

DELEGATE: JAKE S.

Thank you Madame chair. My name is Jake S. I'm alcoholic. Area 42 Panel 73 delegate serving on the Public Information Committee. The theme for the General Service conference this year was connecting with love, unity, and service. The theme for this report is, serving Area 42 as the panel 73 conference Delegate, the hardest thing I've ever had to do. I want to start by saying thank you so much for being here today and thank you so much for your service to AA. This whole service structure is totally dependent upon an informed group conscience and without people like you willing to serve in this General Service committee that would be impossible. I will be doing the same thing I did last year for my reporting from the conference. That is today here, and June 1st in Gardnerville for NAGS I will be giving my "just the facts reports". I want to share with you all of my experience of the conference, as well as the facts of what happened at the conference, but there is only so much time we have at these meetings. As well as the very important AA principle of the mind can only absorb what the butt can endure! So this report will be 90% what happened at the conference. I will give another report at the fall area assembly with a slideshow and the pictures and all of the fun stuff. One thing I learned at last year's conference was that every conference member gets a little care package of AAWS and Grapevine books. Luckily for me, we have two Conference members from Area 42 at this year's conference, the US Trustee at large, our very own Marita R,

was also there. About a month before the conference she was in Mexico at their general service conference. She wasn't feeling well and came home early. It was found she had a small heart attack. She was able to go to the Utah Area assembly as a test. She did well and was able to attend the general service conference. After, she had a procedure to fix a small hole in her heart and she is doing wonderful now. She is currently in Oklahoma at their Area assembly and she sends everybody her love. But, she gave me all of her

books and we are going to give them all away here today. So everybody who got a button has a number on the back. We are going to pick random numbers to give these books away and we are going to give the first one away right now. See, that was fun! So here we go. Last year at the conference we started on Saturday. The first thing we did was a full conference meet and greet. After that we had a remote communities meeting and then a 1728 meeting. 1728 means 12 X 12 X 12. 12 steps, 12 traditions and 12 concepts. When you times 12 x 12 x 12 you get 1728. Then we had a delegates only meeting where we made our projects I showed you last year as well as where I played fuzzy ball basketball. I have a crazy story about that this year so please do not miss the fall area assembly. Also at the 73rd General service conference last year we passed an advisory action that the full conference meets at least twice a year virtually. So this year before the conference started, we met virtually and had a remote communities meeting as well as a 1728 meeting. We also had a full conference discussion on the founders' writing. I had heard it said that since we met virtually, we do not need the conference meet and greet because we were all able to meet each other through the virtual meetings before the conference. So all of Saturday was cut out of the Conference this year and we started the conference Sunday at 9 AM with the welcome and the roll call. I think this was a mistake. Having virtual meetings as a conference I think is a really good idea. However, it is not the same as the face-to-face meet and greet we have at the conference. I thought it was a very important part of the 73rd General Service conference and I really

hope we will consider bringing it back for the 75th GSC. I can tell you one thing that did not change, and that was the overwhelming feeling of gratitude and responsibility that came over me when name was called in the roll call. They tell you to respond with here or present and once again I went with here. Next was the greeting from my fellow conference committee member and delegate conference chair Mary A. from area 14, an overview of our full conference manual, and a keynote address from our outgoing western Canada regional Trustee Irma V. Next was the mechanics of the conference. This

is going through our “how the conference operates” and “summary of conference procedures”. This is basically the Roberts rules and how things work at the conference. It is very important to know how these things all work as we will soon see. It talks about what needs 2/3 and what just needs a simple majority to pass. So the first motion of the conference was made here. And that motion was “if the plain language big book comes up for a vote, it would require 3/4 instead of a 2/3 majority to pass”. This was discussed for a while. Then I got to do my first service job at the conference. So all of the voting at the conference is done with electronic voting machines called DOTS. The system is totally awesome and I wish that we could use it for our area assemblies. However, we do not test and start using the electronic voting until Wednesday. So any vote that happens before our voting machines are set up are counted by hand and that was my job, to be a vote counter. So we voted that this motion would be tabled until later in the week if it came up. Then déjà vu from last year another Delegate made the suggestion that we do not do the oral Area highlights. So if you don’t know what that is every conference the first year delegates, which this year would be panel 74 delegates, give a two minute talk about their area highlights or what is going on in their area. The motion was to get rid of all of the Area highlights to talk about other things affecting AA. This motion was recommitted back to the agenda committee. One thing that was not different this year was we got a big class on Roberts rules of order and how the Conference operates. So when a motion is recommitted, that means it goes back to the appropriate conference committee for discussion and a recommendation. Last year we had the same motion and we wasted three full sessions trying to decide if we would do it or not. So when we recommitted it back to the agenda committee, the conference Chair made sure to ask “can you guys get together and make a decision quickly.” The Chair of the agenda committee said they could. So we moved on to our next session that was presentations and discussions on the theme “responsibility in service: when and how to give.” In this session there were three speakers on safety throughout the structure, 1728

sponsorship, and overcoming barriers to participation. Then a conference member sharing session. It all went well and when it was over we got the word the agenda committee had their recommendation. So when a conference committee brings a recommendation to the floor that constitutes a motion and a second that goes straight into discussion and a vote. The agenda committee recommendation was that we would suspend all oral presentations of all area service highlights during the 74th General Service conference to allow for additional time on the agenda for general sharing and questions. So there was not a lot of discussion. We took the vote and the recommendation failed. This is the only vote I do not have vote totals for you because this is still when we were voting by hand and I was counting votes. I realized later that these were also the only motions that I did not vote on. So anyway, the motion failed and we will still hear all the panel 74 area highlights and it did not waste a large amount of time getting it done. Then it was time for our Delegate lunch by region. We are in the Pacific region. Last year we

talked about the 2026 Pacific Region forum being held in San Diego California. This year we talked about a request for a special forum by Oregon area 58. A special forum is a forum designed for remote, sparsely populated, or urban areas to serve AA members who would not normally be able to attend a regional forum. As well as when there is an expressed need based on culture, language, or geography. This special request by Area 58 is a request for the deaf community who communicate in sign language. The purpose is so that deaf members can communicate with our General Service boards and General Service conference structure their challenges and needs for inclusion in AA service and recovery, as well as to improve communication to meet the needs of our deaf membership. This event is planned to be held on a virtual platform. So from this Delegate lunch our regional trustee will forward the request to the trustees international Convention and Regional Forums committee for consideration at the July board meeting. Then by mid August the committee should hear their decision. These requests have to be made at least two years in advance. So if this does happen, it would probably be

sometime in 2026. I will keep you all posted on this exciting event. After lunch we had the conference discussion on the founders writings where I heard much of the same things that were shared in our discussion at our Area assembly. Next on the agenda was our conference joint committee meeting. A joint committee meeting is where the conference committee gets to meet with the trustees committee and the appointed committee members or ACM's of a committee. We had a virtual joint meeting where most of our questions were answered, but at this meeting we learned that we were going to discuss another new agenda item that was not on our agenda because our PI committee was not busy enough. So if you are new, that is a joke, the public information committee is extremely busy. We now lovingly refer to PI as the committee that EDW forgot about! Anyway, we quickly go through the joint meeting, and we jump right into doing our committee work. We worked for about one hour and then it was time for everyone to meet back up in the main room for the General Service board report given by the interim chair of the board. I thought this was a very important report. As a result of the conference last year, the board agreed to go through an inventory process. This report was mostly a recap of that inventory. I think this was very important. I'm going to share a bunch of numbers and reports today and they will all be made available for everyone. For the board inventory there were 23 questions. An outside facilitator was asked to help with the inventory. Each trustee was given time to see all of the questions. Then on Friday, January 26, the full board met at GSO at 475 Riverside Dr. The board was split up into five breakout groups. Each group was assigned questions to review and to identify possible solutions and actionable steps. After lunch, each group reported back to the full board. There were a bunch of findings and solutions identified and I truly hope this inventory helps the board. In the conclusion of the report it says "following the resignation of the board chair the communication from the General Service board to the fellowship was ineffective. This was made worse

because we failed to anticipate the nature and volume of communications from those not on the General Service board. Together this caused harm to our staff members, non-trustee directors, and delegates. On behalf of the General Service board I offer my sincerest apologies for the damage our poor communication has caused. The General Service board is committed to changing how we communicate, but we are going to the General Service conference to be effective. The board was specifically asked if there has been consideration given to apologizing directly to the past board Chair

personally. At this time there is no plan for that to happen. So we shall see. We were done for the night and it was time for the opening dinner and AA meeting. Once again, this was an absolutely awesome experience. This dinner is open to all conference members and their plus ones as well as any past trustees. The dinner was great and we had the best dessert in the history of the world so you'll have to wait till the fall assembly to see that. Then we had five speakers. Three that spoke in English, one in Spanish, and one in French. It was absolutely wonderful, one of my favorite nights of the conference again. Every conference member signed up for a two hour slot to get a chance to read the draft of the plain language big book. My time slot was after the banquet dinner and then we were done with day one of the week. The next day we met with our conference committees. We were scheduled to meet from 9 AM and until noon Monday and Tuesday. We knew that we would be a very busy committee so we agreed before the conference to meet an hour early each day and work through our lunch. We finished around 1:15 PM with a lot to still get to. Back to the main room we had two more regions area highlights. Then from 2:15 PM to 4:15 PM there was a general sharing "what's on your mind" session. Next, we had our workshop where we break out into groups. This year our topic was "connecting home groups to the conference throughout the year to better inform the group conscience". I have to say I was very happy to hear that topic. That has been a big goal of mine for the past two years, by using surveys and talking about topics we don't even know for sure if they will be on the agenda or not, but just to keep the groups talking

and engaged throughout the whole year. The questions we had were how are GSR's able to engage with the conference structure throughout the year? How do we make General Service work more accessible? And how are we using advancements in technology to distribute Conference information at the Area, District, and Group level? Last year at the workshop I was able to talk about our awesome service festivals. This year I was able to share about our amazing Area conference committee process. Every person in the workshop was blown away when I shared our ACC process and how we handle conference agenda items and asked me a ton of questions. Talking about the advancements in technology our ACC Google Drives have become an amazing resource. There is no doubt in my mind our Area conference committees are leading to a more informed area. One area had a process similar to ours and every other area talked about trying to use some of these processes in their areas. This year I've been able to share our summarizer guidelines as well as our presenter guidelines. I absolutely believe our Area conference committees are extremely important and they will only ever be as good as the members that serve on them. We went to our dinner and then it was time for the main event of the evening, our finance report by our General Service board treasurer. This was definitely one of the most important things I was looking forward to at this year's conference. We have been talking a lot about finances. We all have received not one, but two letters coming from the General Service office manager regarding finances. First of all, we have a new audit company, and the auditor was present on the dias and spoke first which I thought was very good. The auditor reported all records and any information they asked for was made freely available for their inspection. The main thing they found was that our value of donated PSA airtime was not being recognized. This was our new agenda item in the PI committee we will talk about later. In 2022 it was \$33 million while in 2023 it was \$17 million. So just to say again to be clear I am going to read a lot of numbers and vote totals and a lot of information in this report and all of these reports and numbers I am talking about will be made available to everyone. We are going

to have more detailed information and a slideshow at our fall assembly. So for our seventh tradition we had \$10.84 million up 2.8% from \$10.55 million in 2022. Our operating expense was \$17.42 million up 9.9% from \$15.9 million in 2022. Our seventh tradition self-support covers 62% of our total operating expense. Our gross literature sales were \$14,641,118. Our gross profits on literature was \$6.76 million up 38.2% from \$4.89 million in 2022. So now here is the big number that we have not had for the last few years, which is a long story, but today we have. That is our cost of program services per individual. So if you have been here for a while, you

know this as the challenge number that we had for years. If you are not familiar with this challenge number, basically this means that if every individual AA member would contribute this amount AA would be fully self-supporting by member contributions. So this year our magic number is \$6.43. So usually if it was \$6.12 we would contribute that amount on June 12. If it was \$7.20 we would contribute that on July 20. So now of course it is \$6.43 and the date conversion will not work. So this is what my genius mind has come up with. There are 30 days in June. So the challenge will be to contribute \$6.43 to the General Service board on July 13. And in case you haven't heard, the Pacific Region forum will be going on at that time. So let's do it! My big concern and the question I had for the treasurer which I had been asked by multiple groups and members is the idea of us stretching out our vendors. Or of us not paying our bills on time. So my question was how many bills do we have over 30 days past due. The answer was zero. So then to reiterate, the question was all of our bills are paid? And again, I was assured the answer was yes, which was very encouraging to me. This session was scheduled from 6:45 PM to 8:30 PM. Then after was the Western Canada area highlights from 8:30 PM to 8:45 PM because they only had two new panel 74 delegates. In the conference room there are three microphones. At 8:30 PM there was at least 10 people standing at all three mics and the session was abruptly ended. This was definitely one of the most disappointing

things of my conference this year. We already talked about the two letters. Money and finances are one of the biggest topics in AA right now. Not to mention one of the most important jobs of Delegate. I absolutely believe we should've kept this session going and pushed the area highlights back at least one hour and answered every question at the mic, but that did not happen and it was very disappointing to me. So now we are on to Tuesday and back to our committee work. One hour early and work through lunch, but this time that was not enough. The committee work has to be finished on Tuesday so the report can be written and translated to start the full conference work on Wednesday. We did not finish until after 4 PM. During this time I missed the AAWS board report and one of my favorite things from last year. I missed the AA international report and our very own Marita R. which was a total bummer. More area highlights, then our Delegate only dinner. At this dinner, we elect our panel 75 Delegate Chair and alternate Chair. Whoever gets the alternate chair becomes the conference mailman. All of the regions put the names of their panel 74 delegates into a hat. One name from each region goes into another hat. First name is the Delegate Chair second is the alternate. This year's Delegate Chair was one of my good friends and serving on the PI committee Mary A. from Florida. When the name was picked this year, it was Karen C. another member from the public information committee which I thought was pretty cool. The alternate is Lisa G from the Pacific Region area 92. Then it was time for two more Area highlights and then without a doubt, the funnest thing at this year's General Service conference. There

was a skit play based on the Addams family about the 2025 international convention in Vancouver. It was directed by my last year's staff secretary Patrick C. and the actors were GSO staff members. It was an absolute blast and I've heard a rumor that it is going to be made available to the host committee of the 2024 Pacific Region forum and where is that again, oh yes July 12-14 at the Westgate. Don't miss it!. Now we are on Wednesday and it was my favorite day of the week because it was casual day! No suit, no tie, just my shorts and my hat. We started the day with the AA Grapevine board report given

by Paz P. This report was given in Spanish and translated to us in English. Some of you may not know, but the AA Grapevine is very near and dear to my heart. My very first Area position was Grapevine chair and to this day is my favorite service position I ever had. The big news this year was the official launch of the new Grapevine and La Viña apps in September. Members can download both apps for free wherever they get apps from. Subscriptions are required to access the full stories and archives. Digital subscriptions, which include the app and the website are priced at \$2.99 a month. In October 2023, AA Grapevine celebrated the two-year anniversary of its popular 30 minute podcast. The podcast has now had over 680,000 downloads and is available on our grapevine YouTube channel. The very first AA Grapevine issue was printed in June 1944. That means this June will be the 80th anniversary of the AA grapevine. I got home from the conference on Sunday. Monday I opened an email from the grapevine saying that they were printing a story I wrote at a District 1 Grapevine writing workshop in 2018. They also said it will be printed in the June 2024 issue. Next was another regional lunch, where the topic was the most important event of the year. The Pacific Region forum. After lunch, it was time for a new trustees election. This year we have two trustees rotating off the board and two coming in, by the way next year, we will have six trustees rotating. This year we elected a new West Central Regional Trustee, Charles H. As well as a new western Canada regional Trustee Gail P. Our next report was our location plus report. I talked about this a lot last year. This committee is looking at should we move or should GSO stay in Manhattan. When I first heard of this, I thought of course we should move, Manhattan is one of the most expensive places in the world. Then I learned we get a really good price for our building. This was a five year process with an amazing amount of work going into it. The decision has been made. GSO will stay at 475 Riverside Dr. in Manhattan for the next 10 years. We will pay \$25.46 per square foot. I have been assured this is a really good price anywhere. Also, like I reported last year we do not get the good rate because we are Alcoholics Anonymous. There are many nonprofits in the

building. The big news is we will no longer occupy the eighth floor. Right now we have 4997 ft.² on the eighth floor that will all be moving to the 11th floor. Finally, it was time to get out our voting clickers and start our committee recommendations and considerations for the 74th General Service conference. There are 13 General Service committees. Just like there are 13 area conference committees in Area 42. The committee reports are chosen at random by the chair and the conference coordinator. The chairperson of the committee comes to the dais reads the full report and then we go back to the recommendations to vote. The lucky winner this year was cooperation with the professional community or CPC. This year the CPC committee had no committee recommendations. In our area, we discussed CPC item E consider a request to develop a pamphlet for the unhoused alcoholic. We had substantial unanimity that we did not want to develop the pamphlet. The committee agreed and took no action. That is a term you will hear a lot. It means the item was considered by the committee, they took no

action and the agenda item is done now. The committee thought a pamphlet would not be an effective tool to carry the message to the unhoused community. The next

committee was Corrections. Their first recommendation was corrections Item A consider updated singleness of purpose text in the pamphlet a message to Corrections professionals. So this was our first vote. I shared this last year and I will share it again this year. I do not bring a laptop computer into the conference session. I use my phone, a pen and paper. When we vote, I write down the vote results and then I write down whether we vote yes or we vote no. This was one of the most meaningful things to me last year. I vote for us. I will never be able to put into words how grateful I am and what an honor it is to me to be put in this position for our area. So this vote was 123 yes 6 no and we vote yes. The next Corrections recommendation was on item C review the video "carrying the message behind these walls" for relevance and effectiveness. The committee recommended this video be discontinued. The vote

was 121 Yes 10 no and we vote yes. The last recommendation for Corrections was Corrections item D consider a request to develop a pamphlet for the transgender alcoholic in AA. We discussed this in our area with substantial unanimity in favor of creating the pamphlet. There was a lot of discussion on this, someone made a motion to call the question. So when that happens, it means all discussion is over and we go straight to the vote. It requires a second which it got. There was still a lot of people in line so first we voted on the motion to call the question which was 86 yes 41 No. We voted no and lost. I wanted everyone to get a chance to say what they needed to say but it didn't happen. So we vote on the motion. The vote is 86 yes 40 no, our area was very much in favor of this and we vote yes, the motion passes and the pamphlet will be developed. The next committee to report is trustees. So if you were here last year, you remember all of the excitement. This year I thought we would get through trustees in five minutes and I was absolutely wrong again. So if you are new or not so new, this can be very confusing and I get it. So the way we vote for trustees works by us voting on a slate. Slate is a bit of a confusing term, but it just means a list of all of the names. So for the General Service board, we have seven class A or amateur trustees and usually 14 class B or boozier trustees. So we do not vote on each individual trustee we vote on the full slate. A few more things to note is that class A's serve six years class B's for 4 years, but they are all one year terms and voted on again every year at the conference. Also that the chair of the board has always been a class A trustee. I heard when we were still the foundation we tried a class B chair of the board and he got drunk so we decided not to do that again. This year's slate we have 7 class A's as usual but 15 class B's. That is because this year we have put up a class B Trustee for chair of the General Service board. So as soon as we start discussions a motion from the floor. This delegate does not want to vote on the slate. She wants the vote to be on each individual trustee. The motion gets a second. There is some discussion on the deus and then the Chair deems the motion to be out of order. We learned last year there is a mechanism for this to happen. If when the slate is

voted on the recommendation fails, then we go to voting on each individual name on the slate. Then another Delegate gets up and says that he wants to appeal the chairs decision to deem the motion out of order. And here you thought Trustees would be boring this year! So after a bunch of trying to figure out what we are doing, it was decided that we would vote on the appeal of the chairs decision. The vote is 32 yes 93 no and we vote no. We voted no because if you want to vote each name that can already

happen. Just vote to not approve the slate. So that was a long discussion then another long discussion on the process the committee used this year. The committee asked to see the resumes of all the trustees, not just the new ones. Finally, it is time to vote on the slate of the General Service board. The vote is 102 yes 23 no we vote yes and the slate is approved. After all of this excitement, we got through trustees relatively quickly. But just then our first floor action of the conference. A floor action can be made by any member of the conference. When all of the committee work is done we will hear the floor actions. So the first one is to develop a pamphlet for the unhoused alcoholic. This Delegate is not happy the committee took no action on this item and wants to make a floor action so it has to be discussed by the full conference. The next vote in trustees is for the slate of officers. The vote is 114 yes 11 no we vote yes and we officially have a class B chair of the General Service board. Next is the AAWS slate of directors the vote is 110 yes 12 no we vote yes. And the last slate is the AA Grapevine directors 116 yes 6 no and we vote yes. The last recommendation by the trustees committee is to change the committees composition, scope, and procedures or CSP which really just means what it is they do. So in their CSP it currently reads that the committee reviews the resumes of all "newly nominated" trustees. Like I said, this committee asked for all resumes and wanted their CSP to change to say all resumes every year. The committee's argument for this is that they said in the service manual it says the conference committee does review all resumes. The argument against this was that these trustees have already been elected and there wouldn't be anything new since then except their service they are already performing

on the board. I was torn on this issue, vote comes in 69 yes 55 no we vote yes but the motion fails. In the end, the vote was yes for us mostly because the committee asked for it, and I believe in the committee system. I also know that if another committee wants to ask for all resumes they may do so. Discussion on the minority opinion then someone who voted no made a motion to reconsider the vote. This means someone who voted in the minority was swayed and wants to change their vote, it can be seconded by anyone. It only requires a simple majority to pass. Vote is 75 yes 47 no. We vote yes. This means we will vote on the original recommendation again. The second vote is 67 yes 53 no, the motion fails again and is dead. The next committee is Grapevine La Viña but first another floor action. This one is that proposed agenda items requesting censure or reorganization of the board have no submission deadline and be forwarded directly to the trustees conference committee. Back to Grapevine they only have one recommendation and that was Item C that we talked about at the SAGs round tables. Discuss the cost effectiveness of continuing to print La Viña. The committee made the recommendation that the AA grapevine board develop a five-year financial plan for La Viña with the goal to reduce shortfalls and increase revenue to be brought back to the 2025 conference committee on Grapevine and La Viña. There was a lot of discussion at the SAGs meeting. We heard a member share in Spanish that they got a La Viña magazine sitting in jail and he believes that is why he is sober today. Then he had an article he wrote printed in La Viña. This was one of the most powerful things at the round tables for me. I can report today that a delegate at the conference speaking through an interpreter shared the exact same story. The committee Chair shared they never made mention of eliminating La Viña in their

committee. It was also reported for Grapevine and La Viña the profit margin on books is double the profit margin on magazines. So go see Heather and buy a Grapevine or La Viña book. Motion to call the question passes. Vote is 108 yes 18 no we vote yes. The

second the grapevine report is over we get our next floor action. This one is on another item we discussed and this one is to create a pamphlet for the Asian and Asian American. The committee considered this and took no action but now there is a floor action on it and the floodgates open. Another floor action that all memos between the conference committee and trustees committee or board be made available to all members of the conference. Next floor action that we reaffirm that La Viña continues to be published as a service to the Fellowship. Next floor action that the grapevine board develops a plan for a more effective La Viña subscription fulfillment procedure. Next floor action all proposed agenda items submitted at 72nd 73rd and 74th General Service conference regarding the change to the preamble be grouped together and forwarded to the appropriate conference committee. So at this time we see we have way too much to get to and not enough time. Everyone has had two minutes at the mic. We vote to change it to 90 seconds or to 1 minute. We vote 1 minute and 1 minute wins. We move on we vote yes. The next recommendation was that the flier "where do I go to Finance. First recommendation is Finance item B review self-support packet. At the bottom of page 9 there is a question that says who manages GSO's share of your group contributions? That was changed to GSB of course and some other simplified language. Vote is 115 yes 4 no and we vote yes. Next recommendation was not on the agenda and it was to recommend that the maximum annual contribution from an individual AA member to the General Service board be increased from \$5000 to \$7500. The last time this was raised was in 2018 so it has been six years. The vote is 95 yes 28 no we vote yes. There was a motion to reconsider this motion, but it failed. The next committee recommendation was that the General Service board hold one quarterly board weekend a year virtually when possible. The committee is respectful of the General Service board bylaws, concept three, and the right of decision of the General Service board chair. There was a lot of discussion on this topic. For me it sounded like a great idea in theory but after discussion realized it wouldn't really work. The vote was 18 yes 106 no and we vote no. The last committee

recommendation was that the trustees emeriti of the General Service board be invited to the annual General Service conference and the General Service board weekends at their own expense. This is another very confusing item. Trustee emeriti is an honorary title. A trustee emeriti is a past trustee chair of the general service board. Currently there is funding available for them to general service conferences and to the board weekends. They are asked to be available to help the current trustees. This is an extremely confusing question. I was going back and forth on whether or not we should do this at all. In the end I decided that if we are asking them they should be funded. If we said at their own expense we would be saying please come but only come if you are an independently wealthy trustee emeriti that can afford it and it didn't seem right to me even though the whole thing was difficult to understand. In the end the vote comes 23 yes 101 no we vote no, but I definitely think there will be more conversation on this issue so we shall see. The next committee to report out is Treatment and Accessibilities. The first recommendation was item D review review progress report on the bridging the gap pamphlet. So we got to see the new draft pamphlet and the committee recommended to approve it. The vote is 116 yes 10 no and from here?" F – 4 be updated with current inclusive language and information on how to find AA both in person and Online. The committee requested that a progress report or draft flier be brought back to the 2025 conference committee on Treatment and Accessibilities. The vote is 121 yes 5 no and we vote yes. Next we move onto literature. The first committee recommendation in literature is that the

pamphlets “It happened to Alice” P-39 and “What happened to Joe” P-38 be retired. The vote is 114 yes 11 no and we vote yes. The next recommendation is on Literature item C review the draft of the revised pamphlet “AA for the black and African-American alcoholic” retitled “Black in AA experience strength and hope”. The committee recommended that the draft pamphlet be approved with minor editorial changes. The vote is 121 yes 3 no and we vote yes. Then we come to the main event of the proceedings. Literature item F. Review draft manuscript of the translation of the big book Alcoholics

Anonymous into plain and simple language. This book project started in 2015 with a proposed agenda item. In 2016 we discussed it in our area and voted with substantial unanimity that we wanted it. That year it passed at the conference and it has been being worked on since. The literature conference committee came in one day early and spent 10 hours reading the draft. If they recommend the book, meaning they think it is great and ready to go then it will come to the conference floor. I have to admit I was absolutely sure it would not be recommended for a vote this year's conference. Shows you how much I know! It was recommended and all conference members had two hours to read the book as well. So this is Wednesday night and the discussion starts. A discussion that will last for the next 6 hours and into the next day. First thing we have to do is deal with the motion that was made on the first day of the conference. This motion that was made by my conference buddy by the way. Every year second year delegates get assigned a buddy that is a first year delegate. So we remember the motion that was made on the first day was for a super majority 3/4 instead of the normal 2/3 majority for this book to pass. The first vote will be on this motion 61 yes 69 no. For this vote to pass a simple majority is all it needs. We vote yes and we lose. Next vote is to move the clock back to 90 seconds. 68 yes 58 no we vote yes and we are back to 90 seconds on the clock. The first motion to amend comes early in the discussion. So in the book in the Doctors opinion the original text and the plain language text are both on the same page side by side. This motion proposes to do the same thing with Bill and Bob stories. I go back-and-forth on this and I am finally convinced by a member of the Literature committee that it will not work the way the motion maker is thinking it will. In the Doctors opinion it works because it is short, but with a long text, it will not match up the same way. We vote on the amendment 16 yes 112 no we vote no. Also in the book it has the Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, next to those is a plain language translation of the steps. It has this for the traditions and concepts as well. One thing that the literature committee did before they sent it to the conference floor was take the translation

of the steps out of chapter 5 and put those in the back of the book where the concepts and the traditions are. The next motion to amend comes and it is to take out the translation of the steps, traditions and the concepts. There is a very long discussion and I

speak in favor of the motion. We vote on this motion 32 yes 97 no we vote yes, and we lose. Now it is time for the minority opinion on the amendment. I think most everyone who voted in the minority gets up to speak. When it is my turn I get very emotional and it is very hard to keep my composure. I say that I am not going to repeat everything that everyone else has already said, but I say I am very scared about the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous in those words. I say that the steps, traditions, and concepts are as plain language as they get and we could say that in the book and use that for more education. As soon as I am finished speaking someone says that they would like to reconsider the vote. It is seconded and

we vote. This time the vote is 55 yes 74 no. So 23 more people, but not enough to save the motion. Obviously we voted yes but it did not pass. So we are back in discussion of the original motion. During that discussion we hear that there was something like 81 sticking points within the conference committee, but they still recommended the book to the conference. We hear that those sticking points are going to be sent to publishing. I think someone knew this already and that's where the floor action about the memos came from, but I do not know that for sure to be true. Much more discussion, it is getting late when a motion comes in to recommit this whole project back to the literature committee. We decide we will go to bed and we will vote on that in the morning. Morning comes we vote first to move the clock back to one minute, 92 yes 29 no we vote yes and we are back to 1 minute on the clock. Now we will deal with the motion to push pause on this whole project and recommit this whole project back to the trustees literature committee. Vote is 35 yes 95 no we vote yes and we lose. More discussion, then a motion to call the question. The motion to call the question passes and we vote on the

recommendation to approve the plain language big book the way it is. Vote is 91 yes 38 no and we vote no. Time for the minority opinion. One of my close friends says that the disunity that having these steps, traditions, and concepts could cause in our fellowship far outweighs the worth of having them in there the way they are. I did not make it to the microphone for this minority opinion because before it was my turn, there was another motion to reconsider the vote. So we vote on the motion. The vote is 58 yes 71 no we vote yes the motion does not pass and that officially ends it all. Now remember when I said that the theme of this report is serving as area 42 delegate, the hardest thing I've ever done. Our area voted yes to produce this book. We have had a lot of support for it in our area. It is very difficult for me to argue against it. Last year I absolutely believed the General Service board should be censured for the process used to get rid of the class A trustee chair of the General Service board. This year I am absolutely against having a list of one through twelve rewritten or translated steps, traditions and concepts and once again I am in the minority. Thank God for AA. I have sent a letter to the publishing department asking them to please consider not having the numbered steps, traditions and concepts and instead make it an essay like in the 12 and 12 and the service manual. Whatever happens I absolutely believe that the group conscience was heard on these issues. I didn't agree with it, but once it becomes the group conscience I will accept it. I will accept it in my heart as if I had chosen it and I will resolutely turn my thoughts to how I can be helpful. And that is what the AA way means to me! The next recommendation in the literature committee is literature item I review progress report on the video adaptation of the pamphlet "Too young". The committee recommended to suspend this project. Vote was 117 Yes 10 no we vote yes. The next committee up is agenda, but before we get to that more floor actions. First one is specifically that the sticking points from the conference literature committee all be implemented before printing the plain language big book. Next one is that any founders' writings that come before the conference must have 3/4 super majority and after that discussion in the area. The next

one is that the AA grapevine board develop a five-year plan to reduce shortfalls and increase revenue for La Viña and Grapevine. So we are up to 10 floor actions now if you are keeping count. The first recommendation for the agenda committee is the conference theme for next year will be "working

together, increasing trust." The vote is 120 yes 3 no and we vote yes. I will also tell you the plan is the 2025 general service conference will take its inventory. So most of these topics we approve will be to pass on to the areas for discussion. So the presentation theme and topics will be delegating, it's OK to ask for help. Closing the gap, how do we make the voice of every group count? And our financial responsibility in carrying the message. Vote is 119 yes 5 no and we vote yes. Like I said the next conference will be taking its inventory. So the next recommendation is a summary of that inventory have up to eight pages in the final conference report. The vote is 123 yes 4 no and we vote yes. And the last recommendation for the agenda committee is that a comprehensive summary of the inventory be developed. Vote is 108 yes 16 no and we vote yes. Now it is time for report and charter, but not before, you guessed it, more floor actions. The first is to reaffirm a 1975 advisory action that delegates emphasize group support in their reports and the effect inflation has on the contribution dollar. Next floor action is that delegates who require translation be provided with all documents, materials, and reports in their language. So this was a problem at this conference, as well as the overhead projector that shows the language of what we are voting on is only in English. The next floor action was that the plain language big book be retitled to "the plain language guide to AA's 12 steps of recovery." So now we are at 13 floor actions. The first recommendation in report and charter is in the section of the service manual "the typical area assembly and its activities" be amended to add a text reference in addition to the color reference to address readability. I guess this is really hard to read if you are colorblind. Vote is 124 yes 4 no we vote yes. Next is to rewrite the "boards custodial oversight" in the section "the boards operating corporations." This basically just simplifies the section. The vote is 123 yes 6 no we vote yes. The next recommendation

was to rearrange the order of the chapters 8 through 12. This basically just moves GSO to the last chapter from the middle so everything will flow better together which makes sense to me. The vote is 123 yes 6 no we vote yes. And the last recommendation is that we do include all items that get a majority vote at the conference but not the 2/3. So apparently this is supposed to happen and sometimes it does and sometimes it does not, but it will happen now because the vote was 119 yes 3 no and we vote yes. The next committee to report is the best committee in the world public information. The first two recommendations were to retire the 30 second and 60 second versions of the PSA "since getting sober I have hope." Also to retire the 15 second version of "we know how you feel." Votes are 110 yes 8 no 117 yes 7 no and 119 yes 6 no we vote yes on all, all will be retired. Our next recommendation is on

the new agenda item that was put on our agenda Sunday at the conference coming from our auditors. In addition to the work of local committees, the PI conference committee recommends that two public service announcements be distributed on broadcast media, tracked and evaluated at a cost of \$17,000 which would be in addition to the \$48,000 that is planned to be spent to track the value of donated airtime on PSA in 2024 for the audit requirement. The total expenditure should not exceed \$65,000 and that the information gathered from the process be brought back to the 2025 conference committee on public information. Clear as mud right. This is another very confusing thing but basically we have to report our donated airtime value. This campaign will place and track PSA's in the United States and Canada. The vote is 118 yes 8 no we vote yes. Our next recommendation is in regards to the young

peoples video project. This was my big push last year. I was very excited for our young members to make their own videos. We got no new submissions. This year two GSO staff members came up with the idea to go to the young peoples international convention and film interviews there. We produced two of them and played them at the conference and it was one of the most

emotional things at the conference. One of the interviews was a 16-year-old girl and one Delegate was overcome thinking that this could have been available when she came in. The recommendation was to use the budget for the project to produce the other 16 videos recorded at the young peoples international convention. Vote is 122 yes 4 no we vote yes. I hope to have these videos available to play for us at the fall area assembly. Next recommendations were on pamphlets. We had a revised version of the AA at a glance pamphlet as well as speaking at non AA meetings with the updated title speaking at meetings outside of AA. Votes are 121 yes 6 no and 121 yes 4 no we vote yes for both. Next was the flyer, a message to teenagers. The committee recommended that this flyer be retired. The vote was 92 yes 33 no and we vote yes. The next recommendation was that a social media policy be developed for all current and future social media channels and requested that a draft be brought back to the 2025 conference committee. This policy was to try and help decide what we can and cannot do when it comes to social media. We were informed that this work is currently happening at the Board level. That this recommendation would not be helpful as we thought it would. So after discussion, the vote was 36 yes 90 no and we voted no. So more excitement for the conference committees last recommendation of the night. We always say committees are not beholden to their agenda and they are allowed to discuss what they want. Since I have been delegate one of the biggest complaints I have heard is that the delegates do not get the minutes from the board weekends. That every region is getting information from their regional trustee. But they all have different experiences and they all serve on different committees. That the delegates should get the minutes from the board weekend so we are all getting the same information which apparently is the way it was. So the committee recommended that to better provide equality in availability and messaging starting with the July 2024 General Service board meeting that the unedited but anonymity protected minutes, including trustees committee reports in English, Spanish and French be provided to all conference members within three weeks following the quarterly board

weekends. The minutes should retain their current format and scope. So like we said when a recommendation comes from a committee, it is already a motion and a second. So we will have this discussion on the conference floor. This is another thing I had to edit for time, but I do believe it was a very important discussion and I definitely learned a lot from this process. There was a lot of discussion and proposed amendments. In the end the recommendation failed with the vote 34 yes 90 no.

Unfortunately here I need to report two more things that were heartbreaking and embarrassing to me. First of all this discussion was about getting the board minutes. Getting minutes from the Board weekends so we can all be on the same page. That is what was discussed. This motion had nothing to do with the regional trustees and the information they share. Unfortunately, a regional trustee stands up and does not address the chair. She is looking back into the crowd and she starts berating people who have shared and yells out at least 2 delegates by name and says , you are saying you don't get anything, didn't I just give you this, didn't I just give you that. In my opinion this had absolutley nothing to do with the conversation. Last year during the conference, a few people got heated and got carried away and

said some things they regretted. Both times I saw it happen they quickly got up and made amends and I never mentioned it last year. This year I was waiting for this person to do the same, but it did not happen. This was one of the most disappointing things that I saw during my two years at the conference. The next thing is that before the public information report started the conference chair informed everyone that the decision to approve the plain language big book had been leaked from the conference. This was about five hours after it had been approved. We all know that we are not supposed to talk about the conference votes until the conference is over. Not to mention that through floor actions things could still change. We knew at this time that we were low on time and we still had a lot to get to. After the plain language big book vote happened people started saying we need to take a break. We have to take a break. We need to take a break right now. We were not scheduled to take a break

for 45 or 50 more minutes. The chair finally gives in and people go running out of the room with their phones. I assumed that a leak meant that it was online on the internet. I have not had that confirmed. Alcoholics Anonymous is not a society of rules and laws. All we have is the AA way and that is very important to me. I believe we owe it to the people who came before us to follow the rules and to honor our traditions. Our large T traditions and our small T traditions. These two incidents which happened within two hours of each other were very disappointing to me. I'm sad I have to report these things but I felt that I needed to. The last primary committee to report is policy and admissions, but not before a final round of floor actions. First is our new AA at glance flyer and the description of a closed meeting in it and the last floor action is that the explanation of the steps, traditions and concepts be removed from the plain language big book. Final count of floor actions is 15. So policy admissions first recommendation was that the equitable distribution of workload or EDW process be adopted and implemented. This was another big topic with a lot of discussion. There was a motion made to recommit this back to the committee which failed 20 yes 106 no and we voted no. I think that the EDW process will take some work but it will be a good thing. After more discussion, call the question, which passes and we vote. The vote is 93 yes 35 no we vote yes and it passes. The next committee recommendation was that the proposed agenda item or PAI

submission date be moved to no earlier than September 30. Another long discussion, another motion to call the question, and vote on the recommendation. The vote is 114 yes 12 no and we vote yes. The next committee is Archives and they have no recommendations. And the very last committee is the international conventions and Regional Forums committee. The first recommendation is that an anonymity protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2025 international convention the vote is 124 yes 0 no we vote yes. And if you have been paying attention, this is the very first unanimous decision of the whole

conference. I don't know who it is who decides to vote against everything but I have a feeling it's the same few people but again I do not know for sure. Next the committee recommended that an encrypted, delayed, anonymity protected Internet video of the 2025 international convention opening flag ceremony be approved and that the video be placed on appropriate communication channels, vote is 122 yes 1 no and we vote yes and our buddy is back from the bathroom. Next the committee recommended providing five options for closing for the big meetings at the international convention,

the serenity prayer, responsibility statement, declaration of unity, third step prayer, or seventh step prayer. So this was a question and floor action from the last conference. The options have been the serenity prayer, the responsibility statement, or the Lord's prayer. Last years floor action was to take out the Lord's Prayer, but we did not get to it. So this year the committee has added three new options and taken out the Lord's prayer. So how it works is whoever chairs the meeting would have their choice of any of the options on this list. So the first motion to amend is to put the Lord's prayer back in, a lot of discussion. One Delegate reads a Canada law stating that it may be illegal to say a religious prayer in a large gathering in Canada. Motion to call the question passes, we vote on the ammendment, 41 yes 83 no we vote yes. Next comes a motion to amend to add a moment of silence. Vote is 106 yes 19 no we vote yes, the ammendment passes so now there are six options for closing the big meetings at the international convention. Now we vote on the original motion with the ammendment, vote is 115 yes 11 no we vote yes. Next the committee recommends that anonymity protected video footage with highlights from the 2025 international convention be produced for maintaining archival footage of the convention, as well as for sharing the spirit and enthusiasm of the 2025 international convention. The vote is 121 yes 4 no we vote yes. And the last committee recommendation of the 74th General Service conference is the committee recommended that a delayed, anonymity protected, digital access standalone product offering of the three big meetings be created. Vote is 117 yes 5 no and we vote yes. In our area at the northern roundtables

we talked about item C discuss a report concerning virtual programming for the 2025 international convention. This item is in the committee's consideration, it is not dead, and is still being discussed for the 2025 international convention. The conference committee gave some suggestions and sent it back to the trustees international conventions Regional Forums trustees committee. So now we are done with the committee work. It is about 10 PM on Friday night. We are informed we have a hard stop at 11:59 PM. The translators cannot work any longer than 11:59 PM. Which basically means there is no way we will hear all of the 15 floor actions that have been proposed, but we get started. I told you about what I learned last year, and that is the good old motion to decline to hear. So every floor action read someone will always come to the mic and make a motion to decline to hear. If that motion passes, the floor action is dead. So our first floor action is a pamphlet for the unhoused alcoholic, motion to decline to hear and a second. The vote is 90 yes 39 no we vote yes. The motion passes and the floor action is dead. That is one down in about five minutes and maybe we will make it. Next floor action is that proposed agenda items requesting censure or re-organization of the board have no deadline and go straight to the conference committee on trustees. Motion to decline to hear and second vote is 71 yes 53 no we vote no on this one the motion fails and we will hear this floor action. So when I first heard this floor action I thought it sounded like a really good idea and the more we talked about it the more it did not make sense and the more I thought that it wouldn't really work in practice. There was a motion to amend saying that the proposed agenda item would have to be approved by at least on full area. I thought that this was a very good suggestion. That is the way that I was always taught and the way we traditionally have handled PAI's in our area. But it does not have to be that way. It can be just one pissed off member sitting in his underwear at midnight submitting them and I do think that we should discourage that. There is a vote on the ammendment, vote is 69 yes 50 no we vote yes in the majority, but it is not enough to pass. Now we vote on the original floor action 40 yes 87 no we vote no. We vote no

on this mostly because of the discussion and the logistics of how agenda items work. So now time for number three and that is a pamphlet for the Asian and Asian American alcoholic. Motion to decline to hear and second. The vote is 69 yes 60 no we vote yes and are totally shocked that this motion to decline to hear does not pass. We discussed this in our area and we were highly against it. The committee discussed this and took no action. But now we are going to hear discussion on it. There is a lot of discussion and then a motion to call the question that passes. Vote on the floor action vote is 79 yes 50 no we vote no motion fails. Now time for the minority opinion. During minority opinion someone makes a motion to reconsider the vote. Vote is 84 yes 40 no we vote no and lose and discussion is back open. A bunch more discussion then comes a motion to amend to add Pacific islander to the title. Vote is 42 yes 84 no we vote no, it fails. Next is a motion to recommit this back to the committee 51 yes 79 no we vote no. Much more discussion, motion to call the question passes, we vote on the floor action again this time 99 yes 27 no we vote no, however this time it passes and the Asian pamphlet will be produced. The next floor action is about making all memos between conference committees and trustees committees or boards be made available to all conference members. The original motion maker stands up and says that he wants to withdraw his floor action. It is decided the fastest way to dispense with it is to just do the motion to decline to hear. We do the motion to decline to hear it 119 yes 7 no we vote yes and the floor action is dead. We start discussion of the fifth floor action around 11:50 PM. The floor action is to reaffirm that the La Viña continues to be published by AA Grapevine and supported by the General Service board as a service to the Fellowship. Motion to decline to hear is seconded the vote comes it is 71 yes 58 no we vote no so the motion is not dead. Now it is 11:55 PM and motion is made to take floor actions number 5 through 15 and forward them all to the appropriate trustees committees. Committee. The theme for the General Service conference this year was connecting with love, unity, and service. The theme for this report is, serving Area 42 as the panel 73 conference Delegate, the hardest thing I've ever had to do. I want to start by saying thank you so much for being here today and thank you so much for your service to AA. This whole service

structure is totally dependent upon an informed group conscience and without people like you willing to serve in this General Service committee that would be impossible. I will be doing the same thing I did last year for my reporting from the conference. That is today here, and June 1st in Gardnerville for NAGS I will be giving my "just the facts reports". I want to share with you all of my experience of the conference, as well as the facts of what happened at the conference, but there is only so much time we have at these meetings. As well as the very important AA principle of the mind can only absorb what the butt can endure! So this report will be 90% what happened at the conference. I will give another report at the fall area assembly with a slideshow and the pictures and all of the fun stuff. One thing I learned at last year's conference was that every conference member gets a little care package of AAWS and Grapevine books. Luckily for me, we have two Conference members from Area 42 at this year's conference, the US Trustee at large, our very own Marita R, was also there. About a month before the conference she was in Mexico at their general service conference. She wasn't feeling well and came home early. It was found she had a small heart attack. She was able to go to the Utah Area assembly as a test. She did well and was able to attend the general service conference. After, she had a procedure to fix a small hole in her heart and she is doing wonderful now. She is currently in Oklahoma at their Area assembly and she sends everybody her love. But, she gave me all of her books and we are going to give

them all away here today. So everybody who got a button has a number on the back. We are going to pick random numbers to give these books away and we are going to give the first one away right now. See, that was fun! So here we go. Last year at the conference we started on Saturday. The first thing we did was a full conference meet and greet. After that we had a remote communities meeting and then a 1728 meeting. 1728 means 12 X 12 X 12. 12 steps, 12 traditions and 12 concepts. When you times 12 x 12 x 12 you get 1728. Then we had a delegates only meeting where we made our projects I showed you last year as well as where I played fuzzy ball basketball. I have a crazy story about that this year so please do not miss the fall area assembly. Also at the 73rd General service conference last year we passed an advisory action that the full conference meets at least twice a year virtually. So this year before the conference started, we met virtually and had a remote communities meeting as well as a 1728 meeting. We also had a full conference discussion on the founders' writing. I had heard it said that since we met virtually, we do not need the conference meet and greet because we were all able to meet each other through the virtual meetings before the conference. So all of Saturday was cut out of the Conference this year and we started the conference Sunday at 9 AM with the welcome and the roll call. I think this was a mistake. Having virtual meetings as a conference I think is a

really good idea. However, it is not the same as the face-to-face meet and greet we have at the conference. I thought it was a very important part of the 73rd General Service conference and I really hope we will consider bringing it back for the 75th GSC. I can tell you one thing that did not change, and that was the overwhelming feeling of gratitude and responsibility that came over me when name was called in the roll call. They tell you to respond with here or present and once again I went with here. Next was the greeting from my fellow conference committee member and delegate conference chair Mary A. from area 14, an overview of our full conference manual, and a keynote address from our outgoing western Canada regional Trustee Irma V. Next was the mechanics of the conference. This is going through our "how the conference operates" and "summary of conference procedures". This is basically the Roberts rules and how things work at the conference. It is very important to know how these things all work as we will soon see. It talks about what needs 2/3 and what just needs a simple majority to pass. So the first motion of the conference was made here. And that motion was "if the plain language big book comes up for a vote, it would require 3/4 instead of a 2/3 majority to pass". This was discussed for a while. Then I got to do my first service job at the conference. So all of the voting at the conference is done with electronic voting machines called DOTS. The system is totally awesome and I wish that we could use it for our area assemblies. However, we do not test and start using the electronic voting until Wednesday. So any vote that happens before our voting machines are set up are counted by hand and that was my job, to be a vote counter. So we voted that this motion would be tabled until later in the week if it came up. Then déjà vu from last year another Delegate made the suggestion that we do not do the oral Area highlights. So if you don't know what that is every conference the first year delegates, which this year would be panel 74 delegates, give a two minute talk about their area highlights or what is going on in their area. The motion was to get rid of all of the Area highlights to talk about other things affecting AA. This motion was recommitted back to the agenda committee. One thing that was not different this year was we got a big class on Roberts rules of order and how the Conference operates. So when a motion is recommitted, that means it goes back to the appropriate conference committee for discussion and a recommendation. Last year we had the same motion and we wasted

three full sessions trying to decide if we would do it or not. So when we recommitted it back to the agenda committee, the conference Chair made sure to ask "can you guys get together and make a decision quickly." The Chair of the agenda committee said they could. So we moved on to our next session that was presentations and discussions on the theme "responsibility in service: when and how to give." In this session there were three speakers on safety throughout the structure, 1728

sponsorship, and overcoming barriers to participation. Then a conference member sharing session. It all went well and when it was over we got the word the agenda committee had their recommendation. So when a conference committee brings a recommendation to the floor that constitutes a motion and a second that goes straight into discussion and a vote. The agenda committee recommendation was that we would suspend all oral presentations of all area service highlights during the 74th General Service conference to allow for additional time on the agenda for general sharing and questions. So there was not a lot of discussion. We took the vote and the recommendation failed. This is the only vote I do not have vote totals for you because this is still when we were voting by hand and I was counting votes. I realized later that these were also the only motions that I did not vote on. So anyway, the motion failed and we will still hear all the panel 74 area highlights and it did not waste a large amount of time getting it done. Then it was time for our Delegate lunch by region. We are in the Pacific region. Last year we talked about the 2026 Pacific Region forum being held in San Diego California. This year we talked about a request for a special forum by Oregon area 58. A special forum is a forum designed for remote, sparsely populated, or urban areas to serve AA members who would not normally be able to attend a regional forum. As well as when there is an expressed need based on culture, language, or geography. This special request by Area 58 is a request for the deaf community who communicate in sign language. The purpose is so that deaf members can communicate with our General Service boards and General Service conference structure their challenges and needs for inclusion in AA service and recovery, as well as to improve communication to meet the needs of our deaf membership. This event is planned to be held on a virtual platform. So from this Delegate lunch our regional trustee will forward the request to the trustees international Convention and Regional Forums committee for consideration at the July board meeting. Then by mid August the committee should hear their decision. These requests have to be made at least two years in advance. So if this does happen, it would probably be sometime in 2026. I will keep you all posted on this exciting event. After lunch we had the conference discussion on the founders writings where I heard much of the same things that were shared in our discussion at our Area assembly. Next on the agenda was our conference joint committee meeting. A joint committee meeting is where the conference committee gets to meet with the trustees committee and the appointed committee members or ACM's of a committee. We had a virtual joint meeting where most of our questions were answered, but at this meeting we learned that we were going to discuss another new agenda item that was not on our agenda because our PI committee was not busy enough. So if you are new, that is a joke, the public information committee is

extremely busy. We now lovingly refer to PI as the committee that EDW forgot about! Anyway, we quickly go through the joint meeting, and we jump right into doing our committee work. We worked for about one hour and then it was time for everyone to meet back up in the main room for the General Service board report given by the interim chair of the board. I thought this was a very important report.

As a result of the conference last year, the board agreed to go through an inventory process. This report was mostly a recap of that inventory. I think this was very important. I'm going to share a bunch of numbers and reports today and they will all be made available for everyone. For the board inventory there were 23 questions. An outside facilitator was asked to help with the inventory. Each trustee was given time to see all of the questions. Then on Friday, January 26, the full board met at GSO at 475 Riverside Dr. The board was split up into five breakout groups. Each group was assigned questions to review and to identify possible solutions and actionable steps. After lunch, each group reported back to the full board. There were a bunch of findings and solutions identified and I truly hope this inventory helps the board. In the conclusion of the report it says "following the resignation of the board chair the communication from the General Service board to the fellowship was ineffective. This was made worse because we failed to anticipate the nature and volume of communications from those not on the General Service board. Together this caused harm to our staff members, non-trustee directors, and delegates. On behalf of the General Service board I offer my sincerest apologies for the damage our poor communication has caused. The General Service board is committed to changing how we communicate, but we are going to the General Service conference to be effective. The board was specifically asked if there has been consideration given to apologizing directly to the past board Chair personally. At this time there is no plan for that to happen. So we shall see. We were done for the night and it was time for the opening dinner and AA meeting. Once again, this was an absolutely awesome experience. This dinner is open to all conference members and their plus ones as well as any past trustees. The dinner was great and we had the best dessert in the history of the world so you'll have to wait till the fall assembly to see that. Then we had five speakers. Three that spoke in English, one in Spanish, and one in French. It was absolutely wonderful, one of my favorite nights of the conference again. Every conference member signed up for a two hour slot to get a chance to read the draft of the plain language big book. My time slot was after the banquet dinner and then we were done with day one of the week. The next day we met with our conference committees. We were scheduled to meet from 9 AM and until noon Monday and Tuesday. We knew that we would be a very busy committee so we agreed before the conference to meet an hour early each day and work through our lunch. We finished around 1:15 PM with a lot to still get to. Back to the main room we had two more

regions area highlights. Then from 2:15 PM to 4:15 PM there was a general sharing "what's on your mind" session. Next, we had our workshop where we break out into groups. This year our topic was "connecting home groups to the conference throughout the year to better inform the group conscience". I have to say I was very happy to hear that topic. That has been a big goal of mine for the past two years, by using surveys and talking about topics we don't even know for sure if they will be on the agenda or not, but just to keep the groups talking and engaged throughout the whole year. The questions we had were how are GSR's able to engage with the conference structure throughout the year? How do we make General Service work more accessible? And how are we using advancements in technology to distribute Conference information at the Area, District, and Group level? Last year at the workshop I was able to talk about our awesome service festivals. This year I was able to share about our amazing Area conference committee process. Every person in the workshop was blown away when I shared our ACC process and how we handle conference agenda items and asked me a ton of questions. Talking about the advancements in technology our ACC Google Drives have become an amazing

resource. There is no doubt in my mind our Area conference committees are leading to a more informed area. One area had a process similar to ours and every other area talked about trying to use some of these processes in their areas. This year I've been able to share our summarizer guidelines as well as our presenter guidelines. I absolutely believe our Area conference committees are extremely important and they will only ever be as good as the members that serve on them. We went to our dinner and then it was time for the main event of the evening, our finance report by our General Service board treasurer. This was definitely one of the most important things I was looking forward to at this year's conference. We have been talking a lot about finances. We all have received not one, but two letters coming from the General Service office manager regarding finances. First of all, we have a new audit company, and the auditor was present on the dias and spoke first which I thought was very good. The auditor reported all records and any information they asked for was made freely available for their inspection. The main thing they found was that our value of donated PSA airtime was not being recognized. This was our new agenda item in the PI committee we will talk about later. In 2022 it was \$33 million while in 2023 it was \$17 million. So just to say again to be clear I am going to read a lot of numbers and vote totals and a lot of information in this report and all of these reports and numbers I am talking about will be made available to everyone. We are going to have more detailed information and a slideshow at our fall assembly. So for our seventh tradition we had \$10.84 million up 2.8% from \$10.55 million in 2022. Our operating expense was \$17.42 million up 9.9% from \$15.9 million in 2022. Our seventh tradition

self-support covers 62% of our total operating expense. Our gross literature sales were \$14,641,118. Our gross profits on literature was \$6.76 million up 38.2% from \$4.89 million in 2022. So now here is the big number that we have not had for the last few years, which is a long story, but today we have. That is our cost of program services per individual. So if you have been here for a while, you know this as the challenge number that we had for years. If you are not familiar with this challenge number, basically this means that if every individual AA member would contribute this amount AA would be fully self-supporting by member contributions. So this year our magic number is \$6.43. So usually if it was \$6.12 we would contribute that amount on June 12. If it was \$7.20 we would contribute that on July 20. So now of course it is \$6.43 and the date conversion will not work. So this is what my genius mind has come up with. There are 30 days in June. So the challenge will be to contribute \$6.43 to the General Service board on July 13. And in case you haven't heard, the Pacific Region forum will be going on at that time. So let's do it! My big concern and the question I had for the treasurer which I had been asked by multiple groups and members is the idea of us stretching out our vendors. Or of us not paying our bills on time. So my question was how many bills do we have over 30 days past due. The answer was zero. So then to reiterate, the question was all of our bills are paid? And again, I was assured the answer was yes, which was very encouraging to me. This session was scheduled from 6:45 PM to 8:30 PM. Then after was the Western Canada area highlights from 8:30 PM to 8:45 PM because they only had two new panel 74 delegates. In the conference room there are three microphones. At 8:30 PM there was at least 10 people standing at all three mics and the session was abruptly ended. This was definitely one of the most disappointing things of my conference this year. We already talked about the two letters. Money and finances are one of the biggest topics in AA right now. Not to mention one of the most important jobs of Delegate. I absolutely believe we should've kept this session going and pushed the area highlights back at least one hour and answered every question at the mic, but that did not happen and it

was very disappointing to me. So now we are on to Tuesday and back to our committee work. One hour early and work through lunch, but this time that was not enough. The committee work has to be finished on Tuesday so the report can be written and translated to start the full conference work on Wednesday. We did not finish until after 4 PM. During this time I missed the AAWS board report and one of my favorite things from last year. I missed the AA international report and our very own Marita R. which was a total bummer. More area highlights, then our Delegate only dinner. At this dinner, we elect our panel 75 Delegate Chair and alternate Chair. Whoever gets the alternate chair becomes the conference mailman. All of the regions put the names of their panel 74

delegates into a hat. One name from each region goes into another hat. First name is the Delegate Chair second is the alternate. This year's Delegate Chair was one of my good friends and serving on the PI committee Mary A. from Florida. When the name was picked this year, it was Karen C. another member from the public information committee which I thought was pretty cool. The alternate is Lisa G from the Pacific Region area 92. Then it was time for two more Area highlights and then without a doubt, the funnest thing at this year's General Service conference. There was a skit play based on the Addams family about the 2025 international convention in Vancouver. It was directed by my last year's staff secretary Patrick C. and the actors were GSO staff members. It was an absolute blast and I've heard a rumor that it is going to be made available to the host committee of the 2024 Pacific Region forum and where is that again, oh yes July 12-14 at the Westgate. Don't miss it!. Now we are on Wednesday and it was my favorite day of the week because it was casual day! No suit, no tie, just my shorts and my hat. We started the day with the AA Grapevine board report given by Paz P. This report was given in Spanish and translated to us in English. Some of you may not know, but the AA Grapevine is very near and dear to my heart. My very first Area position was Grapevine chair and to this day is my favorite service position I ever had. The big news this year was the official launch of the new Grapevine and La Viña apps in September. Members can download both apps for free wherever they get apps from. Subscriptions are required to access the full stories and archives. Digital subscriptions, which include the app and the website are priced at \$2.99 a month. In October 2023, AA Grapevine celebrated the two-year anniversary of its popular 30 minute podcast. The podcast has now had over 680,000 downloads and is available on our grapevine YouTube channel. The very first AA Grapevine issue was printed in June 1944. That means this June will be the 80th anniversary of the AA grapevine. I got home from the conference on Sunday. Monday I opened an email from the grapevine saying that they were printing a story I wrote at a District 1 Grapevine writing workshop in 2018. They also said it will be printed in the June 2024 issue. Next was another regional lunch, where the topic was the most important event of the year. The Pacific Region forum. After lunch, it was time for a new trustees election. This year we have two trustees rotating off the board and two coming in, by the way next year, we will have six trustees rotating. This year we elected a new West Central Regional Trustee, Charles H. As well as a new western Canada regional Trustee Gail P. Our next report was our location plus report. I talked about this a lot last year. This committee is looking at should we move or should GSO stay in Manhattan. When I first heard of this, I thought of course we should move, Manhattan is one of the most expensive places in the world. Then I learned we get a really good price for our building. This was a five year process with an amazing amount of work going into it. The decision has been made. GSO will

stay at 475 Riverside Dr. in Manhattan for the next 10 years. We will pay \$25.46 per square foot. I have been assured this is a really good price anywhere. Also, like I reported last year we do not get the good rate because we are Alcoholics Anonymous. There are many nonprofits in the building. The big news is we will no longer occupy the eighth floor. Right now we have 4997 ft.² on the eighth floor that will all be moving to the 11th floor. Finally, it was time to get out our voting clickers and start our committee recommendations and considerations for the 74th General Service conference. There are 13 General Service committees. Just like there are 13 area conference committees in Area 42. The committee reports are chosen at random by the chair and the conference coordinator. The chairperson of the committee comes to the dais reads the full report and then we go back to the recommendations to vote. The lucky winner this year was cooperation with the professional community or CPC. This year the CPC committee had no committee recommendations. In our area, we discussed CPC item E consider a request to develop a pamphlet for the unhoused alcoholic. We had substantial unanimity that we did not want to develop the pamphlet. The committee agreed and took no action. That is a term you will hear a lot. It means the item was considered by the committee, they took no action and the agenda item is done now. The committee thought a pamphlet would not be an effective tool to carry the message to the unhoused community. The next committee was Corrections. Their first recommendation was corrections Item A consider updated singleness of purpose text in the pamphlet a message to Corrections professionals. So this was our first vote. I shared this last year and I will share it again this year. I do not bring a laptop computer into the conference session. I use my phone, a pen and paper. When we vote, I write down the vote results and then I write down whether we vote yes or we vote no. This was one of the most meaningful things to me last year. I vote for us. I will never be able to put into words how grateful I am and what an honor it is to me to be put in this position for our area. So this vote was 123 yes 6 no and we vote yes. The next Corrections recommendation was on item C review the video "carrying the message behind these walls" for relevance and effectiveness. The committee recommended this video be discontinued. The vote was 121 Yes 10 no and we vote yes. The last recommendation for Corrections was Corrections item D consider a request to develop a pamphlet for the transgender alcoholic in AA. We discussed this in our area with substantial unanimity in favor of creating the pamphlet. There was a lot of discussion on this, someone made a motion to call the question. So when that happens, it means all discussion is over and we go straight to the vote. It requires a second which it got. There was still a lot of people in line so first we voted on the motion to call the question which was 86 yes 41 No. We voted no and lost. I wanted

everyone to get a chance to say what they needed to say but it didn't happen. So we vote on the motion. The vote is 86 yes 40 no, our area was very much in favor of this and we vote yes, the motion passes and the pamphlet will be developed. The next committee to report is trustees. So if you were here last year, you remember all of the excitement. This year I thought we would get through trustees in five minutes and I was absolutely wrong again. So if you are new or not so new, this can be very confusing and I get it. So the way we vote for trustees works by us voting on a slate. Slate is a bit of a confusing term, but it just means a list of all of the names. So for the General Service board, we have seven class A or amateur trustees and usually 14 class B or boozier trustees. So we do not vote on each individual trustee we vote on the full slate. A few more things to note is that class A's serve six years class B's for 4 years, but they are all one year terms and voted on again every year at the conference.

Also that the chair of the board has always been a class A trustee. I heard when we were still the foundation we tried a class B chair of the board and he got drunk so we decided not to do that again. This year's slate we have 7 class A's as usual but 15 class B's. That is because this year we have put up a class B Trustee for chair of the General Service board. So as soon as we start discussions a motion from the floor. This delegate does not want to vote on the slate. She wants the vote to be on each individual trustee. The motion gets a second. There is some discussion on the deus and then the Chair deems the motion to be out of order. We learned last year there is a mechanism for this to happen. If when the slate is voted on the recommendation fails, then we go to voting on each individual name on the slate. Then another Delegate gets up and says that he wants to appeal the chairs decision to deem the motion out of order. And here you thought Trustees would be boring this year! So after a bunch of trying to figure out what we are doing, it was decided that we would vote on the appeal of the chairs decision. The vote is 32 yes 93 no and we vote no. We voted no because if you want to vote each name that can already happen. Just vote to not approve the slate. So that was a long discussion then another long discussion on the process the committee used this year. The committee asked to see the resumes of all the trustees, not just the new ones. Finally, it is time to vote on the slate of the General Service board. The vote is 102 yes 23 no we vote yes and the slate is approved. After all of this excitement, we got through trustees relatively quickly. But just then our first floor action of the conference. A floor action can be made by any member of the conference. When all of the committee work is done we will hear the floor actions. So the first one is to develop a pamphlet for the unhoused alcoholic. This Delegate is not happy the committee took no action on this item and wants to make a floor action so it has to be discussed by the full conference. The next vote in trustees is for the slate of officers. The vote is 114 yes 11 no we vote

yes and we officially have a class B chair of the General Service board. Next is the AAWS slate of directors the vote is 110 yes 12 no we vote yes. And the last slate is the AA Grapevine directors 116 yes 6 no and we vote yes. The last recommendation by the trustees committee is to change the committees composition, scope, and procedures or CSP which really just means what it is they do. So in their CSP it currently reads that the committee reviews the resumes of all "newly nominated" trustees. Like I said, this committee asked for all resumes and wanted their CSP to change to say all resumes every year. The committee's argument for this is that they said in the service manual it says the conference committee does review all resumes. The argument against this was that these trustees have already been elected and there wouldn't be anything new since then except their service they are already performing on the board. I was torn on this issue, vote comes in 69 yes 55 no we vote yes but the motion fails. In the end, the vote was yes for us mostly because the committee asked for it, and I believe in the committee system. I also know that if another committee wants to ask for all resumes they may do so. Discussion on the minority opinion then someone who voted no made a motion to reconsider the vote. This means someone who voted in the minority was swayed and wants to change their vote, it can be seconded by anyone. It only requires a simple majority to pass. Vote is 75 yes 47 no. We vote yes. This means we will vote on the original recommendation again. The second vote is 67 yes 53 no, the motion fails again and is dead. The next committee is Grapevine La Viña but first another floor action. This one is that proposed agenda items requesting censure or reorganization of the board have no submission deadline and be forwarded directly to the trustees conference committee. Back to Grapevine they only have one

recommendation and that was Item C that we talked about at the SAGs round tables. Discuss the cost effectiveness of continuing to print La Viña. The committee made the recommendation that the AA grapevine board develop a five-year financial plan for La Viña with the goal to reduce shortfalls and increase revenue to be brought back to the 2025 conference committee on Grapevine and La Viña. There was a lot of discussion at the SAGs meeting. We heard a member share in Spanish that they got a La Viña magazine sitting in jail and he believes that is why he is sober today. Then he had an article he wrote printed in La Viña. This was one of the most powerful things at the round tables for me. I can report today that a delegate at the conference speaking through an interpreter shared the exact same story. The committee Chair shared they never made mention of eliminating La Viña in their committee. It was also reported for Grapevine and La Viña the profit margin on books is double the profit margin on magazines. So go see Heather and buy a Grapevine or La Viña book. Motion to call the question passes. Vote is 108 yes 18 no we vote yes. The

second the grapevine report is over we get our next floor action. This one is on another item we discussed and this one is to create a pamphlet for the Asian and Asian American. The committee considered this and took no action but now there is a floor action on it and the floodgates open. Another floor action that all memos between the conference committee and trustees committee or board be made available to all members of the conference. Next floor action that we reaffirm that La Viña continues to be published as a service to the Fellowship. Next floor action that the grapevine board develops a plan for a more effective La Viña subscription fulfillment procedure. Next floor action all proposed agenda items submitted at 72nd 73rd and 74th General Service conference regarding the change to the preamble be grouped together and forwarded to the appropriate conference committee. So at this time we see we have way too much to get to and not enough time. Everyone has had two minutes at the mic. We vote to change it to 90 seconds or to 1 minute. We vote 1 minute and 1 minute wins. We move on we vote yes. The next recommendation was that the flier "where do I go to Finance. First recommendation is Finance item B review self-support packet. At the bottom of page 9 there is a question that says who manages GSO's share of your group contributions? That was changed to GSB of course and some other simplified language. Vote is 115 yes 4 no and we vote yes. Next recommendation was not on the agenda and it was to recommend that the maximum annual contribution from an individual AA member to the General Service board be increased from \$5000 to \$7500. The last time this was raised was in 2018 so it has been six years. The vote is 95 yes 28 no we vote yes. There was a motion to reconsider this motion, but it failed. The next committee recommendation was that the General Service board hold one quarterly board weekend a year virtually when possible. The committee is respectful of the General Service board bylaws, concept three, and the right of decision of the General Service board chair. There was a lot of discussion on this topic. For me it sounded like a great idea in theory but after discussion realized it wouldn't really work. The vote was 18 yes 106 no and we vote no. The last committee recommendation was that the trustees emeriti of the General Service board be invited to the annual General Service conference and the General Service board weekends at their own expense. This is another very confusing item. Trustee emeriti is an honorary title. A trustee emeriti is a past trustee chair of the general service board. Currently there is funding available for them to general service conferences and to the board weekends. They are asked to be available to help the current trustees. This is an extremely confusing question. I was going back and forth on whether or not we

should do this at all. In the end I decided that if we are asking them they should be funded. If we said at their own expense we would be saying please come but only come if you are an independently wealthy trustee emeriti that can afford it and it didn't seem right to me even though the whole thing was

difficult to understand. In the end the vote comes 23 yes 101 no we vote no, but I definitely think there will be more conversation on this issue so we shall see. The next committee to report out is Treatment and Accessibilities. The first recommendation was item D review review progress report on the bridging the gap pamphlet. So we got to see the new draft pamphlet and the committee recommended to approve it. The vote is 116 yes 10 no and from here?" F – 4 be updated with current inclusive language and information on how to find AA both in person and Online. The committee requested that a progress report or draft flier be brought back to the 2025 conference committee on Treatment and Accessibilities. The vote is 121 yes 5 no and we vote yes. Next we move onto literature. The first committee recommendation in literature is that the pamphlets "It happened to Alice"; P-39 and "What happened to Joe"; P-38 be retired. The vote is 114 yes 11 no and we vote yes. The next recommendation is on Literature item C review the draft of the revised pamphlet "AA for the black and African-American alcoholic" retitled "Black in AA experience strength and hope". The committee recommended that the draft pamphlet be approved with minor editorial changes. The vote is 121 yes 3 no and we vote yes. Then we come to the main event of the proceedings. Literature item F. Review draft manuscript of the translation of the big book Alcoholics Anonymous into plain and simple language. This book project started in 2015 with a proposed agenda item. In 2016 we discussed it in our area and voted with substantial unanimity that we wanted it. That year it passed at the conference and it has been being worked on since. The literature conference committee came in one day early and spent 10 hours reading the draft. If they recommend the book, meaning they think it is great and ready to go then it will come to the conference floor. I have to admit I was absolutely sure it would not be recommended for a vote this year's conference. Shows you how much I know! It was recommended and all conference members had two hours to read the book as well. So this is Wednesday night and the discussion starts. A discussion that will last for the next 6 hours and into the next day. First thing we have to do is deal with the motion that was made on the first day of the conference. This motion that was made by my conference buddy by the way. Every year second year delegates get assigned a buddy that is a first year delegate. So we remember the motion that was made on the first day was for a super majority 3/4 instead of the normal 2/3 majority for this book to pass. The first vote will be on this motion 61 yes 69 no. For this vote to pass a simple majority is all it needs. We vote yes and we lose. Next vote is to move the clock back to 90 seconds. 68 yes 58 no we vote yes and we are back to 90 seconds on the clock. The first motion to amend comes early in the discussion. So in the book in the Doctors opinion the original text and the plain language text are both on the same page side by side. This motion

proposes to do the same thing with Bill and Bob stories. I go back-and-forth on this and I am finally convinced by a member of the Literature committee that it will not work the way the motion maker is thinking it will. In the Doctors opinion it works because it is short, but with a long text, it will not match up the same way. We vote on the amendment 16 yes 112 no we vote no. Also in the book it has the Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, next to those is a plain language translation of the steps. It has this for the traditions and concepts as well. One thing that the literature committee did before they sent it to

the conference floor was take the translation of the steps out of chapter 5 and put those in the back of the book where the concepts and the traditions are. The next motion to amend comes and it is to take out the translation of the steps, traditions and the concepts. There is a very long discussion and I speak in favor of the motion. We vote on this motion 32 yes 97 no we vote yes, and we lose. Now it is time for the minority opinion on the amendment. I think most everyone who voted in the minority gets up to speak. When it is my turn I get very emotional and it is very hard to keep my composure. I say that I am not going to repeat everything that everyone else has already said, but I say I am very scared about the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous in those words. I say that the steps, traditions, and concepts are as plain language as they get and we could say that in the book and use that for more education. As soon as I am finished speaking someone says that they would like to reconsider the vote. It is seconded and we vote. This time the vote is 55 yes 74 no. So 23 more people, but not enough to save the motion. Obviously we voted yes but it did not pass. So we are back in discussion of the original motion. During that discussion we hear that there was something like 81 sticking points within the conference committee, but they still recommended the book to the conference. We hear that those sticking points are going to be sent to publishing. I think someone knew this already and that's where the floor action about the memos came from, but I do not know that for sure to be true. Much more discussion, it is getting late when a motion comes in to recommit this whole project back to the literature committee. We decide we will go to bed and we will vote on that in the morning. Morning comes we vote first to move the clock back to one minute, 92 yes 29 no we vote yes and we are back to 1 minute on the clock. Now we will deal with the motion to push pause on this whole project and recommit this whole project back to the trustees literature committee. Vote is 35 yes 95 no we vote yes and we lose. More discussion, then a motion to call the question. The motion to call the question passes and we vote on the recommendation to approve the plain language big book the way it is. Vote is 91 yes 38 no and we vote no. Time for the minority opinion. One of my close friends says that the disunity that having these steps, traditions, and concepts could cause in our fellowship

far outweighs the worth of having them in there the way they are. I did not make it to the microphone for this minority opinion because before it was my turn, there was another motion to reconsider the vote. So we vote on the motion. The vote is 58 yes 71 no we vote yes the motion does not pass and that officially ends it all. Now remember when I said that the theme of this report is serving as area 42 delegate, the hardest thing I've ever done. Our area voted yes to produce this book. We have had a lot of support for it in our area. It is very difficult for me to argue against it. Last year I absolutely believed the General Service board should be censured for the process used to get rid of the class A trustee chair of the General Service board. This year I am absolutely against having a list of one through twelve rewritten or translated steps, traditions and concepts and once again I am in the minority. Thank God for AA. I have sent a letter to the publishing department asking them to please consider not having the numbered steps, traditions and concepts and instead make it an essay like in the 12 and 12 and the service manual. Whatever happens I absolutely believe that the group conscience was heard on these issues. I didn't agree with it, but once it becomes the group conscience I will accept it. I will accept it in my heart as if I had chosen it and I will resolutely turn my thoughts to how I can be helpful. And that is what the AA way means to me! The next recommendation in the literature committee is literature item I review progress report on the video adaptation of the pamphlet "Too young". The committee

recommended to suspend this project. Vote was 117 Yes 10 no we vote yes. The next committee up is agenda, but before we get to that more floor actions. First one is specifically that the sticking points from the conference literature committee all be implemented before printing the plain language big book. Next one is that any founders' writings that come before the conference must have 3/4 super majority and after that discussion in the area. The next one is that the AA grapevine board develop a five-year plan to reduce shortfalls and increase revenue for La Viña and Grapevine. So we are up to 10 floor actions now if you are keeping count. The first recommendation for the agenda committee is the conference theme for next year will be "working together, increasing trust." The vote is 120 yes 3 no and we vote yes. I will also tell you the plan is the 2025 general service conference will take its inventory. So most of these topics we approve will be to pass on to the areas for discussion. So the presentation theme and topics will be delegating, it's OK to ask for help. Closing the gap, how do we make the voice of every group count? And our financial responsibility in carrying the message. Vote is 119 yes 5 no and we vote yes. Like I said the next conference will be taking its inventory. So the next recommendation is a summary of that inventory have up to eight pages in the final conference report. The vote is 123 yes 4 no and we vote yes. And the last recommendation for the agenda committee is that a comprehensive summary of the inventory be developed. Vote is 108 yes 16 no and we vote yes.

Now it is time for report and charter, but not before, you guessed it, more floor actions. The first is to reaffirm a 1975 advisory action that delegates emphasize group support in their reports and the effect inflation has on the contribution dollar. Next floor action is that delegates who require translation be provided with all documents, materials, and reports in their language. So this was a problem at this conference, as well as the overhead projector that shows the language of what we are voting on is only in English. The next floor action was that the plain language big book be retitled to "the plain language guide to AA's 12 steps of recovery." So now we are at 13 floor actions. The first recommendation in report and charter is in the section of the service manual "the typical area assembly and its activities" be amended to add a text reference in addition to the color reference to address readability. I guess this is really hard to read if you are colorblind. Vote is 124 yes 4 no we vote yes. Next is to rewrite the "boards custodial oversight" in the section "the boards operating corporations." This basically just simplifies the section. The vote is 123 yes 6 no we vote yes. The next recommendation was to rearrange the order of the chapters 8 through 12. This basically just moves GSO to the last chapter from the middle so everything will flow better together which makes sense to me. The vote is 123 yes 6 no we vote yes. And the last recommendation is that we do include all items that get a majority vote at the conference but not the 2/3. So apparently this is supposed to happen and sometimes it does and sometimes it does not, but it will happen now because the vote was 119 yes 3 no and we vote yes. The next committee to report is the best committee in the world public information. The first two recommendations were to retire the 30 second and 60 second versions of the PSA "since getting sober I have hope." Also to retire the 15 second version of "we know how you feel." Votes are 110 yes 8 no 117 yes 7 no and 119 yes 6 no we vote yes on all, all will be retired. Our next recommendation is on the new agenda item that was put on our agenda Sunday at the conference coming from our auditors. In addition to the work of local committees, the PI conference committee recommends that two public service announcements be distributed on broadcast media, tracked and evaluated at a cost of \$17,000 which would be in addition to the \$48,000 that is planned to be spent to track the value of donated airtime on PSA in 2024 for the

audit requirement. The total expenditure should not exceed \$65,000 and that the information gathered from the process be brought back to the 2025 conference committee on public information. Clear as mud right. This is another very confusing thing but basically we have to report our donated airtime value. This campaign will place and track PSA's in the United States and Canada. The vote is 118 yes 8 no we vote yes. Our next recommendation is in regards to the young peoples video project. This was my big push last year. I was very excited for our young members

to make their own videos. We got no new submissions. This year two GSO staff members came up with the idea to go to the young peoples international convention and film interviews there. We produced two of them and played them at the conference and it was one of the most emotional things at the conference. One of the interviews was a 16-year-old girl and one Delegate was overcome thinking that this could have been available when she came in. The recommendation was to use the budget for the project to produce the other 16 videos recorded at the young peoples international convention. Vote is 122 yes 4 no we vote yes. I hope to have these videos available to play for us at the fall area assembly. Next recommendations were on pamphlets. We had a revised version of the AA at a glance pamphlet as well as speaking at non AA meetings with the updated title speaking at meetings outside of AA. Votes are 121 yes 6 no and 121 yes 4 no we vote yes for both. Next was the flyer, a message to teenagers. The committee recommended that this flyer be retired. The vote was 92 yes 33 no and we vote yes. The next recommendation was that a social media policy be developed for all current and future social media channels and requested that a draft be brought back to the 2025 conference committee. This policy was to try and help decide what we can and cannot do when it comes to social media. We were informed that this work is currently happening at the Board level. That this recommendation would not be helpful as we thought it would. So after discussion, the vote was 36 yes 90 no and we voted no. So more excitement for the conference committees last recommendation of the night. We always say committees are not beholden to their agenda and they are allowed to discuss what they want. Since I have been delegate one of the biggest complaints I have heard is that the delegates do not get the minutes from the board weekends. That every region is getting information from their regional trustee. But they all have different experiences and they all serve on different committees. That the delegates should get the minutes from the board weekend so we are all getting the same information which apparently is the way it was. So the committee recommended that to better provide equality in availability and messaging starting with the July 2024 General Service board meeting that the unedited but anonymity protected minutes, including trustees committee reports in English, Spanish and French be provided to all conference members within three weeks following the quarterly board weekends. The minutes should retain their current format and scope. So like we said when a recommendation comes from a committee, it is already a motion and a second. So we will have this discussion on the conference floor. This is another thing I had to edit for time, but I do believe it was a very important discussion and I definitely learned a lot from this process. There was a lot of discussion and proposed amendments. In the end the recommendation failed with the vote 34 yes 90 no. Unfortunately here I need

to report two more things that were heartbreaking and embarrassing to me. First of all this discussion was about getting the board minutes. Getting minutes from the Board weekends so we can all be on the same page. That is what was discussed. This motion had nothing to do with the regional trustees and the

information they share. Unfortunately, a regional trustee stands up and does not address the chair. She is looking back into the crowd and she starts berating people who have shared and yells out at least 2 delegates by name and says , you are saying you don't get anything, didn't I just give you this, didn't I just give you that. In my opinion this had absolutely nothing to do with the conversation. Last year during the conference, a few people got heated and got carried away and said some things they regretted. Both times I saw it happen they quickly got up and made amends and I never mentioned it last year. This year I was waiting for this person to do the same, but it did not happen. This was one of the most disappointing things that I saw during my two years at the conference. The next thing is that before the public information report started the conference chair informed everyone that the decision to approve the plain language big book had been leaked from the conference. This was about five hours after it had been approved. We all know that we are not supposed to talk about the conference votes until the conference is over. Not to mention that through floor actions things could still change. We knew at this time that we were low on time and we still had a lot to get to. After the plain language big book vote happened people started saying we need to take a break. We have to take a break. We need to take a break right now. We were not scheduled to take a break for 45 or 50 more minutes. The chair finally gives in and people go running out of the room with their phones. I assumed that a leak meant that it was online on the internet. I have not had that confirmed. Alcoholics Anonymous is not a society of rules and laws. All we have is the AA way and that is very important to me. I believe we owe it to the people who came before us to follow the rules and to honor our traditions. Our large T traditions and our small T traditions. These two incidents which happened within two hours of each other were very disappointing to me. I'm sad I have to report these things but I felt that I needed to. The last primary committee to report is policy and admissions, but not before a final round of floor actions. First is our new AA at glance flyer and the description of a closed meeting in it and the last floor action is that the explanation of the steps, traditions and concepts be removed from the plain language big book. Final count of floor actions is 15. So policy admissions first recommendation was that the equitable distribution of workload or EDW process be adopted and implemented. This was another big topic with a lot of discussion. There was a motion made to recommit this back to the committee which failed 20 yes 106 no and we voted no. I think that the EDW process will take some work but it will be a good thing. After more discussion, call the question, which

passes and we vote. The vote is 93 yes 35 no we vote yes and it passes. The next committee recommendation was that the proposed agenda item or PAI submission date be moved to no earlier than September 30. Another long discussion, another motion to call the question, and vote on the recommendation. The vote is 114 yes 12 no and we vote yes. The next committee is Archives and they have no recommendations. And the very last committee is the international conventions and Regional Forums committee. The first recommendation is that an anonymity protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2025 international convention the vote is 124 yes 0 no we vote yes. And if you have been paying attention, this is the very first unanimous decision of the whole conference. I don't know who it is who decides to vote against everything but I have a feeling it's the same few people but again I do not know for sure. Next the committee recommended that an encrypted, delayed, anonymity protected Internet video of the 2025 international convention opening flag ceremony be approved and that the video be placed on appropriate communication channels, vote is 122 yes 1 no

and we vote yes and our buddy is back from the bathroom. Next the committee recommended providing five options for closing for the big meetings at the international convention, the serenity prayer, responsibility statement, declaration of unity, third step prayer, or seventh step prayer. So this was a question and floor action from the last conference. The options have been the serenity prayer, the responsibility statement, or the Lord's prayer. Last years floor action was to take out the Lord's Prayer, but we did not get to it. So this year the committee has added three new options and taken out the Lord's prayer. So how it works is whoever chairs the meeting would have their choice of any of the options on this list. So the first motion to amend is to put the Lord's prayer back in, a lot of discussion. One Delegate reads a Canada law stating that it may be illegal to say a religious prayer in a large gathering in Canada. Motion to call the question passes, we vote on the ammendment, 41 yes 83 no we vote yes. Next comes a motion to amend to add a moment of silence. Vote is 106 yes 19 no we vote yes, the amendment passes so now there are six options for closing the big meetings at the international convention. Now we vote on the original motion with the amendment, vote is 115 yes 11 no we vote yes. Next the committee recommends that anonymity protected video footage with highlights from the 2025 international convention be produced for maintaining archival footage of the convention, as well as for sharing the spirit and enthusiasm of the 2025 international convention. The vote is 121 yes 4 no we vote yes. And the last committee recommendation of the 74th General Service conference is the committee recommended that a delayed, anonymity protected, digital access standalone product offering of the three big meetings be created. Vote is 117 yes 5 no and we vote yes. In our area

at the northern roundtables we talked about item C discuss a report concerning virtual programming for the 2025 international convention. This item is in the committee's consideration, it is not dead, and is still being discussed for the 2025 international convention. The conference committee gave some suggestions and sent it back to the trustees international conventions Regional Forums trustees committee. So now we are done with the committee work. It is about 10 PM on Friday night. We are informed we have a hard stop at 11:59 PM. The translators cannot work any longer than 11:59 PM. Which basically means there is no way we will hear all of the 15 floor actions that have been proposed, but we get started. I told you about what I learned last year, and that is the good old motion to decline to hear. So every floor action read someone will always come to the mic and make a motion to decline to hear. If that motion passes, the floor action is dead. So our first floor action is a pamphlet for the unhoused alcoholic, motion to decline to hear and a second. The vote is 90 yes 39 no we vote yes. The motion passes and the floor action is dead. That is one down in about five minutes and maybe we will make it. Next floor action is that proposed agenda items requesting censure or re-organization of the board have no deadline and go straight to the conference committee on trustees. Motion to decline to hear and second vote is 71 yes 53 no we vote no on this one the motion fails and we will hear this floor action. So when I first heard this floor action I thought it sounded like a really good idea and the more we talked about it the more it did not make sense and the more I thought that it wouldn't really work in practice. There was a motion to amend saying that the proposed agenda item would have to be approved by at least on full area. I thought that this was a very good suggestion. That is the way that I was always taught and the way we traditionally have handled PAI's in our area. But it does not have to be that way. It can be just one pissed off member sitting in his underwear at midnight submitting them

and I do think that we should discourage that. There is a vote on the amendment, vote is 69 yes 50 no we vote yes in the majority, but it is not enough to pass. Now we vote on the original floor action 40 yes 87 no we vote no. We vote no on this mostly because of the discussion and the logistics of how agenda items work. So now time for number three and that is a pamphlet for the Asian and Asian American alcoholic. Motion to decline to hear and second. The vote is 69 yes 60 no we vote yes and are totally shocked that this motion to decline to hear does not pass. We discussed this in our area and we were highly against it. The committee discussed this and took no action. But now we are going to hear discussion on it. There is a lot of discussion and then a motion to call the question that passes. Vote on the floor action vote is 79 yes 50 no we vote no motion fails. Now time for the minority opinion. During minority opinion someone makes a motion to reconsider the vote. Vote is 84 yes 40 no we vote no and lose and discussion is back open. A bunch more discussion then comes a motion to amend to add Pacific islander to the title. Vote is 42 yes 84 no we vote no, it fails. Next is a motion to recommit this back to the committee 51 yes 79 no we vote no. Much more discussion, motion to call the question passes, we vote on the floor action again this time 99 yes 27 no we vote no, however this time it passes and the Asian pamphlet will be produced. The next floor action is about making all memos between conference committees and trustees committees or boards be made available to all conference members. The original motion maker stands up and says that he wants to withdraw his floor action. It is decided the fastest way to dispense with it is to just do the motion to decline to hear. We do the motion to decline to hear it 119 yes 7 no we vote yes and the floor action is dead. We start discussion of the fifth floor action around 11:50 PM. The floor action is to reaffirm that the La Viña continues to be published by AA Grapevine and supported by the General Service board as a service to the Fellowship. Motion to decline to hear is seconded the vote comes it is 71 yes 58 no we vote no so the motion is not dead. Now it is 11:55 PM and motion is made to take floor actions number 5 through 15 and forward them all to the appropriate trustees committees.