71st Annual General Service Conference

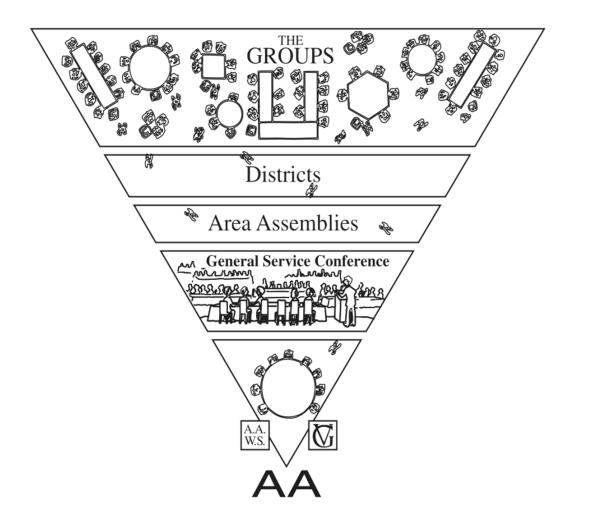
2021: A.A. In a Time of Change 2021: Les AA à une époque de changement 2021: A.A en una época de cambio

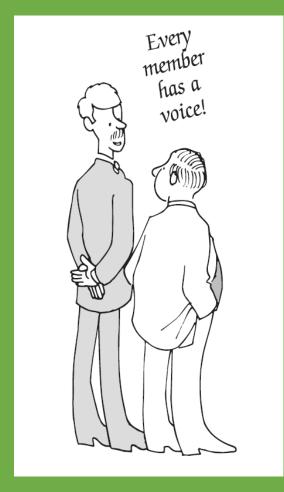
Delegate Report Back

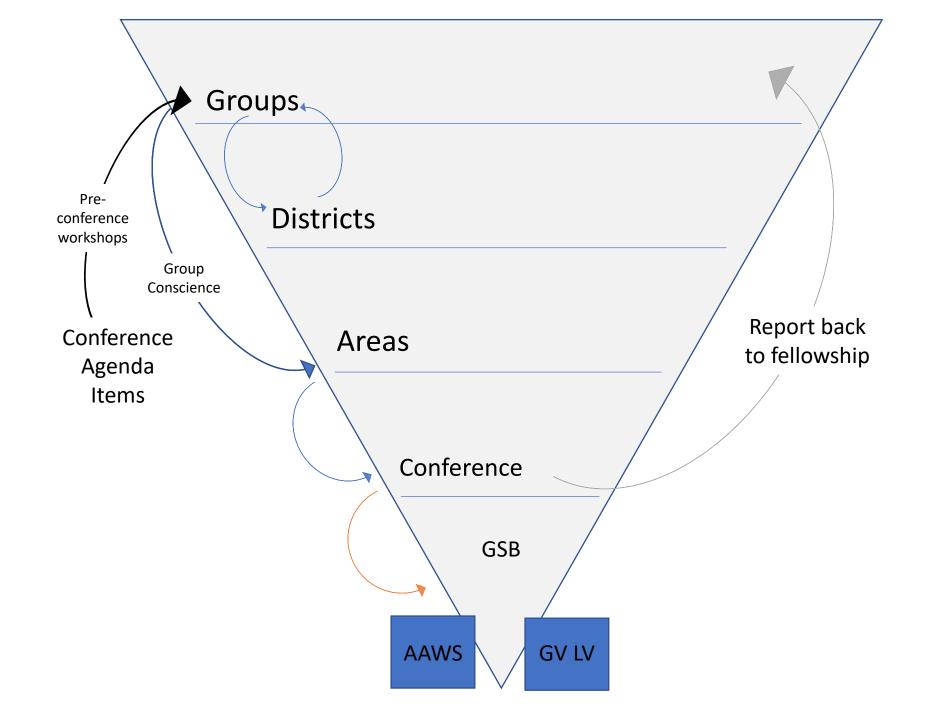
June 12, 2021

Kunane D. Hawaii Area 17









How We Got here...

Mid: Agenda items received

February

Standing Committees & GSRs discuss

Feb.-Mar.

2021: General Service Conference

18-24 Apr.

Delegate Report Backs -Districts

June-Sep.

29 Feb.

Committee
Meeting –
Topics
Distributed

27–28 Mar.

2021:
Inform the
Delegate
Assembly

May

Committee
Meeting –
Delegate
Report Back

The Month Before

- GSC Orientation & Overview
- Pacific Region Delegate Meetings
- Literature Committee General Sharing Sessions
- Lots and lots of reading
- Conversations with members from our area.

Why Do We Need a Conference?

The late Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting: "We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life.

"We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing overintegration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.

"We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is."

Pre-Conference Sessions

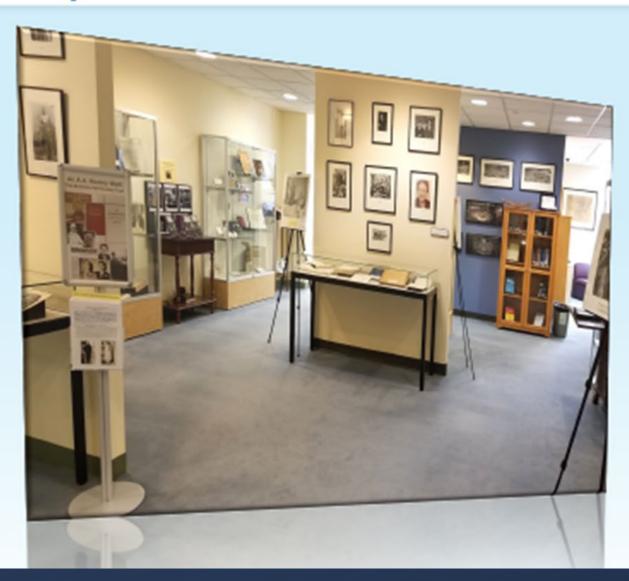
April 17, 2021

5:00am

2021: A.A. In a Time of Change 2021: Les AA à une époque de changement 2021: A.A en una época de cambio

Hospitality Session 1728 Meeting Remote Communities Area Delegates Only Meeting

Alcoholics Anonymous®



A.A. In A Time Of Change

Presentation by Michelle Mirza, G.S.O. Archivist April 17, 2021

G.S.O. Archives Missior

The mission of the Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Office Archives is to document permanently the work of Alcoholics Anonymous, to make the history of the organization accessible to A.A. members and other researchers, and to provide a context for understanding A.A.'s progression, principles and traditions.



Services our Archives Provide

- Information services for researchers and members
- Assistance and support for local A.A. archives



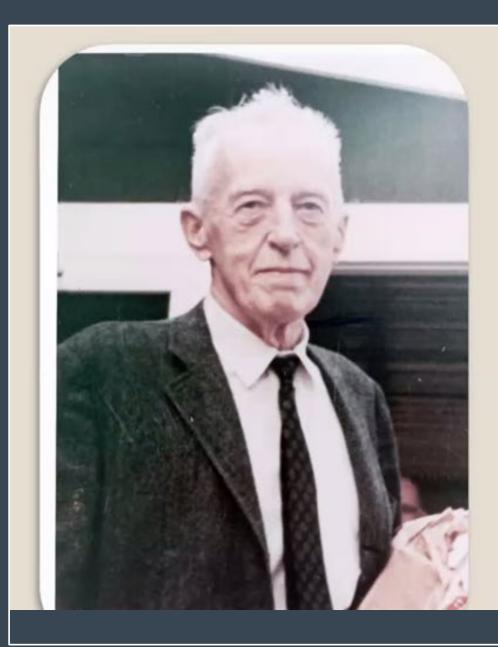






"Those letters ... carry the story of how A.A. started and grew all over the world — these unique and precious communications, holding the history of A.A. forever safe and intact — I treasure deeply in our archives."

(Grateful to Have Been There, by Nell Wing)



"We live in an era of change. Our Twelve Steps probably won't change; the Traditions, not at all likely. But our manner of communication, our manner of organizing ourselves for function, for service — let us hope that this goes on changing for the better, forever." (Bill W., 1960 GSC talk)

71st Annual General Service Conference

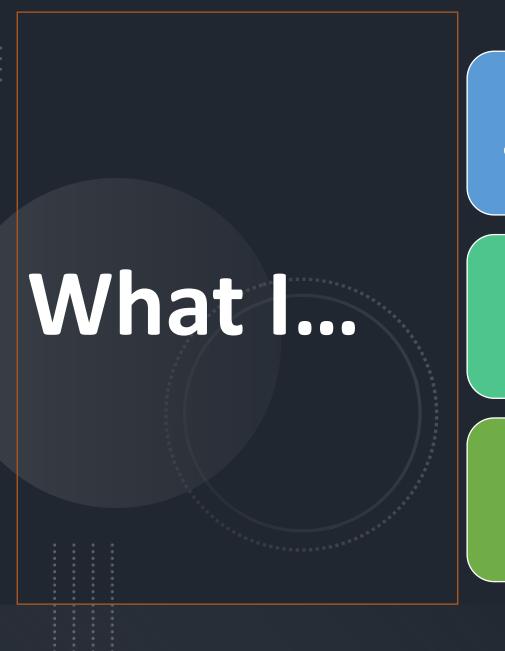
2021: A.A. in a Time of Change

2021: Les AA à une époque de changement

2021: A.A. en una época de cambio

PACIFIC REGIONAL DELEGATES





Saw

Heard

Felt

What I Heard...

"Let's be awesome"

"Snackable"

"A.A. will continue to grow.

"We move at the pace of the Group Conscience."

"BE BOLD"

"Walk on the wild side"

"Thank you for your comments... I'm taking notes.

"As servants, we bring vision to the conference."

"We end by shutting our laptops instead of hugs."



What I Heard...

"Listen as if you have no opinion, speak your truth, vote your conscience, and trust the process."

Jennifer B., CNCA

"Thank you so much for your service to AA. Two things: Thanks for your work this year on the Literature Committee, and for the boldness of the Committee's vision. It has brought me to joyful tears."

Trish L., Trustee at Large, Canada

"Have a mind open to everything and attach to nothing."

Kevin F., AZ

If we were in NY, we would be sharing hugs and thanks in the hallways.

What I Saw...

Delegates helping delegates. 70s and 71s.

The language of the heart be shared, spoken and translated into French and Spanish.

150 faces in our GSC Hollywood Squares

The spirit of A.A. lives virtually just as if we are in person.

Loving discussions. Everyone's love for A.A. shined bright.

David N., Class B Trustee, Co-chair – dignity and grace during our "loving" discussion on Friday.

Doing the work of A.A.

What I Felt...

- The energy and love of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- The language of the heart.
- Overwhelmed with gratitude.
- Moments of laughter, love, & tears.
- A.A. will be just fine.
- The minority opinion



Who makes up the Conference?

This year there are 132 voting members of the General Service Conference acting together as guardians of A.A.'s World Services and of the Steps and Traditions. They are composed as follows:

70.5%

> 93 Delegates

FUNCTION: Represent A.A. groups in fulfilling the ultimate responsibility for A.A.'s World Services.

Traditionally, Delegates constitute at least two-thirds of the voting membership.

19.7%

26 Trustees,A.A.W.S. Directors,GV Directors

FUNCTION: Responsible for policy and implementation.

9.8%

▶13 General Service Office and Grapevine Staff

FUNCTION: Carry out policies of and report to the General Service Board and Conference.

Every Conference member has not only a vote but a voice; not only a right but a responsibility to express his or her views.

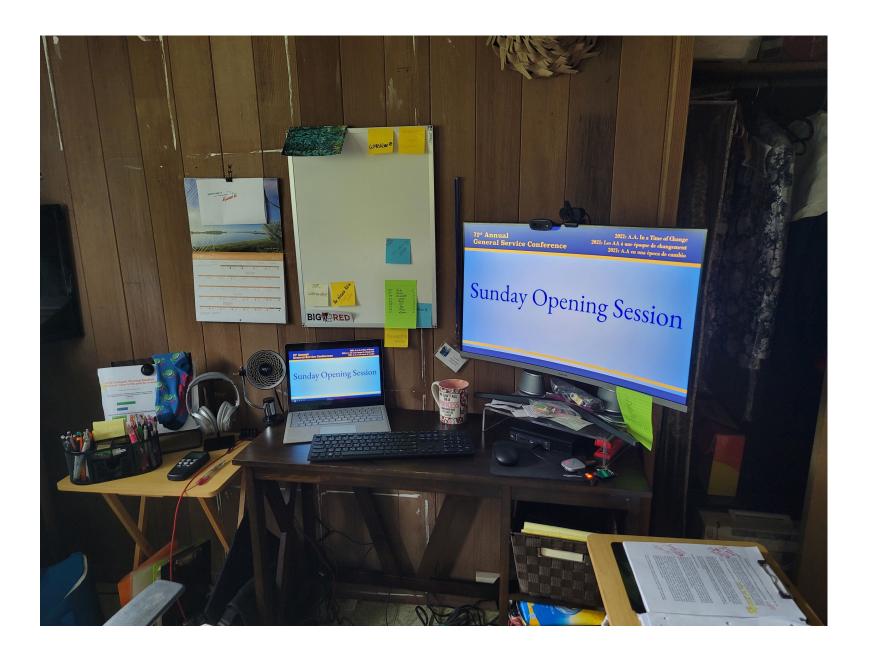
71st General Service Conference

Data on Area Delegates

(64 responses)

<u>Years</u>
Average Age
Oldest
Youngest
Average Length of Sobriety 27
Longest Sobriety
Shortest Sobriety 8
Average Length of Service
Longest Service
Shortest Service 6

Where I lived... for 8 days.



71st Annual General Service Conference 2021: A.A. In a Time of Change 2021: Les AA à une époque de changement 2021: A.A en una época de cambio

So what did we do?

71st Annual General Service Conference

2021: A.A. In a Time of Change 2021: Les AA à une époque de changement 2021: A.A en una época de cambio

1487 pages of background 8 days - Starting @ 4:45am Hawaii Time 80 hours of zoom 110 Final Agenda Items 47 Committee Recommendations 6 Floor Actions 49 Advisory Actions 89 Committee Considerations

71st Annual General Service Conference

2021: A.A. In a Time of Change 2021: Les AA à une époque de changement 2021: A.A en una época de cambio

Agenda

- Opening & Roll Call
- **Board Reports**
- Conference Committee Meetings
- A.A. Meeting
- Finance Report
- Sharing Sessions
 Trustee Elections

- Workshop Sessions
- **Delegate Only Meetings**
- Regional Meetings
- Committee Reports & Discussion
- **Delegate Sharing**
- Ice Cream Social
- Serenity Group Meetings

FINANCE REPORT



2020 GSO FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

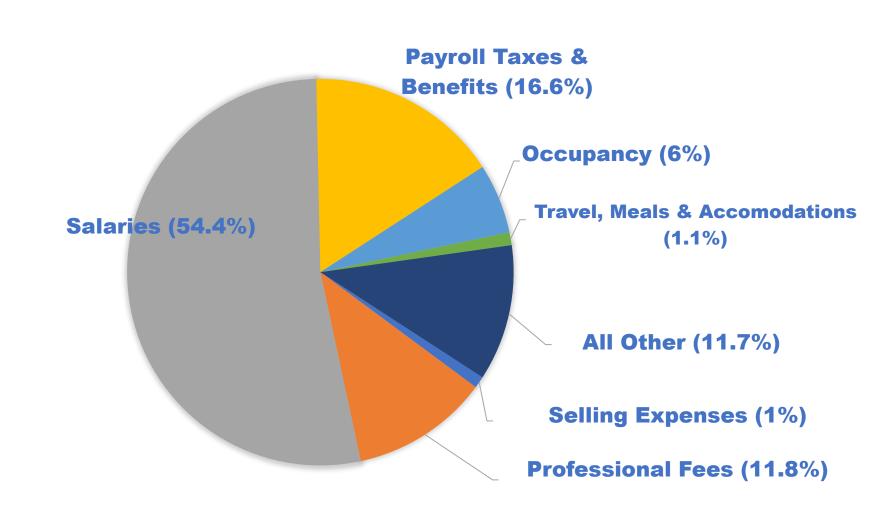
- 7th Tradition of Self-Support \$10.26 million set another record, up 15.80% from \$8.86 million in 2019
- Cost of Services \$10.81 million down 14.9% from \$12.70 million in 2019
- Self-Support covered 94.9% of cost of services compared to 69.8% in 2019
- AAWS publishing gross profits \$6.58 million down 29.70% from \$9.36 million in 2019, used to cover \$550K shortfall between 7th Tradition Contributions and Cost of Services

IMPACT OF PANDEMIC ON 7TH TRADITION

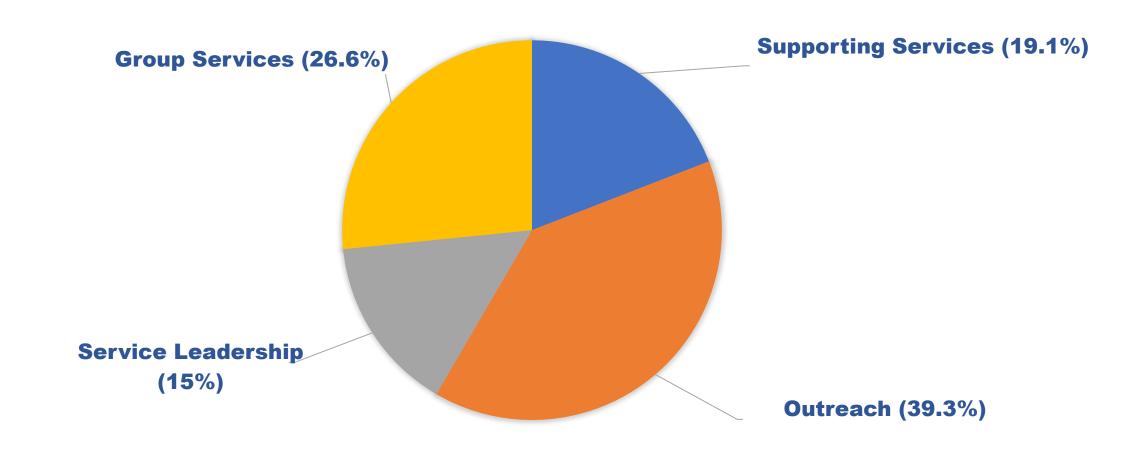
GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS	2020	2019
Amount contributed by groups	\$6.0 million	\$6.9 million
Number of groups contributing	24,779	28,180
Percent of groups contributing	34.8%	40.6%
Average group contribution	\$238.95	\$245.94

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	2020	2019
Amount contributed by individuals	\$4.3 million	\$1.9 million
Per capita contribution	\$6.81	\$6.09

RECURRING OPERATING EXPENSES – 2020 – \$16.6 M

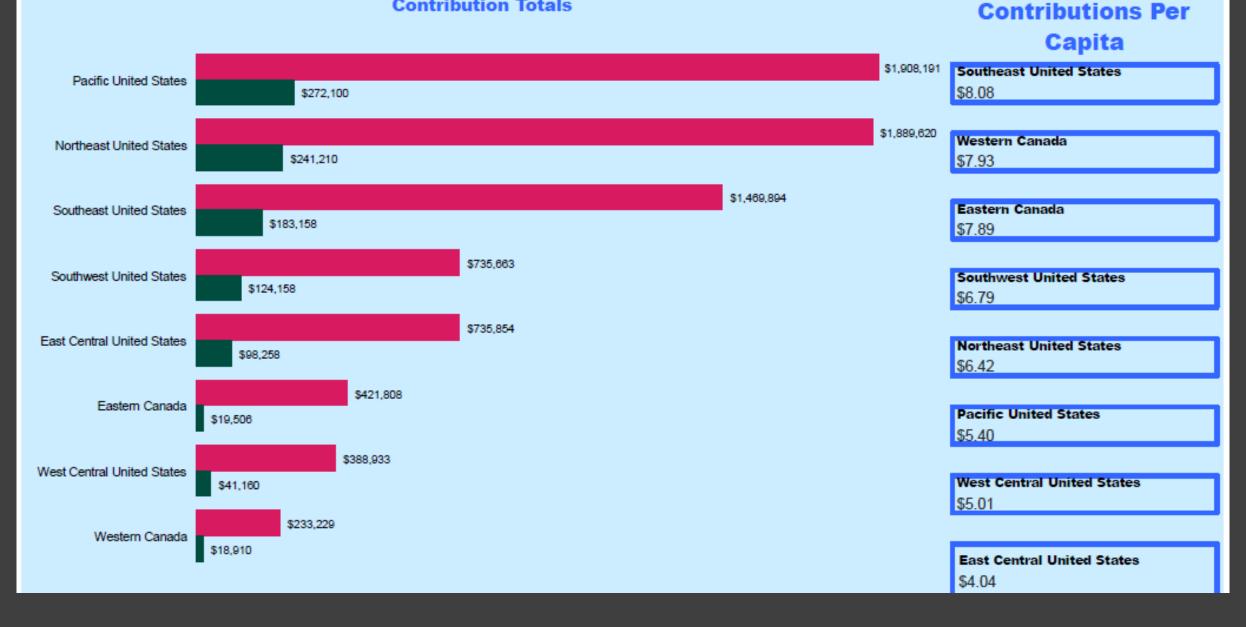


COST OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE FELLOWSHIP 2020– \$10.8 M



2019 CONTRIBUTIONS BY REGION

Contribution Totals

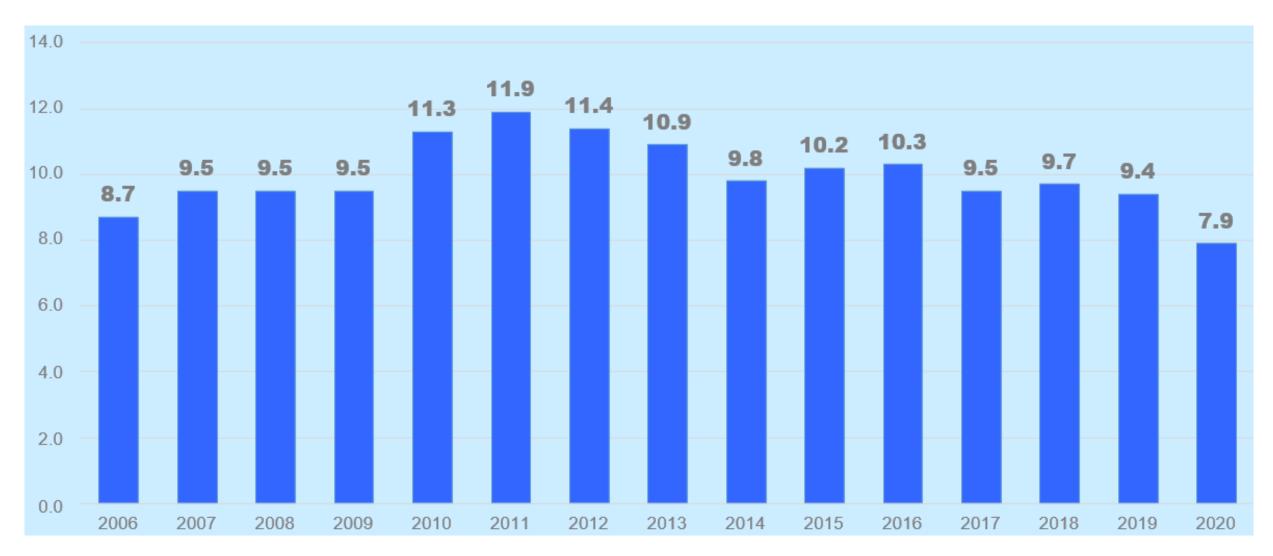


2020 PRUDENT RESERVE

Number of Months Expenses Held	
January 1, 2020	9.27
December 31, 2020	7.90
Target	9 to 12

Use of Drawdown	
International Convention registration refunds	3,727,864
Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program (partially funded by reserve fund drawdown)	272,136
TOTAL	4,000,000

RESERVE FUND RATIO - NUMBER OF MONTHS COVERAGE 2006-2020



2020 COVID-19 IMPACT SERVICES CONTINUE AT AAWS AND GRAPEVINE



Over 125,000

Alcoholics provided with digital Grapevine subscriptions free of charge



1,800 Pieces of inmate correspondence

1,200 members behind the walls connected to members outside

March 2020

More than 90,000

emails/phone calls answered requesting information or help from GSO, since the office physically closed on March 20.

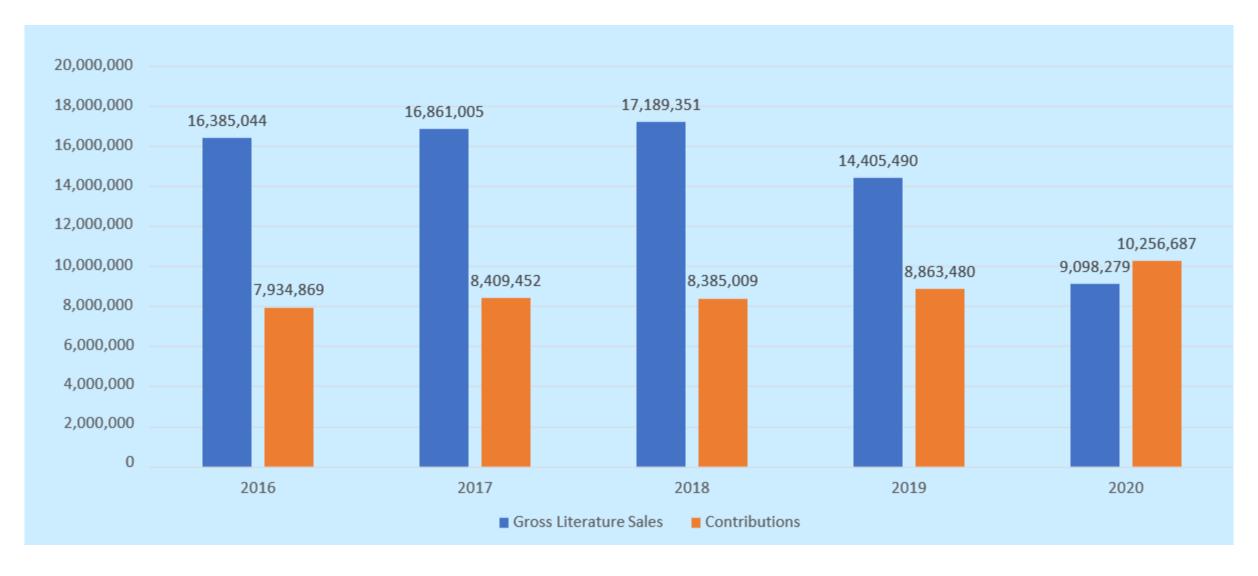


One

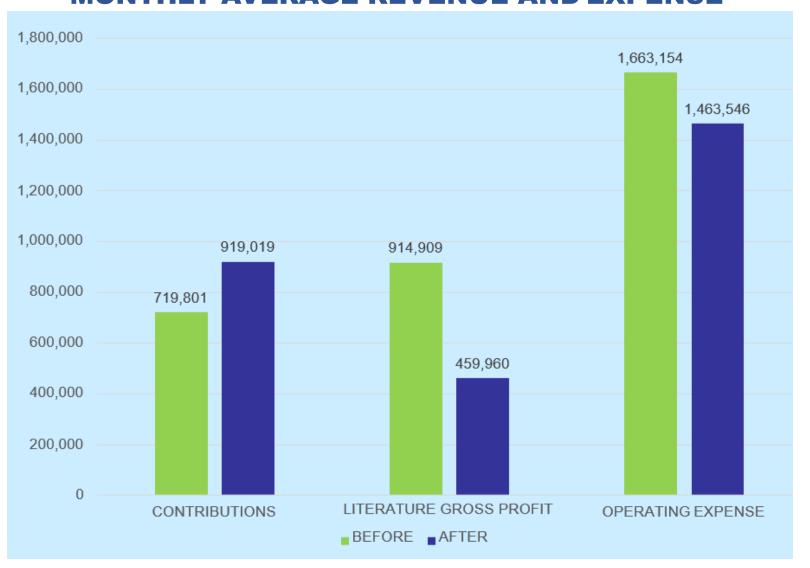
Completely virtual General Service Conference designed from the kitchens, living rooms and home offices across the US and Canada December 2020



IMPACT OF PANDEMIC ON REVENUE DISTRIBUTION



BEFORE AND AFTER PANDEMIC MONTHLY AVERAGE REVENUE AND EXPENSE



A DOLLAR IS NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE

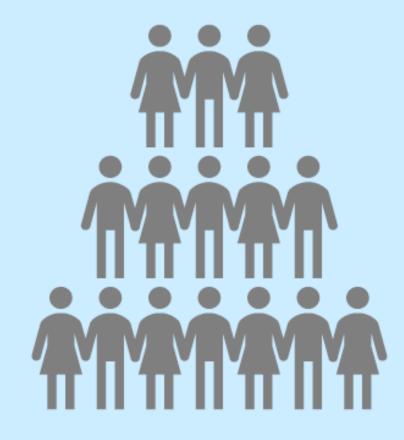
1935: \$1.00



Remember inflation
when deciding upon
your
7th Tradition
Self-Support
Contributions for:

- Group Meetings
- Online Recurring Contributions
- Birthday Gifts
- November Gratitude Month

2020: \$19.18 3.54% an<mark>nual inflation</mark>



2020 GRAPEVINE FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Grapevine paid print subscriptions decreased 4.5% in 2020. Subscriptions for the online and mobile app magazine increased 7.7%
- 2020 Grapevine results were a gross profit of \$1.231 M on the magazine and a gross profit of \$354,304 on other published items. Operating expenses of \$1.914 M resulted in an overall loss of \$298,699 compared to a loss of \$27,303 in 2019.
- General Fund support of La Viña service activity was \$385,771 in 2020 compared to \$297,392 in 2019.
- La Viña magazine circulation decreased by 36.6% in 2020 after several years of growth.

FINANCE REPORT



Full Finance Report www.area17aa.org

AGRAPEVINE

KATHIF.
BOARD CHAIR, AAGV, INC.

GRAPEVINE

HE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AAGRAPEVINE.ORG DECEMBER 2020

WHAT A YEAR!

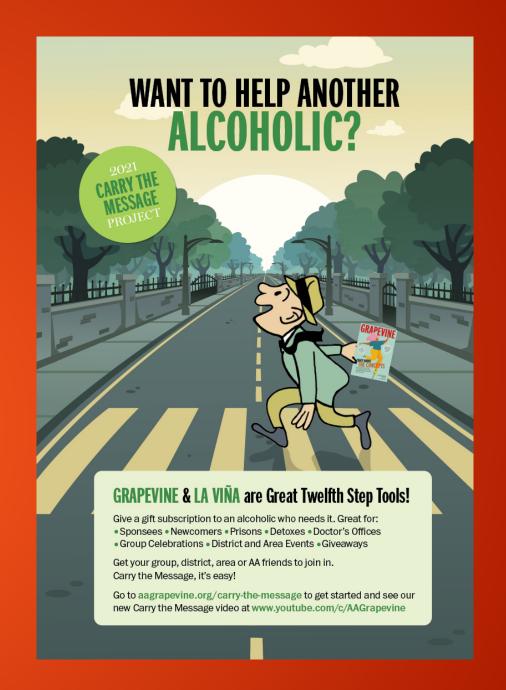
In an unprecedented year, members reinvented the way we meet and are connecting with AAs around the world like never before



 ${\tt SPECIAL SECTION:} \ Remote\ Communities + Sober\ Holidays$

Carry The Message

- Almost 5000 AAGV and AALV Subscriptions
- Collaboration with GSO Correction Desk
- Members behind the walls getting a monthly 12th step call
- CPC Committees utilizing
- Newcomers unable to go to in person meetings
- Groups, Districts, Intergroups, Areas and Individuals making distributions to Carry The Message Project



Challenges:

- > Staff working from home
- > Vendor transitions
- LaViña Subscriptions
- Cancelled International Convention
- Intergroups/Central Offices closed and not purchasing books
- Groups not meeting in person and not purchasing books
- > Publisher on Medical Leave
- > No in-person events
- > Board unable to meet in person



Opportunities:



- Ability to attend virtual events
- Board able to have additional meetings and get more done
- Staff supporting each other
- Conference Committee Chairs able to attend an AAGV Board Meeting
- Lower expenses because of the inability to travel
- Media stories about A.A.

Grapevine and LaViña

were made

for times like these

Full Grapevine Report www.area17aa.org

Reports to ask for or on the website...

71st GSC Quick Reference Delegate
PowerPoint –
Anonymity
Protected

Around the Picnic Table

Grapevine/LaVina Report

2021 Remote Communities Report – article submitted

2021 Archives
Presentation

2021 Grapevine Board Presentation

71st GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

Quick reference

Mahalo to Thad N. Delegate, Idaho Area 18, Panel 70

April 18 – 24, 2021

delegate@idahoarea18aa.org

71st Annual General Service Conference 2021: A.A. In a Time of Change 2021: Les AA à une époque de changement 2021: A.A en una época de cambio

Trustee Elections

We elected a new Trustee at Large... Marita R. – Area 42 (Nevada)



Duties and Responsibilities

Trustees-at-large are members of the trustees' International Committee as well as other committees.

They represent the U.S. and Canada as delegates to:

- The World Service Meeting, which is held every two years
- The *Meeting of the Americas*, a zonal meeting held in alternate years when the World Service Meeting is not held (see page 61, "Trustee Participation at Special Service Events").
- They are expected to attend Regional Forums in both the U.S. and Canada. If schedules permit, each trustee-at-large could attend one Regional Forum in each of the eight North American regions over the course of their four-year term.

71st Annual General Service Conference 2021: A.A. In a Time of Change 2021: Les AA à une époque de changement 2021: A.A en una época de cambio

Literature Committee

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Literature Committee

4 General Sharing Sessions

Conference Committee Sessions (3 days, 9.25 hours)

37 Final Agenda Items

15 Committee Recommendations

14 Advisory Actions

26 Committee Recommendations

1 Floor action

6 agenda items carried

71st Annual General Service Conference 2021: A.A. In a Time of Change 2021: Les AA à une époque de changement 2021: A.A en una época de cambio

Committee Reports & Discussion

71 - P.O.O. Panel



THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL

combined with

TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE

by Bill W.

REPORT & CHARTER

The committee recommended that the revised manuscript distributed to all Conference members in April 2021 with the inclusion of the Original Conference Charter be approved as the 2021-2023 Edition of *The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service*

PASSED

CORRECTIONS – "Person in Custody"

The committee recommended revisions to A.A.W.S. literature directed to members behind the walls and to replace the terms "inmate" and "offender" with "person in custody."

Passed (99/31) ITD - No Action

Public Information - Podcasts

The committee recommended that podcasts providing sharing within the Fellowship and information about A.A. to the public be produced and distributed by G.S.O. in cooperation with the Grapevine Office.

Passed (127/3)

ITD – 89% support

CPC – Pamphlet directed to mental health professionals

The Committee <u>recommended</u> that the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities develop a pamphlet directed to mental health professionals.

Passed (112/19)

ITD – No acton

Policy/Admissions – Equitable Distribution

The committee recommended that the Equitable Distribution of Workload Process, as detailed in the Passed (110/18) Report from the 2020 trustees' General Service Conference Committee, be implemented for the 72nd General Service Conference on a three-year trial basis, with a progress report to be brought to the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions after each year of the trial.

Agenda items to be submitted by September 15th

Policy/Admissions – Online Groups

The committee recommended that the U.S./Canada General Service Structure recognize online groups Passed (107/22) and encourage their participation, listing those groups who ask to be listed within the group's preferred district and area, with the default option being the location of the group's primary contact. This supersedes the 1997 Advisory Action that designated online groups as "International Correspondence" Meetings."

The committee recommended that the General Service Board form a committee to explore future Passed (125/5) possibilities for the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada General Service structure.

71st Annual General Service Conference 2021: A.A. In a Time of Change 2021: Les AA à une époque de changement 2021: A.A en una época de cambio

Literature Committee

Twelve Traditions Illustrated – The existing pamphlet not be retired

The committee <u>recommended</u> not to retire the existing version of the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated."

Passed (109/20)

Twelve Traditions Illustrated – New Pamphlet

The committee <u>recommended</u> that the draft update of the pamphlet, "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated," be approved with the title, "Experience Has Taught Us: Our Twelve Traditions Illustrated."

Passed (88/41)



Frequently Asked Question about AA. – CAKES

The committee <u>recommended</u> that the pamphlet, "Frequently Asked Questions About A.A." be revised on by omitting the text on page 17 "...including coffee, sandwiches, cakes or whatever else may be served," as follows:

Passed (121/8)

The line on page 17 currently reads:

"...to defray the cost of renting a meeting place and other meeting expenses, including coffee, sandwiches, cakes or whatever else may be served."

Be revised to read:

"...to defray the cost of renting a meeting place and other meeting expenses."



12x12 – Remove the phrase "opposite sex"

The committee <u>recommended</u> a revision to page 117 in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, replacing the phrase "opposite sex" with the word "partner" as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context to the change as it relates to inclusivity:

Passed (112/19)

"Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a partner with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way "

ITD – 80% supported

12x12 – Remove the phrase "Lustful enough to rape"

The committee <u>recommended</u> that the sentence which includes the phrase "lustful enough to rape" in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter "Step Six" of the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, be revised to refer to the Seven Deadly Sins without specific mention of examples that are severe in nature as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context as to the basis for the change:

Passed (88/41)

ITD – 85% supported

"No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust, or gluttony."

Big Book – 164 Pages

The committee agreed that the first 164 pages of Alcoholics Anonymous should remain unchanged.

No action ITD - No Action

Big Book – Develop 5th Edition

The committee <u>recommended</u> that a Fifth Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action that: "The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, 'The Doctor's Opinion,' 'Dr. Bob's Nightmare,' and the Appendices remain as is," and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

Passed (121/9)

ITD - (64/7)

Big Book – 5th Edition

The committee <u>recommended</u> that, pending its development, the draft Fifth Edition of the Big Book would include a new foreword, an updated preface and updates to expand on existing ideas in Appendices III and V.

Passed (123/5)

ITD - 49/13

RECOMMENDATIONS – Big Book

Literature: The committee <u>recommended</u> that a draft version of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition), be translated into plain and simple language and be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible.

Discuss & Debate

Motion to Recommit (12/119)

Discuss & Debate (110/19)

Minority Opinion

Motion to Reconsider (27/103)

The committee
suggested that the
development of
workbooks to help
study the program of
Alcoholics Anonymous

The conference paused for 2 minutes to gather ourselves. This was such a powerful and spiritual discussion. Be bold.

71st Annual General Service Conference 2021: A.A. In a Time of Change 2021: Les AA à une époque de changement 2021: A.A en una época de cambio

Floor Actions



Floor Actions

The Original "Ad Hoc Committee Progress Report - Google Grants and the 7th Tradition," from the trustees' Finance Committee, dated March 30, 2020, be immediately released to all members of the 71st General Service Conference. We feel strongly that this information is indispensable for the purposes of looking at the Google Grants through the lens of our AA Principles. VOTED DOWN

It was recommended that edits to the chapters "To Wives," "The Family Afterward" and "To Employers" (pgs 104-149) in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* will be allowed, but the Preface, the Forewords, "The Doctor's Opinion" (pgs xi-xxxii), "Dr. Bob's Nightmare" and the Appendices remain as is. Maker of the motion RESCINDED their motion citing satisfaction with approval to develop a plain language translation of the BB.

That the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American" be updated to include language that is both respectful and inclusive of all Indigenous peoples as well as add fresh stories and updating inaccuracies contained in the current pamphlet and that a draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

ADVISORY ACTION: Approved

Floor Actions

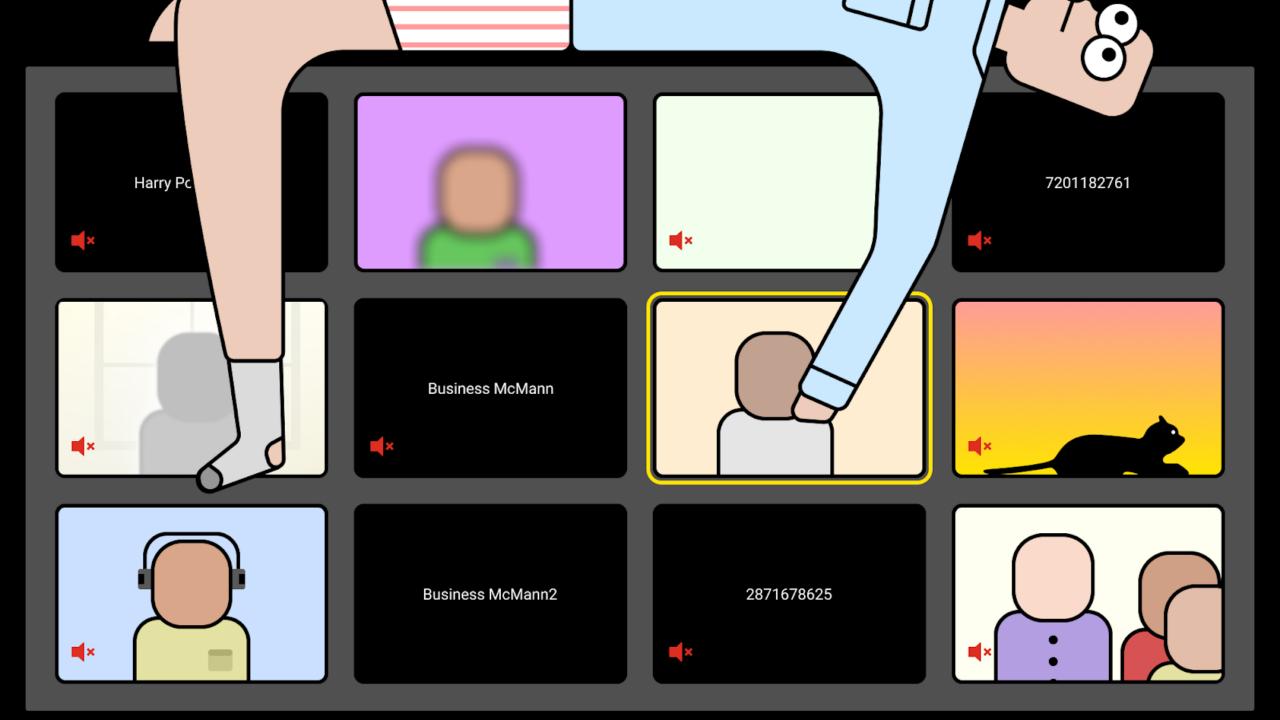
Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

In Alcoholics Anonymous we share our experience, strength and hope with each other that we may solve our common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

"Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism."

JULY 2021

The Preamble revision replacing the words "men and women" with the word "people" be presented to the General Service Board for approval as the new revised A.A. Preamble.



At 8:37pm HST, the Serenity Prayer was offered in French, Spanish & English.

Michelle G., General Service Board Chair,

"People of this conference...
we are adjourned."





QUESTIONS & COMMENTS



NEXT
GENERAL SERVICE
CONFERENCE
APRIL 24-30, 2022

BROOKLYN BRIDGE MARRIOTT HOTEL



On Saturday May 1st, the General service Board held its meeting and confirmed all the Advisory Actions

Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

DELEGATE REPORT BACKS

Delegate Report BackFounders' Day

Come & hear -

 Our delegate's experience at the General Service Conference

Changes to the first 164 pp. of Big Book? Fifth Edition of Big Book?

Special Archives presentation from GSO

Fun, Games 4 a Lunch Break

Join us on Zoom. Saturday, June 12, 2021 9 to 2ish

https://zoom.us/i/92575547852?pwd=Q0RkSHU1a1hRZFJmWUFnVnh1T0o4UT09

Passcode: 679313 One tap mobile +12532158782,,92575547852#,,,,*679313# US (Tacoma)

|2532158782,,92575547852#,,,,*679313# US (Tacc | Dial by your location | +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 925 7554 7852
Passcode: 679313
Find your local number: https://zoom.us/u/ahUmJQiN.





May 15, 2021 Area Committee Meeting

June 12, 2021

Hosted by Hawai'i Island Districts

- 7 Hilo/Hamakua
- 8 West Hawaii
- 12 Puna

June 24, 2021
District 4 Windward

June 26, 2021
Hosted by District 17 Waianae

July 10, 2021

Hosted by District 6 Kauai

DELEGATE REPORT BACKS

Delegate Report BackFounders' Day

Come & hear -

 Our delegate's experience at the General Service Conference

Changes to the first 164 pp. of Big Book? Fifth Edition of Big Book?

· Special Archives presentation from GSO

Fun, Games & a Lunch Break

Join us on Zoom. Saturday, June 12, 2021 9 to 2ish

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Passcode: 679313
One tap mobile
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58782,,92575547852#,,,,*679313# US (Tacoma Dial by your location +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 925 7554 7852 Passcode: 679313 Find your local number: https://zoom.us/u/ahUmJQiN





The Delegate's Report Back

A Virtual Meeting

By Invitation of District 6





Saturday, July 10, 2021, 9:30 am - 11:30am

Reporting to us will be Kunane D.

The Area 17 Hawai'i Delegate for Panel 71

Kunane is on the Conference Literature Committee.

This 2021 General Service Conference Report is for all of Hawai'i and specifically for Kaua'i!

Join The Zoom Meeting at this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85113045565?pwd=QUIDQ0RyQIVGaUVwS1dIOUFDVGN5Zz09

Meeting ID: 851 1304 5565, Passcode: 623306

May 15, 2021 Area Committee Meeting

June 12, 2021

Hosted by Hawai'i Island Districts

- 7 Hilo/Hamakua
- 8 West Hawaii
- 12 Puna

June 24, 2021
District 4 Windward

June 26, 2021 Hosted by District 17 Waianae

July 10, 2021 Hosted by District 6 Kauai