

Area 29, Panel 72

August 2023

Delegate Report



Welcome to our August Assembly, especially those new to Area Service. We need you! This is our first Assembly since I provided my report back from the General Service Conference. Since then I've been busy traveling around our Area, both physically and virtually, giving shorter versions of that report. Today I'll provide updates on many of the various actions approved at our General Service Conference. For those that may have missed the May Report-Back Assembly the slides and other documents are posted for download on our website, marylandaa.org.



New & Exciting

The initial trial of the Young Peoples Video Project was a great success, and it has been made an ongoing effort. Look for the initial videos to be released on various platforms in the near future.

YOUNG PEOPLES VIDEO PROJECT

We want video submissions from A.A. members. WHY? To carry A.A.'s message to young people in high school and college settings.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE!

Submissions should be 2-3 minutes in length and reflect and adhere to the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, especially A.A.'s anonymity traditions. When filming A.A. members make sure no one is identifiable.

Focus on the experience of getting sober young and reflect the diversity of the Fellowship. Use members stories to help alcoholics identify.

Share experiences that would relate to the "young" alcoholic who has yet to come to A.A.

BE CREATIVE AND HAVE FUN!

Individuals submitting videos must be at least 18 years of age and must reside within the boundaries of the U.S. and Canada A.A. General Service Structure. Submissions should be in English, Spanish or French.

For more information, contact the Public Information Coordinator at publicinfo@aa.org.

Scan me!

www.aa.org

A digital option is being added to the 2025 International Convention, providing anonymity-protected, encrypted, digital access to the Friday night meeting (including the flag ceremony), and the Saturday and Sunday Big meetings, at a fee to be determined. A “flag ceremony only” option will continue to be available online for free.

Call for Stories – The trustees’ Literature Committee has opened a call for recovery stories for the pamphlet “*A.A. for the Native North American Alcoholic*.” The pamphlet update will include current stories of recovery and a new title that is respectful and inclusive. They are seeking stories of recovery from all Indigenous communities in the AA structure in the United States and Canada. Deadline is October 31, 2023. Submit via email to: pamphletstories@aa.org. Use the subject line: “*A.A. for the Native North American Alcoholic*”

General Service Board (GSB) & General Service Office (GSO)

Our General Service Board met the final weekend in July. Throughout the weekend they began implementing the Advisory Actions approved at the General Service Conference. The print and anonymity-protected digital versions of the Conference Final Report are due in early September. The digital version will be posted on AA.org for the first time.

During the week prior to Board Weekend the Trustee’s Nominating Committee interviewed ten candidates for General Service Board Chair. Recommendations for second interviews were made to the entire GSB, and in-person interviews of the three candidates moving forward in the process will be held during October’s Board Weekend. 116 qualified persons were sent inquiries about availability and willingness to serve. 32 responded, 10 being willing candidates (average in the past has been about 20). One of the ten initial candidates is a past Class A Trustee. The Board approved a \$15K expense for the search.

At this year’s conference there was an Advisory Action requiring the GSB to undertake an inventory. The Advisory Action stated in part, “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.” This working group has been developed and input received from the selected Delegates. Further input is being gathered from non-Delegate members of the working group.

Our GSO is updating the group database, thereby improving communications. If you are curious about the status of your group, contact your DCM, our Registrar Jeanine, or me.

The Google Ads discounted search results effort has been discontinued. Google has updated their policy and they no longer allow “mutual support organizations” to participate.

A duck walks into a bar and asks the bartender "Hey, do you have any duck food?" The bartender says "no, we don't serve ducks, get out".

Next day, the duck comes in again. It asks the bartender "Hey, do you have any duck food?" The bartender says "No, we don't serve ducks, get out and if you come in again I'm nailing your feet to the floor".

Next day the duck comes in again looks at the bartender and asks, "Do you have any nails?" The bartender says "No". The duck says, "Do you have any duck food then?"

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) are scheduled to go live on aa.org this summer with all 102 FAQs fully translated into 3 languages.

PAI Submission Forms: The Trustees Conference Committee reviewed a draft of an online PAI Submission form for 74th GSC and offered minor suggestions. The committee noted user-friendly features of the online version including A.A. resources that connect submitters with their local districts and areas for the opportunity to participate in local group conscience discussion. The committee agreed to only post instructions on how to access the form and suggestions that can foster focus on developing a group conscience.

Financial Update

This information (unaudited) is as of June 30, 2023:

- Contributions: \$4.84 million (102% of YTD budget)
- Literature Sales: \$7.88 million (108% of YTD budget)
- Literature Margin: \$4.1 million (112% of YTD budget)
- Expenses: \$8.98 million (101% of YTD budget)
- Prudent Reserve: 7.11 months

At the July General Service Board Meeting a reforecast budget was approved. The reforecast budget has an operating deficit (after depreciation) of \$292,931 compared to a surplus of \$505,841 in the January approved budget.



The mailing address for sending 7th Tradition Contributions:

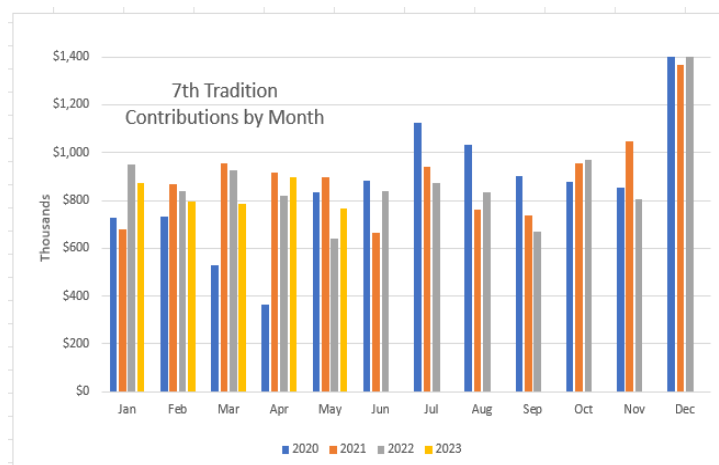
Post Office Box 2407
James A. Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407

Online contributions at:
contribution.aa.org.

There have been several recent enhancements to the contribution.aa.org pages on aa.org designed to improve functionality and the online experience.

The enhancements include:

- Faster processing
- Simplified navigation
- A more intuitive user interface
- Clearer directions
- Less cluttered web pages



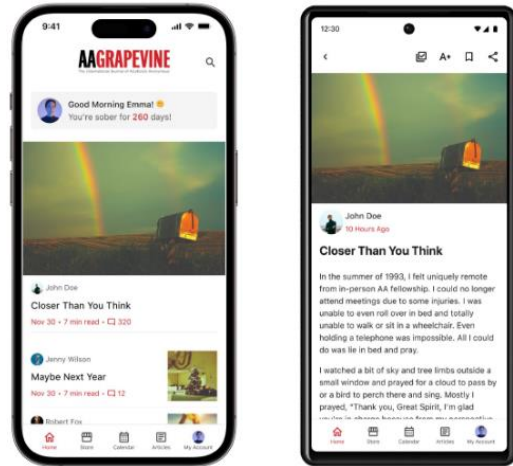
Publishing & Grapevine

A working group consisting of A.A. members is being formed to assist with the challenge of reading and selecting stories to be included in the 5th edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. Working group members will be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement.

Plain Language Big Book: The initial draft has been completed and is with the TABB (Tools for Accessing the Big Book) Working Group for review.

The Grapevine and La Viña apps will be officially launched on Friday Sept. 1, 2023 at the ICYPAA Convention in San Francisco, CA and the National Hispanic Convention in Seattle, WA. Content will include:

- Access to Articles not available in the printed magazine
- Ability to Comment on and Share Articles
- Personalization with Sobriety Date, Favorite Meetings and Spiritual Maintenance Checklist
- More Opportunities to Publish Your Stories
- And much more



GSO Staff is making plans to attract members to the apps with all-media blitz: Podcast, GV and LV Instagram (including video), Grapevine and La Viña News, above-fold block on the home page, top item on Daily Quote, YouTube Channel, e-mail blasts, Meeting Guide, and Box 459. Please help by letting your friends in our fellowship know.

Pricing will be:

- GV Digital (App and full access to GV Website) - \$2.99 mo./\$28.97 yr.
- GV Print (Paper magazine only) - \$28.97 yr.
- GV Complete (App, website, paper magazine) - \$54.00 yr.
- LV Digital (App and full access to LV Website) - \$2.99 bi-mo./\$14.45 yr.
- LV Print (Paper magazine only) - \$14.95 yr.
- LV Complete (App, website, paper magazine) - \$27.00 yr.

Upcoming Grapevine topics:

- SEPT - Young & Sober & New GV/LV Apps!
- OCT - Mid-Sobriety Challenges
- NOV – Gratitude
- DEC - Remote Communities & Holiday Stories
- JAN - Emotional Sobriety

There is an opening for a Non-Trustee Director with the Grapevine. The notice was forwarded to our Area email list. The deadline for resumes is Sept. 15, 2023. Please use this link to a resume form www.aagrapevine.org/Vacancy-NTD-AAGV and return the completed form to resumes@aagrapevine.org.

“A Members-Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous” has been removed from the Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) kit. “Problems Other Than Alcohol” has been removed from the Treatment kit. Both resulted from Conference Committee Considerations.

Translation of the first 164 pages of the Big Book into Haitian Creole has been completed by an ad hoc committee. An active group in Haiti will participate in the reviewing process of the translation.

Progress has been made regarding translation licensing inquiries. The backlog of 965 requests was down to under 200 as of Aug 16th. We should be current by mid-September.

Northeast Region Update

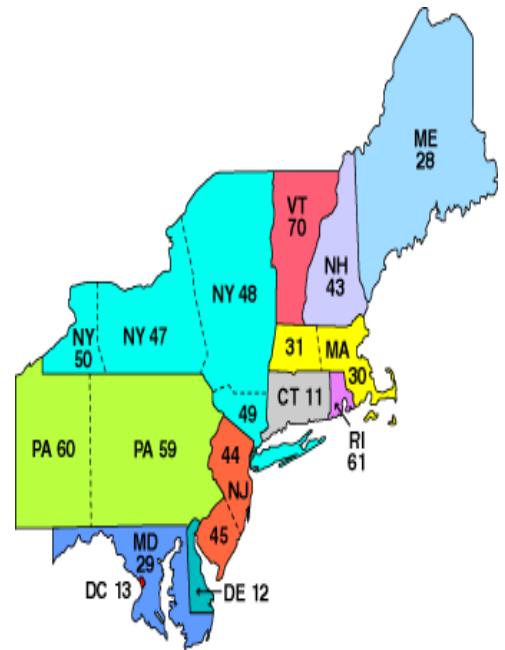
We have a new Northeast Regional Trustee (NERT), Ken T. from Area 31, Western Mass. At the recent General Service Board Weekend he attended the new trustee orientation

The Northeast Region AA Service Assembly (NERAASA) committee, along with our trustee and regional delegates, have been discussing options for rebuilding the NERAASA prudent reserve. While the 2023 event was well attended, with 1,071 attendees, expenses were higher than budgeted for, resulting in a shortfall of \$4,324.83. This resulted in funds being withdrawn from the reserve. Options being considered include asking Areas to provide funds, raising registration fees, and reducing expenses.

NERAASA 2024 will be hosted by Area 59 Eastern PA in Hershey PA. Feb. 23-25, 2024. Registration is now open at NERAASA.org/register.

The 67th Northern New Jersey Convention will be Sep. 22-24 in Somerset NJ. Details can be found at nnjaa.org/convention/2023/

I encourage all to visit websites of neighboring Areas for more information on upcoming virtual and live events.



Did You Know?

On July 26, 2023 our PSA's began showing in 2,193 pharmacy locations nationwide. Six thirty-second A.A. video PSAs in English and Spanish are in rotation. These videos will have approximately 11,000,000 monthly showings. During August they will begin airing in 2,500 doctors offices nationwide.

the 74th General Service Conference. Many thanks to all of those involved in this process.

And, as a reminder, our CARC process is a year-round process. As coordinator, immediately after the upcoming election in October, our new Alternate Delegate will be ensuring we have CARC Leaders, Recording Secretaries and Mentors in place for 2024

Outside our Region

The National/International Native American Indian Alcoholics Anonymous Convention will be in Oklahoma City OK on Aug 31-Sep 3. Details can be found at nai-aa.com.

The 36th Annual Tri-County Conference will be held in Pontiac Michigan Sep. 8-10. Details can be found at tricityconference.org

Conference Agenda Review Committee's (CARC's)

CARC Reconvenes have been completed. At these meetings I was able to provide detailed reports on the disposition of conference agenda items discussed pre-conference. Additionally, there was robust discussion regarding potential agenda items to be submitted for

Travels & Activities

May 21 – Delegates and Alts. w/Trustee
May 30 – NERF Planning Mtg
Jun 2-4 - Northeast Regional Forum (NERF)
Jun 5 – Intergroup Liaison Committee Mtg
Jun 10 - DCM's and Alternate's Mtg
Jun 11 – Over the Rainbow Report Back
Jun 14 – Area Service Sharing Session
Jun 21 – District 28 Report Back
Jun 24 – CARC 3 Reconvene
Jun 27 – Grapevine Committee Report Back
Jul 1 - DCM's and Alternate's Mtg
Jul 5 – CARC 4 Reconvene
Jul 6 – District 35 Report Back
Jul 7 – CARC 1 Reconvene
Jul 8 – Better Way of Life Group Report Back
Jul 13 – Delegates Only Mtg
Jul 15 – Area Committee

Jul 16 - Delegates and Alts. w/Trustee
Jul 18 – CARC 2 Reconvene
Jul 20 – Districts 40, 41 and WCI Report Back
Aug 2-6 – MGS State Convention
Aug 14 – Finance Committee
Aug 16 – Conf. Members Sharing Session
Aug 19 – Area Assembly
Aug 20 - Plain Language Big Book Workshop
Aug 20 - Delegates and Alts. w/Trustee
Sep 2 - DCM's and Alternate's Mtg
Sep 17 - Delegates and Alts. w/Trustee
Oct 21 – Area Assembly - Elections
Nov 10-12 – National Corrections Conf.

**If you would like a visit to your Group, District or Intergroup please
contact me at: delegate@marylandaa.org.**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Kurt W.
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Conference Corrections Committee
delegate@marylandaa.org

