

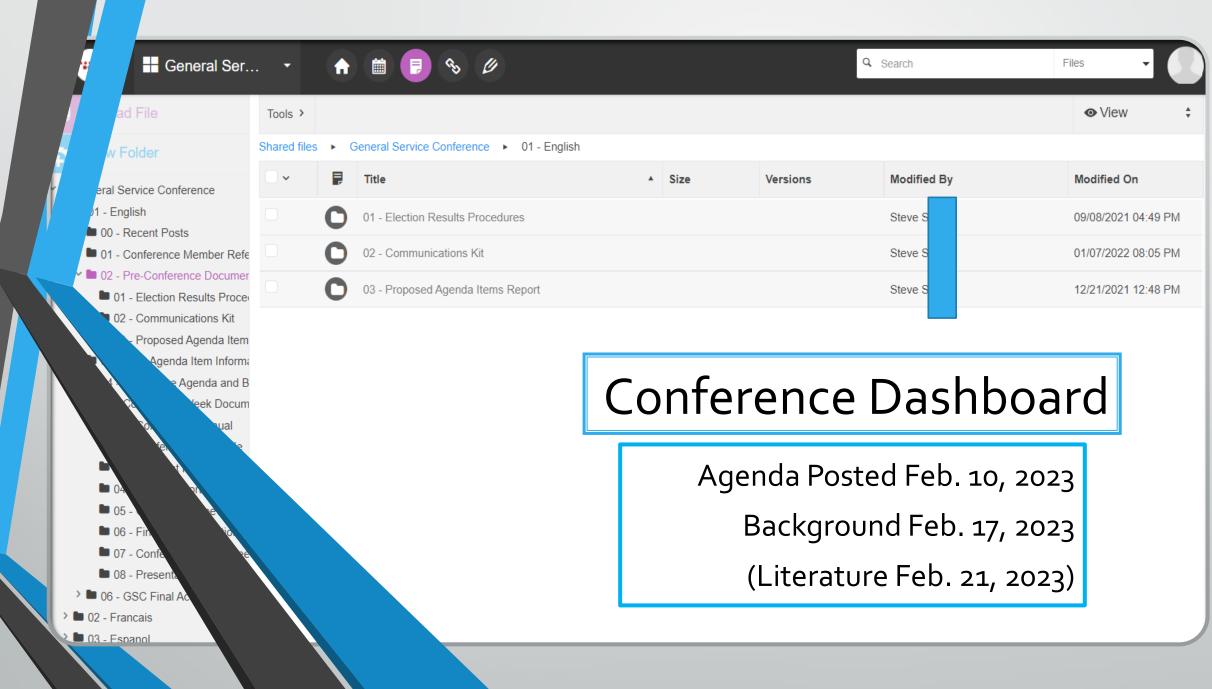
73rd General Service Conference

"A.A.'s Three Legacies – Our Common Solution"

Area 29 Delegate Report Back

May 20, 2023

Brooklyn Bridge Marriott April 23-29, 2023



Getting Organized

Notes Throughout the Process

🖸 🕞 List of Agenda Items - OneNote	Search	Kurt Wagemann		
File Home Insert Draw History Review View Help			Г, 🖻 Share 🗸	
73rd GSC - List of Agenda Items Agenda CPC Correcti	ons Finance GV - LV Literature Report	Charter 🔻 🕅 🕂	Search (Ctrl+E)	
		27	+ Add Page	
List of Agenda Items Saturday, September 10, 2022 8:33 PM			List of Agenda Items	
Final List of Agenda Items			CARC 1 CARC 2	
All Proposed Agenda Items			CARC 3 CARC 4	
73rd GSC FINAL List	B. Corrections Kit and Workbook - Review content a	OneNote $\label{eq:oneNote}$ Search	Kurt Wager	nann 💽 🖉 — 🗆
GSC	File Home Insert Draw History Review Vi	ew Help		🕞 🕼 Share 👻 ,
Proposed Marked 73rd GSC	∂ 73rd GSC ▼ List of Agenda Items Agenda	CPC Corrections Finance G	V - LV Literature Report Charter ···· V +	1
	B. Corrections Kit and Workb	oook - Review content	t and format	Corrections
Agenda	Saturday, September 10, 2022 9:18 PM	Home	- List of Agenda Items	A. Content in existing A.A. liter
A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2024 Gen	-			B. Corrections Kit and Workboo C. Service piece, "Safety and A.A
B. Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the	Background/Link	Mini-Conference Review No		
	Pir	Pro's:	Conference Committee: Corrections	
C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2024 General	Corrections B	Cons:	Committee Report Action:	
D. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation		Discussion Points:	Committee Pro's:	
Evaluation Summary.	2 🛃	Sense of the Area:	Committee Cons:	
	CONTENTS		Discussion Points:	
E. Discuss progress report on Conference improveme		Delegate Thoughts & Observations:		
F. Review feedback from Delegate Chairs on quarterly			Vote: For: Against:	
	Corrections Workbook	Conference Committee Disc	Minority Opinion:	
G. Review a report and draft plan for a future Confer	-		Further Action:	
Cooperation with the Professional Community	Delegate Review Notes: Why does workbook say "Revised per the 71st	Discussion Notes: Committee Report Action:	Delegate Vote(s) and Reason(s):	
A. Review progress report on A.A.W.S. LinkedIn page.		Vote: For: Against:		
B. Review suggested revisions for the draft pamphlet	4	Vote. For. Against.		
b. Neview suggested revisions for the draft pariphiet	CARC Review Notes:			
C. Review progress report on the development of out	Pro's:			
professionals.	Cons:			
	Discussion Points:			
	Sense of the CARC:			
	Delegate Thoughts & Observations:			

Conference Buddy

•Rick M.

Area 67 – Southeast Texas





Packing for the Adventure



Road Trip! – Left at 9:00 AM

Arrival

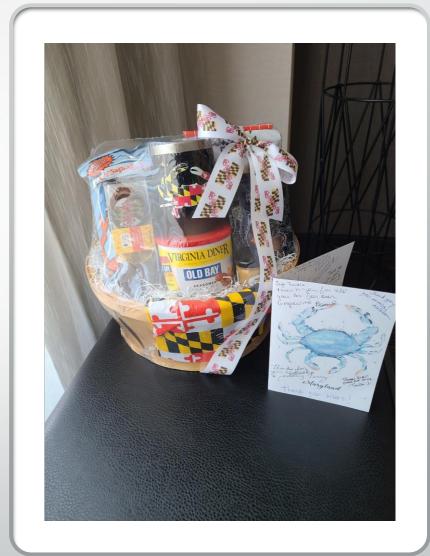
• Arrived at 12:00 Noon Apr. 21st







Snacks Made It There!



Opening Dinner





Brooklyn Bridge Walk

Schedule for the Week





Schedule Notes

- Activities Began Saturday before Conference
 - Lunch with Conference Corrections Committee
 - 1728 Meeting
 - Remote Communities Meeting
 - Delegates Only Meeting
- Plain and Simple Big Book Reading Monday 6:45 AM
- Area Highlights 3 Sessions Scheduled
 - First session and much of second consumed by discussion regarding whether to skip
 - Tuesday Night Session Extended
- Friday Started Early and Ended Late

Who Was There

133 Voting Members

93 delegates

14 staff

19 trustees

7 non trustee directors

73rd GSC Delegate Data

93 Delegates

- Average Age 57
 - Youngest 35
 - Oldest -76
- Average Length of Sobriety 22
 - Newest 7
 - Most -49
- Average Length of Service 17
 - Newest 7
 - Most 46

Corrections Conference Committee

Pre-Conference

- Initial Meeting via Video Conference Jan. 4 th
- 4 Additional Meetings prior to Conference

Members:

- Kurt W., Chair, Area 29 Maryland, Panel 72
- Candace C., Alt-Chair, Area 18 Idaho, Panel 72
- Sheila D., Area 66 Northwest Texas, Panel 72
- Cara G., Area 41 Nebraska, Panel 72
- Jennifer S., Area 26 Kentucky, Panel 72
- Tim H., Area 54, Northeast Ohio, Panel 73
- Eric L., Area 6, Northern Coastal CA, Panel 73 *
- Gerry W., Area 82, Nova Scotia/NL, Panel 73 **
- Eileen A., Secretary, Non-Voting

* Chair for 74th GSC ** Alternate Chair for 74th GSC

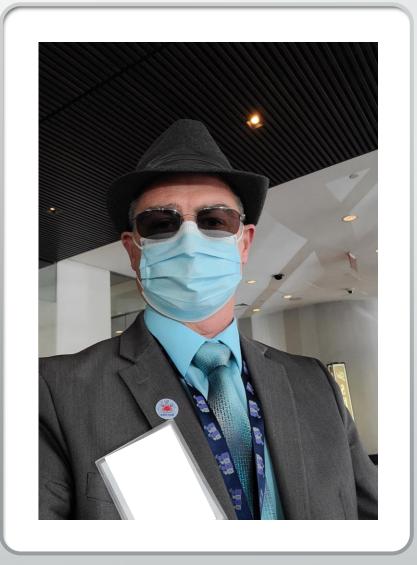
Now In Charge!

Corrections Conference Committee



Covid

Didn't Happen This YearYea!!!!!



Presentations

"Our Common Perils and Common Solution"

- What holds AA together - Unity

"Using A.A.'s Literature in Carrying the Message"

- The message is in our literature. Use it and you can't mess up. Find the answer in our literature

"Fostering a Thriving Three Legacy Culture"

- Do you talk about your service position when sharing at meetings?

Workshop and Sharing Sessions

"Practicing Our Twelve Traditions Across All Group Settings."

1. What are some of the ways groups/districts in your area foster awareness of our Practicing our Twelve Traditions Across all Group Settings?

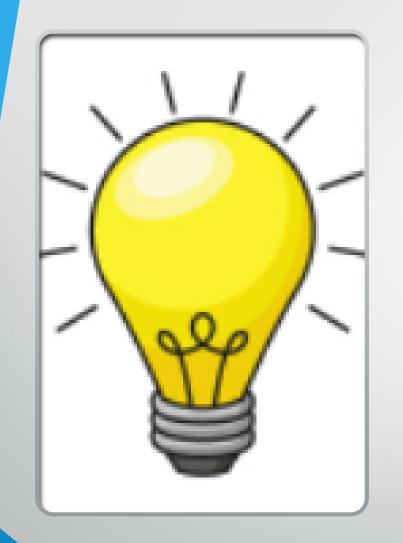
Harder to herd the cats online – Easy to get distracted

Facilitate Group Inventories

2. How has misinformation about practicing our Twelve Traditions been an obstacle in Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community service? Misconception that we are religious organization

Three General Sharing Sessions Scheduled (2 later repurposed)

- How to inspire confidence in the board?
- Are we overworking GSO Staff? Most of what they do is the result of Conference Actions
- Jacketless books can create anonymity issues. Will fellowship have a say regarding 5th edition? Formatting will be considered carefully at the appropriate time. After manuscript complete layouts and publishing issues will be decided.
- Does the Board do regular inventories like groups and districts with an outside party? 2018 was last time.
 Casual Dress Tuesday Implemented



Unofficial Themes

- We Want More, Better, and Timely Communication
- Financial Restraint
- Trust



NERAASA 2026



Board Reports

General Service Board

A.A. World Services, Inc.

A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

General Service Board Report Highlights

- In Article 4 of the Charter it states that "The Conference will replace the founders of Alcoholics Anonymous, who formerly functioned as guides and advisers to the General Service Board and its related service corporations. The Conference will be expected to afford a reliable cross section of A.A. opinion for this purpose."
 - This Conference will "guide and advise" as all others have done before it.
- In my Conference experiences I have seen how we can discuss difficult subjects without being disagreeable; how we can listen as if we have no opinion; how each and every one of us who suffers from alcoholism certainly came to A.A. so we would get better, and then learned in short order that what Alcoholics Anonymous needs is each of us to come to A.A. so A.A. gets better.

A.A. World Services, Inc. Report Highlights

This year we had two ad-hoc committees working:

- Reviewing the process of development, revision, and approval of Service Material
- Begin review of AAWS policies and practices related to licensing and translations
- Heard regular updates from Talley Management Group and reviewed contracts related to our upcoming 2025 International Convention. It is not too early to begin to get excited about this event!
- In 2022, our front desk main number received 14,339 phone calls; 4,395 were routed to the Member Services team, who also fielded 4,291 additional direct calls. 29,114 unique email inquiries were responded to. 30,320 literature orders were processed. GSO Staff executed 7,025 District/Area/Group updates and conducted trainings for area registrars who then performed 8,819 more updates. Our mailroom team processed 40,708 pieces of incoming mail and 17,284 pieces of outgoing mail.

In August we welcomed Dina F. as our new Human Resources Director

EYOURLOVE...

IN THIS ROLE, YOU WILL:

- Announce the latest issue at yo
- Talk about the magazine's co stories make great topics for
- Encourage your group to par by sending in stories, art wo
- Spread the word about Grape services and products

HOW TO GET STARTED:

- Offer to be of service let your hon group know that you are interested.
- Sign up on our website at www.aagrapevine.org/GVR
- You will receive a complete information kit from the Grapevine office.

A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Report Highlights

- From 2007 to 2020, the periodical publishing industry experienced a 48% decrease in subscription revenue. Our results were slightly better than the industry average
 - We went from 107,000 Grapevine subscriptions in 2007 to 63,000 in 2020, 41% decline
 - La Viña saw a 41% decline, going from 10,900 subscriptions in 2007 to 6,400 in 2020
- The areas where we have seen increases in interest from the Fellowship are with items that are not revenue generating
 - YouTube Channel
 - Instagram accounts
 - Podcast.
- The feedback we have received from the membership can be summarized in a simple statement. We have a fantastic product, but an outdated delivery system
- Grapevine App to be a new Delivery System, not a replacement for printed material

Trustees' Committees Reports

- Archives
- Audit
- Compensation
- Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee
- Corrections
- Finance and Budget

- General Service Conference
- General Sharing Session
- International
- International Conventions/Regional Forums
- Literature
- Nominating
- Public Information

Email: delegate@marylandaa.org for a copy

Finance Report 2022

AROUND THE PICNIC TABLE



Kevin Prior, CFA, CPA Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustee General Service Board Treasurer

Finance Report 2022 (Cont'd) AUDIT RESULTS



- Completed on schedule
- Unmodified or "clean" audit opinion
 - The financial statements are fairly stated in all material respects
- No material weaknesses
- No significant deficiencies
- 5 recommendations (3 AAWS and 2 GV) compared to 5 in 2021



Highlights

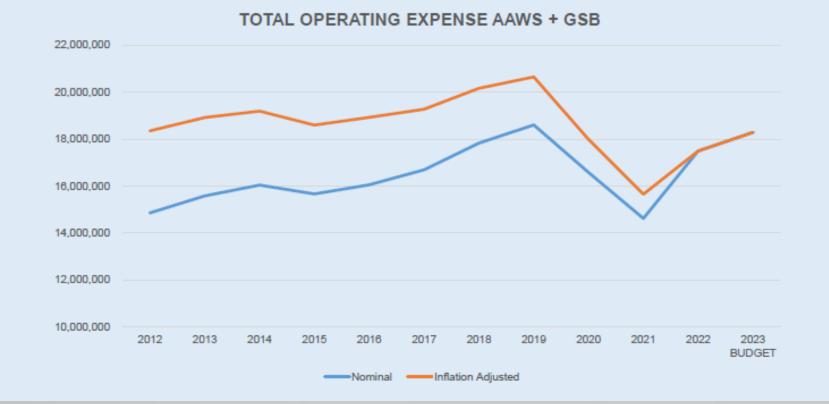
- 7th Tradition of Self-Support \$10.55 million, down 2.1% from \$10.78 million in 2021
- Operating Expense \$17.82 million up 19.9% from \$14.86 million in 2021
 - Employee Openings Filled
 - Travel restarted
 - Inventory Costs
 - Operating Expenses in 2021 were down 31.6% from 2020
- Self-Support covered 59% of operating expenses, down from 70.5% in 2021
- AAWS publishing gross profits \$4.89 million, down from \$6.29 million in 2021
 Operating deficit of \$1,579,305; operating cash decrease of \$2,064,135

LARGEST CATEGORIES OF GSO CASH EXPENDITURE

Salaries, Employee Benefits, and Payroll Taxes	10,098,410
Shipping and Warehousing Publications	4,069,178
Publications Inventory	3,394,368
Professional Fees	1,779,735
Travel and Meetings	1,315,484
Facility and Equipment	1,260,745
Data, Automation, and Website	583,697
Sales tax remittances	471,767
Printing, Postage, Supplies, and Subscriptions	412,396
Expenditures on behalf of Grapevine	407,599
Equipment and Software	382,804

INFLATION ADJUSTED GSO EXPENSE HISTORY

In 2022, operating expense was lower than inflation adjusted operating expense in 9 of the past 10 years.





Finance Report 2022 (Cont'd) Grapevine and La Vina Highlights

- Grapevine paid print subscriptions decreased 6.7% in 2022. Subscriptions for the online and mobile app magazine decreased 27.6%
- 2022 Grapevine results were a gross margin on subscriptions of \$789,246 and a margin of \$674,515 on other published items.
- Operating expenses of \$1,882,701 resulted in an operating loss of \$404,940 compared to a loss of \$112,618 in 2021.
- General Fund support of La Viña service activity was \$636,604 in 2022, compared to \$388,646 in 2021.
- La Viña magazine circulation increased by 4.3% in 2022 compared to a 12.4% decrease in 2021 after several prior years of pre-pandemic growth.



GSO Budget 2023

Operating revenue \$18,791,320 compared to \$15,910,334 in 2022.

Contributions \$10,500,000 vs. \$10,548,525 actual in 2022.

Literature gross margin \$7,950,000 compared to \$4,894,113 in 2022.

Total operating expense \$17,085,479 before \$1.2M depreciation compared to \$17,821,142 in 2022.

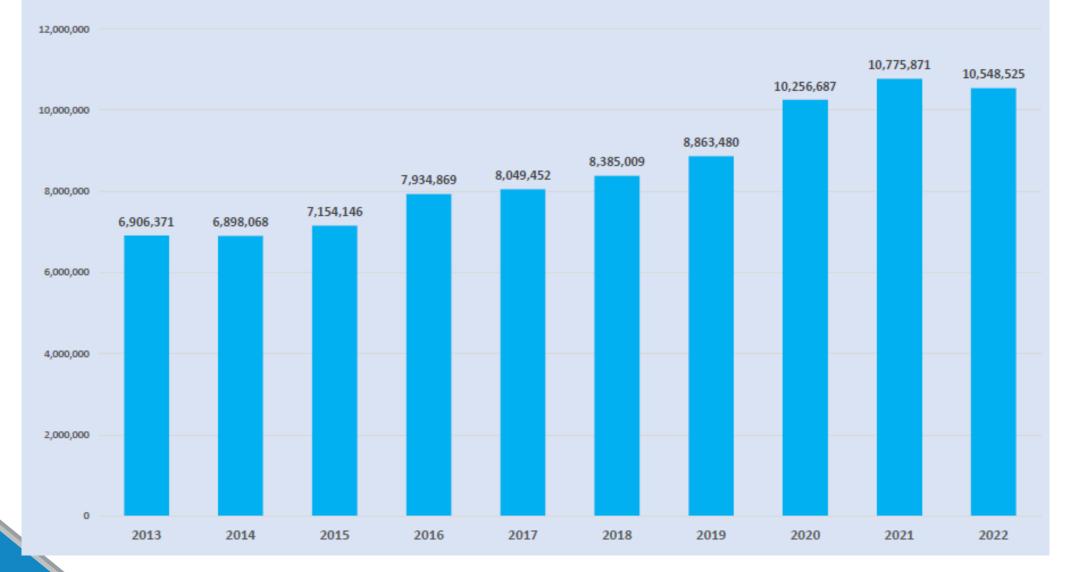
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Operating surplus of \$505,841 after depreciation compared to \$1,579,305 deficit in2022.

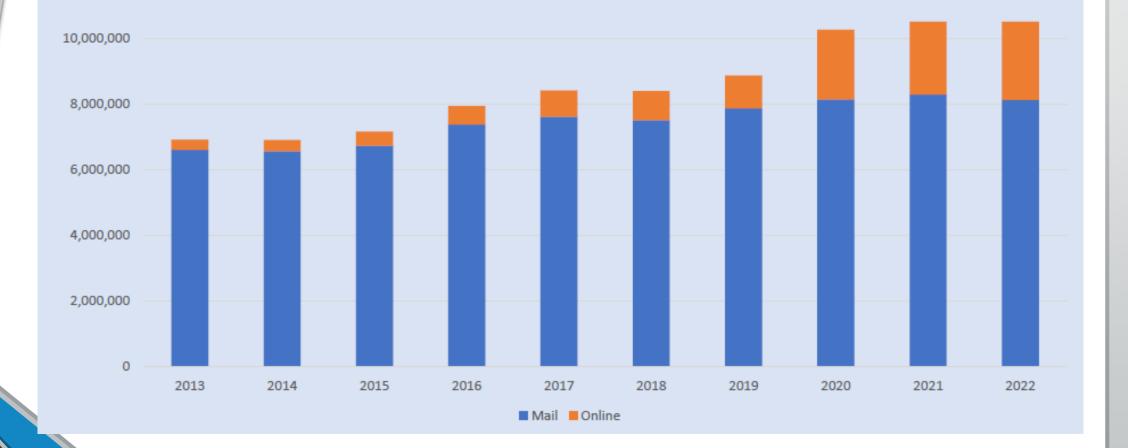
Finance Report 2022 (Cont'd) Grapevine and La Vina 2023 Budget

- Print magazine circulation to decrease to 47,751 from 52,321 in 2022.
- Online and e-Pub circulation to decrease to 4,719 from 6,492 in 2022.
- 1,500 new app subscribers.
- Gross margin on subscriptions \$547,709 compared to \$789,246 in 2022.
- Grapevine net surplus of \$68,414 compared to a deficit of \$404,940 in 2022.
- La Viña magazine circulation to decrease to 6,415 compared to 6,685 in 2022.
- General Fund La Viña support of \$653,579 compared to \$636,604 in 2022.

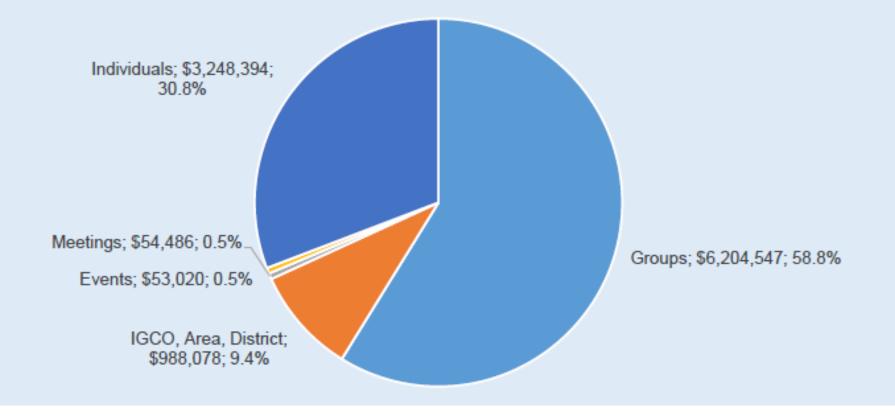
7TH TRADITION SELF-SUPPORT – 2013 – 2022



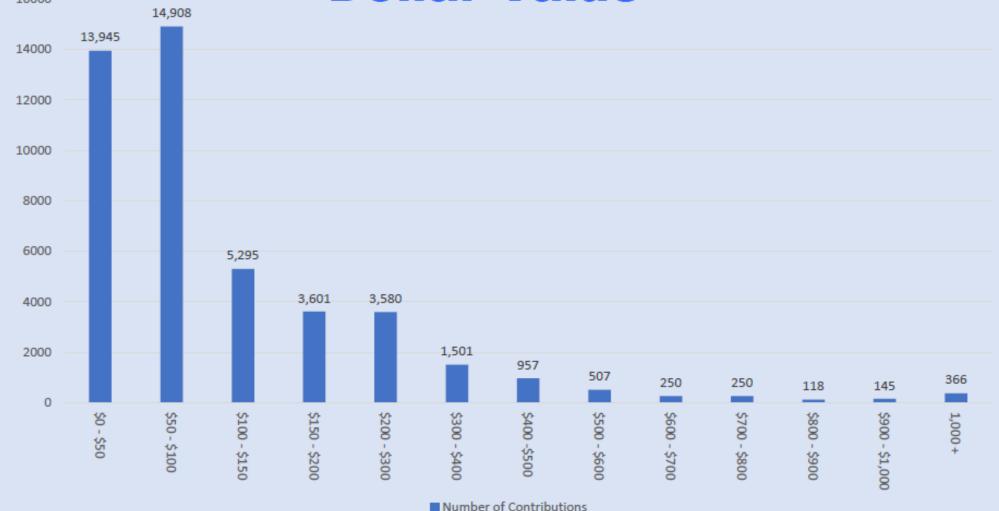
GROWTH OF ON-LINE CONTRIBUTIONS 2013 – 2022



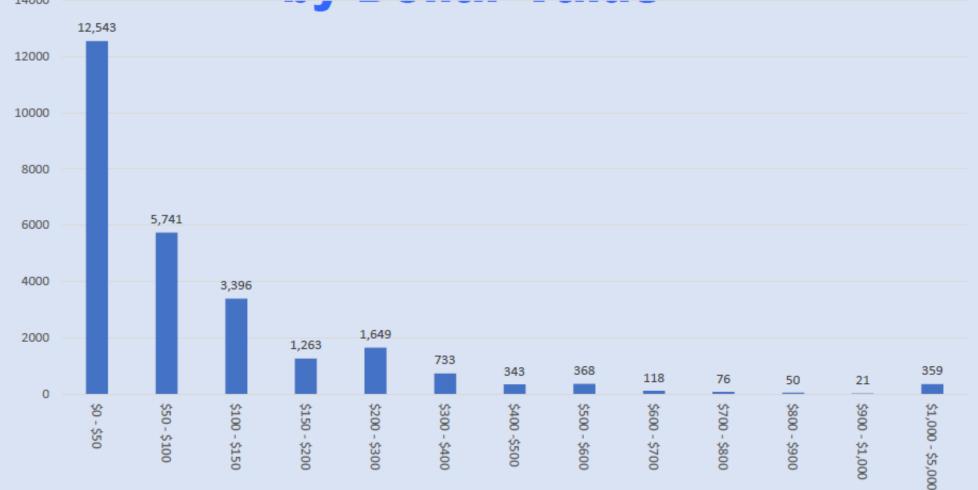
CONTRIBUTIONS BY TYPE OF CONTRIBUTOR



Number of Group Contributions by Dollar Value

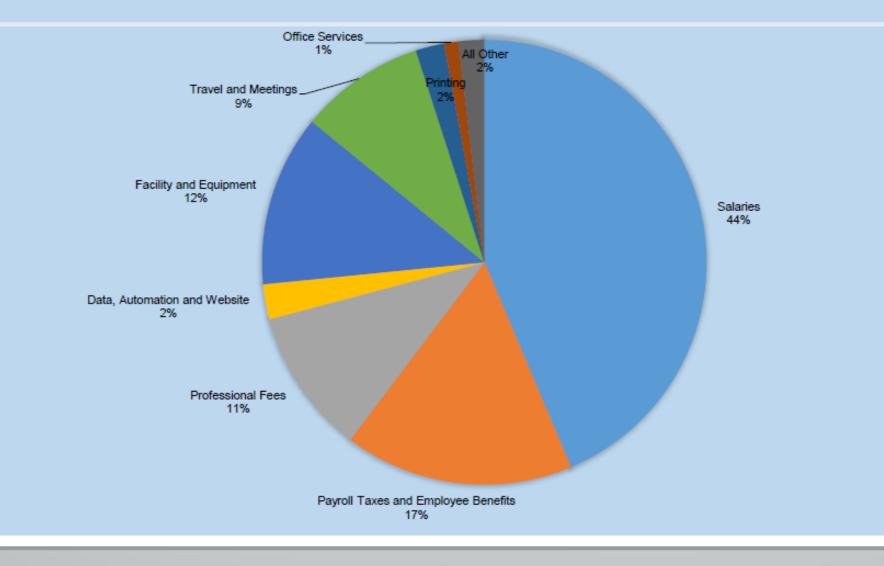


Number of Individual Contributions ' by Dollar Value



Number of Contributions

CONSOLIDATED (GSO + GV) OPERATING EXPENSES – 2022 – \$20.3 M FINANCIAL STATEMENT EXPENSE CATEGORIES PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN



AAWS – PUBLISHING – 2022 ACTUAL vs 2022 BUDGET

	2022 ACTUAL	2022 BUDGET	INCREASE (DECREASE)
Gross Sales – Literature	11,999,441	11,000,000	999,441
Discounts	(479,173)	(550,000)	(70,827)
Shipping Charges	277,893	330,000	(52,107)
Net Sales - Literature	11,795,265	10,780,000	1,015,265
Cost of Literature Sold - Printing	6,901,151	5,390,000	1,511,151
Gross Profit	4,894,113	5,390,000	(495,887)
Gross Profit Percentage	41.5%	50.0%	(8.5%)



2022 PRUDENT RESERVE

12,852,286	
96,774	
200,000	
(200,000)	
0	
12,949,060	
	2,727,969
	11,444,990
	19,601
	(1,243,500)
	12,949,060
Based on 202	2 Based on 202
8.3	2 7.:
8.3	8 7.
	96,774 200,000 (200,000) 0



RESERVE FUND POLICY

- 1977 Advisory Action established the upper limit of the reserve fund as 12 months of operating expense of GSB, AAWS, and GV combined
- A 1981 Advisory Action specified that a lower limit not be provided. However, a 9-month lower limit appears in Conference Finance Committee reports throughout the history of the reserve.
- Policy adopted by GSB in 2022 includes:
 - A 9 to 12 month goal range
 - At least 50% of the portfolio available within one year
 - GSB must authorize transfers into and withdrawals from the Reserve Fund
 - In the event of emergencies such as a bank failure or inability to meet payroll, Trustees Finance and Budgetary Committee may authorize a withdrawal. If the Committee is unable to be gathered within the needed timeframe, two officers of the GSB may authorize. *Timely notice to the Fellowship shall be made for any emergency actions taken*.



Finance Report 2023

First Quarter Result.

- Contributions \$2.45 million +
 - 23% of budget and \$262,056 behind last year
- Literature Sales just over \$4.3 million
 - 28% of budget and \$1.2 million ahead of last year
 - Margin \$2.4 million 30.2% of budget and \$1.2 million + ahead of last year
- Operating Expenses just over \$3.7 million
 - 21.7% of budget and \$236,365 more than last year
- Prudent Reserve 7.08 months
 - Drop from 7.29 months EOY 2022
 - Withdrawal of \$500,000 to support Grapevine App Development



Other Things To Do

Membership Survey

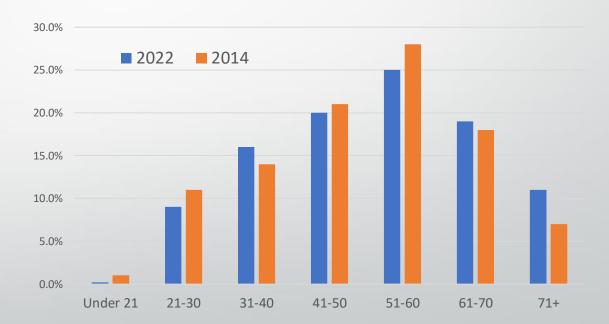
 Revised Pamphlet and Web Page to be available late summer or early fall

Minor Editorial Change:

"The information gathered in this survey is of great value in providing information about Alcoholics Anonymous, however, the survey results are not intended to be used to project figures for either the fellowship of A.A., alcoholics in general, or the population. A.A. members who filled out the questionnaire represent only those who attended one of the randomly sampled group meetings at which the survey was conducted"

Average Age 2022: 52 Average Age 2014: 50

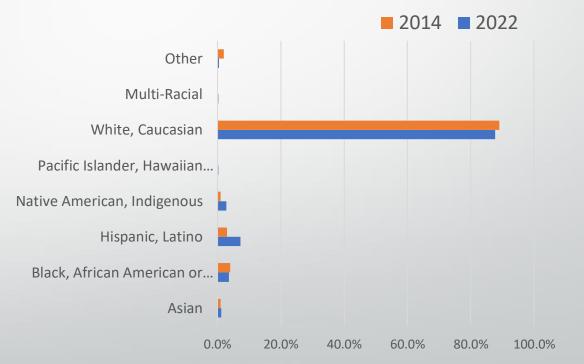
	2022	2014
Under 21	0.2%	1.0%
21-30	9.0%	11.0%
31-40	16.0%	14.0%
41-50	20.0%	21.0%
51-60	25.0%	28.0%
61-70	19.0%	18.0%
71+	11.0%	7.0%



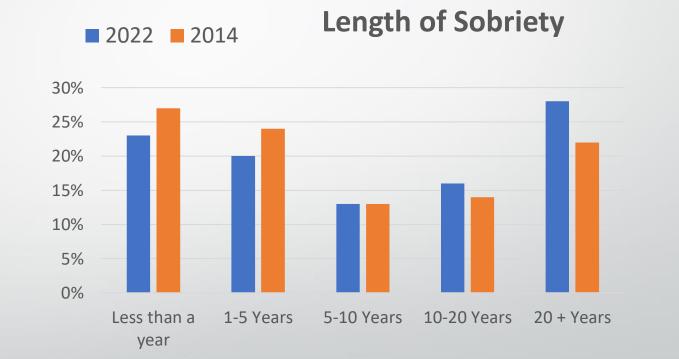
Age of Members

	2022	2014
Asian	1.2%	1.0%
Black, African American		
or African Canadian	3.6%	4.0%
Hispanic, Latino	7.3%	3.0%
Native American,		
Indigenous	2.8%	1.0%
Pacific Islander,		
Hawaiian Native	0.3%	
White, Caucasian	87.7%	89.0%
Multi-Racial	0.3%	
Other	0.5%	2.0%

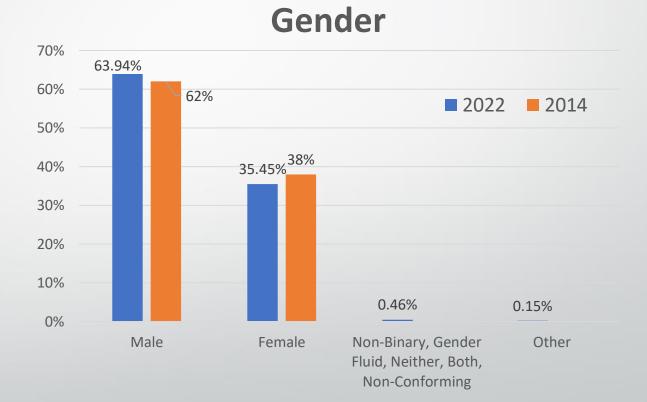
Composition of Members



	2022	2014
Less than a year	23%	27%
1-5 Years	20%	24%
5-10 Years	13%	13%
10-20 Years	16%	14%
20 + Years	28%	22%

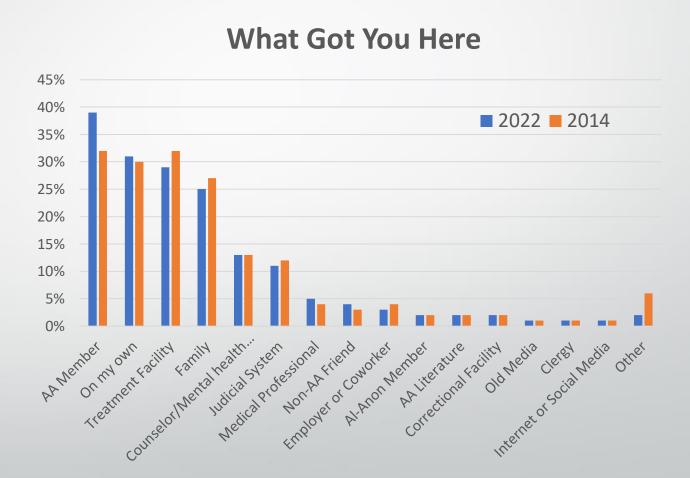


	2022	2014
Male	63.94%	62%
Female	35.45%	38%
Non-Binary, Gender Fluid, Neither, Both, Non-Conforming	0.46%	
Other	0.15%	



(More than 1 response allowed)

	2022	2014
AA Member	39%	32%
On my own	31%	30%
Treatment Facility	29%	32%
Family	25%	27%
Counselor/Mental health Professional	13%	13%
Judicial System	11%	12%
Medical Professional	5%	4%
Non-AA Friend	4%	3%
Employer or Coworker	3%	4%
Al-Anon Member	2%	2%
AA Literature	2%	2%
Correctional Facility	2%	2%
Old Media	1%	1%
Clergy	1%	1%
Internet or Social Media	1%	1%
Other	2%	6%



Special Board Report

"Participation of Online Groups in the US/Canada Service Structure"

- Survey of Delegates this year
- 1,168 Listed Online groups as of Dec 22 (595 in April 22)
- Two virtual Districts (20 in Area 48 and 25 in Area 72)
- Don't want to make mistakes with relationships of other General Service Structures around the world
- What are the current successes and challenges at the group, district and area levels?
 - Delaware now has virtual district
 - Challenge Need to have hybrid gatherings
 - Fellowship Connection does not make distinction for hybrids

Special Board Report

"Location Plus Report"

- Work is in early stages No recommendations yet
- Historically done about every 10 years (last 2014)
- Reports from offices regarding needs received. Further input requested
- Timeline for completion 2025
- Cost of Vendor/Consultant? \$75,000 budgeted. Actual cost \$112,000. Could be more if project moves forward/expands to include HR considerations
- Current cost per square foot \$23.61 in NYC a very good deal, Standard rate for all non-profits in the building
- Lease ends December 31, 2025. 5-year lease with option to renew

Let's Talk Food!







Let's Talk Desserts!



Elections

Northeast Regional Trustee – Ken T., Area 30 (Eastern MA)

Southwest Regional Trustee – Teresa J., Area 46 (New Mexico)

Trustee at Large, Canada -Robert L., Area 89 (NE Quebec)



Advisory Actions - When a recommendation, whether from a committee or through a floor action, is approved in full session with substantial unanimity it becomes an Advisory Action. At the conclusion of the Conference, the Advisory Actions are referred to the trustees and are then sent to either the appropriate trustees' committee, G.S.O., or the corporate boards for implementation.



Suggestion - When a recommendation, whether from a committee or floor action, is approved by a majority of the body but falls short of substantial unanimity, it is considered to be a "suggestion" referred to the General Service Board for consideration and possible action.



Committee Considerations – Items discussed but no action is taken and/or no recommendation made, as well as committee recommendations which are not adopted but included in a separate section of the Final Report, listed by committee.

Conference Actions

Committee Reports

- Reports began Wednesday morning
- Highlights provided here
- Full lists of Advisory Actions and Committee Considerations provided

73rd General Service Conference Committee Report Sequence

Each year, we alternate the sequence of committee reports. This year, reports will be given in this order which is subject to change:

Committee		Approved by Chairperson	
1.	Cooperation with the Professional Community	Shannon C.	
2.	Grapevine and La Viña	Normand P.	
3.	Treatment and Accessibilities	Grace F.	
4.	Report and Charter	Denise M	
5.	Finance	Jeff S.	
6.	Policy/Admissions	Andrea H.	
7.	Corrections	Kurt W.	
8.	Trustees	Kent T.	
9.	Literature	Jennifer D.	
10.	Agenda	Mitchell B.	
11.	Public Information	Mary M.	
12.	Archives	Chris D.	
13.	International Conventions/ Regional Forums	Darin H.	

- Review of draft pamphlet "A.A. in Your Community" - Recommended approval with minor editorial changes - Approved
- Review progress report on the development of outward facing pamphlet for mental health professionals – Reviewed progress and supports continuing efforts; Suggested theme and direction, and that interviews seek to identify myths and misconceptions about AA; *Suggested* looking at communication tools besides a pamphlet
- Consider retiring pamphlet "A Member's-Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous" – Took no action Some members consider it a useful tool for carrying the AA message. Expressed support for removing from the CPC materials as it may appear outdated and less effective as a CPC tool

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)

Grapevine and La Vina

Consider the list of suggested AA Grapevine and La Vina book topics for 2024 or later –

- Grapevine Cartoons & Jokes III
- Emotional Sobriety III
- Veteranos Hispanos en AA (Voices of Oldtimers)
- Como llegamos a creer (How We Came to Believe)
- Spiritual Awakenings (GV book to be translated into Spanish)
- Consider request to provide all Area Alternate Delegates the same Conference materials as sitting
 Delegates - Recommended that alternate delegates be provided access to same conference materials as sitting delegates, with exception of materials shared during conference week – Not Approved

Treatment and Accessibilities

- The committee <u>recommended</u> that the revised pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic— Never too Late" be approved with minor edits in a format that does not require folding -Approved
- The committee <u>recommended</u> that the 22 interviews recorded to date as part of the Military Audio project be approved, giving the General Service Office (GSO) the latitude to distribute the audio interviews in various formats and on various platforms, and that an update report be provided to the 2024 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities. – Approved
 - The committee requested the Military Audio project be expanded to include veterans. They also suggested that they continue to seek interviews with francophone members
- The committee discussed the suggestion that an Accessibility Inventory be conducted throughout A.A.'s services and structure and suggested that the trustees' CPC/TA Committee take an inventory of what resources are currently available from the General Service Office and the AA Grapevine to meet accessibility related challenges and consider the best methods for communicating about those resources to the Fellowship

Treatment and Accessibilities (cont'd)

- The committee reviewed the draft A.A. Guidelines for Remote Communities and asked the staff secretary to revise the service piece. The committee looks forward to the guidelines being made available once the updates have been made.
- The committee discussed carrying the message to alcoholics with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities, and suggested that:
 - The trustees' CPC/TA Committee review accessibility-related service material and consider updating it with new shared experience on this topic.
 - The AA Grapevine consider publishing an issue dedicated to the experiences of people with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities and those who sponsor them.
 - The committee requested that the trustees' Literature Committee consider revising the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" to add language on working with alcoholics with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities.

Report and Charter

- The committee <u>recommended</u> that *The A.A. Service Manual* not be printed in 2023 and that a new edition be published biennially (i.e., every two years), beginning in 2024 - *Approved*
- The committee <u>recommended</u> that a full rewrite be conducted of chapters 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 (of The A.A. Service Manual) to correct inaccuracies and to better clarify the roles, responsibilities and relationships between the General Service Office, AA Grapevine, and A.A. World Services, Inc. in *The A.A. Service Manual* and that the trustees' Literature Committee forward these draft sections or a progress report to the 2024 Conference Committee on Report and Charter - *Approved*
- The committee considered a request to rescind the 2018 Advisory
 Action regarding a footnote in the Resolution concerning "register"
 and "Groups" and took no action. The committee noted that the
 footnote sufficiently clarifies the current terminology for groups that
 list with the U.S./Canada service structure

Report and Charter (cont'd)

- The committee reviewed a GSO Publishing feasibility report for an ASL translation of *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*. The committee noted the importance that A.A. materials be translated in the order of the most widely expressed needs of the Fellowship
 - Asked that the staff secretary forward notes from the committee to the trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee to continue discussion on this important topic
- The committee <u>recommended</u> that anonymity-protected Conference Final Reports be posted annually on aa.org beginning with the 2023 General Service Conference -Approved



Finance

- The committee <u>recommended</u> that the materials produced and maintained by A.A. World Services, AA Grapevine, La Viña, and the General Service Office (GSO), clarify that the General Service Board is the entity which receives all voluntary A.A. contributions and that GSO performs contribution processing. Any text changes should be implemented when each item comes up for reprint or revision - Approved
- The committee <u>recommended</u> that the suggested Area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference be increased from \$1,800 to \$2,200 - Approved



Finance (cont'd)

The committee considered a request to **discuss proposed agenda items related to changes to the book** *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. They *suggested* that the Trustees' Literature Committee seek input from the Fellowship (including but not limited to Area delegate feedback) regarding any possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s founders. (Mindful of budgetary restraints, the committee suggests financial prudence when determining how best to obtain Fellowship sharing.)

- Questions to be considered might include:
 - Should suggested revisions be subjected to a 2-year Conference review process.
 - Should any future suggested changes retain the original writing with footnotes for text being updated or should founder's writings remain unchanged?
 - Should there be a threshold for review (group, district, area)?
 - Should the changes to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* by 2021 General Service Conference remain?
 - Should a new policy regarding Bill W.'s writing be created as a guide to future changes?



Finance (cont'd)

- The committee discussed the change of the Grapevine Subscription Liability in the Reserve Fund. The committee requests that the Finance Department clearly identify in all reporting to the Fellowship the portion of the Reserve Fund that is represented by the Grapevine Subscription Liability along with an explanation of the breakdown
- The committee <u>recommended</u> that the Trustees Finance & Budgetary Committee develop additional ways to report quarterly the fiscal performance of the AAWS, GSB and GV Boards throughout the year to the members of the General Service Conference for the purposes of transparency and assisting in the reporting to the A.A. Fellowship - *Approved*

- The committee <u>recommended</u> that the "Process for Polling the General Service Conference Between Annual Meetings Using Virtual Technology" be approved as amended – Approved
- Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) The committee requested that the trustees' General Service Conference Committee (TGSCC) explore all possibilities for extending the deadline for submitting assemblies. The committee also requested that TGSCC conduct a survey of delegates to find out the effect EDW has had upon their areas. Finally, the committee requested that TGSCC consider creating a simple video or communication that would reinforce the idea that PAIs can be submitted year-round, and to help the Fellowship understand the role of PAIs as a document to reflect the outcome of a group conscience rather than a petition or suggestion box
- The committee reviewed the "Report of the GSB Ad Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the U.S./Canada Service Structure" An important next step would be for delegates to find out more about the online groups in their areas. They requested that the ad-hoc committee provide them with sample questions they may use in that inquiry

Policy/ Admissions

Corrections

 The committee <u>recommended</u> that the following text be added to the pamphlet "A.A. in Correctional Facilities":

Sponsorship

Like all A.A. members, persons in custody can benefit from sponsorship. For more information, please refer to the Corrections Kit and Workbook or contact your local Corrections committee. *Approved*

- The committee suggested that AA Grapevine consider including shared experience on sponsoring persons in custody in the July prison issue and future issues.
- The committee agreed to forward to the trustees' Committee on Literature a suggestion to consider inclusion of language related to sponsorship of persons in custody in the pamphlet "Questions & Answers on Sponsorship."

Corrections (cont'd)

- The committee acknowledged the work completed by the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Service Material ad hoc committee and expressed support for the recommendations put forth by the committee
- The committee discussed the 2021 and 2022 versions of the service piece **"Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare"** and concluded that the service piece is a necessary and useful tool for A.A. groups. The committee suggested revisions to be considered for inclusion in the next printing of the service piece

Trustees Report

The committee <u>recommended</u> that the following slate of trustees of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 29, 2023, following presentation at the 2023 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Class A Trustees	<u>Class B Trustees</u>
Sr. Judith Ann Karam, C.S.A.	Cathi C.
Hon. Kerry Meyer	Tom H.
Al Mooney, M.D., FAAFP, FASAM	Reilly K.
Anadora (Andie) Moss	Deborah K.
Molly Oliver	Mike L.
Kevin Prior, MBA, CFA, CPA	Paz P.
Vacant	Marita R.
	Joyce S.
	David S.
	Irma V.
	Carolyn W.
	Ken T.
	Teresa J.
	Robert L.

Trustees

The committee recommended that the following slate of trustees of the General Service **Board** be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 29, 2023, following presentation at the 2023 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

	Class A Trustees	<u>Class B Trustees</u> Cathi C. Tom H.	
	Sr. Judith Ann Karam, C.S.A.		
	Hon. Kerry Meyer		
	Al Mooney, M.D., FAAFP, FASAM	Reilly K.	
	Anadora (Andie) Moss	Deborah K.	
	Molly Oliver	Mike L.	
	Kevin Prior, MBA, CFA, CPA	Paz P.	
	Vacant	Marita R.	
		Joyce S.	
		David S.	
hours of passionate sion, the Slate was ved		Irma V.	
		Carolyn W.	
		Ken T.	
		Teresa J.	

Robert L.

Trustees

After h discuss Approv The committee <u>recommended</u> that the following slate of **officers of the General Service Board** be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 29, 2023, following presentation at the 2023 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Chairperson: First Vice-Chairperson: Second Vice-Chairperson: Treasurer: Secretary: Assistant Treasurer: Assistant Secretary:

Trustees

(Cont'd)

Vacant Mike L. Sister Judith Ann Karam, C.S.A. Kevin Prior, MBA, CFA, CPA Irma V. Paul Konigstein*

Jeff W.*

*G.S.O. employees

Approved

The committee <u>recommended</u> that the following slate of **directors** be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the **A.A. World Services** Corporate Board on April 29, 2023, following presentation at the 2023 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Trustees (Cont'd)

*G.S.O. employees		Approved
Clinton M.		
Deborah K.	Jeff W.*	
Reilly K.	Bob W.*	
Vera F.	John W.	
Cathi C.	Carolyn W	/.

The committee <u>recommended</u> that the following slate of **directors** be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the **AA Grapevine** Corporate Board on April 29, 2023, following presentation at the 2023 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

> Teddy B. Morgan B. Chris C.* Cindy F. Tom H.

Molly Oliver Paz P. Joyce S. David S.

*AA Grapevine employee

Approved

Trustees (Cont'd)

Trustees (cont'd)

 The committee reviewed an update report regarding the pamphlet "Do You Think You're Different?" The Committee requested that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Trustees.

Friendships and Moments to Remember











Literature

- The committee <u>recommended</u> that the work on the draft pamphlet based on AA's Three Legacies be ceased. The committee noted that the material gathered would be most useful as service material - Approved
 - The committee requested that the material gathered for the draft pamphlet be made available to the Fellowship as service material. The committee suggested that the service material be included in the General Service Representative (GSR) and District Committee Member (DCM) service kits.
- The committee reviewed a draft of the revised pamphlet **"The Twelve Steps Illustrated"** and chose not to proceed with the graphic approach. The committee requested that the Publishing Department develop a new draft and that a progress report or a draft be brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature
- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding development of a Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos* (Spanish) The committee requested that a progress report or draft manuscript be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.

Literature (Cont'd)

- The committee reviewed a progress report on the update of the pamphlet **"A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic."** The committee noted the progress made.
 - The committee suggested that the 2018 report "Reaching Out to African American Alcoholics" be provided as a possible resource for future projects involving carrying the message to other communities
- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding the translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into **plain and simple language** and agreed with the general direction of the project. The committee requested that the project continue to move forward and that a draft or progress report be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature
- The committee discussed **new proposed agenda items (PAI's) related to the plain language Big Book translation** and **took no action**. The committee acknowledged the concerns of members, groups and areas in the Fellowship regarding the oversight of the process of a translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth edition) into plain and simple language. The committee noted that these concerns will be addressed at a **special session during the 2023 General Service Conference**

Literature (Cont'd)

- The committee reviewed a progress report regarding development of a **Fifth Edition of the book** *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The committee requested that a progress report or draft manuscript be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature
- The committee <u>recommended</u> that the revised draft of the existing version of the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" be approved – Approved
- The committee discussed an update on the adaptation of the video animation of the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" published by the General Service Board of A.A. Great Britain. The committee acknowledged that the project of adapting the video for use in the U.S./Canada is pending for budgetary reasons
- The committee <u>recommended</u> that the print version of the pamphlet **"Too Young"** be retired and the content be repurposed as an animation video at an estimated cost no higher than \$70,000.00. The committee requested a progress report or a rough cut of the video be brought back to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature *Approved*
- The committee discussed a proposal for Big Book or Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions study guides and took no action

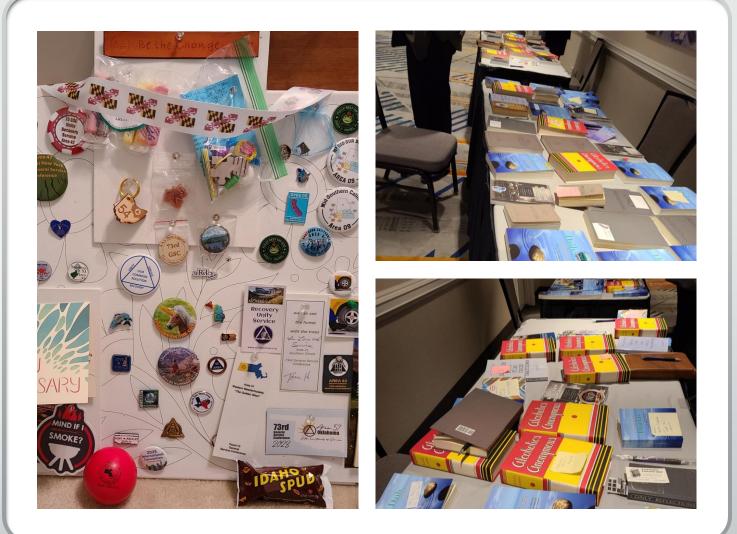
Agenda



Agenda (cont'd)

The committee <u>recommended</u> that the **General Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory** of itself during the 2025 General Service Conference and that a Conference Inventory Planning Committee be established by the General Service Board to develop a comprehensive inventory plan, timeline and cost estimate, to bring forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on Agenda for consideration. *Approved*

Books to Sign and Trinkets



Public Information (PI)

- The committee reviewed and accepted a progress report for the GSO podcast development. They noted the planning, development, and production of episodes on many service-related discussion topics. This will help avoid competing with the Grapevine Podcast. Plan is to produce up to eight episodes to introduce a recognizable, consistent, and enthusiastic voice for the GSO podcast. The committee agreed, before the launch, it is important to "bank" these initial episodes for the rollout to ensure a regular cadence. The committee noted it would be good to use relevant archival recordings in the podcast, as applicable to an episode
- The committee reviewed and accepted the report on the usefulness and effectiveness of the **A.A.W.S. YouTube** account. The committee offered the following suggestions
 - Stagnant growth of the channel noted. Requested the trustees' PI Committee consider ways to encourage members to use the channel as a public information tool
- **A.A.W.S. Meeting Guide** The committee **suggested** that the Meeting Guide keep its focus on providing information on locating A.A. meetings

Public Information (PI) (cont'd)

- The committee reviewed and accepted the report from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding aa.org. They find the website easy to navigate and user-friendly. The committee suggested that GSO continue to improve our website search functionality
- The committee reviewed and accepted the report "AAGV/La Viña Website, Marketing and Podcast" regarding aagrapevine.org. The committee noted that the current host style and delivery could limit attraction to the podcast by all members, potential members, or professionals and to consider the fully intended audience regarding diversity, attraction, and belonging
- The committee <u>recommended</u> that the AAWS Board prepare sufficient periodic analytics reporting on our current communications platforms to be provided to the trustees' Public Information Committee and the Conference Committee on Public Information – <u>Approved</u>
- The committee reviewed the progress report on the **Young People's Video project**. They expressed support for the vision and architecture of the project to obtain user generated content. They reviewed two submitted videos and are requesting that the trustees' Public Information Committee review the project's process, A.A. website webpages, project flyers and the technical requirements to ensure that we are communicating appropriate information to obtain the desired user generated content. They content. They offered several suggestions

Public Information (PI) (cont'd)

- The committee discussed research on the feasibility of paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms. They noted that paid placement is an important new addition for airing and tracking our already produced, relevant and useful PSAs on streaming platforms. They requested that the trustees' Public Information Committee consider several vendors and develop a plan detailing target audiences, analytics, and cost for how we would begin to use such streaming platform channels in the U.S./Canada Service Structure
- The committee reviewed and accepted a progress report on revision to the flyer "A Message to Teenagers." They provided support for there being a need for a flyer or format that can be handed off to professionals or young people in hard copy and would like it to include a QR code, if possible.
- The committee reviewed the progress report on the request to create a new form of communication to address anonymity on social media. They requested that trustees' Public Information Committee and staff secretary focus on developing and administering a survey, to all age demographics, particularly a young population with the goal of obtaining results that will inform decisions on any future new form of communication.

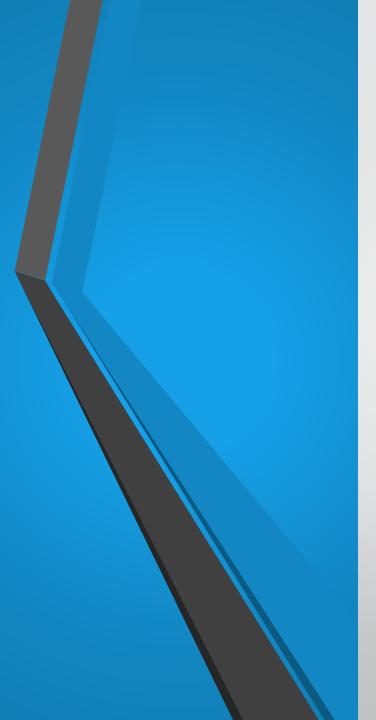
Public Information (PI) (cont'd)

- The committee reviewed the report on the 2022 A.A. Membership Survey process and offered suggestions for improvement for future surveys
- The committee discussed a request for Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. to establish an Instagram account in line with the Twelve Traditions and encouraged Communication Services to continue with planning for the account. They suggested that additional information be provided on the intended messaging, target audiences, analytics, and total cost to maintain the account
 - The committee offered several suggestions for the next iteration of the proposed plan



Conference Mascot

Provided by Julie R., Area 51 North Carolina



International Conventions Regional Forums (Secondary Committee)

- The committee discussed the report on **methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention**, noting there was not an overwhelming desire by the Fellowship to change the current practice. The committee consensus was that we should keep with the current practice of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention wherein the chair has the choice of closing the meeting with either the Lord's Prayer, the Serenity Prayer, or the Responsibility Statement
 - Led to Floor Action
- The committee discussed ways of **encouraging interest in Regional and Local Forums** and attracting first time attendees and suggested:
 - That the General Service Board add virtual elements to Regional Forums, or even add a virtual fifth forum to the annual calendar.
 - Disseminate advance information about events using flyers, posters, announcements in Grapevine and La Vina, podcasts, Instagram messages, invitations in ASL, QR codes, and Box 4-5-9 articles

Archives

(Secondary Committee)

- The Committee reviewed the newly revised Archives Workbook and noted the updates that were suggested by previous Conference Committee on Archives and other updates implemented by GSO Archives Staff
- The committee discussed the section "Sharing on Digital Archives" in the Archives Workbook that includes shared experiences from local Archives committees on maintaining digital collections. They noted that the section was last updated over eight years ago and contains outdated information. The committee suggested that the section "Sharing on Digital Archives" be refreshed





Floor Actions

- Starting in 2024, voting for trustee elections may utilize paper or electronic ballots – *Declined to Consider*
- The 2016 Conference Advisory Action stating: "General Service Conference delegates be provided a copy of the final approved annual General Service Office and AA Grapevine budgets with the Pre-Conference material for all future Conferences" be reconfirmed - *Declined to Consider*
- The 73rd General Service Conference censure the GSB due to *poor* communication to the Fellowship regarding the resignation of the former Chair of the GSB and for the process that was followed regarding the acceptance of her resignation – *Not Approved*
 - Conference Trustees Committee did not recommend censure
 - We don't approve of this behavior, make a statement
 - Spiritual principle of forgiveness and healing
 - Feel bad for those who've been lobbied and lobbied hard
 - This impacted me. But it wasn't done to me.
 - Intent behind censure is to create change. Change is already happening
 - Additional Floor Actions coming with practical actions



Floor Actions (cont'd)

- To enhance trust amongst General Service Conference members the following actions be taken:
 - The General Service Board prepare a report delineating the history of the Confidentiality Policy and the reason(s) for enacting it, submitting it for review to the Conference Trustees Committee at the 2024 General Service Conference
 - The General Service Board initiate a review regarding the need for a less restrictive confidentiality policy, submitting a draft or progress report to the Conference Trustees Committee at the 2024 General Service Conference
 - The existing General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. Confidentiality Policy be made null and void

Declined to Consider

In an effort to improve communication, ensure Board policies are reflective of our principles, and reestablish a relationship of trust between the General Service Conference, the GSB and the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, the GSB is asked to undertake an inventory prior to the 74th General Service Conference. To assist the Board in this endeavor, the 73rd General Service Conference will establish a working group to aid the General Service Board in formulating possible inventory questions - Approved



Floor Actions

- The General Service Board create an Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Communications throughout our service structure that includes trustees, delegates, and staff members – *Declined to Consider*
- Following the work of the trustees ad hoc committee on policy review, Conference members be asked to sign a code of conduct which guides how we work together including but not limited to:
 - Confidentiality
 - Communications
 - Mutual respect
 - Social media
 - Transparency

The code should include acknowledgement that mistakes will be made and should suggest mechanisms for righting any wrongs. This code should follow in spirit and language the principles outlined in our 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts and our Conference Charter. This code should be reviewed annually by the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions – *Not Approved*



Floor Actions

- The General Service Board begin to 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 74th General Service Conference.
 - These reports should include the budgeted costs of these items, any changes to the budgeted amounts, the long-term trends of the costs, as well as a reasonable projection of future costs for the services, when possible. Expenses to consider shall be regarding initial development, ongoing content creation, maintenance & upkeep, as well as any other substantive ancillary costs *Declined to Consider*
- Changes to process for electing Delegate Chair and Alternate Delegate Chair for the General Service Conference - *Declined to Consider*
- The options for closing the Big Meeting at the International Convention be the Serenity Prayer or the Responsibility Statement *Recommit to Trustees ICRF*

Business Complete Saturday at 12:22 AM

Plain and Simple Language Big Book "AA in Plain Language: A Tool for Accessing the Big Book"

- My hour to review was Monday morning at 6:45
- Pleasantly surprised. Exceeded my expectations
- Liked having Definitions in Margins
- Liked having Subtitles/Headers throughout
 - "Finding Serenity" before 9th Step Promises
 - "Finish Your Housekeeping" in Into Action
 - "God as You Understand God" in There is a Solution
- No Degenderizing or taking God out
- 12 Steps not changed table with simpler language
 - "3. We decided to trust God as we understood God to guide our lives."

Sharing Session Friday 1:30 – 3:30

Sharing Session Plain and Simple Language Big Book "AA in Plain Language: A Tool for Accessing the Big Book"

- Best Part of Entire Conference
- First time showing full conference work in progress.
- 100% of people are not going to like 100%
- Feedback was Overwhelmingly Positive!
 - Fascinating reading
 - Greatest Accessibility tool AA has ever created
 - Love the 30's prose, but will use this book as a tool
 - "Rigid old buzzard" felt the language of the heart
 - Bill mailed book to people who read it and got sober. That's not our book today.
 - Highly educated, Harvard, Stanford and more, now understood We Agnostics
 - Most loving thing AA has done for the still suffering alcoholic in a long time
 - Was against...before reading

Sharing Session Plain and Simple Language Big Book "AA in Plain Language: A Tool for Accessing the Big Book"

More Positive Feedback

- Love the language of Big Book...after years of studying it. "This is precisely what I say to people I am taking through the Big Book" Provides access to those without access to a sponsor. Greatest Accessibility tool AA has ever created
- Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! It's about time. I have 23 year's experience working with people with brain injuries
- Energy of love felt. Is there a need? Not for me, but for others. Yes
- I thought I would hate it. And I don't
- 2% of members come from correctional facilities. Should be higher. This might help
- I will always remember that day when I opened that book
- Will help people be able to get sober. God is not missing
- As a sponsor I now have another tool. What a gift

Sharing Session Plain and Simple Language Big Book "AA in Plain Language: A Tool for Accessing the Big Book"

Constructive Criticisms Offered:

- Jaywalker being a woman, change back. Will open up fights
- Definitions in margins seemed wonky. Softening of the language not loved
- Would like to see it convey more emotion
- Please speak more clearly about deadly aspect of disease
- Session was recorded and provided to writer
- Tremendously uplifting sharing session
- Put aside expectations! Read the book ...keeping in mind the intended audience

Final Events

- Farewells by Rotating Delegates
- Saturday Morning Breakfast
- Farewells by Rotating Trustees



Return Home -Saturday

- Arrived home at 2:00
- Cut Grass
- Collapsed onto Recliner



Reflections

- The strong early undercurrent regarding Trustee drama was spiritually draining
- 40 years sober and still need to learn to temper expectations
- Much Good Work Accomplished
- A good foundation laid for restoring trust at the lower levels of our service triangle
- Tremendous Spiritual Experience!

Thank you, Area 29 for allowing me to attend. I've been truly blessed.



Respectfully Submitted,

Kurt W. Delegate Area 29, Panel 72 Conference Corrections Committee



"To be vital, faith must be accompanied by self-sacrifice and unselfish, constructive action." – Alcoholics Anonymous, pg. 93

Questions?



- Carry this message back to your Districts, Groups, Intergroups, AA Friends, etc.
 - Then start thinking about potential agenda items for next year