



VIII IX-Report & Charter - EN

General Service Conference - Conférence des Services généraux -
Conferencia de Servicios Generales

2025-04-28 08:00 - 2025-04-29 12:00 EDT

Table of Contents

I. Report & Charter Committee

Introductions – Karina C., secretary Review Conference Committee Composition, Scope, and
Procedure – Jimmy W., Conference committee chairperson. Review History of Conference
committee – Karina C., secretary

A. Discuss the A.A. Service Manual, 2026-2028 Edition.....	3
RC-A0-Cover-AA Service Manual.docx.....	3
1. Review list of editorial updates.....	4
RC-A1.0-Cover-AA Service Manual Editorial Updates.docx.....	4
RC-A1.3 - AA Service Manual Editorial Updates.docx.....	5
2. Review progress report on the development of a new section	
“Amendments” to be added to the Twelve Concepts for World Service.....	9
RC-A2.0 Cover - AA Service Manual Amendments Section.docx.....	9
RC-A2.1 - AA Service Manual Amendments Section.docx.....	10
3. Consider a request to remove the word “woman” from the Concept IV	
essay.....	11
RC-A3.0 Cover - AA Service Manual Concept IV essay.docx.....	11
RC-A3.1 - AA Service Manual Concept IV essay.docx.....	12
RC-A3.2 - AA Service Manual Concept IV essay .docx.....	14
B. Consider a request to expand Article Three in the Conference Charter to protect	
the co-Founders’ writings.....	16
RC-B0-Cover - Conference Charter.docx.....	16
RC-B.1 - Conference Charter.docx.....	17
RC-B.2 - Conference Charter.docx.....	22
RC-B.3 - Conference Charter.docx.....	24
RC-B.4 - Conference Charter.docx.....	26
C. Review progress report on exploring the creation of a corresponding Trustees’	
committee for Report and Charter.....	29

RC-C0 Cover - Corresponding Committee.docx.....29
RC-C.1 - Corresponding Committee.docx.....30
D. Discuss General Service Conference Final Report.....32
RC-D0. Cover - Conference Final Report.docx.....32

2025 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

ITEM A: *The A.A. Service Manual, 2026-2028 Edition*

1. Review list of editorial updates.*
2. Review progress report on the development of a new section “Amendments” to be added to the Twelve Concepts for World Service.
3. Consider a request to remove the word “woman” from the Concept IV essay.

Background Note:

Items A.1, A.2, and A.3 are included under separate covers with their respective background material.

2025 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

ITEM A.1: Review list of editorial updates.

Background Note:

From the 2024 Additional Committee Consideration:

*The committee underwent a multi-year process of assessing the accuracy and effectiveness of the redesigned 2021-2023 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*. While further functional clarity is needed, in order to prevent a further delay in printing, a significant number of revisions were identified and corrected. The committee requests that the General Service Board assign a dedicated trustee liaison to the Report and Charter conference committee to ensure the accurate implementation of those revisions to the 2024-2026 *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* for printing in 2024.*

Following the Additional Committee Consideration suggesting that a trustee liaison be assigned to ensure the accurate implementation of Report and Charter conference committee revisions to *The A.A. Service Manual*, a trustees' Literature Subcommittee was formed to review the changes, as well as the draft of the Amendments section, for which a progress report has been provided, under separate cover.

The subcommittee forwarded suggestions for the next printing to be considered by the Report and Charter conference committee, noted in the background as "Memo from Trustees' Literature."

Background:

1. Editorial Grid*
2. Memo from Trustees' Literature*
3. Overview of revisions for the 2024-2026 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual*

***Note: For members of this Conference committee only and are not available for duplication or distribution beyond the committee.**

CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background
REPORT AND CHARTER
ITEM A1
Doc. 3

Given the quantity of revisions for this edition, the vertical margin change bars were not used, as was the case with the previous edition. However, a full grid of all editorial changes will be provided to the Report and Charter Conference Committee. In the interim, the following report lists the major changes for the English edition, as well as major changes and corrections particular to the French and Spanish editions.

Overview of revisions for the 2024-2026 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual*

A total of 488 tracked edits include:

- 2023 edits
- 2024 editorial changes
- 2024 rewriting

For 2024, the main areas of revision (aside from minor editorial changes) were:

1. All references should follow a consistent format:
(See Appendix X, pg. XX, title of section)
2. Consistency of punctuation for abbreviations: GSB, GSO, AA, etc.
3. Chapter 2, language around the topic of redistricting
4. Methods of support
5. Addition of “committee considerations” to the processes and procedures in how the Conference operates
6. Text describing path of agenda items
7. Special forums
8. Chapter 10 – GSO
9. AAWS chapter (currently 11) completely revised order and rewording of descriptions
10. AAGV chapter, revision of descriptions and archives section
11. Area Maps – Area 78 and Area 90 incorrect name (also similar corrections in Appendix M conference panels)
 - a. 78: Northwest Territories and Western Nunavut
 - b. 90: Northwestern Quebec
12. Appendix N – added text to trademarks, logos and copyrights
13. Updates to the Appendices for group forms and IGCO (per update to MG-02)
14. Footnote in Article 9 of current Conference Charter

CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background

15. Concepts:

- a. Adding footnote to Concepts VI & VIII

Design changes

These include:

- Hyperlinking TOC
- Changes in chapter order
- Removal of the amendments section
- Adjustments to the infographic
- Creation of text box for Conference approval process
- Inclusion of organizational charts

Changes in the French version of the *Service Manual*:

The French editor and a freelancer had worked on the revision about two years ago. The changes detailed here include the suggestions received from the French-speaking Fellowship, but are not separate, as some fall in the editing category and some overlapped with the English changes (references to the AA Directories, etc.).

The following changes are particular to the French translation:

- A lot of work of editing work to improve consistency and follow the style guide and glossary we've been putting together: capital letters, use of French-Canadian punctuation, title of GSRs ("représentant auprès des Services généraux), DCMs ("représentant du District auprès de la Région"), name of committees, italics, etc.
- Change to the copyright page for consistent use (© XX, year of publication)
- On the U.S./Canada General Service Conference maps (pages 92 and 93), delete all the remaining English names and have them in French.
- Fixing the names of committees in Appendix C (Structure with Conference & Trustee Committees) for consistency.
- Updating Appendices H, I and J as they had not been in the 2021 French *Service Manual*.
- Fixing the names of states, provinces and areas represented in Appendix M.
- Delete the second and third to last paragraphs of Concept XI ("Women workers present still another problem") to match the English. Those paragraphs were removed after the 2015-2016 edition in the English version.

CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background

Changes in the Spanish version of the *Service Manual*:

Aside from updating the service manual to match the new English version, fixing a couple of typos found in the earlier edition, and the name of Area 78 on Map A on page 92, the Spanish translation and editing contractor revised the manual to reflect the glossary and style that the Language Services department has been refining for the last few years, based on international Spanish academy rules used by printing houses throughout the Spanish-speaking world. Notably, Spanish capitalization and typography were consistently implemented (as is being done also with revisions and new texts in Spanish).

Also, the editor and a freelancer thoroughly revised the Spanish translation of AA's *Legacy of Service*—which is also published by AAWS as a separate pamphlet—and the translation of *The Twelve Concepts for World Service* (over 1300 edits were implemented). While a couple of changes had already been made to the translation of Concepts VIII and XII in 2021, the Spanish translation of the essays needed much improvement, as there were many inconsistencies, literal and unidiomatic expressions, and inaccurate renderings that interfered with clarity. Particularly, the expressions used to describe “trust,” “trustees” and “trusteeship” had to be fixed and descriptions about how the structure, the office and the boards operate had to be adjusted to match the actual workings of these entities and the historical context.

An interesting discovery was the way Bill W. used “world service” as a catch-all term that sometimes refers to the office, sometimes to the structure, sometimes to international AA activity, or to all of the above. Based on the context, we worked on understanding and naming the specific references so that the resulting Spanish text could become much clearer.

In the original translation, there was much confusion about the important distinction between the “legal” and “traditional” aspects of our rights. We improved the syntax and wording to clarify the meanings in Spanish.

Derecho de participación tradicional → *derecho tradicional de participación*

Derecho de decisión tradicional → *derecho tradicional de decisión*

Derecho de apelación tradicional → *derecho tradicional de apelación*

CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background

The wording before seemed to imply that the rights outlined by Bill W. stemmed from our Traditions, rather than they being fundamentally different from rights derived from laws (this is clearly explained when referring to the Conference Charter as not being “a legal document”, but rather being part of the “spiritual handshake” that imbues our relations).

2025 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

ITEM A.2: Progress report on the development of a new section “Amendments” to be added to the Twelve Concepts for World Service.

Background Note:

Excerpt from the February 1, 2025, trustees’ Literature Committee meeting report:

The committee reviewed a report of work on the design and format of the “Amendments” section and agreed to forward to the 2025 Report & Charter Conference Committee. The committee requested that relevant materials and past samples be included.

From the 2024 Additional Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed the draft of the new section “Amendments” to be added to the Twelve Concepts for World Service. The committee agreed that a full re-examination is needed to achieve the intent of this section, to be of benefit to the Fellowship as a clear source of reference. The committee requests that the General Service Board review the draft along with the committee’s feedback and provide an updated draft or progress report to the 2025 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

Secretary’s Note:

Following the Additional Committee Consideration suggesting that a trustee liaison be assigned to ensure the accurate implementation of Report and Charter Conference Committee revisions to *The A.A. Service Manual*, a trustees’ Literature Subcommittee was formed to review the changes, as well as the draft of the Amendments section, for which a progress report has been provided.

Background:

1. Progress Report
2. Design Samples*

***For members of this Conference committee only and are not available for duplication or distribution beyond the committee.**

CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background

**REPORT AND CHARTER
ITEM A2
DOC 1**

General Service Board
Trustees' Literature Committee
Service Manual Review Subcommittee
February 2025

The subcommittee continues to work with the Publishing Department to assess and provide feedback on the background and design options for the Amendments section of the Twelve Concepts for World Service.

Several publication timelines in the last quarter required pressing attention. This year is a non-printing year for *The A.A. Service Manual* and *Twelve Concepts for World Service*. Reconvening the subcommittee would allow for the needed recommendations in the 2025-2026 conference cycle.

###

2025 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

ITEM A.3: Consider a request to remove the word “woman” from the Concept IV essay.

Background Note:

Excerpts from the trustees’ General Service Conference Committee November 2024 meeting:

The committee reviewed a request to remove the word “woman” from the Concept IV, Right of Participation, essay and agreed to forward to the 2025 Conference Committee on Report and Charter and include PAI 124, which proposes a similar request, as additional background information.

Background:

1. PAI 75
2. PAI 124

PAI 75

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Remove the word “woman” from the following sentence of the Concept IV, Right of Participation, essay in the Twelve Concepts for World Service portion of the Service Manual: New volunteer corporate directors will ask why any paid woman staff member should also be a corporate director and thereby have a vote as good as their own.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

Date: Feb. 18th, 2024 DISCUSSION: The inclusion of the word “woman” in this sentence is based on the historical perspective from a time when all the staff members at GSO were women. This is no longer true making this statement inaccurate and seemingly chauvinistic. It appears that Bill W.'s intent was that new Directors and Trustees would want to change the right of staff members to participate in the Conference

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

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

Item # 2024-06, Passed on the floor by Area 03 at the August Assembly on August 17/2024 by All panels.

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

BACKGROUND: There is precedence for changing the Concept essays in the Twelve Concepts for World Service book. Currently, the essay on Concept XI is being re-written due to the information being woefully out-of-date. The Concept XI essay describes the Trustee committees, the General Service office, the Grapevine office and the staff as these entities existed in the late 50s and early 60s when Bill W. drafted the Concepts. With the changes in these aspects of the organization since that time, statements like the Trustee Policy committee is the most important (this Trustee committee no longer exists) and AAWS and the Grapevine have part-time executives (both have full-time executives) are no longer accurate. As a result, in a Report & Charter Advisory Action from 2021, the Conference requested “an updated version of the Concept XI essay,” which the GSO staff has been working on for the past 3 years. Similarly, in a 2016 Report & Charter Advisory Action, the two paragraphs at the end of Concept XI essay were removed. These two paragraphs contained phrases like “Our Headquarters is pretty much a man's world. Some men are apt to feel, unconsciously, that they are women's superiors...” and “Men, for example, because they are men, are apt to be better at business.” and “But suppose we replaced our six women staff members with six men? In these positions could the men possibly relate themselves so uniquely and so effectively to our Fellowship as the women?” Today, the people serving the Fellowship at GSO are not all women.

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

to be equal for all members in A.A.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Blas A.
A3/P74 Delegate

(7) Final comments:

PAI 124

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

A change is being proposed to a sentence in the Concept IV (Right of Participation) essay on pg. C13 in the second full paragraph which currently reads:
New corporate directors will ask why any paid woman staff workers should also be a director and thereby have a vote as good as their own...
The change would be to eliminate the word "woman" in this sentence.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

When Concept IV was written, the paid staff members were all women. In the years since, the staff members are no longer all women and, therefore, it is inaccurate to use the phrase "woman staff members." This can be easily corrected by removing the word "woman" and referring to these paid workers simply as "staff members."

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

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

This is being submitted by Jim L, DCM of District 35 in Area 44, on behalf of the groups in District 35.

During the district committee meeting on February 13th, this agenda item was proposed. The district committee decided, by substantial unanimity, to refer this matter. The GSRs were asked to bring this to their groups for consideration and to report back at the May 14th district committee meeting.

At the May 14th district committee meeting, the GSRs reported back their respective group consciences.

This proposed agenda item was adopted unanimously by District 35.

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

The thought being expressed in this sentence relates to how new Delegates and Trustees will try to make changes to the service structure which "try to weaken, modify, or toss out our principle of corporate 'participation'" When this concept was written the staff members were all women which is no longer true, making the inclusion of the sex of the staff members inaccurate.

CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background

A change similar to the one proposed for this change to the Concept IV essay was made previously to the Concept XI essay. In a 2016 Conference Advisory Action, the Report & Charter Conference committee brought to the floor a motion to remove the two paragraphs at the end of Concept XI. These two paragraphs contained phrases like "Our Headquarters is pretty much a man's world. Some men are apt to feel, unconsciously, that they are women's superiors..." and "Men, for example, because they are men, are apt to be better at business." and "But suppose we replaced our six women staff members with six men? In these positions could the men possibly relate themselves so uniquely and so effectively to our Fellowship as the women?" The motion became an Advisory Action and these two paragraphs were removed.

While these statements reflect the time of the late 50s when the Concepts were written, they are still disparaging and demeaning towards the women who serve in various roles at GSO, as trustees on the General Service Board and as corporate directors on the corporate service boards of AAWS Inc. and the AA Grapevine Inc,

Fortunately, the change being proposed is much less extensive and can be made by removing one word as opposed to the more extensive change of removing two whole paragraphs.

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

The change would be to eliminate the word "woman" in this sentence in concept IV. "New corporate directors will ask why any paid woman staff workers should also be a director and thereby have a vote as good as their own..."

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Jim L.
Area 44 District 35 DCM

(7) Final comments:

2025 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

ITEM B: Consider a request to expand Article Three in the Conference Charter to protect the co-Founders' writings.

Background notes:

Excerpt from the November 2, 2024 trustee's General Service Conference committee meeting report:

The committee reviewed a request to expand Article Three in the Conference Charter to protect the Co-Founders' writings and agreed to forward to the 2025 Conference Committee on Report and Charter and include PAIs 15, 26 and 109 as additional background.

Background:

1. PAI 81
2. PAI 15
3. PAI 26
4. PAI 109

PAI 81

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Area 35, Northern Minnesota, would like to add to AA's Current Conference Charter under article #3, that A.A.W.S. and Grapevine publications of pre-1972 "Founders Writings" have no contextual changes to their writings without a supermajority of ¾ approval from the full General Service Conference. This includes but is not limited to AAWS publications of the books: Alcoholics Anonymous (Big Book) specifically the The Doctor's Opinion, the first 164 pages two stories Dr. Bobs Nightmare along with AA Number Three and Appendix II Spiritual Experience, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, As Bill Sees It, Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age, Our Great Responsibility, and the Twelve Concepts essays currently in the Service Manual. AAWS pamphlets: Problems other than Alcohol and Let's be Friendly with Our Friends etc. Including Grapevine publications, Language of the Heart and Best of Bill along with any archival articles pre-1972 written by our Founders both Alcoholic: Bill W., Dr. Bob S., Hank P., Bobbie B., etc., and non-alcoholic: Dr. Silkworth, Father Dowling, Dr. Harry Tiebout, Bernard Smith, Frank Amos, etc. These writings should be left intact.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

It gives a precise policy on what literature is considered Founders' writings and what level of approval/rejection needs to be done to have any changes made to our Founders' writings.

A policy was requested by the Trustees Literature Committee in 2023 on how and whether to edit A.A. founder's words in our current literature. The 2024 Conference Finance Committee (was assigned this because of EDW) recommended that nothing be done, that our current way of doing things was satisfactory. This addition to the current AA Charter is needed because one General Service Conference is not binding on another Conference.

Recent history shows us that the changes to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions in 2021 created an uproar and caused disunity in the fellowship. The status quo on preserving Founders' writings needs to be reexamined.

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

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

Unanimous support by the Biwabik Sunday Night Group (District 8 in Area 35)
Unanimous support by District 8 in Area 35
Over 3/4 substantial unanimity for supporting this PAI by Area 35 Assembly

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

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

We have had previous stating policies passed from previous General Service Conferences advisory actions (which were ignored) on changing the text of the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

The first policy was from the 2002 General Service Conference which discussed changing language in book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* the Conference took this stance.

It was UNANIMOUSLY recommended that the text in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, written by Bill W., remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published.

This advisory action was reaffirmed in 2003 and 2005. In 2005, the advisory action added an introduction to the front of the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* to appease members and friends of A.A. who asked to update the language, idioms, and historical references to present a more contemporary image of the Fellowship (see reference at the end of this letter for its full contents). I've also included the past advisory actions at the end of this letter.

Then in 2003 the General Service Conference recommended that. A draft Introduction to be added to the front matter of the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* be developed by the General Service Office's Publications Department reviewed by the Trustees' Literature Committee and brought back to the 2004 Conference Literature Committee for their consideration.

Note: The purpose of adding an Introduction would be to explain the language in *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and would include the following information:

- Time and era of publication
- Language as a reflection of the time period
- Reference to the 2002 Conference Advisory Action.

"It was unanimously recommended that the text in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, written by Bill Wilson remain as is recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published."

This Introduction is to create a unified response to questions regarding specific language, idioms, and historical figures or events from A.A. members, newcomers, and non-alcoholics.

The 2004 General Service Conference consideration stated;
After lengthy discussion, the committee requested that the Publications Department rewrite the draft introduction to be added to the front matter of the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, as recommended by the 2003 General Service Conference, taking into consideration suggestions from the committee, and present it to the 2005 Conference Literature Committee following review by the Trustees' Literature Committee.

The Advisory Action in 2005 rewrote the 2004 introduction to this.

The following introduction be added to the front matter of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* Introduction Alcoholics Anonymous first published this book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, in 1953. Bill W., who, along with Dr. Bob S., founded Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935, wrote the book to share 18 years of collective experience within the Fellowship on how A.A. members recover, and how our society functions. In recent years some members and friends of A.A. have asked if it would be wise to update the language, idioms, and historical references to present a more contemporary image for the Fellowship. However, because the book has helped so many alcoholics find recovery, there exists a strong sentiment within the Fellowship against any change to it. In fact, the 2002 General Service conference discussed this issue, and "it was unanimously recommended that the text in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, written by Bill W, remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writing be retained as originally published." We hope that the collective spiritual experience of the A.A. pioneers captured in these pages continues to help alcoholics and friends of A.A. understand the principles of our program.

During the 71st General Service Conference in 2021, there were two Advisory Actions that ignored four previous years of General Service Conference actions and considerations. That's 279 voting Delegates'. The background information for the 70th and 71st Conference did not include information from the 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005. That stated the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published.

Advisory Action 18 for changes to page 117 phrase "opposite sex" with the word "partner"

And

Advisory Action 19 changes to page 66, "No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health. Changed to "no one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony."

These two actions were passed at the 71st conference in 2021.

Agenda Item F from the 2023 73rd General Service Conference was worded as follows.

Discuss proposed agenda items related to changes to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* approved by the 2021 General Service Conference

The Background information started with this excerpt from the October 29, 2022 Trustees' Literature Committee report:

The Trustees' Literature Committee reviewed proposed agenda items related to the changes approved by the 2021 General Service Conference to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and noted the importance and interest of the Advisory Action to

the Fellowship. *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* PAIs. The Trustees' Literature Committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Literature Committee all proposed agenda items related to the changes in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* as one grouped item with the suggestion that the Conference Literature Committee consider forwarding the item to the general service areas for wider discussion looking toward setting a policy on how and whether to edit A.A. founder's words in our current literature.

The agenda item would be discussed by the Fellowship during the 2023-2024 Conference year and considered by the Conference Committee on Literature at the 2024 General Service Conference.

2024 Finance Committee Considerations (because of EDW)

The committee reviewed the progress report reflecting shared experience from the Fellowship on possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s founders and took no action. After thorough consideration and mindful reflection of the comments received from Founders' Writings sharing sessions, as well as the valuable input received from the Fellowship via Area Delegates, the committee agreed that current Conference procedures provide a process wherein future proposals for changes can be considered by the group conscience of each Conference, negating the need for a mandated policy.

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

With this embedded into the Current Conference Charter under article #3, the Fellowship would have a policy in place. With this policy in place, our Founders' writings are safer and harder to change, based on inconsiderate decisions by a majority or hasty impulses.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Steven L. P72/A35 Delegate
Diane R. P74/A35 Delegate

(7) Final comments:

The wording of our Founders has a special meaning that no other writings bring to the fellowship. Founders' writings also bring important context and charm in the way that explains our illness and recovery. We cannot afford to make hasty decisions changing the important basic text of our recovery program based on generational and social differences in the misunderstanding of the founders' writings. If the Fellowship thinks information needs to be changed, new pieces of literature can be published like we have done in the past. For instance, the booklet Living Sober and the new Plain and Simple Translation of the BB "A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous". These two books are new writings and can be easily changed to fit generational and social differences. Hence, we can leave the Founders writings alone.

Updated 7/22

PAI 15

<p>(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.</p> <p>Whenever any changes are brought to the Conference floor to the Founders' writings, considered by this motion to be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The book Alcoholics Anonymous — specifically, the first 164 pages, the chapter "The Doctor's Opinion," Forewords to the first and second editions, the Appendices on Spiritual Awakening and the Traditions, and Dr. Bob's Nightmare 2. The book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions the Conference must achieve a super-majority of 75% in order for the General Service Board to act upon it. However, the General Service Board shall not immediately act upon the Conference's directions, and instead, shall request all Area Delegates to conduct further discussions in their respective Areas. Area delegates' report backs will be conducted the second following General Service Conference at which the Conference may amend or change the previously approved change to the Founders' writings described above. For final action by the General Service Board, the Conference must achieve substantial unanimity 67%).
<p>(2) What problem does this proposed item address?</p> <p>The controversy, dis-unity and distrust across the fellowship resulting from the rapid changes to pages 66 & 117 originating from Advisory Actions at the 2021 GSC. Changes to our "common solution" as referenced on page 17 of the book Alcoholics Anonymous.</p> <p>Correct any errors in decision by the Finance Committee at the 2024 GSC when a 7-1 vote was taken to NOT protect the AA Message.</p>
<p>(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).</p> <p><u>Note:</u> While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.</p> <p>Area 12, District 13: 07/10/2024 Voted on and approved unanimously by GSR's and District Committee at monthly district meeting. Current & Past Delegates and a former GSO employee were present for discussion prior the vote. This PAI was sent to all District 13 GSR's on June 16 for review, weeks prior to the monthly District Meeting. THIS PAI IS BEING SUBMITTED BY THE DCM OF DISTRICT 13 in AREA 12 on behalf of this District's 13's group conscience and vote.</p>
<p>(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:</p>

Reasoning for this proposal:

1. Begin to restore trust in our trusted servants and processes. This includes Delegates, Trustees, the General Service Conference, Committees and Chairs.
2. Protect the AA Message per these words from the inside flap of Editions two and three of the AA Big Book, "But the basic text (pages 1 through 164) remains unchanged. This is the A.A. message, just as it was introduced in the 1939 'Alcoholics Anonymous'".

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

Preservation of our upside-down-triangle, where the groups/group-conscience drive what the General Service Conference advises.

Prevent another rogue GSC from creating Advisory Actions that can change our core message without being adequately vetted by our fellowship.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

DCM 13 Area 12

(7) Final comments:

If this PAI does not make it to the 2025 Conference Floor for discussion, please provide a better reason or evidence supporting this decision. A statement like this response from the Trustees Literature Committee From 11/08/2023 seems weak: "it is not in alignment with the Fellowship".

Consider adding these two sections to the co-founder's writing description, from Section 1 of this document:

- a. The "Preface" in the 4th edition of the Book Alcoholic's Anonymous.
- b. The Story 'Alcoholics Anonymous Number Three' from the 4th edition of the Book Alcoholics Anonymous.

III. Trusted Servants (trustees, Delegates...) PLEASE PROTECT our AA Message as defined on the dust jacket of the 3rd edition our basic text. Specifically, please protect the first 164 pages of the Book Alcoholics Anonymous - as this is the AA message.

PAI 26

<p>(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.</p>
<p>Change the wording of "The Current Conference Charter" in Appendix K of the "The A.A. Service Manual", 2021-2023 Edition (p. 119), Revised May 2021, Section 3 -- suggested change in UPPERCASE below. Additionally update the Bylaws to give the essays in the 12&12 and the sections of the big book described below the same protection as the short form of the steps and traditions. "THE CONTENT AND WORDS OF THE BOOK ALCHOLICS ANONYMOUS INCLUDING: THE FIRST 164 PAGES, THE PREFACE, THE FORWARDS, THE DOCTOR'S OPINION, DR. BOB'S NIGHTMARE, AA NUMBER 3 AND THE APPENDIXES ALL REMAIN AS THEY APPEAR IN SEPTEMBER 2022 AND WILL NOT CHANGE EVEN WITH THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF ANY PERCENTAGE OF THE AA GROUPS, THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERNCE, A PUBLISHING COMPANY OR ANYOTHER PERSON OR ENTITY. ADDITIONALLY, no change in Article 12 of the Charter or in A.A. Tradition or in the Twelve Steps of A.A. may be made with less than a written consent of three-quarters of the A.A. groups, as described in the resolution adopted by the 1955 Conference and Convention."</p>
<p>(2) What problem does this proposed item address?</p>
<p>Prevent changes, like the ones on Pages 66 and 117 of the 12&12 originating from Advisory Actions from the 2021 GSC. In response to the numerous proposed changes to the text that has already helped two million alcoholics get sober.</p>
<p>(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).</p>
<p><u>Note:</u> While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.</p>
<p>This item was discussed over the last 3 years at Area 12 District 13 meetings. In June 2024 it was emailed to the District GSR's to discuss with their groups. On August 14, 2024 at the Area 12 District 13 meeting it was discussed, voted on and approved unanimously to be sent as a PAI to for the 2025 GSC.</p>
<p>(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:</p>
<p> </p>

CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background

Reasoning for this proposal:

1. Based on feedback from the 2024 GSC, many delegates and areas want our core writings protected from future advisory actions from future General Service Conferences.
2. The intent of the wording in section (1) above is to make it binding on future Assemblies, Conferences and more that the AA message in the our 'basic text', pages 1-164 of the AA big book will not change.
3. Section K of the "The A.A. Service Manual", 2021-2023 Edition, Revised May 2021, Section 3, https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/en_bm-31_3.pdf
4. This paragraph from the inside flap of Editions two and three of the AA Big Book, 'But the basic text (pages 1 through 164) remains unchanged. This is the A.A. message, just as it was introduced in the 1939 "Alcoholics Anonymous"'.
5. This is a motion to reaffirm and MAKE BINDING to the Assembly & Conference and reaffirm that the book Alcoholics Anonymous will never be changed except for Footnotes, Stories after Dr. Bob's Nightmare, New Forwards, and Appendices.

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

No additional changes to our basic text and core literature as described in Section 1 (above),

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

DCM 13 Area 12

(7) Final comments:

Consider restoring the following text from Big Book Editions 2 & 3 (found on the Front flap of the book cover), 'But the basic text (pages 1 through 164) remains unchanged. This is the A.A. message, just as it was introduced in the 1939 "Alcoholics Anonymous," the book that gave the young Fellowship its name. '

The above text was changed on the book-cover (front flap) of the 4th Edition of the Big Book.

PAI 109

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

In accordance with Appendix L: Resolution authorizing the general service conference, our motion would include all registered A.A. worldwide groups. Our request is that the explanations of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts from the Appendices in the book; Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous, be sent to all the registered A.A. groups worldwide so they are suitably notified of modifications and would have the right to vote on them.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

These explanations violate our Current Conference Charter, Appendix O: Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., and Appendix L: Resolution Authorizing the General Service Conference from *The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2021-2023 Edition*.

The General Service Conference and General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous are the guardians and custodians of these 36 spiritual principles. What does that mean? Guardian means: a defender, protector, or keeper. Custodian means: one that guards and protects or maintains. We want to be Guardians and Custodians to the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts. The General Service Conference and the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous must protect our 36 Spiritual Principles from any modification, alteration, amplification, or extension.

Please refer to: The Current Conference Charter, Appendix O: Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., Appendix L: Resolution Authorizing the General Service Conference from *The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2021-2023 Edition*. The explanations are modifications, alterations, amplifications, and extensions of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts. The belief that it has been done previously as in the pamphlet, *The Twelve Steps Illustrated*, does not justify continuing this practice.

It is easy to understand that the decision about this book does affect the long-term unity of A.A. worldwide where English is not the primary language. Please think about the many other decisions made by the U.S./Canada Conference that will carry around the world.

As you consider presenting this Floor Motion, please frame it in this excerpt from Concept XII, that is also Article 12. of the Conference Charter. Please ask yourself if the U.S./Canada Conference is exemplifying Traditions One and Four to the highest degree when it overlooks how its decisions affect A.A. worldwide?

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

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

This proposal passed in District 9 Area 35 with a unanimous vote.

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

Current Conference Charter, PP119-122; Appendix L: Resolution Authorizing the General Service Conference PP123-124, Appendix O: Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. PP 129-138; all from *The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2021-2023 Edition*.

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

To get a ¾ vote from the worldwide groups if they chose to do that, so we can save Bill Wilson's writings.

With this proposal, we would be in keeping with Charter of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Current Conference Charter, PP119-122; Appendix L: Resolution Authorizing the General Service Conference PP123-124, AND IT IS UNDERSTOOD: That neither the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous nor the warranties of Article XII of the Conference Charter shall ever be changed or amended by the General Service Conference except by first asking the consent of the registered A.A. groups of the world. [This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world.] These groups shall be suitably notified of any proposal for change and shall be allowed no less than six months for consideration thereof. And before any such Conference action can be taken, there must first be received in writing within the time allotted the consent of at least three-quarters of all those registered groups who respond to such proposal. Resolution: It was resolved by the 1976 General Service Conference that those instruments requiring consent of three-quarters of the responding groups for change or amendment would include the Twelve Steps of A.A., should any such change or amendment ever be proposed. Bill uses the term "registered." A.A.W.S. neither monitors nor oversees the activities or practices of any A.A. group. Groups are listed solely for purposes of accurate communications.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Ricco R., District 9 Corrections Chair
Tom T., District 9 Area 35 DCM
Chuck R., District 9 Area 35 Alt DCM

(7) Final comments:

Let us do the right thing. If it is believed that these explanations are worthy explanations, let us send them to the groups worldwide and see if we can get 3/4 of responding groups to agree to them.

2025 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

ITEM C: Review progress report on exploring the creation of a corresponding trustees' Committee for Report and Charter

Background notes:

From the 2024 Additional Committee Consideration:

The committee discussed the current process for reviewing substantial updates to The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service and agreed that it lacks cohesiveness and accountability. The committee expressed their concerns to the board chairs and general manager and suggest that the General Service Board explore the creation of a corresponding trustees' Committee for Report and Charter comprised of members of all three boards and the General Service Office and that a progress report be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

Following the Additional Committee Consideration suggesting that the General Service Board explore the creation of a corresponding trustees' Committee for Report and Charter comprised of members of all three boards and the General Service Office, a trustees' Literature Subcommittee was formed to review and provide a recommendation to the General Service Board.

Background:

1. Progress Report

I. Suggestion to Create a trustees' Ad Hoc Report and Charter Committee.

The trustees' Literature Committee suggests that the chair of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. form an ad hoc committee of the corporation to support the Conference Committee on Report and Charter between conferences.

II. Suggestion to use the following Composition, Scope, and Procedure for the trustees' Ad Hoc Report and Charter Committee.

The trustees' Literature Committee offers the following CSP as a starting point for implementing a new trustees' ad hoc Report and Charter Committee.

Trustees' Ad Hoc Report and Charter Committee**Composition, Scope, and Procedure**

"Trustees serving on General Service Board committees, as part of their custodial and fiduciary responsibilities, provide oversight for the development of policies and projects and are the principal strategic planners responsible for keeping the organization on firm footing well into the future."

– General Service Board Report 02/02/09

COMPOSITION

The chair of the General Service Board appoints the trustee members of the trustees' Ad Hoc Report and Charter Committee ("Committee") of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. ("GSB") and the Committee's chairperson annually. The Committee is composed of the following:

- At least three (3) trustee members
 - The chair or alternate chair of the trustees' Conference Committee
 - The chair or alternate chair of the trustees' Literature Committee
 - One or two additional trustees as needed to ensure at least one trustee represents each of the three boards
- A member of AAWS Publishing Department
- A non-voting secretary – GSO staff, Group Services / Conference Committee on Report and Charter ("CCRC") assignment.

The chair of the GSB is an ex officio member of the committee.

SCOPE

1. A.A. Service Manual Review Process

The Committee oversees the biannual updates and/or revisions to the *A. A. Service Manual and Twelve Concepts for World Service* by the General Service Conference.

Biannually, the committee requests that the three boards review the *A.A. Service Manual* for differences between how the boards operate and what is written in the manual and asks for proposed changes. The committee then reviews proposed changes for accuracy and consistency before changes are included in a draft that is posted as General Service Conference background.

Following the annual General Service Conference, the committee is available to the CRCC as needed during their review of all editorial updates and revisions to the *A.A. Service Manual*. The committee oversees the updates/revisions reflected in the “page proofs” of the *A.A. Service Manual* provided by the AAWS Publishing Department, being particularly watchful for unintentional shifts in policy.

2. Final Conference Report Review Process

Following the annual Conference, the committee is available to the CCRC as needed during their review of the *Final Conference Report*. The committee oversees the possible updates/revisions reflected in the “page-proofs” of the *Final Conference Report* provided by the AAWS Publishing Department.

PROCEDURE

The committee meets either in person or via a virtual platform (teleconference or videoconference) or a combination of in-person and virtual platforms. The chair may invite guests to the committee meetings to provide information or answer questions for the committee.

The committee is available to assist with the work of the CCRC throughout the year, whether as a follow-up to the General Service Conference or to preview background information as needed for upcoming Conference activities.

The committee chair communicates with the chair of the CCRC throughout the year. Phone conversations prior to and after each quarterly board weekend are especially helpful to both committees.

The committee chair reports on the proceedings of this committee at meetings of the General Service Board.

The minutes of the Committee remain within the committee and are not circulated.

2025 Conference Committee on Committee on Report and Charter

ITEM D: Discuss General Service Conference Final Report.

Background Note:

Excerpted from the Report and Charter Conference Committee Composition, Scope and Procedure, the Conference committee is responsible for:

Proposing any change considered desirable for changing and improving the format, method of reporting, style or content of the Conference Final Report.

Background:

1. [2024 General Service Conference Final Report](#)

Note: The electronic anonymity-protected version that is available on aa.org is linked above.