

# GSR News

## Coffee Hour Recap

March 2023

*I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,  
I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.*



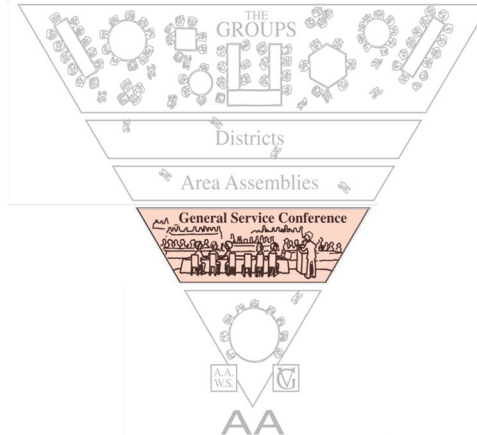
### The Annual General Service Conference

Toward the end of Dr. Bob's life and as Bill W. grew older, it became apparent that Alcoholics Anonymous would need to replace its leadership of "old-timers" with some kind of leadership structure independent of specific individuals.

In the late 1940's, Bill and Bob began to develop the General Service Conference of A.A. with the blessing of the trustees. As we have discussed before, the word "conference" refers both to the structure of our organization as well as the week-long event which takes place in April each year.

Bill got to work developing the structure the Conference which would eventually be authorized to act for Alcoholics Anonymous in 1955.

The first General Service Conference (gathering) was held in New York City as a chance for delegates



from across the country to visit our General Service Office and examine the services it provided and the funding which supported it. Bill's "A.A.'s Legacy of Service" can be found in Appendix A of The A.A. Service manual and is a great brief record of A.A.'s history from its beginning to 1951.



A.A. International Convention. St. Louis, MO 1955

### Upcoming Topics

- **Area Committees** What are they and how can you or your group get involved?
- **The 7th Tradition** Where does the money come from for service and who decides how it is spent?

### Special points of interest:

- History of the Annual General Service Conference
- What is an agenda item?
- Preparing our Delegate for the General Service Conference
- **Next Coffee Hour**

April 3, 7 pm

819 8956 5200

Password: service

### Resources:

- [Area50WNY.org](http://Area50WNY.org)
- [AA.org](http://AA.org)
- [Service Manual](#)
- [Buffalo Intergroup](http://BuffaloIntergroup.org)  
[BuffaloAAAny.org](http://BuffaloAAAny.org)
- [Gen-Wyoming](http://Gen-Wyoming.org)  
[geneseewyomingcountyaa.org](http://geneseewyomingcountyaa.org)
- [Niagara Falls Intergroup](http://NiagaraFallsIntergroup.org)  
[niagarafallsnyaaameetings.com](http://niagarafallsnyaaameetings.com)
- [NY-PENN Intergroup](#)

### Next General Assembly:

**Saturday April 1st,**

**10 am- 2 pm**

**Hosted by NY-PENN**

**St. John's School**

**921 Union Street**

**Olean, NY 14760**

## What is an Agenda item??

Many members are attracted to the controversial topics of making changes to our literature, but agenda items cover many topics which affect A.A. as a whole.

An agenda item can come from any AA member but it is usually an issue which has been discussed by a district or area and submitted to the General Service Board for review.




Once the A.A. staff considers the item in past actions, it submits it to the appropriate Conference Committee for review. When the Conference Committee settles on a number of items they feel should be considered by the Conference, these become the final agenda items. These final items are distributed to the areas through the Area Delegate.

The delegate then passed this agenda along to the membership through the GSR.

## Preparing your group for the General Service Conference

The group conscience benefits from members who are informed. You may want to start with the **“73<sup>rd</sup> GSC Summary 2.24.23”** Word Document. This document contains the background material on each agenda item including who submitted the item and why, as well as information pertaining to the item itself.

Our delegate and the alternate delegate have put a great deal of time and examination into selecting a few of the agenda items they feel are likely to make it to the floor for a vote at the conference. These items are designated by this icon: 

Please feel free to divide items up among group members and have each willing member present a summary to the group for vote. Or your group may choose just one item and dig into the background material as a group. For example, if the agenda item refers to a pamphlet, please read the pamphlet for clarification.

Any way your group chooses to participate is welcomed. The more informed voices our delegate collects, the more her decision will represent our area when she reaches the Conference to vote.

Encourage all members to attend any of the March Agenda Week sessions for clarification and more

Conference Committee: Cooperation with the Professional Community D	
Agenda Item:	Consider retiring the pamphlet "A Member's-Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous."
Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?	The committee discussed the pamphlet "A Member's-Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous" and noted some concerns on the relevancy and usefulness of this pamphlet as a C.P.C. tool to communicate to professionals about A.A. The committee noted that some of the text could be offensive to those of varying abilities and may lead to an appearance of A.A. aligning with a specific religious doctrine. The committee agreed to forward a suggestion to the 2023 Conference committee on C.P.C. to discuss retiring this pamphlet.
What your group might consider:	Review pamphlet and excerpts in background (links below). Does your group support retiring this pamphlet? Why or why not?
Access to pamphlet:	<a href="https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-41_amberseyeyi_ewofaa.pdf">https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/p-41_amberseyeyi_ewofaa.pdf</a>
Access the full background for this item:	<a href="https://area50wny.org/wp-content/uploads/IL_2023_GSC_CPC_AgendaBackground_EN.pdf#page=22">https://area50wny.org/wp-content/uploads/IL_2023_GSC_CPC_AgendaBackground_EN.pdf#page=22</a>

information on these items. Our delegate and alternate delegate will be available in an online meeting March 27, 28, 29, 30 (Meeting ID: 847 154 8048, Passcode: area50) to answer questions and discuss the items.

Please attend the **April 1st General Service Assembly** in Olean hosted by the NY-PENN Inter-group. All members are welcome. Individuals will be presenting on many of the agenda items which Denise and Steve would like feedback on.

The last step is to have your home group's GSR fill out the Delegate's Questionnaire online. You will receive the questionnaire by email only. If you would like to receive it, make sure our Corresponding secretary Sandy **p72corsecr@Area50WNY.org** has your email address.

### Important Dates:

**NOW**—Review the **“73<sup>rd</sup> GSC Summary 2.24.23”**

**March 27,28,29,30**—Agenda Week online meetings 7 pm

Meeting ID: 847 154 8048 Passcode: area50

**April 1**—Area 50 General Service Assembly 10-2 pm

St. John's School 921 Union Street Olean, NY 14760

**April 18**—Deadline to submit the Delegate's Questionnaire

### Sources:

*A.A. World Service Manual*

*Minutes from the Monthly Virtual Coffee Hour*

### CONTACT ME:

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**P72GSREducation@Area50WNY.org**

**A Declaration of Unity** This we owe to A.A.'s future: to place our common welfare first; to keep our fellowship united. For on A.A. Unity depends our lives, and the lives of those to come