

Delegate's Sharing

Georgia State Service Assembly September 2022

Good morning! My name is Tracy and I am honored to serve as your Area 16, Panel 72 Delegate. I want to extend a heartfelt welcome to our special guest from GSO. Chris C. currently serving as our Grapevine Publisher. I want to thank Tamera for all she does to facilitate our Assembly with the help of many volunteers. We also have Melissa A. now working in our Area Office assisting Tamera. Lee is taping our Area Assembly for us, including our speaker from last night, our DCM meeting and several of our service workshops. Our Area Secretary and our Area Treasurer will be rotating at the end of this year. Liz and Kelly will be missed. They have served Area 16 and the Office Committee very well. At today's Assembly we will be presented with our nominees for our new Area Secretary, Bobby O. and Treasurer Todd B. Also rotating are our Area Committee Chairpersons, Mark J., Grapevine, Karen S., (Treatment/Accessibilities) and David J. (Corrections) I want to thank them for their service to Area 16.

Updates from the 3rd Quarter Boar

General Service Conference:

- The business of the 72nd General Service Conference concluded with 82 agenda items and nine submitted floor actions, resulting in 35 Advisory Actions and 78 Committee Considerations. All of the 72nd General Service Conference Advisory Actions have been reviewed and their implementation is in process.
- For example, the planning and implementation phases of the second year of Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) process is underway. Conference feedback has been reviewed noting what worked well along with those and practices that will benefit from improvement.

Final Report

The digital version of The Final Report of the 72nd General Service Conference is now available on our Area 16 Website, aageorgia.org. The printed version will be available by the end of October.

Literature: The Literature Desk has been working with the GSO Technology Services department to create a dedicated story submission page for the Fourth Edition of the Spanish *Big Book*, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, and the "A.A. for the Black and AfricanAmerican Alcoholic" pamphlet update. The tool features easy-to-find writing

guidelines and a story upload function, submission is available in English, French and Spanish on the aa.org. website. <https://www.aa.org/submit-bigbook-spanish-4th>

Fifth Edition

The Literature assignment has already received numerous emails inquiring about the submission of personal stories for the Fifth Edition. Although the desk is not yet accepting story submissions, the Fellowship will be informed, and an announcement will be widely shared through *Box 4-5-9* and through Conference communication channels.

<https://www.aa.org/submit-bigbook-english-5th>

Suggestion: Draft up an email outline and send it to yourself. As time permits, fill in your narrative - send to yourself. Repeat. Upon completion, send to GSO.

Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition), translated into plain and simple language:

A progress report regarding, The Advisory Action from the 71st General Service Conference: that, “a draft version of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition), translated into plain and simple language, and accessible and relatable to as wide an audience as possible.

Our Publishing Director and Managing Editor have met twice with “the writer”, (Company hired to do the translation) since June and plan to provide TABB with selected chapters for review in September. The Publishing Committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report at the October 2022 meeting.

Area 15’s Meeting with TABB

(Additional information from a separate meeting)

I was able to participate in a Zoom Meeting with John W., a Non-Trustee Director on AAWS board and also the Chairperson of the TABB Committee. I was invited to attend this meeting to get the most current information on the progress of the TABB Committee. John was able to answer our questions and provide some additional information.

- We were reminded that this is an ongoing process and that the direction of the Advisory Action is being followed. He was clear that our Publishing Director, Managing Editor, Trustees Literature Committee, and TABB are working together as this moves forward.
- The timeline for the completion of the Draft is projected to be Summer of 2023.
- It would follow that the Delegates that serve on the 74th General Service Conference Literature Committee may be able to view the completed draft to review and make recommendations as they determine.
- John was asked for clarification on whether or not all the Delegates would have a chance to see the draft before it’s final approval. He said that was unlikely. There

are no plans for the draft to be released piece meal due to the possibility of confidential material being shared.

New Format (Cover)

Implementation has begun on the new **jacket-less** format for the next printings of the *Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous*. This jacket-less formatting will help reduce backorders, streamline turnaround time, and bring our book to the Fellowship in a timelier manner. This new format will help to better navigate supply-chain disruptions, reduce delivery times as well as expense.

Big Book

- An order for our standard 4th edition Big Book (with cover) is available now.
- The first printing of the new jacket-less format are scheduled to start printing in mid-October, to be completed November/December 2022.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

The next print run for the “*Twelve and Twelve*,” will have this same jacketless format switchover and is expected in November or December 2022.

AA Grapevine Upcoming Magazine Topics through 2022:

- September: Young and Sober,
- October: Relapse (prevention), and
- November Gratitude and Fun in Sobriety.

New Grapevine Books, Currently Available:

Fun in Sobriety
Sobriedad Emocional.

AA La Viña Upcoming Magazine Topics (2022):

- Sept. – Oct.: No Matter What
- Nov. – Dec.: La Viña Short Stories

Grapevine Podcasts: Our AA Grapevine podcast program continues to grow - with a new episode each Monday, Don and Sam (our current hosts) interview a member about their experience, strength and hope, in a casual “meeting after the meeting” manner.

- Our podcast downloads topped over 180,000 since it began.

Come check us out, Mondays, at: <https://www.aagrapevine.org/podcast>

Instagram Update, thru June 30, 2022:

- AA Grapevine has 7,868 “followers” and La Viña has 936 “followers.”

Treatment /

Accessibilities/Loners and Internationalists Meeting:

- Updates to the “A.A. *Guidelines on Accessibilities for All Alcoholics*” are ready for the next printing.
- In response to a Conference Committee consideration, work has also begun on gathering more stories for the pamphlet “A.A. *for the Older Alcoholic*” with a goal to have a broader, more diverse representation of A.A. experience; including diverse ethnicities, cultures, and languages.

-

Treatment Facilities:

- The Committee reviewed the progress report on military audio interviews provided by its two appointed consultants. A sample “Scratch Track” was presented for review to evaluate the sound and quality. They found the audio quality and dual interview style to be effective; however, they agreed that the content could be more focused on the goal of the project.
- The chair appointed a Military Audio Interview Subcommittee. The Subcommittee requested that the consultants utilize broader distribution channels with diverse communication methods including AA Grapevine, WhatsApp, La Viña, and Loners-Internationalists Meeting (LIM).

International Convention - Regional Forums

Regional Forums

- Two successful in-person Regional Forums have taken place in Canada already: We look forward to the Pacific Regional Forum slated for Salt Lake City in September, (this weekend) and the Southeast Regional Forum planned for New Orleans in December.
- *The North/South Connections Virtual Special Forum with Remote Communities from North and South America.*

- 532 total registration and 345 peak attendance, the Forum featured a total of eighteen speakers – six each from the US/Canada, Argentina and Chile service structures. The topics highlighted the challenges of language, culture and geography that members overcame to carry AA’s message of hope and recovery into remote communities.
- I was able to attend this Forum. *I was overwhelmed with the dedication of our members working to overcome these barriers. The forum was a great example of how well a virtual environment works with translators for several different languages available at the same time. The coordination was excellent. I was able to connect with the speaker by hearing my language while seeing the presenter(real time).*

International Convention:

- The first dispatch of the 2025 International Convention Membership Survey was completed in July, with a Fellowship-wide distribution including, but not limited to, Conference members, Intergroup/Central Offices and International GSOs. The survey link is on various platforms and the www.aa.org and www.aagrapevine.org websites, QR codes are being developed for easy access at AA events, such as our upcoming Regional Forums.
- Originally, it was understood that the question regarding closing the “Big Meeting” with the Lord’s Prayer would be added to the 2025 International Convention Membership Engagement Survey. However, it was decided after the General Service Conference to launch a separate survey dedicated to this specific question.

International/ World Service Meeting

The International desk is currently developing the agenda for the 27th WSM (virtual) in the Fall (the original plan was to meet in-person in Japan). The theme, “*Carrying the Message of A.A. in the Digital Age,*” is aptly chosen as we look forward to sharing on current A.A. lessons, shifts, and practices throughout the world.

Online Groups:

- Virtual Groups continue to grow - currently we have 718 virtual Groups that have listed with GSO and are participating in the US/Canada General Service Structure. Out of those 718 virtual Groups, there are 558 GSRs and 143 alternate GSRs. There are, as of now, 371 meetings in “Area 95” (i.e., miscellaneous file). Group Services, the International Desk, and the Staff Coordinator are communicating with these Online meetings to ascertain whether

they would like to be listed as Groups and if they would like to participate in the US/Canada General Service Structure.

- The Conference Committee discussed the request for a progress report from the General Service Board's Ad Hoc Committee on the Participation of Online Groups in the US and Canada service structure be included as background for the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions in advance of the 73rd General Service Conference. As such, the chair of the Ad Hoc Committee confirmed that this request will be met.

Technology / Communications / Services:

- The Committee discussed the inclusion of QR codes that refer to www.aa.org on all pamphlets and agreed to continue the discussion at the October 2022 meeting. Some with CPC and Treatment Facilities experience "chimed in" that this would be a novel idea at trade shows and other Public Information-type venues.

Nominating:

April 2023, the positions of Northeast Regional Trustee, Southwest Regional Trustee, and Trustee-at-Large Canada will be up for election.

Publication Operations: Worldwide paper, printing, manufacturing, trucking, and other delivery disruptions continue to beset the supply chain, causing backorders of books and other items throughout the publishing industry. Please contact your Area Offices, Intergroups, and Central Offices for availability.

AA's "online store" automatically notifies customers of any backorders when ordering.

Corrections:

- In addition to maintaining correspondence with persons in custody, coordinating the Corrections Correspondence Service, and facilitating the approved revisions to the Corrections Kit and Workbook, the Staff Secretary on the assignment gathered information on viable options to be used to update the sign-up forms for Corrections Correspondence Service to be more inclusive.
- Earlier this spring the assignment requested shared experience from the Fellowship on sponsoring A.A. members in custody (or, as we used to say, "behind the walls").

- The Committee noted the enthusiastic responses from the Fellowship on their experiences regarding sponsoring “inside” AA members. An update was provided on the growing use of tablets in correctional settings and noted that there are over 200,000 tablets providing AA literature inside correctional settings within the US.

Group Services:

The topic of developing a policy and procedure surrounding AA Group names as it relates to listing Groups is being discussed at the Staff and Board level, with the thought that any policy regarding listing Groups should emanate from the General Service Conference.

Public Information:

- The Committee discussed the progress report on the GSO Podcast. The Grapevine podcast team provided the GSO team a thorough walk-through of the process and tools our AA Grapevine utilizes to produce its podcast episodes. They discussed a consideration to research the best methods for future podcast episodes to be completed in Spanish and French.
- Two PSA's, “*Sobriety in A.A.: My Drinking Built a Wall*” and “*Sobriety in A.A.: When Drinking Is No Longer a Party.*” There have been approximately 34,833 English TV airings and 16,956 Spanish TV airings.
[https://www.aa.org/downloadable-videos.](https://www.aa.org/downloadable-videos)

Finance and Budget:

Although unaudited, mid-year performance are in:

Contributions - Unaudited:

- Year to June 30, 2022 Seventh Tradition Contributions are a little over \$5.0 million. This represents approximately 50% of the 2022 budget of \$10,000,000 (with 50% of the year elapsed).

Literature - Unaudited:

- Year to June 30 gross literature sales are a little over \$5.8 million (rounded). This represents 52% of the 2022 budget of \$11,000,000. But there's more to the story - our “cost of goods sold” continues to rise because of the increased cost of paper, postage, publishing, and other supply chain-related expenses.

Expense - Unaudited:

- Year to June 30 payroll and benefits expense (for our valued GSO employees) is a little over \$4.7 million, which is 47% of the budget amount with 50% of the year elapsed (so, we're pretty much on budget).
- Total operating expense year to June 30 is around \$8.2 million (a little more, actually) which is also 47% of the budget amount with 50% of the year elapsed.

Overall Deficit or Surplus:

- Our overall operating deficit year to June 30 is around \$114,000 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$797,000. All things considered, we're ahead of budget.

Reserve Fund - Unaudited:

Our Reserve Fund continues to hover at just under 8 months (7.65 to be more specific). Early estimates are that our Prudent Reserve will decline slightly due to overall increased expenses.

Office Operations:

- From January to June 2022, the team responded to approximately 15,650 email inquiries. During this time, they received about 4,400 phone calls and performed 3,343 Area/District/Group updates. Additionally, 4,607 phone calls were received and routed through our front desk reception. The Mail and Shipping team (of two) managed 22,283 pieces of incoming mail and 10,957 pieces of outgoing mail from January to June 2022.

NetSuite: Area Registrars performed 4,891 Fellowship Connection updates. The team processed and managed 15,750 literature orders during the first six months of 2022.

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC):

- The Spring 2022 issue of *About A.A.* went out in April. The issue focuses on efforts to reach out to mental health professionals, looks at "A.A. as a Resource Around the World" and introduces three new Class A (non-alcoholic) General Service Board Trustees. Work has already begun on the fall 2022 issue.
- The Committee is also considering a request to remove the pamphlet "A Member's-Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous" from the CPC Kit contents list. The Committee noted that, while "A Member's-Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous" pamphlet has endearing language to the Fellowship, it may not be an effective tool to attract professionals (i.e., outward facing cover instead of inward facing). At present, no final decision has been made.

- The LinkedIn page now has 2,036 followers. Several new posts were shared.

Archives Committee:

- A newly revised *Archives Workbook* encompassing about three years of changes, was printed in July. The workbook contains new shared experience from local archivists, revised policies, and other miscellaneous updates. The Spanish and French translations are already in progress.
- The section of the workbook, “*Conducting Interviews of A.A. members in American Sign Language (ASL)*” in the draft “*Archives Guidelines for Conducting Oral Histories.*” Considering concerns expressed around anonymity and filming full faces when working with A.A. members who are Deaf, the Committee requested that our GSO Archivist, provide more information on this topic from nationally recognized ASL associations.

Thank you for allowing me to serve!

