

Western Washington Area 72

**Annual Assembly
October 6-8, 2023**

**Motions and Discussion Topic
Pre-Assembly Materials**

Purpose of the Pre-Assembly and this document

The purpose of a pre-assembly is to prepare GSRs (and through them their Groups) for the Annual Assembly. GSRs are provided the background information (this document) and answers to questions regarding the motions and discussion topics on the Assembly agenda. GSRs then carry all the information back to their Groups for full discussion. Through thorough discussion, the Group comes to an informed Group Conscience which the GSR carries to the Annual Area Assembly.

- Area 72 Handbook

Questions?

Lupita YM, Area 72 Chair

chair@area72aa.org

CONTENTS

Motions

1. **Motion #1:** We move that Western Washington Area 72 support Oregon Area 58's proposed agenda item to prioritize the following pieces of AA literature into ASL: the personal stories in the upcoming fifth edition; the pamphlet the AA group; the GSR pamphlet; and the AA Service Manual. Page 4
2. **Motion #2:** In the spirit of unity, we affirm that District 25 is an online district with no geographic boundaries. Page 7
3. **Motion #3:** Area 72 submit the following Proposed Agenda Item for consideration at the General Service Conference: "The General Service Board develop supplemental reporting focused on the actual costs of the various service items we provide, with an initial draft being brought back to the Conference Committee on Finance for review at the General Service Conference." Page 9

Discussion Topics

1. **Discussion Topic #1:** Web Standing Committee Charter and Responsibilities. Page 11

Notes Page 13

MOTIONS

Motion 1

We move that Western Washington Area 72 support Oregon Area 58's proposed agenda item to prioritize the following pieces of AA literature into ASL: the personal stories in the upcoming fifth edition; the pamphlet the AA group; the GSR pamphlet; and the AA Service Manual.

- The topic of translating certain literature into ASL was initially brought to the Area 72 Committee at the April Quarterly.
- Oregon Area 58 is submitting a proposed agenda item for the 74th General Service Conference (GSC) that requests prioritizing specific pieces of literature into ASL.
- Oregon's request is submitted with the support of 3 Areas and multiple districts, groups, and accessibility committees.

This motion asks if we, Area 72, will support Area 58's request for the Conference to prioritize the aforementioned pieces of literature to be translated into ASL. Since this agenda item is already going to be proposed for next year's Conference agenda, the process for attaching our Area to it is relatively easy. If this motion is passed, our Area will be adding our name as a supporting Area group conscience to Area 58's proposed agenda item.

Below is a portion of Area 58's request. The full request and the referenced Feasibility Report presented to the 73rd General Service Conference in 2023 are available on the Area 72 website.

Note: this motion is not about whether to translate certain pieces of AA literature into ASL. Based on a survey initiated in July 2022 by the Area 58 ASL Literature Translation Subcommittee (under Area 58 Translation Committee), the Deaf Community has indicated the literature they would like translated into ASL first. Some of the literature being requested is currently waiting for approval to be translated, there are several other books and pamphlets waiting for ASL translation as well.

-----OREGON AREA 58 REQUEST TO THE GSC -----

General Service Conference 2024 Proposed Agenda.

Deadline September 15, 2023 for 2024 conference

1. Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Propose that AAWS/GSO make a plan to begin translating critical AA literature into American Sign Language. The literature priority list has been identified from a survey of deaf AA members on Nov 2, 2022. The priority list includes: Big Book personal stories in the upcoming 5th edition, P-16 "The A.A. Group...Where It All Begins", P-19 "G.S.R. General Service Representative", The A.A. Service Manual

2. What problem does this proposed item address?

Big Book: Currently only the chapters describing the A.A. recovery program, the original Twelve Steps and the personal histories of A.A. 's co-founders from the 4th Edition of the Book Alcoholics Anonymous have been translated into American Sign Language. The personal stories have **NOT** been translated.

Service Literature: Provides **critical** information about how to start and maintain a traditional AA meeting within the traditions/concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous.

- a. Deaf members have limited access to AA service impacting the ability to learn from practice.
- b. No group service literature is available in American Sign Language.
- c. English reading comprehension and writing skills vary greatly among Deaf Alcoholics.

Historically very few Deaf AA members or Deaf AA groups have been able to learn about the AA service structure from "participating" in a Tradition based AA group business meeting, District or Area level service.

3. What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item. (An individual, group, District, area etc) Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

Who is submitting the item:

Area 58 ASL Literature Translation Subcommittee (Under Area 58 Translation Committee)

What level of group conscience.

- Areas (3: Oregon Area 58, Southeastern New York Area 49, San Diego Imperial Area 08)
- Districts (2: District 41, Area 72 & District 16, Area 58)

- *Area, Local Accessibility committees (7: Area 58 ASL Literature Translation Subcommittee, Portland Deaf Access Committee, Greater Seattle Intergroup Access Committee (WA), AA Deaf Intergroup of Central Texas, Area 72 Accessibility Committee, New York City Deaf Access Committee, & Rochester Area Intergroup Access Committee)*
- *Home groups (2: Abigail's Ghost AA Meeting -District 41 Area 72 & Surrender at Seven - District 41 Area 72)*

4. Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included in the proposal.

December 2021: The Portland Deaf Access Committee in Oregon (PDAC) sent a request to AAWS/GSO to have the AA service manual translated into American Sign Language.

March 2022: Pacific Regional AA Service Assembly (PRAASA) During the GSR sharing session, Deaf GSRs asked for help from GSRs from the Pacific Region in getting the following literature translated into ASL.

April 2022: 72nd General Service Conference Committee Considerations Report & Charter: The committee discussed a possible edition of The A.A. Service Manual in American Sign Language (ASL). While aware of the long list of projects and current workload at G.S.O., the committee requested that the A.A.W.S. Board research the need for and feasibility of a translation of The A.A. Service Manual Combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service into ASL and asks that a report be brought to the 2023 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. In addition, the committee encourages local areas, districts, and Intergroups/Central Offices to make ASL interpretation and service opportunities more accessible to the Deaf community.

July 2022: Area 58 ASL Literature Translation Subcommittee: (Under Area 58 Translation Committee) was formed specifically to research the need for AA literature in ASL. The Committee members are representatives from Deaf AA groups. We wrote a survey that included the requests from PDAC and PRAASA. Our goal was to get a wider consensus on what the priority is from Deaf AA members.

July-November 1, 2022: In July a Deaf AA Member Survey was sent by email to known AA group leaders and posted on private Deaf AA & Deaf Recovery Facebook pages. The deadline to fill out the survey was November 1, 2022 [Results](#)

[Why can't they just read the book?](#) A brief answer to the common question asked by hearing AA members.

Motion 2

In the spirit of unity, we affirm that District 25 is an online district with no geographic boundaries.

In 2021 the Western Washington Area Assembly body decided via discussion and a passed motion at the Area Assembly to create a district for online groups (motion 21.3) and that “for the purposes of this District, the geographical Area is defined as all of Area 72.”

Current practices do not align with the position, the intent, or the information provided during discussions (at Quarterlies, Pre-Assemblies and the Assembly) in 2021 and the discussion topic brought forth at Pre-Assemblies and the Assembly in 2022. The proposed motion will serve as a solution to align and clarify the conscience of the Area 72 Assembly, the Advisory Action from the General Service Conference and current practices.

TIMELINE

2020: Ad Hoc committee was established to look deeper into participation of Online Only Meetings. Their recommendations to the 2020 Area Assembly were:

- The Delegate share a copy of this report and work of the ad hoc committee to the AAWS chair in response to his interest in learning more about what Area72 thinks about this topic
- Area 72 request that GSO find a solution to this issue of lack of inclusion into the service structure during the 71st General Service Conference in 2021
- Area 72 create a new virtual district, similar to a linguistic district, to serve the unique needs of online only groups (not hybrid groups)
- The Online Meeting Ad Hoc Committee continue through the end of this rotation to incorporate feedback from the Assembly body and report additional findings at the January Quarterly Based on the discussion that took place at the Area Assembly, the Ad Hoc committee recognized that there was concern and confusion about this issue.

2021: Discussion Topic/Motion:

Area 72 passed motion 21.3 to create District 25. Original motion reads: "We move that Western Washington Area 72 create a district for the online groups in the Area." In the section of how the district would operate the Area agreed, "For purposes of this District, the geographical Area is defined as all of Area 72."

71st General Service Conference Advisory Action: “The U.S./Canada General Service Structure recognize online groups and encourages 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 General Service Board formed a committee to explore future possibilities for the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada General Service structure.

2022: Assembly Discussion topic:

"Should Area 72 welcome online groups from other Areas to become members of District 25 in Area 72? (To clarify or affirm the intent of motion 21.3)

2023: Several new requests from groups to change Area affiliation to join Area 72. Discussion topic at July Quarterly, resulting in motion added to Assembly agenda.

Motion 3

Area 72 submit the following Proposed Agenda Item for consideration at the General Service Conference: “The General Service Board develop supplemental reporting focused on the actual costs of the various service items we provide, with an initial draft being brought back to the Conference Committee on Finance for review at the General Service Conference.”

Proposed Agenda Item for the General Service Conference:

The General Service Board develops supplemental reporting focused on the actual costs of the various service items we provide, with an initial draft being brought back to the Conference Committee on Finance.

What Problem does this address:

Current financial reporting does not clearly define where 7th Tradition Contributions are being allocated beyond the total cost for services.

Purpose of Motion

The purpose of this motion is to provide clear information about the expenses associated with our different services and to more accurately inform the fellowship of where our contributions are being spent. The increase in creation of online materials (podcasts, apps, Instagram accounts, etc.), comes with more long-term costs such as server fees, development costs as platforms evolve, and ongoing content creation, to name a few. This will only increase over time. While these tools have wide popularity amongst the fellowship, many of them, such as The Meeting Guide app, are free but can come with significant costs. With the new report(s), we would be more able to communicate to the fellowship where their 7th Tradition contributions are being spent. Additionally, the information would better inform the delegates when considering any agenda items with such expenses.

The report should include information such as:

- Budgeted cost
- Any changes to the budgeted cost
- Estimated total cost
- Commitments/exposures, if any
- Cost to date
- Long-term trends of the expenses
- Reasonable projections of future costs for the services, when possible. Examples of the types of expenses to consider:
 - Initial development
 - Ongoing content creation

- Maintenance & upkeep
- Any other substantive ancillary costs

Once the reporting is developed, the relevant portions of the report(s) shall also be included as part of the background information for any agenda item regarding an item on the list.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Discussion Topic 1

Web Standing Committee Charter and Responsibilities

Background Information

Recently, many districts within Area 72 have found themselves unexpectedly thrust into a shifting landscape of online and technological related needs. What initially seemed to be a foreign language (virtual meeting platforms, online meeting security and hybrid meetings) rapidly became second nature for many members. Now that hybrid meetings, digital 7th tradition baskets, and a district for online groups in the Area are parts of our environment, we want to have a conversation about broadening the scope of this Standing Committee beyond just (district) websites.

Historically, the Web Standing Committee has been a place for District Webservants to come together to discuss matters relating to district websites or web related issues. Historically, this committee has also worked to coordinate and update information on the Area's listing of meetings. Similar to other standing committees, the Web Standing Committee holds quarterly meetings and encourage District Webservants, Web Chairs and other members to talk about technology, their websites and share what works and what doesn't. Members of the Web Standing Committee are the District Webservants/Web Chairs who are selected to serve and represent their district at the quarterly. This meeting is coordinated and facilitated by the appointed Area 72 Web Committee Chair.

Districts without a district specific website, may choose to have a Technology Chair in their district to support technology related needs within their district. Widening the doors of our Standing Committee to include technology in addition to web gives districts representatives a place to discuss, share experience and knowledge about technology and AA. This discussion is an opportunity to talk about the current purpose of our Web Standing Committee and how to best serve the Area, the districts and their Webservants with the expansion of and access to new technology.

Additional clarifying information:

The Web Steering Committee maintains and develops the Area website, email and document system, following policies set in the Website Policy to ensure that the Traditions are upheld. This committee is comprised of the Appointed Area Webservant, Appointed Area Web Committee Chair, Appointed Area Public Information Chair, a past Delegate and at least two AA member volunteers.

The newly created Technology Steering Committee supports the technical needs of Area, including but not limited to making Area business meetings hybrid, managing the area email/cloud storage system, online meeting platforms, and assisting with technology education/workshops. This committee is composed of the Area Sound Chair, Area Webservant, and AA member volunteers.

Motion 12.2:

That the WWA72 create a separate Area Standing Committee called the Area Web Committee. The committee chair will be selected using the established process for appointed officers. The committee shall function like other standing committees at the Area Level and shall carry out duties as set forth in GSO Guidelines.

