

Summaries for Delegates Questionnaire Agenda Items

Conference Committee: **Finance — Item A**

Agenda Topic	Consider a request that the General Service Board develop supplemental reporting focused on the actual and evolving costs of various services provided by the GSB.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Area 47 (Central New York) submitted this proposed agenda item. As online services increase, (Meeting Guide app, podcasts, Instagram accounts, etc.) they come with more long- term costs such as server fees, development costs as platforms evolve, and ongoing content creation, which will increase over time. This proposed new reporting would be developed to communicate better the costs of the services being provided to the fellowship and could be included as background information for any agenda item listed in the report. The background has some considerations listed regarding content, frequency, and the level of detail to consider, as well as a list of items that are already reported on.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think this new reporting will be an effective tool to communicate the cost of certain services to the fellowship? Yes or No

Conference Committee: **Finance— Item C**

Agenda Topic	Review progress report reflecting shared experience from the Fellowship on possible future changes to literature written by A.A.’s founders.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Following a Committee Consideration from the 73 rd General Service Conference that the trustees’ Literature Committee seek input from the Fellowship (including but not limited to Area delegate feedback) regarding any possible future changes to literature written by A.A.’s Founders, the trustees’ Literature Committee met to discuss and subsequently developed a list of suggested questions for discussion. The list was distributed to all Conference Delegates with the anticipation that the Area Delegates would schedule discussions within their Areas, utilizing the proposed questions to help inform the discussions. The background includes a letter noting that this was never intended to be a survey of groups – but rather a discussion at each Area.
What does the Delegate need to know?	What does your group think about possible future changes to literature written by A.A.’s founders? Short Answer

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item F**

Agenda Topic	Review draft manuscript of the translation of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition)</i> into plain and simple language.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Following an Advisory Action at the 2021 General Service Conference, the Trustees Literature Committee has been working on a translation of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language. The Advisory Action requested that it be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible. Following the 2023 General Service Conference, the Conference Committee on Literature agreed with the general direction of the project and requested that it continue to move forward. Conference members were also permitted to review the draft of the book privately and securely in a reading room. The Trustees Literature Committee has reviewed the draft manuscript of the book <i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i> (Fourth Edition) translated into plain and simple language and agreed to forward it to the 2024 Conference Literature Committee. They also reviewed and submitted a “letter of understanding” outlining the confidentiality guidelines related to review of the manuscript (to ensure A.A.’s legal rights in the registration of the approved final draft of the manuscript with the U.S. Copyright Office, maintain the integrity of A.A. literature and ultimately our most valued asset which is A.A. unity). After the 2024 Conference Literature Committee reviews the draft manuscript, several things may happen, among them: The Committee might approve the manuscript and recommend it be approved by the Conference as a whole, permitting Conference members to review it in a reading room before voting. The Committee might also send the manuscript back to the Trustees Committee on Literature with any significant concerns or changes to the proposed draft.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Now that the draft manuscript of the Plain Language is almost ready for review and approval, is your group in favor or against the publication of this book? Many have asked why I am asking this question again? Opinions change. Has your opinion changed? Short Answer

Conference Committee: **Literature — Item K**

Agenda Topic	Consider a request that the words "Donation" and "Contribution" be swapped under Warranty One in “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated” pamphlet
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated,” there is a sentence that originally read, “So long as we refuse to take outside contributions and limit donations from individual members, we shall not become wealthy in any perilous sense.”</p> <p>This agenda topic arises from a group in Area 58 (Oregon). The agenda topic was originally proposed in 2022 and requested that the words “contribution” and “donation” be swapped – so the sentence would read: “So long as we refuse to take outside donations and limit contributions from individual members, we shall not become wealthy in any perilous sense.” The original proposal notes that the word “donation” implies charitable giving, and that our “sobriety is not a charity.”</p> <p>As a result of discussion at the 2023 General Service Conference, A.A.W.S. revised the pamphlet as follows: “So long as we refuse to take outside contributions and limit contributions from individual members, we shall not become wealthy in any perilous sense.” This was done in accordance with a 2006 Advisory Action that recommended that the word “donation” be replaced with the word “contribution” in A.A.W.S. literature as it comes up for reprint. As the pamphlet is printed now, the word “donations” is not used at all.</p> <p>The original submitter of the Agenda Topic believes that the wording should be as noted in their original proposed Agenda Topic – that is, the word “donations” used to refer to money coming from outside sources, and the word “contributions” to refer to money coming from A.A. members. The A.A.W.S. Board agreed to forward this to the 2024 General Service Conference, noting that the sentiment within the Fellowship may have shifted since the 2006 Advisory Action.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	What’s the difference? Are the words we use in our literature important? Yes or No

Conference Committee: **Policy/Admissions — Item E**

Agenda Topic	Discuss revising procedures for electing the Delegate chairperson, Conference Committee chairpersons and their alternates.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>In 2023 the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions passed an Advisory Action that the members of the General Service Conference meet outside of the annual meeting for general sharing sessions at least two times per year utilizing virtual meeting technology. The General Service Board Chair and Delegate Chair set the date and time and determine what issues currently facing the Fellowship would be chosen as topics.</p> <p>Currently, procedures indicate the delegate chair be selected by lot. The proposed agenda item suggests that because this increased the authority and responsibility of the Delegate Chair, the procedure for electing that position – as well as Conference Committee chairpersons and their alternates – be reviewed. The background includes the PAI submission form from Area 50 and a document detailing the history and practices of electing a delegate chairperson.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel changes should be made to the current procedures for electing the Delegate chairperson, Conference Committee chairpersons and their alternates? Yes or No

Conference Committee: Report & Charter — Item C

Agenda Topic	Discuss the reporting of Simple Majority Items.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>During the January 27, 2024 meeting of the trustees’ General Service Conference Committee, the committee heard sharing on the topic of Simple Majority. Specifically, there is a section in the Final Conference Report titled “Recommendations Passed by Simple Majority.”</p> <p>An agenda topic requires a two-thirds vote to become an Advisory Action. However, a 1986 Advisory Action established that “If a committee recommendation does not receive the two-thirds vote required to become a Conference Advisory Action, but has a majority of votes, it automatically becomes a suggestion and will be duly noted in the Conference Report.”</p> <p>During the January 27, 2024 meeting, the committee shared that they felt this was ambiguous, and that the Simple Majority section could lead to misunderstandings and confusion. They asked for a discussion on whether the practice of communicating items that failed to achieve substantial unanimity as suggestions is still desirable. Questions and concerns have been received that using the wording “passed” to describe a recommendation that did not pass (as it did not receive the required two-thirds vote), but instead received a simple majority of votes, may cause confusion. They also noted concern that listing these items in the Final Report may take away from the full respect of Advisory Actions that did result from substantial unanimity.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that the reporting of items that did not receive the required two-thirds vote to pass as “Passed by Simple Majority” is confusing? Why or why not? How does your group think items that received a Simple Majority, but not substantial unanimity, should be reported in the <i>Final Report</i> ?

Conference Committee: Trustees — Item F

Agenda Topic	Discuss guidelines or parameters for deadlines of Conference agenda items.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>This topic was submitted in April 2023 by a past Delegate and Trustee who expressed concern that the current deadline for submitting Agenda Topic items for consideration by the Conference (September 15) may mean that that any Agenda Topics meant to censure or reorganize that current Panel’s General Service Board would not be heard until the following year. The past Delegate noted that their topic was based on the (February) 2023 resignation of the General Service Board Chair.</p> <p>The background material contains details of the General Service Conference timeline shifts over the years (1993 to present) to allow for the maximum participation of groups, Districts and Areas in the Agenda Topics process, including changes to the Agenda Topics submission deadline, the finalization of the Topics by the General Service Board, and availability of the background material.</p> <p>The background material notes that the current timeline means that the Conference Committee staff is heavily tasked with the writing, research, editing, processing, printing, etc. of thousands of pages of materials in a short period and that technology may possibly be making it more feasible to meet the deadlines than in the past [Sept. 15 Agenda Topics submission deadline, Dec. 26 release of Preliminary Topics to Delegates, the finalization of the Topics by the General Service Board in late January or early February, Delegates receiving background material by Feb. 15].</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	How does your group feel about the current timeline for the General Service Conference Agenda Topics process? Should the Conference revisit the dates (guidelines) or consider a review of the (timeline) parameters for the General Service Conference Agenda Topics process?

Conference Committee: Int’l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item A

Agenda Topic	Discuss an anonymity-protected photograph of the Flag Ceremony to be taken at the 2025 International Convention.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	An anonymity-protected photo has been taken at each International Convention since the first International Convention in 1950. This has been consistently approved since 1994. Prior to this, the International Conventions Committee met on an ad hoc basis (and therefore did not make advisory actions to the Conference). In the years since, the Conference has agreed to take this photograph. Because the International Convention is next year, the trustees’ International Conventions/Regional Forums committee forwarded this request to the Conference this year.
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group feel that an anonymity-protected photograph should be taken at the 2025 International Convention? Yes or No

Conference Committee: **Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item B**

Agenda Topic	Discuss an encrypted, anonymity-protected, delayed Internet broadcast of the Convention Flag Ceremony for the 2025 International Convention.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>A highlight of each International Convention has been the parade of flags at the Opening Meeting on Friday evening. The Flag Ceremony sets the celebratory and international tone for the Convention weekend with a display of 90+ flags representing countries whose members are attending the Convention.</p> <p>Since 2005, with the approval of the Board and the Conference, a limited broadcast of this event was shared. It required a unique password, along with technical requirements to access the Flag Ceremony on the Internet. Access was available approximately 9 hours after the end of the Flag Ceremony, which allowed time for editing to ensure anonymity and to launch the broadcast. In 2010, access was granted through the AA website (meaning passwords were no longer required); it was viewed nearly 14,000 times over the course of the Convention. In 2015, the broadcast was viewed nearly 40,000 times; viewing was extended for two weeks past the Convention. There was no Convention in 2020. The plan for next year's Convention is to start streaming the flag ceremony on Monday morning (after the Convention ends) so that the editing process does not have to be as long and intense (given requirements to edit for anonymity protection).</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group think that this is a valuable practice? Should it continue? Yes or No

Conference Committee: **Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item C**

Agenda Topic	Discuss a report concerning virtual programming for the 2025 International Convention.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<p>Discussions held by the trustees' International Conventions-Regional Forums Committee regarding adding virtual programming at the 2025 International Conventions (the first time AA would provide virtual programming) are detailed in the background.</p> <p>Initially, the plan was to include a virtual session as part of a three Big Meetings product, but later it was separated into two concepts: offering virtual sessions as part of the convention and providing a standalone virtual session track for broader participation. The rationale behind this decision includes facilitating international participation amidst travel difficulties and embracing virtual meeting technology, which has been previously used by the General Service Board (GSB). The report suggests focusing on the international element, considering interpretation services, managing capacity, and determining registration methods and fees. Estimates for the cost of virtual sessions are provided, with the intention of covering expenses through registration fees. The trustees' IC-RF Committee plans to gather feedback from international members and involve the Conference Committee on IC-RF for review.</p> <p>A report from a potential vendor outlines two potential approaches for the convention: a scaled-back hybrid version with reduced budget and capabilities, and a full hybrid version offering enhanced interaction. Key considerations include the choice of streaming platform, with Zoom Webinar and Vimeo being primary options, each offering distinct features and pricing structures. The scaled-back version focuses on limited virtual panelists and two-way communication, while the full hybrid version proposes broader engagement strategies including custom content creation and expanded language interpretation. Equipment and staffing requirements are detailed for both scenarios, emphasizing the need for local AV vendors and technical personnel. The report emphasizes that the provided proposals are preliminary and subject to further refinement based on budgetary constraints and project vision.</p>
What does the Delegate need to know?	Does your group want virtual programming options for the International Convention in 2025? Yes or No