

**2021 Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference**  
**Selected Agenda Item Summaries**

Below are brief summaries of Agenda Items that may be of interest.

**(1) Consider Suggested Changes to the “Pie Chart” on Page 12 of “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” (Agenda Item Nos. IV(A)(1) & (2)).**

On page 12 of the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix,” there are pie charts which serve as samples of group contributions to the various service entities.

Although the pamphlet does state that contributions are to be determined by each group, it proceeds to provide the following “sample” contribution splits:

**Groups with an Intergroup or Central Office**

10% to District  
10% to Area  
30% to GSO  
50% to Intergroup or Central Office

**Groups with NO Intergroup or Central Office**

40% to District  
30% to Area  
30% to GSO

There are several proposals concerning these pie charts, including the following:

i. Proposal from CNIA, Area 07:

The first proposal comes from our own Area Delegate, Tom A., who sits as the Alternate Chair of the Conference Finance Committee. Area 07’s proposal is to more clearly indicate that the percentages displayed in the pamphlet are merely samples, and are in no way meant to imply the endorsement or imprimatur of the General Service Conference.

ii. Proposal made by Area 61, Rhode Island:

The second proposal is made by Area 61 of Rhode Island.

Area 61 proposes that the “sample” pie charts be eliminated and, in their place, the following text be added:

“Duties of the entities notated above area 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.”

The proposal is based on the sentiment that the “sample” pie charts appear to sanction or approve a specific percentage of “splits.” The proposal notes that the services offered by the respective service entities vary widely from district to district and area to area. The proposal submits that each group needs to determine the services provided in its locality, and to determine percentages based upon its group conscience.

This proposal would eliminate all “sample percentages” from the page in question.

**(2) Request to Reconsider Rule Against Contributions from Clubs (Agenda Item No. IV(C)).**

In 1972, the General Service Conference took an Action stating “G.S.O. should not accept contributions from clubs, listed or known as such, whether or not composed solely of A.A. members. Contributions are welcome from groups meeting in clubs as long as they are sent in the name of the group.”

District 21 of Northern Illinois Area 20 made this proposal. It appears that the District is requesting that clubs be surveyed to determine whether any of them segregate AA funds from other sources of club revenue.

**(3) Presentation of “Warranty Two Consideration” (Agenda Item No. IV(D)).**

The core request of Area 40 (Montana) is that the Conference “Consider the relevance and applicability of the passage in the essay portion of Concept Twelve, Warranty Two, (A.A. Service Manual, p. 65) which states that neither the groups nor AA as a whole should function as a ‘money charity’ via the practice of ‘selling our books at cost or less.’”

Specifically, Area 40 questions whether A.A.’s current practices in connection with the Pink Can Fund and the Carry the Message Project are consistent with the viewpoints expressed in Bill W.’s essay on Warranty Two.

**(4) Consider Proposals Related to a Possible Fifth Edition of the Big Book (Agenda Item No. VI (M)).** This agenda item consists of the following three proposals:

- (i) consider development of a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*;
- (ii) consider developing a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* with updated stories and revisions to Appendices III and V;
- (iii) consider a proposed addendum to a Fifth Edition foreword of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* at the time it is published.

The reasons for the requests for a proposed Fifth Edition include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The Editions of *Alcoholics Anonymous* have been published in somewhat regular intervals:
  - First Edition in 1939
  - Second Edition 16 years later in 1955
  - Third Edition 21 years later in 1976
  - Fourth Edition 25 years later in 2001
  
- An updated stories section might better reflect the experience of the current generations, thus allowing more people to identify. The proposal to update the stories section emphasizes adding stories, and not necessarily removing any stories.
  
- Appendix III (“The Medical View on A.A.”) could be revised to include language similar to that included in other A.A. literature, such as the pamphlet “The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs.” In addition, Appendix III references a pamphlet that is now out of print – “Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.”
  
- Appendix V includes only the perspectives of Catholic and Episcopalian faiths. The perspectives of many other faiths could be included.
  
- One proposal requests that an addendum be added emphasizing that, despite the Big Book’s language, which tends to give the impression that alcoholics are males, “alcoholism makes no distinction regarding age, ethnicity, nationality, economic status, or gender orientation,” and neither does A.A.

**(5) 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 (Agenda Item No. VI(U)).**

Apparently, much of the discussion on this very broad and diverse collection of issues has centered around a certain video previously presented to the General Service Conference, but not currently available for public viewing. A pdf. powerpoint version of the presentation (put together by the relevant Trustees’ subcommittee) is included in the background materials, at pdf. page 781 (Document No. 14 for this item). The Presentation is entitled “The Big Book: Researching Issues, Possible Tools and Access.”

The background materials for this single item range from pdf. pages 703 through 830. Perhaps the most relevant recent discussion can be found at pdf. p. 813 (Document No. 17 for this item). This is an 18-page report from the Trustees’ Subcommittee on this issue.