

**Alcoholics Anonymous
Meeting Minutes District 2
March 20, 2022 at 2:00pm
Club 24**

Meeting Call to Order

DCM Blair A. called the meeting to order with the Serenity Prayer

Approval of Agenda

Motioned by Joanne O. Seconded by Amy A. All in favor. Approved

The 12 Traditions

Read by Joanne O.

Interpretation of Concept 3

Joanne O. read the short form:

“To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

Trust who ever we send to represent with the best information given to make the right decision.
Trust in our home and work lives and not control.

Volunteer for Interpretation of Concept 4

Bernie S. volunteered

Roll Call/Group Reports

Bernie S. - GSR Sunrise

Back to in person meetings. 2 birthdays in March. Reviewed pre conference agenda items at last business meetings.

Anne P. - GSR Circle of Sisters

Back to in person on Saturday and still meeting on Zoom on Wednesdays. One birthday in March. Discussed pre conference agenda items at last business meeting.

Amy A. - GSR Downtown Dartmouth

Average of 20 people per meeting. No birthdays in March.

Joanne O. - Alt. GSR Cole Harbour

Back to in person meetings and average of 10 people per meeting. Two birthdays celebrated in March. Moving to a better all around location in Woodside in May.

Michael A. - GSR Keep It Simple/Alt DCM District 2

20-25 people per meeting.

Blair A. - DCM District 2

Chris V. - Treasurer District 2

Approval Of February Minutes

Motioned by Amy A. Seconded by Mike A. All in Favor

Secretary Report

No report

Treasurers Report

No transactions in February.

\$2,433.59 Chequeing

\$1,600.61 Prudent

\$4,034.20 Total Cash

Two donations received from groups in March and rent to be paid to Club 24. Cheque due to Blair A. for Zoom and secretary expenses.

Alt. DCM and Workshop Report

Mike A. reported the Bridging the Gap workshop is being planned to be held in April.

DCM Report

The last month was busy with District, Area, and Central Service-related business. I attended the Central Service meeting, Area DCM/AO Meeting, and my home group business meeting. I am very pleased to report that Heather L. was elected as Webmaster of Central Service. Central Service has approved a budget for 2022. Several one-year positions still remain vacant for Chair and Co-Chair of some of the sub-committees.

All the committees at Central Service are doing a great job at serving Districts 1 & 2 during the pandemic. Corrections are still not able to host meetings. Hospital Visitations had two requests for visitation in February. Help Email had 6 women and 2 men contact for various reasons. The Telephones are going well and only get one or two calls per month on overnights. Treatment meetings at Detox and Marguerite Centre are going well but Forensics is still not open for meetings. The Newsletter would like to remind everyone to send any meeting changes to the Newsletter and Webmaster emails. Literature has updated their reporting for sales, purchases, and inventory. The Webmaster was busy helping the new Executive get access to their email accounts and helping Area 82 with their website. CPC, PI, Entertainment, Bridging the Gap, and Round Up did not report.

The quarterly Area 82 DCM and Area Officers meeting was held in March with 12 GSRs and the Area Officers in attendance. The yearend financials for 2021 were discussed and the Q1 2022 financials will be discussed at a meeting in May. The updated Area guidelines have been distributed and will be approved at the Spring Assembly. The agenda for the Spring Assembly on May 27-29 on Zoom has been finalized and distributed. It was approved that observers will be allowed at the quarterly Area 82 DCM/AO meetings. The agenda for the Pre. Conference on April 2 on Zoom has been distributed and time will be allotted for feedback. I brought up the idea of having future Spring Assemblies in March or April to accommodate GSO Conference items and the Pre. Conference added to the guidelines but nothing was decided as they will need full Area approval. The process for the Treasurer of Area 82 to receive e-transfers has been communicated.

Two members of the "A.A. for the Black & African American Alcoholic" pamphlet working group

will be holding a writing workshop for submission on April 3 on Zoom. The Trustees Committee on CPC/Treatment and Accessibilities are looking to interview members who are current or recently retired U.S. or Canadian Military members. Free registration for the Eastern Canada Forum on May 13-15 will start on April 18.

On March 21 most province-wide public health restrictions will be lifted, including gathering limits, physical distancing and mask requirements. A group may still require masks, social distancing, and/or maximum capacity if it is their group conscience. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas about your role in District 2 please feel free to reach out.

Blair will ensure groups have received information on Eastern Canada Regional Forum. Blair will follow up with Area about 2022 Provincial Roundup. A discussion was had about regulations at in person meetings. It was suggested that groups requiring masks to have it added to meeting information on website. Good idea to still have hand sanitizer available at meetings. If offering food or drink to do so as safe as possible.

Central Service Report

No report.

Approval of Reports

Motioned by Anne P. Seconded by Amy A. All in favor. Approved

Visitors with District Related Business

None

Old Business

a. District 2 Secretary
No nominations

b. 2022 Budget Approval

Chris V. explained the 2022 Budget that included total expenses of \$2,310 and \$1,150 in group contributions and 7th tradition. A \$1,160 deficit will be covered by current cash in operating account. The \$500 in outreach expense is contingent of meeting projected income.

Motioned by Amy A. Seconded by Mike A. All in favor. Approved

	<i>Budget</i>
Revenue	
Group Contributions	1,100
7th Tradition	50
2021 Carry Over	-
Miscellaneous	-
Total Revenue	1,150
Expenses	
Rent - Club 24	480
DCM	1,000
DCM - NS Service W/E	-
Alt DCM - NS Service W/E	-
Area 82 Assembly	
Secretary	75
Group Insurance	50
Treasurer	30
Outreach	500
Workshop Committee	100
2020 Provincial	
Miscellaneous	75
Total Expense	2,310
Net Income	(1,160)

New Business

a. Date of April Meeting

The April District 2 meeting would be normally held on April 17 which is Easter Sunday so it was decided to change the April District 2 meeting to April 24.

b. Area Spring Assembly May 27-29

Blair reminded everyone the Spring Assembly will be held on May 27-29 on Zoom and the 12 agenda items will be discussed at the April and/or May District 2 meetings

c. Area DCM/Area Officers Meeting

The year-end financials for 2021 were discussed and the Q1 2022 financials will be discussed at a meeting in May. It was approved that observers will be allowed at the quarterly Area 82 DCM/AO meetings. The dates of the Quarterly AO/DCM meetings will be April, July, October, and January going forward to allow discussion on the quarterly financial reports.

d. Pre-Conference Agenda Items

The summary of the 72nd General Service Conference agenda items assigned to District 2 was discussed and recommendations were given from each group. Blair will add the recommendations from each group to the summary and present it at the Area 82 Pre-Conference. (Refer to the 72nd General Service Conference Agenda Items attached)

Announcements

None

The meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Pledge.

Next meeting will be April 24, 2022 at 2:00pm at Club 24

72nd General Service Conference

Finance Agenda Items A-C

Policy/Admissions Items A-G

AA Grapevine & LA Vina Item D

District 2-Area 82

Each agenda item will be broken down into the following sections:

Proposal

Taken directly word for word from the agenda of the Conference Committees on Finance, Policy/Admissions, and AA Grapevine & La Vina meetings scheduled during the 72nd General Service Conference. The corresponding Trustees Committees have reviewed and agreed to forward these items to the Conference Committees. Finance items B and C, and Policy/Admissions items C, F, & G were assigned to these committees as a result of the Equal Distribution of Workload process. These originally were Literature or General Service Conference Committee items.

Origin

The proposals were communicated to GSO in many different forms, such as letters, emails, phone calls, or aa.org webform. They have also come from a variety of levels within AA, such as a member, Area, or any level in between.

Background

This information came directly from the Conference Committees agenda items background. No additional research was completed by District 2. The background for some of the items was consistent or referred to the following:

Concept Eight: The Trustee Committees are responsible for overall policy and finance

Concept One: The final responsibility and the ultimate authority reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship

1995 Conference Advisory Action: *“The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Doctor Bob’s Nightmare” and the Appendices remain as is.”* Discussed multiple times in 1997-2001 during writing of Fourth Edition

1986 Conference Advisory Action: *“The Preface to the Big Book clearly states that the text was written in 1939 and that it has not been changed, no further explanation regarding out-of-date phrases and/or gender-oriented pronouns or chapter titles is necessary. “The A.A.W.S. editorial staff continue to degenderize A.A. literature, with the exception of Bill W.’s writings, as the items are reprinted”*

2002 Conference Advisory Action: *“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.”*

Recommendation

During the regular District 2 Meeting held on March 20 these proposals were discussed between the Executive and groups represented. Given the amount of information provided and tight deadline it was not possible to get a true group consensus for each item. Some groups felt five of the agenda items assigned to District 2 would not be impacting to the general AA population and time may have been better spent on agenda items having a broader impact. They would also prefer to discuss items assigned to the Committee our delegate is a part of as opposed to items the Delegate will not be discussing.

Finance Item A

Proposal

Review Self-Support Packet

1. To whom contributions are sent, specifically, inconsistent language reflecting that contributions should be made to G.S.O. (General Service Office), as opposed to the G.S.B. (General Service Board)
2. Consider updating images used in Self-Support materials that reflect current contributions from the US and Canadian

Origin

- The A.A.W.S. Self-Support Subcommittee

Background

- At the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee October 2021 meeting, the A.A.W.S. Self-Support subcommittee discussed the Self Support Card had inconsistent language regarding making contributions to G.S.O. when it should be made to G.S.B.
- The trustees' Finance Committee requested that the A.A.W.S. self-support subcommittee draft a communication to the 2022 Conference Committee on Finance suggesting a review for inconsistencies in our literature regarding to whom contributions are sent in the Self-Support Packet (Self Support Card, Self Support pamphlet, The AA Group Treasurer pamphlet, AA Guidelines on Finance, 7th Tradition flyer, AAGV Self Support Flyer, and Birthday Contribution Envelope)

Recommendation

- All groups agreed the language should be consistent in the Self Support Packet to reflect contributions be made to the General Service Board
- All groups agreed the images in the Self Support materials be updated to reflect current contributions from the US and Canada
- Groups felt this item does not impact the general AA population and left to our trusted servants to decide

Finance Item B

Proposal

A disclaimer be added to the front of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, as follows:

"While the language in this text may seem dated, please remember that Bill W. wrote in the language and custom of his times. Bill was very tolerant of different individuals and members. All alcoholics, were and are now welcomed cordially into AA. Were Bill to write this book today, it may be worded differently in some places. Society may change, but the basic spiritual principles of Alcoholics Anonymous are classic and eternal. We hope that this book continues to broaden and deepen the understanding of the Twelve Steps as written in the book Alcoholics Anonymous"

Origin

- AA member KC H. submitted to GSO
- Three groups of Alcoholic Anonymous in Corpus Christi Texas support the proposal
- A District in Corpus Christi Texas supports the proposal

Background

- A succession of small changes to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions can change the meaning of the text as originally written
- The 12 & 12 is a classic book and classics are not changed to fit the times
- Once we change Bill's writings it opens the door for many changes
- Three advisory actions at the 71st GSC to change the 12&12 were passed by substantial unanimity
- GSO received 40 requests to reverse or rescind one or more of 71st GSC advisory actions
- The COVID pandemic, or other issues, didn't allow for a fully informed group conscience
- The changes are the result of outside issues and therefore not in keeping with Tradition 10
- See background for Finance item C

Recommendation

- This item is very similar to Finance Item C and both should not be approved
- 2 Groups agreed to having a disclaimer being added
- 3 Groups, Treasurer, and DCM agreed it is not necessary to add disclaimer
- If the disclaimer is added it should be revised as it is very wordy
- Refer to recommendation on Finance Item C

Finance Item C

Proposal

To maintain the integrity and historical accuracy of the publication Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, we move that all proposed changes be handled in footnotes rather than in a revision of the actual text.

Origin

- A District discussed this proposal and it is their conscience

Background

- Many members were disturbed at the prospect of revisions to our literature, as it has been effective for years at saving the lives of countless alcoholics
- The revisions set a dangerous precedent for changes to what we consider sacred texts in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous
- If the proposed changes are handled in footnotes which include the rationale for the change and any supporting evidence, the historically significant text will remain intact
- This text is a part of our history, our collective memory
- Suppressing outdated expressions negates the growth that has taken place in us as a fellowship
- See background for Finance item B

Recommendation

- This item is very similar to Finance Item B and both should not be approved
- One group did not agree with adding footnotes and preferred disclaimer
- Four groups, Treasurer, and DCM agreed to add footnotes as they are currently used
- It was unanimous that the actual text not be revised in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions
- Making changes to the actual wording is very risky and opens the door for many changes
- District 2 supported the 71st General Service Conference agenda item to change some wording in the 12 & 12
- Refer to 2002 Conference Advisory Action to not make changes to the 12 & 12

Policy/Admissions Item A

Proposal

Review G.S.O. General Manager's report regarding General Service Conference site selection.

Origin

- In 2021 the GSC Trustee Committee agreed the G.S.O. general manager's report regarding General Service Conference site selection include more details on specific sites considered.
- After the General Service Conference Trustee Committee received a verbal 2024 GSC site selection report they requested the general manager continue development of the report and forward it as background for the 2022 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions.

Background

- In 2021 the GSC committee agreed with the overall goal of a reduction or containment of total Conference costs, the suitability of sleeping rooms and meeting rooms, and an improvement in the convenience and cost of transportation to and from airports
- Current Conference Charter excerpt: The Conference will meet yearly in the City of New York, unless otherwise agreed upon. Special meetings may be called should there be a grave emergency. The Conference may also render advisory opinions at any time by a mail or telephone poll in aid of the General Service Board or its related services
- The GSO general managers 2024 site selection report compares four different hotels in respect to general cost, the suitability of sleeping rooms and meeting rooms, and the convenience and cost of transportation to and from airports
- There have been six Conference Advisory Actions Regarding General Service Conference Site

Recommendation

- Everyone agreed this item should be left to the decision of the Trustee and Conference Committees of Policy/Admissions
- Groups felt this item does not impact the general AA population and left to our trusted servants to decide

Policy/Admissions Item B

Proposal

Review dates for the 2026 General Service Conference.

Origin

- In 2021 the Policy/Admissions Conference Committee reviewed the dates for the 2025 General Service Conference. In order to provide additional flexibility to the General Service Office management in contracting the most cost effective and appropriate venues for the General Service Conference, the committee selected three date ranges for the 75th General Service Conference in order of preference

Background

- The committee noted the 2025 proposed Conference dates are the best choices for not conflicting with any significant holidays
- List of past GSC dates
- 2026 calendar with holidays & observances

Recommendation

- The majority thought this item should be left to the decision of the Trustees and Conference Committee of Policy/Admissions
- One group did recommend start dates of April 19, April 26, or May 3
- The latest date possible would give Groups, Districts, and Area time to discuss agenda items
- Groups felt this item does not impact the general AA population and left to our trusted servants to decide

Policy/Admissions Item C

Proposal

Discuss the procedure: "Process for Approving Observers to the Conference".

Origin

- Delegate, Panel 71 Area 39 Western Missouri

Background

- The 2019 Policy/Admissions Conference Committee requested that the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference develop a process for approving qualified representatives from other A.A. service structures to observe the U.S. and Canada General Service Conference
- The 2020 Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Policy and Admissions Committee a process for consideration
- 2020 Conference Advisory Action: The "Process for Approving Visitors to the Conference" be approved
- 2021 consideration from the Policy and Admissions Committee states: "The committee requested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee consider revising the "Process for Approving Observers to the Conference" to enable the Policy and Admissions Committee to approve routine requests for admission from General Service structures outside the U.S. and Canada without requiring a Conference Advisory Action."
- The Trustees' GSC committee noted that the revision aims to enable the Conference Policy and Admissions Committee to approve routine requests for admission from general Service structures outside the U.S. and Canada without requiring a Conference Advisory Action. The committee agreed that this item is under the purview of the General Service Conference
- This recommendation would save time for GSC staff by eliminating the manhours necessary to address this issue with conference members
- It will save conference members the time of responding to surveys when they have no (or little) knowledge of the visitors
- In addition, this would support the Right of Decision by our trusted servants on the Policy and Admissions Committee.

Recommendation

- It was unanimously decided that a stream lined process would be much better
- Trusted servants on the Policy/Admissions Committee have the right of decision on this item
- Groups felt this item does not impact the general AA population and left to our trusted servants to decide

Policy/Admissions Item D

Proposal

Review progress report on the development of a process using virtual meeting technologies for polling the G.S.C. between meetings.

Origin

- 2021 Advisory Action of the General Service Conference
“The trustees’ General Service Conference Committee develop a process for polling the General Service Conference between annual meetings that makes use of virtual meeting technologies, in order to enable real-time discussion and debate, broad participation, and greater efficiency than the current process.”

Background

- In July 2021 the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference discussed the advisory action and noted that the process and any revisions to date have been Conference approved
- In January 2022 trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference considered the process and noted that efforts for this undertaking are paused as a result of prioritization of workload
- The current polling process is very detailed which utilizes email and telephone as a means of communication. The process currently takes 14-22 days to complete depending on if the motion is reconsidered. If the motion is reconsidered the process starts over again
- The General Service Conference Charter, Service Manual, and G.S.B Bylaws refer to this process and state what needs conference approval to change

Recommendation

- This would be a much better process since virtual meetings have been widely used in many aspects
- Virtual meetings would allow a decision to be made much quicker but sufficient notice of meeting would be needed for Delegates to discuss with groups as required

Policy/Admissions Item E

Proposal

Discuss report on the Equitable Distribution of Workload process.

Origin

- 2021 Advisory Action of the General Service Conference
“The Equitable Distribution of Workload Process, as detailed in the Report from the 2020 Trustees’ General Service Conference Committee, be implemented for the 72nd General Service Conference (GSC) on a three-year trial basis, with a progress report to be brought to the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions after each year of the trial.”

Background

- In July 2021 the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference discussed the advisory action and noted the importance of ongoing evaluation of the process using the first-year implementation. A subcommittee was created to implement this process
- Twelve new items were distributed across six Conference Committees that would not have received new agenda items and allowed fifty more Delegates to participate more equitably
- Another positive outcome was the implementation of the agenda item form itself as it related to the processing of agenda items in the office and within the Trustee committees
- The process demanded a great amount of attention and has strained every aspect of the Conference assignment which supports the annual meeting
- Advancing the deadline for submissions (from December 15th to September 15th) may pose challenges
- Chair of the Trustees Committee meeting with the upcoming Conference Committee in January was changed to October with the current Conference Committee
- Leaving items with the Conference Committee who first receives them
- Return items to the Trustees Committee for work between Conferences
- Staff members for both committees should stay engaged on the items throughout the year
- Archives department to recommend where documentation is kept
- The 15-page report on the EDW process from the subcommittee provides much more information

Recommendation

- With the 40 pages of information this item was challenging to discuss in detail with groups
- The pros and cons of the process have been discussed in the report as well as which committee will be responsible for the agenda item going forward
- If this process is used permanently the date for Delegates to get agenda items can not be later in the year
- The new form for agenda item submissions should be implemented for the long term
- Groups felt this item does not impact the general AA population and left to our trusted servants to decide

Policy/Admissions Item F

Proposal

Consider request to restore paragraph on the story "Freedom from Bondage" in the Fifth Edition of the Big Book and future printings of the Fourth Edition.

Origin

- Substantial unanimity by an Area

Background

- Missing paragraph: *"I looked around me at people who seemed happy and tried to analyze their happiness, and it seemed to me that without exception these people had something or somebody they loved very much. I didn't have the courage to love; I was not even sure I had the capacity. Fear of rejection and its ensuing pain were not to be risked, and I turned away from myself once more for the answer, this time to the drinks I had always refused before, and in alcohol I found a false courage. I wasn't afraid of anything or anybody after I learned about drinking, for it seemed right from the beginning that with liquor I could always retire to my little private world where nobody could get at me to hurt me."*
- Ninth paragraph of the story "Freedom from Bondage" which was included in the Third Edition of the Big Book and which was deleted from the Fourth Edition to create a page count in the Fourth Edition similar to the page count of the Third Edition
- In 2003 the Trustees Literature Committee forwarded a proposal to restore the paragraph to the Literature Conference Committee but they took no action

Recommendation

- It was unanimous that the paragraph be restored in the Fifth Edition of the Big Book
- Some groups believed the paragraph should not have been removed in the Fourth Edition

Policy/Admissions Item G

Proposal

Consider request to revise the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” to reflect shared experience on service sponsorship

Origin

- Jeff B, Delegate

Background

- To help carry the message of the importance of A.A. service, and to reinforce the idea that service is for every A.A. member; it is recommended that the Service Sponsorship section in the pamphlet Questions & Answers on Sponsorship (P-15) be expanded, and that the pamphlet be retitled to include Service Sponsorship
- Provide the AA members doing this vital service work, Service Sponsorship, assistance to better serve the Fellowship
- Item to create a Service Sponsorship pamphlet was submitted for consideration to the 69th General Service Conference. The trustees’ Literature Committee serving at that time chose not to forward the item stating that there was no express need from the Fellowship
- A section on service sponsorship was added to the A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2021-2023
- Research found a scarcity of information on Service Sponsorship
- Questions & Answers on Sponsorship is already established and one of our most widely distributed pamphlets. The message of the importance of service sponsorship would actually reach more A.A. members through this existing pamphlet...with the following considerations

Recommendation

- It was unanimous that the pamphlet be revised to reflect shared experience on service sponsorship
- This pamphlet is already established and widely used so no need to create a separate pamphlet on Service Sponsorship
- District 2 supported the 71st General Service Conference item to expand the section on “Service Sponsorship” and retitle to include service sponsorship

Grapevine/ La Vina Item D

Proposal

Discuss the wide-ranging impact the Preamble change has had on our Fellowship.

Origin

- Josh E., AA Grapevine Board Chair

Background

- The 2021 Grapevine/La Vina Conference Committee considered gender neutral language options for possible changes to the preamble and took no action
- Two 2021 GSC Floor Actions to revise the wording of the preamble with gender neutral pronouns were approved with 2/3 majority. As a result, a floor action was made to replace “men and women” with “people” and be presented to the GS Board for approval
- The General Service Board accepted the advisory action and forwarded it to the Grapevine Board.
- The Grapevine Board met to discuss the change and revised the first sentence of the preamble
- The change went into effect in all Grapevine online materials and print magazines. The change was also incorporated into AAWS' online materials and service materials. The change continues to be updated in all AAWS materials and Grapevine books, as they go into new print runs
- Following the 71st General Service Conference, the AA Grapevine Board, the AA World Services Board and the General Service Board began receiving considerable feedback and questions regarding the revision to The AA Preamble
- Tradition 4 allows groups to be autonomous and choose which version to read
- Groups have referred to Tradition 10 and say the change is an outside issue. While other groups have referred to Tradition 3 and say the change is more inclusive
- Consistent with the spirit of Warranty Four, Concept XII, that "all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity more discussion was requested

Recommendation

- Two groups discussed how they support the wording change and have implemented the new version at their meetings
- One group stated they were not aware of the 71st General Service Conference item to change the wording and will continue to use the original version
- District 2 supported two 71st General Service Conference agenda items to make specific literature more inclusive for the LGBTQ community
- This change may open the door for many requests to change wording in many pieces of AA Literature
- This item supports the need for Area, Districts, and Groups to receive this type of GSC agenda items early enough so a true Area conscience is given to their Delegate