

I still get excited when the Final Conference Report books arrive each year! While we wait until November for the printed ones, I hope you are enjoying the full-color, digital PDF.

The first thing I always do is flip through and look at all the pictures. (You might be able to pick me out among the blurry people on the aisle on page 35.) The table of contents is another good place to start, but you can read the report any way you like.

Some of my favorite things to point out (page numbers refer to the ones in the book itself):

Literature distributed, starting on page 134. Look at all those Big Books! Not as many as pre-pandemic, but an improvement over 2020. And I still get tickled by the handful of cassette tapes finding their way into the hands of people who want them.

Estimate of groups and members on page 107. (I'll take this opportunity to note that the number of virtual groups in the U.S. and Canada listed with GSO is now over 700.)

Detailed financial information on pages 47-52, 75-76, and 139-157. Now, one thing you may notice as missing is the two-page spread we usually see that lists contributions by area for groups, individuals, etc. My understanding is that they couldn't guarantee the accuracy of the information this year and this is a temporary omission, with the hope to see it put back in future reports. They need to upgrade the contributions page on the aa.org website to better capture the source of contributions. In the aggregate, a rough estimate for 2021 contribution percentages are as follows: Groups 54%, Individuals 32%, and Others (Districts, Areas, Special Events) 13%.

The reports from the trustees' committees and staff (pp. 28-74) tell the story of how those at the bottom of the triangle lovingly take care of the business of A.A. year-round. The trustees are volunteers like all of us, and the staff members are our special workers. While you should already have this information, the results of this year's Conference committee agenda topics can be found on pages 77-91.

I think you'll find the A.A. World Services, Inc. report (pp. 10-20) and the Publishing Highlights (pp.122-26) especially informative, with items of interest to your groups. I'm always inspired by the stories from trustees-at-large in their presentations (pp. 116-119).

There's so much more... What do you think is important to share? What touched your heart? You can drop a few fun facts in each of your reports for the rest of the year. And please feel free to distribute the PDF to any A.A. member.

Much was accomplished this year, and we have much more to do. Participation and communication are all of our responsibility. Dr. Bob wisely pointed out in 1950 that it all boils down to love and service. As servant leaders, let us also remember the words of Madeleine P. and others: "How we treat each other is more important than what we get done." Be kind; we are all just walking each other home.

Jennifer B., Panel 71 Delegate