

*70th
General Service Conference (GSC)
“2020: A Clear Vision for You”*

*Agenda Topic Summaries
Workgroup 2*

*Area 51
Pre-Conference Events
March and April 2020*



Abbreviations used to save space:

- "GSB" → General Service Board
- "GSC" → General Service Conference
- "PI" → Conference Committee on PI
- "AAWS" → AA World Services
- "GV" → Grapevine

Conference Committee: Agenda — Item A, B & C

Agenda Topic	Review suggestions for the theme, presentation/discussion topics, and workshop topic ideas of the 2020 GSC.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	<i>Theme, presentation/discussion and workshop topics revolve around basic principles of A.A. and can spark thought-provoking discussion at Area and district meetings as well. Regions, areas and districts often incorporate discussion of these topics into workshops, meetings, pre-Conference assemblies, etc. This gives all A.A. members the opportunity to participate and become more informed about A.A.</i> These items are discussed at every conference. It is a housekeeping item for the committee to pick the theme from the list of submitted ideas.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Conference Committee will select and propose for approval. Review suggestions and report which ones are favorites, and report some suggestions for future themes.

Conference Committee: Literature — Item H

Agenda Topic	Review draft language regarding safety and AA to be included in Living Sober and “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	Several years ago, Area 51 was one of many Areas to request language about safety to be drafted and inserted into our literature. Last year the wording to be inserted was approved, and this item indicates proposed placement in two pieces of AA literature.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Please review the background for where the proposed language is to be inserted. Do you agree with that placement? Does it fit well, or does it need to be somewhere else? Does it need to be altered in any way to fit in with the flow of the content?

Conference Committee: Literature — Item I-1

Agenda Topic	1. Discuss draft update of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The trustees’ Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward an updated draft version of “Twelve Traditions Illustrated” to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature.
What the Delegate needs to know?	We will not hear group consciences on this topic. Conference committee members only. Final draft is sent to members of the Conference Literature Committee only. They deliberate during the Conference committee and make recommendations to the full Conference. Included here because it relates to I-2.

Conference Committee: Literature — Item I-2

Agenda Topic	2. Consider not retiring the existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The trustees’ Literature Committee requested that the Conference Literature committee consider not retiring the current version of the pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated” noting the wealth and depth of material contained in the current pamphlet and its current distribution numbers. Background indicates that with the adoption of a revised pamphlet, the old one has historically always been retired.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with not retiring the current pamphlet? Why or Why not? What might be problematic with having two versions of the same pamphlet?

Conference Committee: Literature — Item U

Agenda Topic	Consider request to include a G.S.R. preamble in the pamphlet “G.S.R.: Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole.”
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	“We are the General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the GSC and the world of A.A. We realize the ultimate authority is a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that they can reach an informed group conscience. In passing along this group conscience, we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship. Let us, therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our group and A.A. as a whole.” ...reasons: 1. The G.S.R. Preamble is a clear-cut directive to G.S.R.’s regarding their responsibility. 2. Adding the G.S.R. Preamble to the pamphlet would provide consistency, and thus, unity across A.A. as a whole.3. If added, it would affirm Conference approval when read at District and Area Functions.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with adding the GSR preamble in the pamphlet? Why or Why Not?

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item C

Agenda Topic	Review GSO general manager’s report regarding General Service Conference site selection.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	In the interest of negotiating lucrative contracts for sites for the General Service Conference, this agenda item requests that the timing for the review of proposed sites be adjusted to allow for two-year contracts as opposed to the current one year timeframe. This biannual review schedule would begin in 2021 to review dates for the 2025 and 2026 conferences. Note-sites outside of New York City and State would be included in the RFP process.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with the change of the annual review schedule as proposed? Why or Why Not?

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item E

Agenda Topic	Consider a proposed process for how a Conference committee could review, discuss and act on proposed agenda items not forwarded to a Conference committee.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	There is a ton of background on this. Members feel like there should be a process for looking at agenda items that had the “take no action” designation. (In recent years, delegates have been much more involved in the process with a January Conference call with the Trustee chair before the January board meeting to share input on proposed items.) There are apparently two proposed processes—one has a nifty flow chart, and I have searched through the background and see other lists of steps, but they do not seem different from the flow chart.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree that items not forwarded from the Trustees need to have a process for reviewing and acting on them? Why and Why Not? (do you see two proposed processes ?)

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item F

Agenda Topic	Consider a proposed process for equitable distribution of Conference committees' workload.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	The average number of items for the Public Information Conference Committee is 11, and Archives has 2.3. The time spent per item for Literature is 30 minutes: Corrections discusses each item for almost 100 minutes. Various proposals were considered but the proposed process keeps the current committee structure intact but move some additional items onto a committee for equity, adding additional primary committees as needed. For example, having a second PI or Literature committee.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree with the proposed process? Why or Why Not?

Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item G—consider if there is time

Agenda Topic	Review the Floor Actions Process.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	... proposes that a review of the GSC Floor Action process is necessary to prevent any Conference member from circumventing the normal Conference process, which involves adequate study of background materials, careful discussion, and a fully-informed vote, resulting in a substantial unanimity which reflects the true voice of the A.A. fellowship in the United States and Canada.
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you agree the Floor Action process needs to be reviewed? Why or Why Not?

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

Agenda Topic	Discuss methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention.
Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?	"For the last 4 Internationals...the closings for the Big Meetings have been Friday night: Lord's Prayer, Saturday night: Serenity Prayer and Sunday morning: Responsibility Statement. ...GSO has historically received communications in favor or against one or any of the closings. For the most part the communications have been evenly distributed. The current closing distribution hopes to include all views. "
What the Delegate needs to know?	Do you have an opinion on how the big meetings should be closed? Why or Why Not?