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AA GRAPEVINE & LA VIÑA

AGENDA

Conference Committee on Grapevine & La Viña

Monday, April 25, 2022 - 9:00 a.m. - noon Room TBD

Chairperson: Kris H. Secretary: Karina C.

Conference Committee Members

Panel71 Tim B. Kris H.* Jody K Sheryl T.** Panel72
Katie B.
Tammie E.
Amber N.
Normand P.
Pablo R.

- Discussion and acceptance of AA Grapevine chair report.
- A Review progress report on AA Grapevine Workbook Revisions.
- B. Review Progress report on the Grapevine and La Viña Instagram accounts
- C. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2023 or later.
- D. Discuss the wide-ranging impact the AA Preamble change has had on our Fellowship.

NOTE: 1989 Conference Advisory Action

Each Conference Committee carefully consider their agenda items and strive to make their recommendations for Advisory Actions to the Conference at the policy level. To be more financially responsible, when a Conference Committee recommendation involves a substantial expenditure of money, an estimate of cost and its impact on the budget be part of that recommendation.

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^{*} chairperson

^{*&}quot; alternate chairperson

AGENDA

Conference Committee on Grapevine & La Viña Tuesday, April 26, 2022 - 9:00 a.m. - noon Room TBD

- A Review report of first meeting.
- B. Old business.
- C. New business.
- D. Election of chairperson.*

*Election of chairperson

- 1. All Panel 72 members are eligible.
- 2 All committee members vote by written ballot (no verbal nominations).
- 3. Election by plurality. Second place becomes alternate chairperson.
- 4. New chairperson serves one year beginning at the close of the Conference.

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2022 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña

ITEM A: Review progress report on AA Grapevine Workbook revisions.

Background notes:

From 2021 Additional Committee Considerations:

The committee reviewed the progress report on AA Grapevine Workbook revisions and suggested adding additional information on ways to use AA Grapevine resources as Twelfth Step tools, availability of books, pricing, ways Canadian members can more easily participate, and new multimedia platforms.

From 2019 Additional Committee Considerations:

The committee reviewed the progress report on the AA Grapevine Workbook revisions and looks forward to reviewing a progress report or draft at the next Conference. The committee also forwarded suggestions to the Grapevine office including expanding shared experience and how to use GV/LV as a recovery tool.

From 2018 Additional Committee Considerations:

The committee reviewed the Grapevine workbook with appreciation and suggests that it undergo a comprehensive review and revision, and AA Grapevine Inc. bring back a progress report to the 2019 Conference Committee Grapevine.

Background:

- 1. 2021 Office Report
- 2 Draft Grapevine Workbook (mailed to committee members only)
- 3. Grapevine Workbook (available online at www.aagrapevine.org)

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Back to Main Agenda

GRAPEVINE Item A Doc. 1

2022 Office Report AA Grapevine Workbook

AA Grapevine Inc. management contracted a freelancer, who is also familiar with the Grapevine service structure, to help the staff rewrite and redesign the AA Grapevine workbook. The current workbook's content was revised to add helpful, attractive graphics and expand on shared experience about ways to use Grapevine and La Viña as a recovery tool.

In addition, the workbook was streamlined to make it easier to use. Most of the historical copy and forms have been removed and will be available separately on the aagrapevine.org website. Also, the new workbook includes many links which will connect members to the latest information on the GV website to prevent the need for constant updating and revising.

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2022 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña

ITEM B: Review progress report on the Grapevine and La Viña Instagram accounts.

Background notes:

From 2021 Advisory Actions:

The committee <u>recommended</u> 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 Viña.

From 2020 Advisory Actions:

The committee discussed a request for AA Grapevine, Inc. to establish an Instagram account in line with the Twelve Traditions and encouraged them to continue with their planning. The committee suggested that the Grapevine Board provide additional information on implementation, anonymity, security, affiliation, outside contributions, privacy and promotion and bring a progress report back to the 71st General Service Conference.

From 2018 Additional Committee Considerations:

The committee reviewed the 2018 Grapevine social media report regarding Instagram, Facebook, and Google for Nonprofits and suggests that A.A. Grapevine, Inc. continue to explore social media strategy in their forthcoming strategic plan, taking into account issues regarding anonymity, security, affiliation, outside contributions and privacy and promotion.

Background:

1. 2022 Instagram progress report

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Back to Main Agenda

GRAPEVINE ITEM B Doc. 1



- @alcoholicsanonymous_gv
- @alcoholicosanonimos_lv



- Following the 2021 General Service Conference action, AA Grapevine, Inc. started Instagram accounts for both the AA Grapevine and AA La Vina magazines.
- We launched on July 7, 2021, posting a Daily Quote each morning, and additional posts each week including new magazine issues releases, new book announcements, and inspiration from both AA pioneers and today's members.



- Our goal for the Instagram accounts is tohelp members stay connected to Grapevine and La Vina, and to AA as a whole, by finding inspiration and information when engaging with this social media platform. We also hope to attract those who might benefit by learning more about Alcoholics Anonymous.
- We strive to adhere to the Twelve Traditions, especially by aiming for attraction rather than promotion and keeping posts anonymous by barring full-face photos.

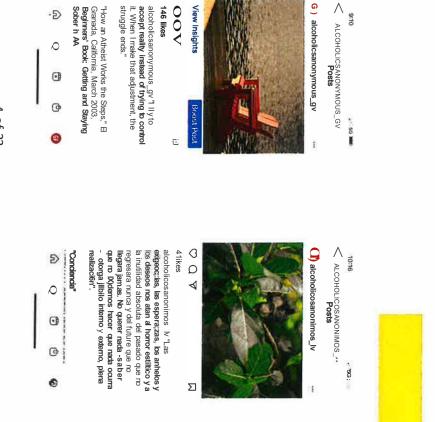
Types of posts

9:10



146 likes

Every day



4 of 23

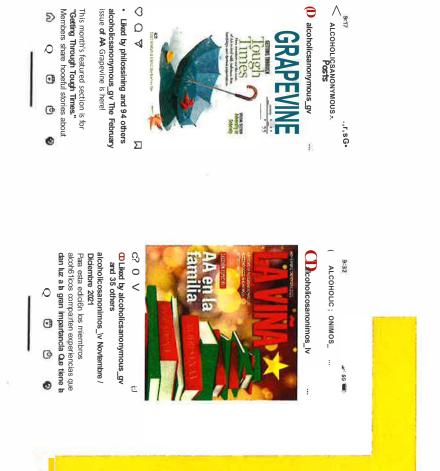
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GV & LV Book Information

Twice per month



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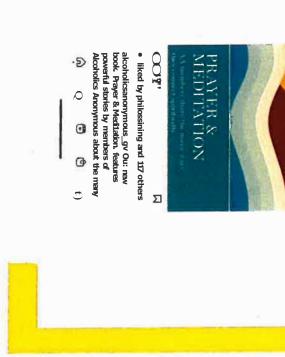
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New Books

Upon release

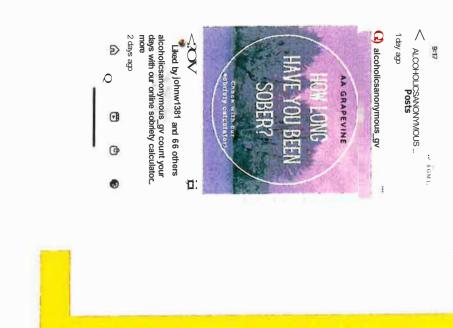


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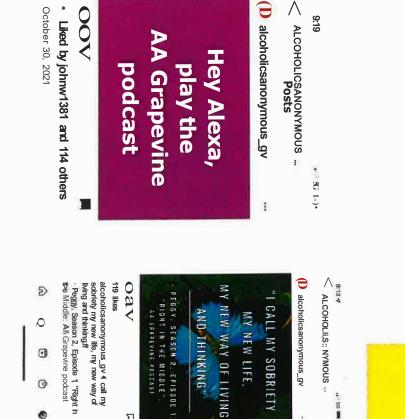
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alcoholicosanonimos_lv Manuel R - B

durrniendo en las parques, Manuel se convierte en una persona indeseable dentro de la sociedad; creia que su mensaje a otros alcoh61icos. el, y le regala el privilegio de llevar el Borracho todos las dias y hasta Peder Superior tenia otros planes para destino era morir borracho, pero su

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Short Member Story Videos

Occasional

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AAWS Website Relaunch





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36likes the AA Grapevine newsletter for the with Grapevine, and more: hllps://billy/ latest updates, new magazine issues & alcoholicsanonymous_gv Subscribe to

When released

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AA Events

As they happen

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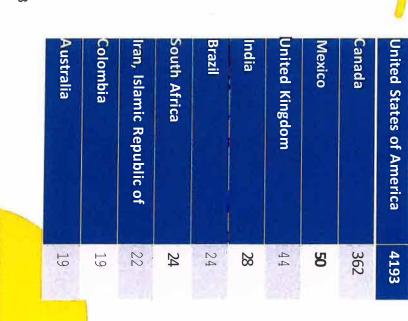
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- Reach: 130,956 the total number of people posts have reached in the past 90 days.
- Audience: 5,965 number of followers
- Audience Growth: 8.21% follower growth rate over the past 90 days.



Followers by Country (top 10)



Followers by City (top 10)



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Grapevine follower age ranges

• 25-34 = 15%

•35-44 = **23**%

•45-54 = **24**%

-55-64 = 21%

Grapevine follower gender

Male: 33.91%

Female: 56.71%

Unidentified: 9.38%

La Vina Analytics

- Reach 15,007 The number of people who have seen LV posts in the past 90
- Audience 658 The number of followers.
- Audience Growth+ 6.82% The percent change in followers over past ninety

La Viña Followers by Country (top 10)

USA	341
Mexico	96
Colombia	16
Argentina	16
Puerto Rico	15
Spain	13
Canada	12
Brazil	9
Ecuador	9
E Salvador	7

La Viña Followers by City (top 10)

Santa Ana, CA 6	Bogota, Distrito Especial 6	Fresno, CA 6	SanJuan,SanJuan	Ameca, Jalisco 10	Los Angeles, CA 10	San Jose, CA 11	Guadalajara, Jalisco	New York, NY 13	Mexico City, Distrito Federal
	6		7	*			13		:ral 19

La Viña Follower age ranges

$$25-34 = 21\%$$

$$35-44 = 24\%$$

$$45-54 = 21\%$$

La Viña follower gender

Male: 55%

Female: 34.97%

Unidentified: 10.02%

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2022 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña

ITEM C: Consider the list of suggested AA Grapevine book topics for 2023 or later.

Background notes:

From 2002 Advisory Actions:

It was unanimously <u>recommended</u> that the Conference Committee on the Grapevine annually review a list of proposed related items at least one year in advance of possible production, so that the Conference might provide guidance, recognizing that the committee may request more than one year to review some proposed items.

From 1992 Advisory Actions:

The committee recommended acceptance of the following proposal from the Grapevine Corporate Board:

In order to achieve some uniformity of procedure and to gain desired Conference input to Grapevine special items, yet not to compromise the Grapevine Corporate Board's "right of decision" to manage the fiscal affairs of the Grapevine, let it be proposed that:

Based on the positive model of mutual Conference and Board involvement in the production of The Language of the Heart, the Grapevine Corporate Board offer to the Conference Grapevine Committee on an ongoing basis, a general list of proposed special items at least two years in advance of possible production, in order that the Conference should offer any guidance or register any disapproval they might have. Having so presented the conceptual basis of these special Items to the Conference Committee, final approval for the completed items would Rest with the Grapevine Corporate Board.

Background:

- 1. Staff Report for 2022
- 2 List of Conference approved titles for Grapevine and La Viña
- **3.** AA Grapevine Catalog (mailed to committee members; online at www.aagrapevine.org)

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Staff Report AA Grapevine Items Suggestions for production in the year 2023 or later

AAGV items are published for several reasons: first, to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous stories from members and friends of the Fellowship; and second, to help GV maintain its self-supporting status. Furthermore, GV items provide a service to the Fellowship by making Grapevine and La Viña articles available in a wide range of formats: print, audio and digital. They also introduce both magazine titles through these anthologies to those who are unfamiliar with them; and help deepen member's interest and understanding of the Steps, Traditions and history of Alcoholics Anonymous.

1.

Best of Dear Grapevine (working title)

Previously published letters from the pages of Grapevine by AA members which were printed in the magazine's letters section, Dear Grapevine.

Softcover: Approx. 120-200 pps

Projected unit cost (includes printing and design)

\$2.50 per book (10,000-piece print run)

Price: \$11.50

eBook

Estimated project cost: \$2,000.

Price: \$9.99

2

Book for Newcomers (working title)

Previously published stories by AA members sharing helpful tools and suggestions during their first year in sobriety.

Softcover: Approx. 120-200 pps

Projected unit cost (includes printing and design)

\$2.50 per book (10,000-piece print run)

Price: \$11.50

eBook

Estimated project cost: \$2,000.

Price: \$9.99

3.

Best of La Viña II (working title) (La Vina book)

Spanish-speaking AA members share their experience, strength and hope, from the pages of La Viña.

Softcover: Approx. 120-200 pps

Projected unit cost (includes printing and design)

\$2.50 per book (10,000-piece print run)

Price: \$11.50

eBook

Estimated project cost: \$2,000.

Price: \$9.99

4.

Prayer & Meditation (working title) (La Viña Book)

Previously published stories by Spanish-speaking AA members sharing about the many ways they practice Step Eleven (possibly including some translated stories from the GV version).

Softcover: Approx. 120-200 pps

Projected unit cost (includes printing and design)

\$2.50 per book (10,000-piece print run)

Price: \$11.50

eBook

Estimated project cost: \$2,000.

Price: \$9.99

As of Jan 2022

PAST APPROVED GV BOOK IDEAS (TO POSSIBLY PRODUCE):

Voices of Long-Term Sobriety 2

Accessibilities (formerly Special Needs)

Diversity in AA

Gratitude

Mid-Sobriety Crisis

How I found My Higher Power

Steps 4 & 5

Twelve Steps II

All About GV Reps (doing service with GV & LV)

AA & Families

The Early Days of AA (40s, 50s, 60s -AA's earliest days)

Getting Involved in General Service

Step 3 - Turning it Over

Steps 6 & 7 - Character Defects

AA's Twelve Concepts (Passed 2021)

The Home Group II (possibly 30^{th} Anniv edition - orig 1993 - including non in-person meetings) (Passed 2021)

APPROVED LV BOOKS:

Stories from LV Workshops

Carrying the Message into Institutions

Hispanic members Doing Service in AA

Surender & Hope

AA and Families

Oldtimers Stories

Twelve Steps

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2022 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña

ITEM D: Discuss the wide-ranging impact the Preamble change has had on our Fellowship.

Background notes:

From 2021 Floor Actions:

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.

- 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."
- 3. 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.

From 2021 Additional Committee Considerations:

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.

From 2020 Additional Committee Considerations:

The committee also discussed making suggested changes to the A.A. Preamble for gender neutral pronouns. The committee requested that the Grapevine Board consider developing examples of generalized language options and that a progress report or draft versions be brought back to the 71st General Service Conference.

Background:

- **1.** Memo from AA Grapevine Board Chair to 72nd General Service Conference members.
- 2. Preamble discussion timeline.

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AAGRAPEVINE,Inc.

GRAPEVINE Item D Doc. 1

Memo

To: General Service Conference

From: Josh E., AA Grapevine Board Chair

Re: Agenda Item for the 72 nd General Service Conference

Date: January 27, 2022

Dear Conference Members:

We wish you warm greetings from the AA Grapevine Board and hope that you are well, as we all prepare for the 2022 General Service Conference. Almost immediately following the 71 st General Service Conference, the AA Grapevine Board, the AA World Services Board and the General Service Board began receiving considerable feedback (some favorable, some unfavorable, and some simply asking for additional information) regarding the revision to *The AA Preamble (Preamble)*. We would like to share with you, in a general way, a summary of those communications to help inform healthy discussion in the Fellowship about the change, and its impact, for those who support as well as for those who oppose the change.

To be sure, the decision whether to change the *Preamble* has been the subject of an ongoing discussion that spans several years. Specifically, this topic was discussed in Groups, Districts, and Areas and was also the subject at no less than two General Service Conferences (i.e., 70th and 71st). As directed by an advisory action arising from the 71 st General Service Conference, we began replacing the words "men and women" with "people" as early as Grapevine's July 2021 issue and its translation in La Viña's July/August 2021 issue. Consistent with past practice, as new Grapevine, La Viña, and AAWS literature (and reprints) go to press, and as web pages receive updates, the language will continue to change wherever the *Preamble* appears.

Some welcome the wording "people" in lieu of "men and women." Others oppose the change. Interestingly, those who favor the original version as well as those who oppose the new Preamble cite our Traditions as the basis for their reasoning. For example, those in favor of "people" cite Tradition 1: such that AA Unity is enhanced by welcoming a// who suffer from alcoholism. Likewise, those who prefer "men and women" assert that AA Unity has been disrupted by the change.

AAGRAPEVINt1nc.

After its passage, the Grapevine Board received a number of inquiries about whether the revision negatively impacted Grapevine's editorial independence. However, it was the Grapevine Board, Publisher, and Editors who discussed this proposed change over several meetings that ultimately led to forwarding the discussion - as an agenda item - to the General Service Conference (see also the Timeline).

Those who favored the revision all along noted that, under Tradition 4, each Group is autonomous and that *their* Group enacted the change to "people" in advance of the advisory action. Not surprisingly, those who opposed the change also noted that, under Tradition 4, that *their* Group is autonomous and that they plan to continue saying "men and women." Regarding Tradition 10, some say the Preamble change is an outside issue (i.e., political, sociological, etc.) while others hold fast that it is an inside issue supported by Tradition 3 (i.e., welcoming, inclusive, etc.). But all who are in the least reasonable will agree upon one point, as a group there is more discussion required so that we can move forward, as a Fellowship, in love and unity.

Therefore, consistent with the spirit of Warranty Four, Concept XII, that "all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity," we request that the Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Vina at the 2022 General Service Conference, consider the following:

"Discuss the wide-ranging impact the AA Preamble change has had on our Fellowship."

Josh E., General Service Trustee and AA Grapevine Board Chair

Copy furnished:

AA World Services, Inc. General Service Board, Inc. Conference Coordinator

Timeline

2018

- December 2018 - The AA Grapevine Board (AAGVB or AAGV) received an initial request to revise the AA Preamble on behalf of an Area 29 home group.

2019

- January 2019 AAGV Board took no action on the original request and noted the current process being undertaken by the Trustee's Literature committee and AAWS to look at language in all AA literature. AAGV initially forwarded a request that the Preamble be included in this broader review.
- September 2019 After receiving additional requests from Area 13 and Area 49 to change the Preamble, the board resumed the conversation.
 - "Discussion of Preamble: A robust discussion took place regarding language reflecting inclusivity. The board will continue the discussion at their November 1 meeting. The board requested that a previous request to Trustees' Committee on Literature to review this matter be rescinded."
- December 2019 "Preamble discussion: The chair moderated a round table discussion regarding the many requests for changes to the Preamble. It was decided, after lengthy discussion, that the AAGVB would send the requests to the Preamble to the 70th Conference Committee on Grapevine for further discussion. The board requested further research be conducted on the Preamble's copyright status."

2020

- January 2020 Agreed to forward the following to the 2020 General Service Conference Committee on the Grapevine:
 - Revise the Preamble to use gender neutral pronouns. For example, "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other..."
 - Consider a request that our trusted servants at Grapevine Inc. change the language of the first sentence of the "A.A Preamble" as follows: "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. 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 and sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety."

February -April 2020 - Groups and Areas across the US and Canada discussed agenda items D and E from the Grapevine Conference background.

V. Grapevine

- D. Consider revising the A.A. Preamble to use gender neutral pronouns. For example, "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other..."
- E. Consider a request to change the language of the first sentence of the A.A.
 Preamble as follows: "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share..."
- April 2020 Panel 69 and 70 Delegates discussed Agenda Items D and E in the Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña at the 70th General Service Conference, as follows:
 - "The committee considered a request to change the language of the first sentence of the A.A. Preamble as follows: "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share..." and took no action."
 - "The committee also discussed making suggested changes to the A.A. Preamble for gender neutral pronouns. The committee requested that the Grapevine Board consider developing examples of generalized language options and that a progress report or draft versions be brought back to the 71st General Service Conference."
- June 2020 "The board reviewed the 70th GSC Advisory Actions and Considerations and asked management to develop some ideas regarding the Preamble item.
 Management asked the board members to send any ideas they may have to the Senior Editor who will report back in July."

- July 2020 "Revisions to Preamble: Jon W., Senior Editor, reported that he will be meeting with Publications Managing Editor to discuss their process for updating pamphlets with gender neutral language. It was also noted that groups are already changing the Preamble language. It was asked that board members forward language and ideas they may have to the Senior Editor."
- September 2020 "Preamble update: Jon W. discussed his meeting with AAWS
 Publications Director regarding the process used for updating AAWS literature to
 include gender neutrality. The board requested several options for the Preamble be
 brought back to the October board meeting."
- October 2020 "Suggested Revisions to Preamble: Jon W. presented suggested changes to the Preamble which will serve as background to the 71 st Conference Committee for AAGV and LV."

2021

- January 2021 - The board finalized the background for the 71 st General Service Conference and forwarded to the Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.

February - April 2021 - Groups and Areas across the US and Canada discussed agenda item E from the Grapevine and La Viña Conference background.

- V. Grapevine and La Viña
- E. Review Suggested gender-neutral language options for changes to the A.A. Preamble.
- -April 2021 Panel 70 and 71 Delegates discussed Agenda Item E in the Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña at the 71st General Service Conference:
- "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 Viña."

After the Grapevine Committee's report was completed, a Conference delegate submitted Floor Action #2 requesting the Preamble be changed 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."

This item passed with a 2/3 majority vote by substantial unanimity.

After this vote passed, Floor Action #3 was jointly submitted by two Conference delegates. Floor Action #3 requested the first sentence of the Preamble be revised to:

"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."

This item passed with a 2/3 majority vote by substantial unanimity.

After much discussion about the two floor actions that had just passed and which was the preferred of the two, Floor Action #6 was presented which recommended:

"The Preamble revision described in the third floor action of the 71 st GSC as the new revised A.A Preamble be presented to the General Service Board for approval."

This item passed with a 2/3 majority vote by substantial unanimity.

At its meeting, following the close of the General Service Conference, the General Service Board accepted the advisory actions of the General Service Conference and forwarded those items pertaining to the Grapevine and La Viña to the Grapevine Board.

The Grapevine Board met immediately following the Conference and discussed the implementation of the final change requested and revised the first sentence of our A.A. Preamble 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."

This Conference-approved change went into effect in all Grapevine online materials and print magazines. The change was also incorporated into AAWS' online materials and service materials. The change to our Preamble continues to be updated in all Conference-approved materials, and Grapevine books, as they go into new print runs.

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