level of discussion would help decision to attend. Level 101 "I've never heard of this before". Level 201 "I'm ready to learn a little more". Level 301 "I'm looking for something I don't already know"
- Presentation from other committees besides Finance, Archives, and Grapevine
- I believe we need to include Y.P.A.A. in the workshops
- I considered going to Workshop #1, but instead went to Workshop #3 because the topic sounded as if it dealt with keeping people interested in service. I clearly misunderstood, because everyone else thought it meant how to keep newcomers coming back to A.A. meetings.

The workshop on "Who is missing from the Rooms?" turned into a recitation of episodes of minorities being slighted instead of a discussion of how to increase diversity.

Perhaps it's asking too much for the time allotted, but I think a workshop should either be a learning experience or a problem-solving exercise. For that reason, I was disappointed in both workshops

- Loved the workshops
- No improvements needed. You guys know how to present workshops, too!
- I thought they were effective with the panel!
- I did not attend workshops.
- They were good
- In person
- I felt that the workshops I attended went well. I wouldn't change a thing
- Workshops were good. Unfortunately, due to another A.A. commitment, I missed the "lead summaries" of the workshops. Not sure when they were presented, but I don't think they were given right after groups met
- More time for sharing
- Good

- Great experience, no suggestions for any changes
- They were great
- The workshops I attended were very well represented and had spirited conversation
- Excellent job. Need more and longer sessions
- I only saw one workshop in which I was the moderator. I thought it went very well. Not because of me, but because the presenters were easy to listen to
- It was fine
- More of the history at the beginning of a workshop. Such as, inclusion in A.A. and how it has evolved to implement changes. Such as the inclusion of the word "people" in the A.A. preamble as opposed to "we are men and women"
- The professional speakers train on workshop development as well
- Less of them
- More translation in Spanish
- You could spread out the current workshop topics so that they do not overlap in time. The best one was "Who's Missing from our Rooms?" Saturday 11:55 a.m. Workshop "Keeping the Newcomer and those on the Fence" was filled with good ideas from the four panelists. Many ideas can be applied to on-line meetings, too. The moderator, Marilyn F., was excellent. Next best was "Who's Missing from our Rooms?" A single moderator who opened the discussion right away to attendees. It was robust and informative about the racial tensions in A.A.
- More positive decisions and more health progress
- Effective: The participation on the topic of "Who is not in our Rooms?"
Needs improvement: More information about Remote Communities should be discussed in Workshops
- I only participated in the workshop on increasing participation in general service. Very good panelists. Lots of experience, and several good ideas and suggestions for bringing new folks into service
- Did not attend
- I would like to see more details
- I was not able to attend any of the workshops due to lack of time on my part
- All good
- All of them should have translations into Spanish
- Everything is great

Sharing Sessions

- Technology tactics effective for groups, networking, etc. Masterful

- I came in late because I had registered late. From what I gathered, I was very informed from the sharing and how others felt
- Less time between shares. By the time I was called, I forgot what I intended to say
- Time the answer portion as well as the question time
- Make sure all shares are timed
- Presentation from other committees besides Finance, Archives, and Grapevine
- I thought it was very effective having the first timers to the Forum share their views. This also showed that it was not only newcomers to the program that had never attend a Forum!
- On the whole, the sharing sessions went well, and were helpful or informative
- Very informative
- Loved the sharing sessions. It was good to have Ask It Basket Questions intermingled with live questions/comments
- I thought the sharing sessions were so informative and truly represented concerns of many A.A. members. I also thought about the presenters, staff of G.S.O., and G.S.B., as well as others who replied were concise and clear in answering the questions posed in sharing sessions
- I liked that the sharing from first time attendees was after everything else. I liked that more attention was paid to Ask-it Basket questions
- They were fine
- I really enjoyed these. I thought they went very well
- Sharing sessions were very good. Appreciated the time that was given for them
- They were great
- Effective and interesting as is
- Good. It was nice to hear the feedback from the Fellowship
- More sharing on what is happening with the pandemic and how it affects A.A. as a whole. Attendance is down in many areas
- It was fine
- I love the gratitude of the members, but I feel that more can be done with these sharing. For example, audios for different committees included during or after presentations for different committees. Voice only of course, or an actor be taped to hide the member's voice
- Great!
- Nothing needs to change
- Motivate the Spanish communities to participate more
- I did not expect to attend Sunday AM's session, but it was one of the best I could have listened to. Very good shares from Past Trustees; an intelligent and articulate group of people. The Ask-It-Basket was handled well. I wish more of the First-time Forum Attendees had spoken about their experience in this Forum

- Staying focused on your daily routine
- Everything was good
- Ample time was provided. Not sure how effective the Ask-it Basket was in terms of providing an additional means of asking questions and having them answered, but it seems like an appropriate component for a virtual forum
- Trustees and office staff should be prepared with TRUTHFUL and complete answers to valid questions
- It was a little difficult, due to a lot of people wanting to share
- I attended the past trustee shares on Sunday morning. I would have liked to have seen a little more time allocated to them
- Let them share their past D.C.M. experience
- The directions are clear when translated into Spanish
- I loved it
- Return to the proposed topic

5. Please indicate whether this was your first Forum:

Yes 38 (30.2%) No 88 (69.8%)

6. Please select your current service position:

G.S.R.	18 (15.8%)
D.C.M.	8 (7%)
Area Officer	7 (6.1%)
Area Committee Chairperson	8 (7%)
A.A. Group Member	22 (19.3%)
Non-Trustee Director	0 (0%)
Delegate	13 (11.4%)
Past Delegate	20 (17.5%)
Trustee	2 (1.8%)
Past Trustee	3 (2.6%)
Friend of A.A.	1 (0.9%)
Other	12 (10.5%)

Responses to Other:

- Intergroup Delegate
- Past Chair of Intergroup; Past DCM, Past Chair of Committees in both Intergroup and District
- District Secretary
- Trustee
- District Coordinator
- Alternate Delegate
- None: I am interested to attend virtual AA meetings.
- District Treasurer
- Alternate Delegate Area 54
- Employee
- Area 22 Alt. Secretary; GSR Beginning 1/1/22, Home Group, First One of the Day, District 13
- Incoming Area Committee Chairperson
- Webmaster
- District Officer
- Alternate Delegate
- Past Delegate
- District Grapevine chair
- Registrar
- Incoming Area Committee Chairperson
- District 35 Secretary/Area 51
- Served on an Area Committee this year. Serving on an Area Committee 2022
- Webmaster
- Alternate Chairperson
- Finance delegate
- Hispanic Liaison
- Grapevine
- District Committee (Archives); Group Grapevine Rep
- Alternate DCM
- District alternate secretary

7. Did you pre-register online?

Yes 117 (94.4%) No 7 (5.6%)

8. Please list any suggestion to improve the online registration process.

- I found it to operate smoothly and I was impressed that the people responsible for registration were responsible and accountable. The next time I attend a forum, I will pay attention to the questions posed in this survey so I can have an objective response
- Pre-registration was easy, so no suggestions for me, but may need more instructions for members who do not regularly use the computer
- Online process was very smooth and easy
- I thought it was easy to register
- None. Was great!
- None: but I sure was late in finding out because it wasn't charged
- This was a totally enjoyable experience!!!
- A reminder a week or two before. I'm sure I got the first one but with other things going on, I forgot and would have liked a reminder. Thank you. P.S. Really enjoyed what I did get to participate in
- It went well
- I had registered and was informed that I would receive information but never did so then I had to re-register
- It was simple and easy. Great job guys!
- It was easy, and all the info regarding signing onto Zoom was very clearly presented also
- It was easy
- It was pretty easy
- I thought it was simple, easy, and straightforward
- It was easy!
- WORKED GREAT
- it is good
- No suggestions, I thought it was very easy
- Aside from the "Virtual lobby", everything seemed to work great. Additionally, might I add that the TECHTEAM did a phenomenal job at making this "almost" as good as the real thing, and certainly also just as informative (perhaps more so) as I was able to hear every word spoken by every person. You guys REALLY did a fabulous job. As is the case in ALL A.A. service, just when you seem to really get the hand of it, it's time to rotate out, so hopefully see you in person in 2 years!!
- Hot link on main site
- The online pre-registration process was seamless. If I can pre-register, then anyone can

- Tried to. Was impossible. Sent an email to aa.org. I received a confirmation email someone took care of it. Maybe allow people to phone in for registration. I understand they need an email address though
- It was fine
- Thought it is efficient
- It was fine
- The help link stated the availability of tech was on weekdays/business hours. Maybe change the hours availability to help desk volunteers throughout the weekend during the time of the forum. I picked up some skills at the Zoom Tips & Tricks. I would recommend doing that again. Even a prerecorded outline of how the agenda is being executed. When I found the pdf of the program, I found the goldmine. If I received it in my confirmation email, I don't know
- It was really simple
- Compared to other online events I have registered for the in the past, the instructions were rather cryptic. However, with only a minor leap of faith it all became clearer with a few more clicks
- Have the flyers not only in email but in text
- It was great. Easy and clear to follow
- The pre-registration process was simple. The problem was entering the sessions themselves, and became complicated for me because I am a little limited with the use of technology
- No issues, worked great
- I registered from email sent to my district officers. It worked just fine. It was a great weekend, and I enjoyed the whole forum. Zoom technicians were a great help. I really enjoyed having them on our team! In spite of some problems with the breakout rooms, and joining in on the current scheduled event, I thought everyone did an exceptional job from the Zoom technicians, forum speakers and moderators! Thank you!
- Wonderful online registration process. I also appreciated the sending of the PDF with links when the virtual lobby went down!
- All good
- I think your system is fine, congratulations for always looking to improve the functioning of the group. Thanks
- Invite the Mexico Structure, we need a lot of training
- All good
- Registration was simple
- Pre-registration was easy. Nothing to suggest

9. Please list any suggestion to improve the virtual Forum experience.

- It was a great experience

- The virtual lobby was confusing at first, and also it was not ideal to have to login every time. Then when there were problems with the lobby, I missed half of the A.A. World presentation. For me, having the PDF with Zoom codes/links is more effective and less confusing than a virtual lobby
- Perhaps a short presentation by the tech person on how to access different functions, such as hand raising, sending chat messages, ask-it-basket questions at the beginning of each day
- Needed to adhere to the time limit better. So many spoke over the allotted allowed time, and no one was ever stopped (like they would be at an in-person event). It is sad to say that it is normally members who have been around and know better who abuse this!!! Also, the Ask-it-basket questions should be randomly picked or in the order they are received
- Send Zoom Codes and passwords out. Going to my browser to launch Zoom every time was a pain. The Forum spanned two time zones. On the hard copy, only the earlier zone was listed. I kept forgetting that and would log in mid-session, or miss a session. It would have been nice to have both time zones listed
- It was extremely hard to navigate. The Virtual Lobby links redirected to different sessions or did not work. The Program did not reflect actual times and rooms. Southwest Regional signage was used in East Central Regional Forum. Suggestions to improve would include proof reading at the least, and a thorough run through to check that links work
- Make it easier to log in
- My experience was really good!
- No forum experience so far
- It was very confusing trying to get to the workshops from the main event
- I will enjoy when we finally can go "live". I appreciate the sharing and professionalism of this last Forum. Thanks for your service!
- Can't think of anything
- I love that it was online. I cannot travel, and would not have been able to attend in person
- Don't know what to suggest, but navigating to workshops was next to impossible
- I thought it was pretty well Facilitated
- No suggestions. These have been going on for years, and everyone seemed to adapt very well to the online format
- Good
- I had to miss Saturday night, so I missed the Grapevine and Class A presentations. It sure would have been nice to have had an option to have watched the recording of those talks. And I understand the anonymity and

security concerns, but perhaps we could have made them available at least until Sunday at noon when the forum ended...

- I don't know what more to say. I saw the whole forum and I enjoyed it. We are all volunteers, and we are doing a good thing in hard times
- Don't complain about being online. From the numbers at the end I understand that more than half were first time attendees. I know I can't go if it's not online. And people were bragging about this was the last online one and they'll all be in person again. Meaning less inclusive more exclusive and wondering why such low attendance. Grateful to be Sober since 3/25/87. The problem is exclusiveness. I have wanted to go a long time
- It was fine
- As they are intended to attract new members, I feel it does just that and has enough points of interest such as sharing from new staff to keep the more experienced member satisfied
- A breakout room for different committees to share information guided by a G.S.O. employee
- For having to have it online, it was well done
- Maybe offer hybrid meetings to register their group. I am on the mailing list for O.I.A.A. AA-INTERGROUP.ORG. I haven't seen an u of our representatives mention the forum. I am excited to see cooperation between the service structure and online intergroup.
- I read the email list daily only right now. Not sure if there will be duplication of registration of online meetings with G.S.O. and registering at O.I.A.A. I am only a mail contact at this point. I look forward to supporting this endeavor. Integrating the A.A. meeting guide app and O.I.A.A. database will be a challenge. I am interested in this work. My database skills are not expert level. Not since dbase3+ became obsolete. My local area is no longer keeping up meeting Schedules. I can't look up our meeting registration number anymore. Could this be a topic for later?
- Cannot think of any
- I was pleasantly surprised how well it went most of the time that I was participating. I hadn't been able to approach this as a weekend retreat experience due to other commitments, but for the folks that did, the format probably worked pretty well. Nevertheless, I did find the forum well worth my time, and to be both informative and spiritually motivating so a big "Thank You" to everyone that participated in the forum, its preparation, and its final reporting
- It is ok the way it was
- In person Just had to say I miss three dimensional forums. Hybrid in future is an option

- Delete the movies and videos and get down to basics, please. Friday evening the "What's on your Mind" should go longer and bump the video presentation "Markings on the Journey". Newcomers to the Forums know nothing about its purpose and that G.S.O. runs each forum and, therefore, makes presentations about their jobs. These people need to be better prepared to talk about Grapevine, for example. Someone needs to tell the newcomers that the Forum has a diverse program of people from all levels of A.A. Service and not just the Big Guns, like G.S.O. officers or delegates. The Forum has critical information about A.A. finances, and no one would think that a Treasurer's report could be so interesting!
 - Make it easier to get into the sessions
 - Please send the program in all 3 languages. Please title the background files meaningfully so we don't have to open each one to find out "no, that one is for Trustees," "that one is for A.A.W.D. Board", etc. Tell the tech team that those on phones just need to wait any extra 10-20 seconds for the Breakout Rooms icon to appear--they probably won't have to move (m)any manually. Make the COPY YOUR PASSWORD FIRST, THEN CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE FORUM much bigger, bolder and more colorful. It's easy to overlook in the middle of the page until you've been to a few Forums, and most people never reach that point. it probably never occurs to those in the office because you know exactly where to look
 - Aside from the few technical glitches, I thought the forum went well and was very worthwhile. If possible, it would be helpful to have better Spanish/English translation. I could not understand what the Spanish speakers were saying and the rolling on-screen translation was most obviously not accurate
 - The forum was a little confusing at first, but it was my first forum
 - Great alternative, and possibly future hybrid, but I am hoping that we don't forget about person to person as well
 - I enjoyed the format. Nothing to suggest
 - Congratulate them for their great work, and the translators especially
 - Keep doing them online as well
- 10. Please list any suggestion to improve the virtual Forum experience.**
- Glad to participate. Grateful to participate
 - I really appreciate all the hard work that went into this, and I got a lot out of the 2 workshops and presentations I was able to attend. Thank you!
 - Keep up the good work. Suggestion: have a celebration during the evening break on Saturday - use the breakout room to have ballroom music and/or younger generation pop music. Hell, you can use Zoom's polling to ask questions - new

trusted servant vs old trusted servant. Again, I may be biased but I can sincerely say, it almost felt like an in-person forum. I am looking forward to my next forum. I am proud to say my friend from Tennessee who relocated to work in our NYC General Service office. She has been a blessing in my life and helped me to become a better Intergroup Delegate by reading the by-laws and to get back to what I love the traditions. Thank you for asking for my opinion and suggestions. In the next survey, I will be able to be an objective rather than a subjective observer.

- I have been to several in person Forums in the Pacific Area and gained lots of knowledge about A.A. Being able to chat in person with G.S.O. & Grapevine personnel during breaks and at meals was great. Also, conversation with other members from different Districts was helpful when addressing issues in my own District. I missed the personal interaction, but I realize acceptance of our situation is the key. I enjoyed the virtual Forum, but I look forward to being able to meet in person again
- Even though the numbers will change from Forum to Forum throughout the year, I would rather receive updated financial information. The report from 2020 is what we had received in April and most of us had already presented this info to our groups and districts during our General Service Conference reports. Members want current information when we report following an event like this. Overall, I thought the Forum was fantastic, informative and great representation from A.A., Grapevine, and the Staff. Thank you all for your service! I was disappointed in the attendance by members of my own Area and even our Region. I am sure more would have been present if we had been able to meet in person
- Thank you all so much for your service. This was a great weekend and a chance to meet so many in general service. The Forum being online allowed me to participate completely. I hope that you consider having at least some of the Forum online going forward
- I enjoyed what topics I was able to get onto. Our area was also having their election assembly on the same weekend, but I did get to listen to topics on Friday, Saturday evenings and Sunday morning. I want to hear what other areas are saying about conference agenda topics and general topics on carrying the message. I like the virtual because I would not be able to travel to a Forum in another region, so this has been really interesting to see what goes on in other regions
- Thanks for a wonderful forum
- It was Awesome!
- The email address provided for login support didn't work
- I really appreciated the opportunity to attend the Forum. It's very difficult to attend in person

- I really appreciated the opportunity to attend the Forum. It's very difficult to attend an in-person event so this was great. The pandemic has made us think of new ways to outreach and help any alcoholic. Thank you
- I hope there will be at least one virtual Forum next year. Otherwise, maybe one hybrid as this is a tremendous exercise of A.A. unity
- I thought all went well, especially for a first time East Central Regional Forum hosted in my Area 54!!
- No suggestions, I just wanted help in finding these meetings. So far I have been to one on Zoom. Does it occur regularly?
- People need their profiles to be just as requested. Some added special interests group info. One was the ASL interpreter. No special interests groups. Had someone from Bolivia or Columbia. Not even in East Central Region or US and Canada G.S.O. Making several comments regarding special interests groups in A.A. ASL Made comments in chat about how horrible my presentation was. He/him should stuck to his job of ASL and not make comments
- I liked the forum. I even got to ask a question while sitting in my deer stand miles from home. Life is good
- It was the best online event I've attended. If you had technical problems, they weren't obvious. We've been holding our Area Assembly online since May 2020, and every one of them has exhibited a glitch or two. I didn't attend the hospitality sessions or opening reception because of Zoom overload.
- I have been to three forums, two online and one in person. The first one that was in person had a greater impact on me, both because it was my first and because I got to share my experience with others between sessions and at meals. This year, I liked the insights the new Treasurer brought to the "Around the Picnic Table" presentation and the presentation on the new service manual the most
- I invited some sponsors who found this extremely informative, and they are now asking about additional service work. Thank you for providing this ONLINE. They never would have attended otherwise
- I just want to thank you all for the extraordinary effort you put into everything you do. I'm sure there are those who might criticize this or that, but if they've ever been in service, they'd know better. Let them gripe. Listen to them (and I know you do), but always remember that there will always be some Summer People around who tend to be very vocal. And by Summer People, I mean Summer Sicker than Others. :-) Love you guys!
- I wish many more had been on as I know so many A.A. members in the district and area I serve are fearful of the many changes from the last conference. I think, had they listened to our staff at G.S.O., their fears would be alleviated. Thank you all for your service!
- Can't wait to see you folks in Independence, Ohio in 2023

- I really enjoyed this experience. I will definitely attend future online events. Thank you so much!
- I thought the online Forum was very well done and very informative. If it is in person, and within a couple hundred miles, I would prefer in person. But for long distance travel, online is awesome
- Sadly, I had a medical emergency and missed Friday night, which was very disappointing for me. I was able to attend most of Saturday's sessions, and thought it was one of the best Forums I have attended. Well planned and executed. Thank you to all who served - great job!
- I do have concerns about the future of A.A. in this area. I do not think enough A.A.'s are aware of how vital it is for groups to learn about and actively follow the Traditions and Concepts
- I hope that G.S.O. continues to have at least one virtual Forum. I had never attended a Forum until the Virtual Forums were held this year. I have learned so much more about A.A. Thank everyone for all your service
- Very good weekend of A.A.
- I thought there was a good mixture of all of the above. A good distribution.
- Nothing further. GREAT JOB by ALL!!!
- More celebration of A.A. Truth is better than A.A. Fairy Tales. No apologies for being involved in A.A. Also what's with not using full names when we're not doing something at the level of press, radio or films?
- It was fine
- A workshop that can help members learn how to find information on aa.org. Accessing information from archives. Reaching different departments. The process of an item that goes to the conference or a questionnaire like this one and how the info is used
- I prefer in-person to online
- I look forward to learning more about service and GSO; OIAA. Way to go all who presented/did service
- Just a big thank you to the tech team
- I need to go back and check to see if there are any audio or presentations files available for downloading or reviewing by registered participants. It was a busy time of the year for me, and I had to pop in and out of the forum numerous times. I caught several speakers or sections after they had already started
- Please put the speakers' names on the program. It makes it much easier to know who they are as I take notes, because I only hear their name once at the beginning of a workshop or panel. I love having lower level A.A. officers from diverse districts speak in the workshops: DCM's for example. They are in the field, so to speak, and have in-depth perspectives on the issues brought up in this Forum

- Unfortunately, I was unable to attend as many as I wanted as I had to work
- I really don't care for the virtual forums; I would much rather they be in person. I believe if the country is shut down, then we have to do virtual forums. People need people, we need each other to see each other's faces and feel their emotions. As far as an online experience, the forum was probably the best we can do
- We should not spend the time or energy on virtual Forums as it takes away from the experience of being with you face to face. It may be cheaper and easier, but it takes away from the power of the Forum
- I used Spanish interpretation and it was excellent. It helped me understand the message a lot better so I can feel I am a part of. Thank you!
- Thanks for having all of us. Love forums! Especially love hearing from the past Trustees
- Thank you for your service!! I left the forum feeling very good about our A.A. service boards/delegates/trustees and staff
- Thank you for your involvement. Keep up the good work...A.A. needs you. Have a great 24 hours!
- Could it be on the US Central timetable?

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