

**71st GENERAL SERVICE
CONFERENCE**

A.A. IN A TIME OF CHANGE



**1467 pages of
background material**

Everything needs to be said.....

But not everyone needs to say it

Listen as if you have no opinion.

**If you DO have an opinion, listen as if you want to
have your mind changed.**

A deep blue, starry night sky with a dense field of stars and a faint, glowing band of light, possibly the Milky Way, stretching across the center. The text is centered in the lower half of the image.

**The palest ink is better than the best
memory.**

Who makes up the Conference?

This year there were 132 Voting Members.

13 - GSO and Grapevine Staff (Carry out policies, report to GSB and Conference) 9.8% of participants

26 – Trustees, AAWS Directors, Grapevine Directors (Responsible for policy and implementation) 19.7% of participants

93 – Delegates (Represent the AA Groups, 2/3 of the votes come from the Delegates, so the Groups are in charge) 70.5% of participants

71st General Service Conference Data on Area Delegates (64 responses)

	Years
Average Age	54
Oldest	74
Youngest	34
Average Length of Sobriety	27
Longest Sobriety	45
Shortest Sobriety	8
Average Length of Service	24
Longest Service	42
Shortest Service	6



FINANCIAL 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

- AAWS publishing gross profits – \$6.58 million down 29.70% from \$9.36 million in 2019

SAVINGS ACHIEVED IN 2020

- Travel, Meals, and Accommodations \$1.1 M less than 2019
- Lockbox saves 3 Full-time Equivalents (FTEs)
- Total staff savings since VRIP 5 FTEs

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.

2021 GSO BUDGET

- Expected Total revenue \$15,594,000 compared to \$16,926,318 in 2020.
- Expected Contributions \$9,725,000 compared to \$10,256,687 in 2020.
- Expected Gross literature profit \$5,639,400 compared to \$6,582,266 in 2020.
- Total operating expense \$15,652,814 compared to \$16,446,727 in 2020.
- Expected Year-End Surplus of \$58,814

2021 GRAPEVINE BUDGET

- Magazine circulation to decline slightly to 62,124 from 63,397 in 2020.
- Online and e-Pub circulation to increase to 5,442 from 5,175 in 2020.
- Gross profit on subscriptions \$1,133,715 compared to \$1,003,700 in 2020.
- Grapevine net operating loss of \$354,225 compared to \$299,000 in 2020.
- La Viña magazine circulation to decrease to 5,605 compared to 6,435 in 2020.
- General Fund La Viña support of \$401,970 compared to \$385,771 in 2020.

2020 Financial Results – What Happened?

- We are grateful to the fellowship for your generous response to our 7th tradition messages which increased contributions by \$1.4 M compared to 2019.
- The pandemic caused literature gross profit to decline by \$2.78M compared to 2019.
- \$1.2 M in VRIP severance payments
- \$3.6 M in pension related expenses.
- \$5.1 M VRIP pension payments for participants who elected a lump sum payment instead of payments spread over their lifespan. (paid from pension fund not general fund)
- Less \$1.5M savings in the amount needed to pay expected benefits over retiree lifetimes
- Travel, meals, and accommodations decreased by \$1.1 M due to the pandemic.

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

2020 PRUDENT RESERVE

- Why did we need \$4 million from the Reserve Fund?
- The simplest answer is that we had many items which required cash and there was not enough cash on hand.
- The longer answer is that literature sales were down significantly at a time when there was a need for cash to meet our obligations.
- At year end gross profit from literature sales was \$6.58 M, 32.9% less than a budget of \$9.8 M and 29.7% less than 2019 gross profit of \$9.36 M.

2020 PRUDENT RESERVE

- Several long term projects were moving toward completion, including the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program, the completion of the 8th floor, Netsuite Implementation and the work on the new website.
- In addition we needed the cash to refund registration fees and pay vendors for the International Convention prior to receiving the insurance settlement.

2020 PRUDENT RESERVE

Number of Months Expenses Held:

January 1, 2020 9.27 months

December 31, 2020 7.90 months

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

USES OF GSB'S RESERVE FUND

- Concept of GSB's Prudent Reserve – not same as in your Home Group's reserve
- GSB's Reserve Fund covers much more:
 - Operating shortfalls between revenues and expenses
 - Capital construction projects
 - Lease guarantees
 - Pension obligations
 - Retirement medical obligations
 - Litigations and legal liabilities
 - Any other unknowns

CORRECTIONS

The image features a deep blue, star-filled night sky as a background. The stars are scattered across the frame, with a slightly brighter cluster in the lower-left quadrant. The word "CORRECTIONS" is centered horizontally and vertically in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

1. CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A REVIEW OF ALL CORRECTION-RELATED LITERATURE TO REPLACE TERMS SUCH AS “INMATE” AND “OFFENDER” WITH LESS STIGMATIZING LANGUAGE.

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.”

FIRST VOTE: YES 48 NO 83 37%

MOTION TO RECONSIDER: YES 92 NO 40 S.M. 67

FINAL VOTE: YES 99 NO 31 76% (87)



**TREATMENT
&
ACCESSIBILITIES**

1. Review a progress report on audio interviews with A.A. members who are in the Armed Forces.

The committee recommended that the following audio interviews with A.A. members who are in the Armed Forces, developed by the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities, be approved and posted on G.S.O.'s A.A. website:

Male – Navy Captain

Female – Air Force Pilot

Male – Army Combat Medic

VOTE: YES 123 NO 8 94% (88)



**PUBLIC
INFORMATION**

**REVIEW A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE
DEVELOPMENT OF TWO PSAS.**

(4 RECOMMENDATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT)

1. The committee recommended that in keeping with the “Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or Its Affiliates,” the video PSA utilizing full face actors “Party” (working title) be approved with the following revisions: That the voiceover “scratch tracks” be replaced, and other minor editorial edits to be conducted in post-production.

VOTE: YES 124 NO 6 95% (87)

2. THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT IN KEEPING WITH THE “POLICY ON ACTORS PORTRAYING A.A. MEMBERS OR POTENTIAL A.A. MEMBERS PRODUCED BY THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OR ITS AFFILIATES,” THE VIDEO PSA UTILIZING FULL FACE ACTORS “WALL” (WORKING TITLE) BE APPROVED WITH THE FOLLOWING REVISIONS: THAT THE VOICEOVER “SCRATCH TRACKS” BE REPLACED, AND OTHER MINOR EDITORIAL EDITS TO BE CONDUCTED IN POST-PRODUCTION.

VOTE: YES 126 NO 5 96% (88)

3. The committee recommended that in addition to the work of local committees, one to two PSAs be centrally distributed to broadcast media, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$60,000, and that the information gathered from the process be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information

VOTE: YES 127 NO 2 98% (86)

4. The committee recommended that a feasibility study on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms including, but not limited to, Netflix, Hulu, and YouTube be conducted and that a report on the research be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information.

VOTE: YES 127 NO 3 98% (87)

5. 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. The committee requested that a progress report on the development and implementation of podcasts be forwarded to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information.

The committee noted that podcasts would serve as a new format to produce “service material” to communicate on topics with similar sharing that can be found in *Box 4-5-9, About AA*, aa.org, and sharing from AA Grapevine and La Viña.

VOTE: YES 128 NO 4 97% (88)

6. Consider revising the pamphlet “Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings.”

The committee recommended that the trustees’ Public Information Committee revise the pamphlet “Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings” to better reflect carrying the A.A. message to diverse public audiences in non-A.A. settings and include a section on media training/press interviews, and that a draft or progress report on the revision be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Public Information.

VOTE: YES 132 NO 0 (88)

7. Discuss trustees' Public Information Committee review of P.I. pamphlets.

The committee recommended that the trustees' Public Information Committee revise the flyer "A Message to Teenagers" to better reflect carrying the A.A. message to young people. In addition to revisions to language in the twelve questions and updated graphics, the committee requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee provide suggestions on what the best format would be to present information contained in the flyer.

VOTE: YES 127 NO 3 98% (87)



ONE
STEP
AT
A
TIME





COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

1. Discuss progress report on LinkedIn page implementation.

The committee recommended that the goals expressed in the 2018 Advisory Action establishing a dynamic A.A.W.S. LinkedIn page be implemented by G.S.O., to provide current and relevant content about A.A. to professionals in accordance with A.A. principles and Traditions; and that a progress report on the usefulness and effectiveness of implementing these updates on the A.A.W.S. LinkedIn page be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community.

VOTE: YES 129 NO 2 98% (88)

2. Consider a request to create a pamphlet for mental health professionals.

The Committee recommended that the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities develop a pamphlet directed to mental health professionals. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2022 Conference Committee Cooperation with the Professional Community.

VOTE: YES 124 NO 4 97% (86)

3. Discuss draft updated pamphlet “Members of the Clergy ask about Alcoholics Anonymous.”

The committee recommended that the updated draft pamphlet “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous” be approved with minor editorial changes and retitled “Faith Leaders Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous.”

VOTE: YES 129 NO 2 98% (88)

A deep blue, starry night sky with a dense field of stars and a faint, glowing band of light, possibly representing the Milky Way galaxy, stretching across the background. The word "FINANCE" is centered in the middle of the image in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

FINANCE

**Review the pamphlet
“Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.”**

There were 2 recommendations arising from this topic

- They both originated from Area 61**

1. Consider a request regarding contribution percentages to service entities.

The committee recommended the addition of a watermark to the 2nd and 3rd pie charts with the word "SAMPLE" on page 13 of the pamphlet, "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix."

VOTE: YES 127 NO 3 98% (87)

2. The committee recommended adding the following language to the pamphlet “Self- Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” as follows:

- On page 7 after the bulleted section entitled “A.A.’s General Service Office”:**

Please note that not all areas, districts, intergroups and central offices follow these divisions of service for institutions work, cooperation with the professional community, public information, etc. Therefore, prior to making contributions in your area, please find out which entity is providing these services and allocate your contributions accordingly.

(Part 1 of 2 parts for this recommendation; Part 2 on next slide)

On page 13 after the pie chart examples and before the question, “Where should I send contributions?”

Duties of the entities notated above are described on page 7 of this pamphlet. Performance of these service duties vary from area to area. Please be sure to inquire which services these entities provide in YOUR area and contribute accordingly.

VOTE: YES 110 NO 19 85% (86)

A deep blue, starry night sky with a prominent white star in the lower-left quadrant. The text is centered in white, bold font.

Pray like it depends on God.

Work like it depends on you.



FAST BOIL

A background image of a starry night sky with a prominent white word 'TRUSTEES' centered in the middle. The sky is dark blue with numerous small white stars and a faint, glowing band of light, possibly representing the Milky Way galaxy, stretching across the upper portion of the frame. A single, bright star is visible in the lower-left quadrant.

TRUSTEES

1. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.

The committee recommended the following slate of trustees of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 24, 2021 following presentation at the 2021 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Class A Trustees

Class B Trustees

VOTE: YES 127 NO 2 98% (86)

2. The committee recommended the following slate of officers of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 24, 2021 following presentation at the 2021 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Chairperson
First Vice-Chairperson
Second Vice-Chairperson
Treasurer
Secretary
Assistant Treasurer
Assistant Secretary

VOTE: YES 130 NO 0 (87)

3. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.

VOTE: YES 130 NO 0 (87)

4. Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.

VOTE: YES 126 NO 2 98% (86)

5. Review the Statement of Concern and motion to censure the General Service Board.

The committee recommended that the General Service Conference charge the General Service Board with the setup of quarterly virtual meetings of Conference Members, to begin following the October 2021 General Service Board Weekend. These meetings would follow several weeks after each Quarterly Board Meeting, to allow Conference Members the opportunity to request additional information, ask clarifying questions, and to secure a greater sense of transparency.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT: YES 45 NO 84 35% (86)

VOTE: YES 68 NO 62 52% (87)

A deep blue, starry night sky with a prominent white star in the lower-left quadrant. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

Love isn't a feeling.

Love is an action.

REPORT & CHARTER

1. Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.).

The committee recommended that the compilation and printing of the A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.) be discontinued.

VOTE: YES 108 NO 22 83% (87)

2. Review the draft of The A.A. Service Manual and the Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2021-2023 Edition.

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.

VOTE: YES 130 NO 0 (87)

3. Consider a request to amend paragraph one, the Purpose of the current Conference Charter.

The committee recommended that paragraph one, the Purpose statement of the Current Conference Charter, found in the Appendices of The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, which currently reads:

Purpose: The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of world services and of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Conference shall be a service body only; never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous.

Be amended to read:

Purpose: The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of world services and of the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Conference shall be a service body only; never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous.

VOTE: YES 96 NO 32 75% (86)

4. Consider a request to revise Concept Eleven essay of The Twelve Concepts for World Service.

The committee recommended that a new section be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled "Amendments," and that it contain an updated version of the Concept XI essay that incorporates the information in the current footnotes and endnotes, along with comprehensive descriptions of the current General Service Board committees, and that a draft or progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

VOTE: YES 101 NO 28 78% (86)

Sponsees are like a drink.

**I always feel like I have one less
than I need.**

A deep blue, starry night sky with the Milky Way galaxy visible in the background. The stars are scattered across the field, with a prominent bright star in the lower-left quadrant. The text 'GRAPEVINE' is centered in the middle of the image.

GRAPEVINE

1. Review progress report on development of an Instagram account.

The committee recommended that the AA Grapevine Board implement an Instagram account and requested that a report on the Instagram account be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Vina.

VOTE: YES 126 NO 6 95% (88)

- The committee considered gender-neutral language options for possible changes to the A.A. Preamble and took no action. The committee felt they needed more information to make a decision.
- The committee requested that the Grapevine Board gather additional shared experience from the Fellowship related to the topic of gender-neutral language options for the A.A. Preamble, and bring back the results to the 2022 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Vina.



A deep blue, starry night sky with the Milky Way galaxy visible in the background. The stars are scattered across the field, with a prominent bright star in the lower-left quadrant. The word "LITERATURE" is centered in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

LITERATURE

1. Review proposed "A.A.W.S. Policy on Conversion of Written Conference-approved Literature and Service Material into Video Format."

The committee recommended that the "A.A.W.S. Policy on Conversion of Written Conference-approved Literature and Service Material into Video Format," approved by the A.A. World Services, Inc. Board of Directors in January 2020, be acknowledged and accepted by the General Service Conference.

VOTE: YES 120 NO 7 94% (85)

2. Consider proposals related to possible Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous: Develop a Fifth Edition.

The committee recommended 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.

MOTION TO TABLE: YES 38 NO 92 29% (87)

VOTE: YES 97 NO 31 76% (86) (RECONSIDER 51-78)

3. Consider proposals related to possible Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous: Develop a Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous with updated stories and revisions to Appendices III and V.

The committee recommended 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.

VOTE: YES 121 NO 9 93% (87)

4. Consider requests to revise the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*: To remove the phrase "opposite sex" from paragraph two on page 117 in the chapter "Step Twelve."

The committee recommended 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:

The text on page 117 which currently reads:

"Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex 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 "

Be revised to read:

"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 "

VOTE: YES 112 NO 19 85% (88)

5. Consider requests to revise the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*: To reconsider use of the phrase "lustful enough to rape" in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter "Step Six."

The committee recommended 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:

The text on page 66 which currently reads:

"No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health."

Be revised to read:

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

AMENDMENT: YES 36 NO 92 28%

RECOMMIT: YES 77 NO 54 59%

VOTE: YES 69 NO 61 53%

RECONSIDER: YES 80 NO 50 62%

VOTE: YES 88 NO 41 68%

6. Consider requests to revise text related to open meetings in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group."

The committee recommended that the pamphlet, "The A.A. Group... Where it All Begins," be revised to omit the line on page 13, "Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers," as follows:

The paragraphs on page 13 currently read:

Closed meetings are for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and "have a desire to stop drinking."

Open meetings are available to anyone interested in Alcoholics Anonymous' program of recovery from alcoholism. Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers.

Be revised to read:

Closed meetings are for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and "have a desire to stop drinking."

Open meetings are available to anyone interested in Alcoholics Anonymous' program of recovery from alcoholism.

VOTE: YES 60 NO 71 46%

7. Consider updating the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic."

The committee recommended that the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic" be updated to include fresh stories and a new title that is respectful and inclusive and that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

VOTE: YES 126 NO 1 99%

8. "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" pamphlet: Discuss draft update of the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated."

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

VOTE: YES 122 NO 7 95%

9. "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" pamphlet: Consider not retiring the existing version of the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated."

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

The committee noted that the draft updated version of the pamphlet, pending its approval, is well-suited for an introduction to the Traditions, and the existing version is helpful for more in-depth consideration of the Traditions.

VOTE: YES 109 NO 20 84%

10. Consider adding the Long Form of each Tradition at the beginning of each essay for that Tradition in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

The committee recommended that the Long Form of each Tradition be included at the end of each essay for that Tradition in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, and that the complete set of Traditions at the back of the book be retained as is.

VOTE: YES 53 NO 77 41%

RECONSIDER: YES 87 NO 42 67%

VOTE: YES 119 NO 12 91%

11. Consider development of a draft Fourth Edition of the book *Alcoholicos Anonimos*.

The committee recommended that a Fourth Edition of the book, *Alcoholicos Anonimos*, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership, and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

VOTE: YES 128 NO 2 98%

12. Consider request to revise text related to self-support in the pamphlet "Frequently Asked Questions About A.A."

The committee recommended 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:

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."

VOTE: YES 121 NO 8 94%

13. Consider revising the pamphlet "Questions & Answers on Sponsorship": Change the suggestion that sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex.

The committee recommended that the paragraph containing the suggestion that sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex on page 12 in the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be revised as follows:

The paragraph on page 12 currently reads:

In most instances, A.A. custom does suggest one limitation, already noted on page 10: If the group is large enough to allow a choice, sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex. The reasons are the same from both viewpoints; we A.A. members, no matter how long we have been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from "our primary purpose."

Be revised to read:

A.A. custom does suggest one limitation: sponsorship should be avoided whenever a romantic entanglement might arise between sponsor and sponsee. We A.A. members, no matter how long we have been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from "our primary purpose."

AMENDMENT – 'ROMANTIC' TO 'SEXUAL' YES 26 NO 101 20%

RECOMMIT: YES 47 NO 79 37%

VOTE: YES 118 NO 10 92%

14. Review the draft of the new pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women in A.A.

The committee recommended that the draft pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women in A.A. be approved.

VOTE: YES 129 NO 2 98%

15. Consider if proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, can be addressed with a common solution.

The committee recommended 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 and that a progress report or draft be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

RECOMMIT: YES 12 NO 119 9%

VOTE: YES 110 NO 19 85%

RECONSIDER: YES 27 NO 103 21%



GOD

SERENITY

COURAGE

WISDOM

AGENDA

1. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2022 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended the following theme for the 2022 General Service Conference:

"A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service

VOTE: YES 122 NO 4 97%

2. Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2022 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended the following presentation/discussion topics for the 2022 General Service Conference:

1. How do A.A.s go to any lengths to Recover, Unify, and Serve?
2. Going Beyond Fear
3. How to Reach Anyone, Anywhere

VOTE: YES 121 NO 2 98%

3. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2022 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended the following workshop topic for the 2022 General Service Conference:

The Warranties - Our Promise to the Fellowship and the World

VOTE: YES 121 NO 2 98%

**You know why we're all here
together?**

**Because God knows what He's
doing.**



POLICY AND ADMISSIONS

1. Review the floor action process.

The committee recommended that the procedure for floor actions which is currently as follows:

When a floor action is to be heard, its maker will be given two (2) minutes to state the rationale behind the action, after which the chair shall ask if there is a motion that the Conference decline to consider the floor action. A motion to decline to hear a floor action:

- Must be made without comment
- Requires a second
- Is not debatable
- Requires a two-thirds majority

Be changed to:

When a floor action is to be heard, its maker will be given two (2) minutes to state the rationale behind the action, after which the chair shall ask if there is a motion that the Conference consider the floor action. A motion to hear a floor action:

- Must be made without comment
- Requires a second
- Is not debatable
- Requires a simple majority

VOTE: YES 67 NO 63 52%

2. Consider revising the process for polling the General Service Conference between annual meetings to make use of virtual meeting technologies.

The committee recommended that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee make use of virtual meeting technologies to develop a process for polling the General Service Conference between annual meetings, in order to enable real-time discussion and debate, broad participation, and greater efficiency than the current process.

VOTE: YES 120 NO 11 92%

3. Discuss the revised proposed process for equitable distribution of workload.

The committee recommended that the Equitable Distribution of Workload Process, as detailed in the Report from the 2020 trustees' General Service Conference Committee, be implemented for the 72nd General Service Conference 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.

VOTE: YES 110 NO 18 86%

4. Consider requests regarding participation of online groups in the General Service structure.

The committee recommended that the U.S./Canada General Service Structure recognize online groups 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."

FIRST VOTE: YES 85 NO 46 65%

RECONSIDER: YES 106 NO 22

VOTE: YES 107 NO 22 83%

5. Consider requests regarding participation of online groups in the General Service structure.

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

VOTE: YES 125 NO 5 96%

A deep blue, starry night sky with the Milky Way galaxy visible as a faint, glowing band of light across the center. The stars are numerous and vary in brightness, creating a rich, textured background. The word "ARCHIVES" is centered in the middle of the image in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

ARCHIVES



**INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION
AND
REGIONAL FORUMS**

FLOOR ACTIONS

It was recommended that:

1. The A.A. Preamble be changed from:

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. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

To:

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. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Motion to Decline Y 61 (47%) N 69 (53%)

Motion to Table Y 48 (38%) N 78 (62%)

Vote Y 93 (76%) N 29 (24%)

Reconsider Y 58 (46%) N 68 (54%)

2. The first sentence of the A.A. Preamble be revised with gender-neutral language by replacing the words “men and women” with the word “people” to read:

“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.”

Motion to Decline: Y 82 (65%) N 45 (35%)

Vote: Y 90 (70%) N 38 (30%)

Reconsider: Y 38 (30%) N 90 (70%)

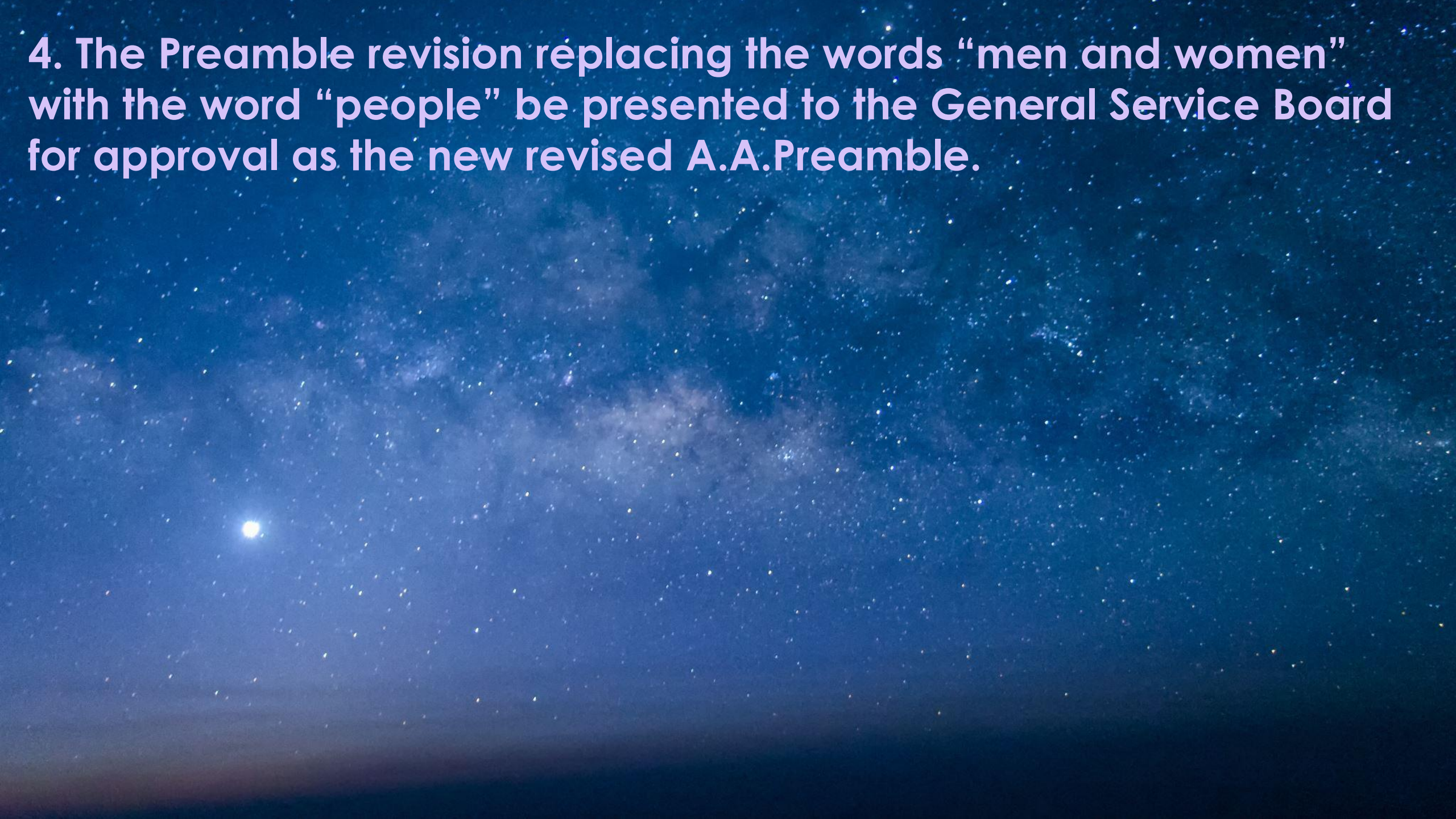
“We now have three Preambles.”

3. 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.

Motion to Decline: Y 45 (35%) N 84 (65%)

Vote: Y 125 N 0 Unanimous

4. 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.



Motion to Decline: Y 59 (46%) N 70 (54%)

Vote: Y 85 (66%) N 43 (34%)

Reconsider: Y 77 (60%) N 51 (40%)

Call the Question: Y 98 (85%) N 17 (15%)

Final Vote: Y 90 (69%) N 40 (31%)

A dark blue night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The text is centered in white.

God doesn't call the qualified.

God qualifies the called.

Sat 4/17
71st GSC

Dear Dad,
Thanks for Steve the Delegate.
Love Your Friend,
Aislin

71st GSC

DAY 1 - WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

WHERE'S MY BUDDY?
HOPE THEY PRONOUNCE MY LAST NAME RIGHT THIS YEAR!
I BET THEY'RE WEARING FIP FLOPS OR SLIPPERS
SHOULD I ANSWER 'HERE' OR 'PRESENT' DURING ROLL CALL?
CAN THEY SEE MY NERD PIN?
I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN A NAP

Monday
71st GSC

DAY 2

Steve -
A lot of Area is behind you.
Beyond the Serenity and R&C Committee meetings, we know your heart and spirit will also guide your sharing at the TAC caucus.
Gratefully,
Aislin

Tuesday
71st GSC

DAY 3

Steve -
You are exactly where you belong!!!
Gratefully,
Aislin

Wednesday
71st GSC

DAY 4

Steve
Keep hydrating and stretching.
No microwave hotdogs.
Gratefully,
Aislin

Thursday
71st GSC

DAY 5

Steve -
I bet you're tired. So many thanks for all the preparation and willingness.
Gratefully,
Aislin

Friday
71st GSC

DAY 6

Steve,
Keep on walking; you got this. My favorite tool is "pray like a bastard."
Gratefully,
Aislin

Saturday
71st GSC

DAY 7

Steve -
Home stretch! A few more meetings and you'll be home for dinner with the family.
I know with certainty that you served Area 1st and AA as a whole with everything you had. Well done!
Gratefully,
Aislin

2020 – 17 Recommendations
16 Passed

2021 – 49 Recommendations
46 Passed



1:45 AM

WE DID IT!!!



**Panel 70 & 71
Reunion Room in
Vancouver 2025**

2:14 AM

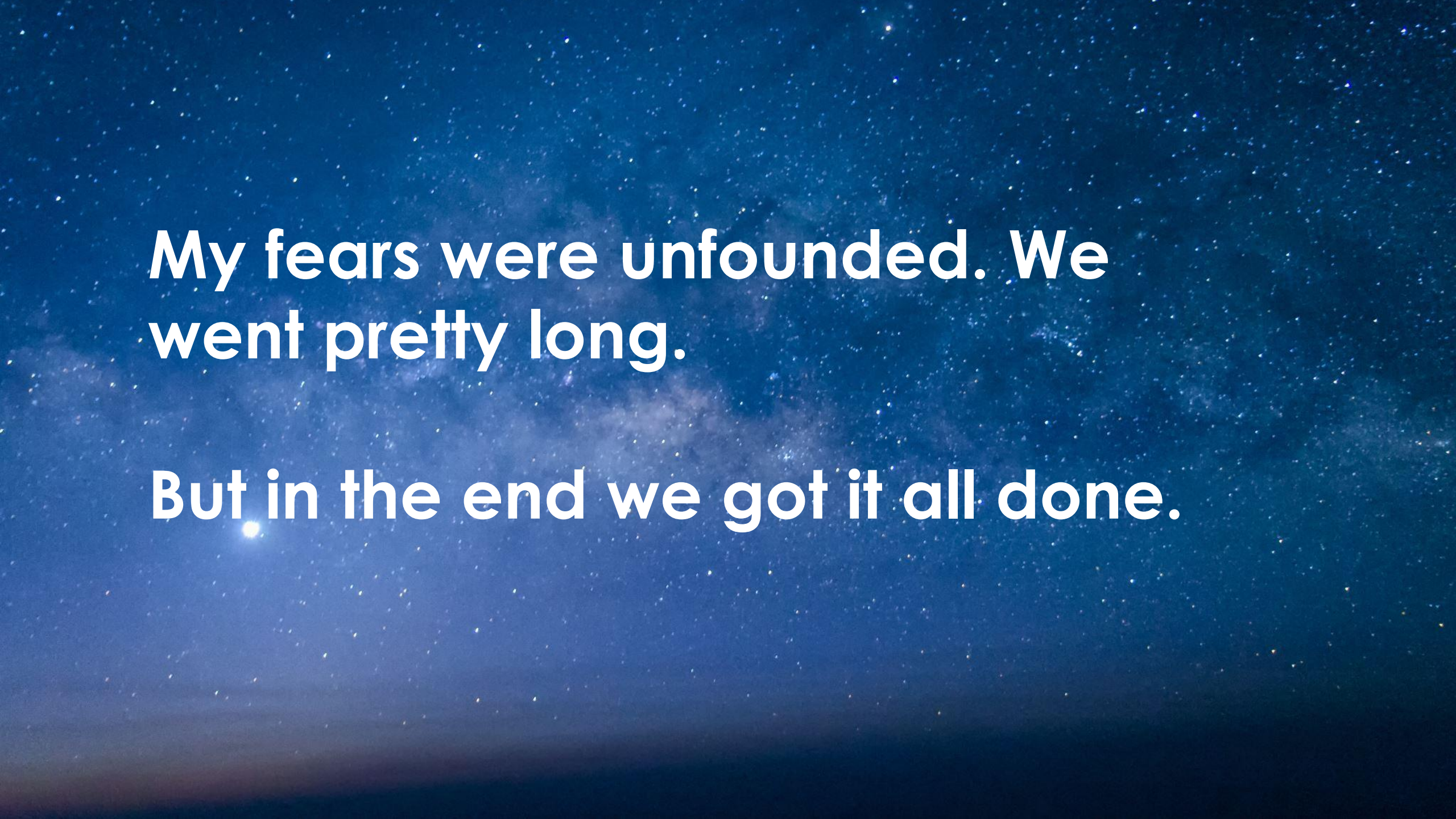
**“Ladies &
Gentlemen, um,
People, we are
adjourned.”**

**When the last one was over, I
kept a brave face,**

But inside I felt pretty lame.

**And with another Virtual General
Service Conference this year,**

I hoped for not more of the same.



**My fears were unfounded. We
went pretty long.**

But in the end we got it all done.

**With tears in my eyes and my head
held high,**

I'm so grateful to Area 61.

**You've let me experience a
life-changing process,**

**and something has awakened
inside.**

**From a broken-down drunk, to a
member of the Conference**

**with great, important issues to
decide.**



**So thanks to you all as this
comes to a close,**

**I can say that I've now
understood**

**How a drunk, broken man can
find his life's purpose**

**with the help of a God who is
good.**

**72nd General Service
Conference**

April 24-30, 2022

Brooklyn Bridge Marriott