

# AREA 16 ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IN GEORGIA

GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY  
SEPTEMBER 2022  
**I AM CURRENTLY SERVING  
AS YOUR NEW PANEL 72 AREA 16  
DELEGATE**



# UPDATES FROM THE 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER BOARD REPORT





## 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference



The business of the 72<sup>nd</sup> 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 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference Advisory Actions have been reviewed and their implementation is in process.

Distribution of Workload (EDW) process is underway.





2022 FINAL REPORT  
ANONYMITY-PROTECTED DIGITAL EDITION



## **“A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service”**

The 72nd Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference of  
**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

**Available now!**

**AREA 16** ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
IN GEORGIA  
GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY

[www.aageorgia.org](http://www.aageorgia.org)

The digital version of The Final Report of the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference is now available on our Area 16 Website.

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 African-American Alcoholic*" pamphlet update.

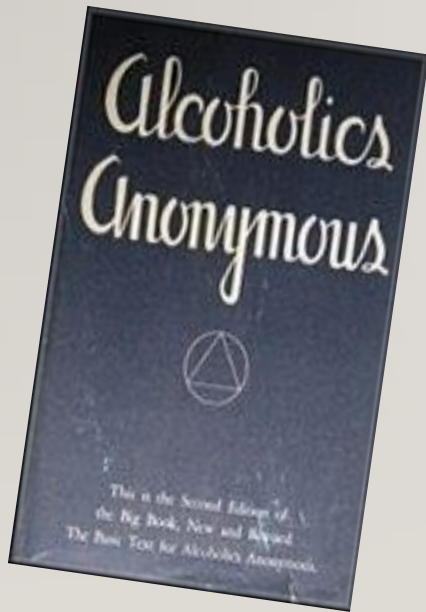
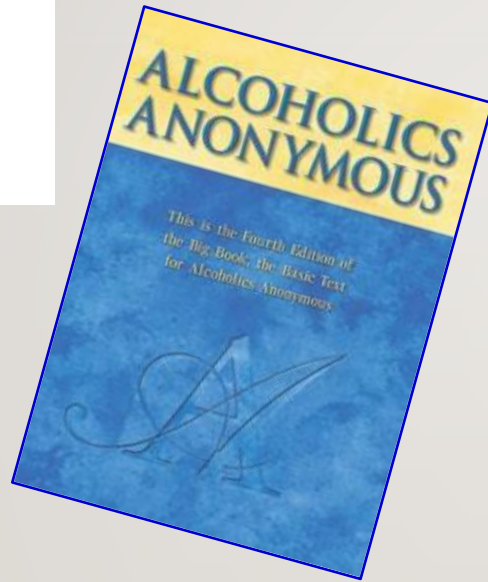
The tool features easy-to-find writing guidelines and a story upload function, and is submission available in English, French and Spanish on the aa.org website.

<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>

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



**71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference Advisory Action**

**A draft version of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition), be translated into plain and simple language and be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible and that a progress report or draft be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.**

- **Our Publishing Director and Managing Editor have met twice with “the writer” since June and plan to provide TABB with selected chapters for review in September.**
- **Publishing committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report at the October 2022 meeting.**





# Zoom meeting with JOHN W. TABB CHAIRPERSON



**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 that was held by Area 15's Delegate. John was able to answer our questions and provide some additional information.**

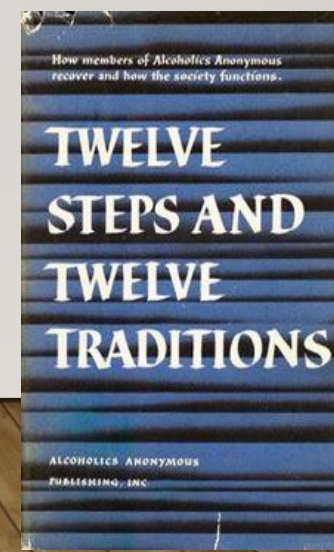
- We were reminded that this is an ongoing process and that the direction of the Advisory Action is being followed. He was clear that our Publishing Director, Managing Editor, Trustees Literature Committee, and TABB are working together as this moves forward.**
- The timeline for the completion of the Draft is projected to be Summer of 2023.**
- It would follow that the Delegates that serve on the 74<sup>th</sup> 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 to be released piece meal due to the possibility of confidential material being shared.**

# PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK



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.



# Grapevine and La Viña

## 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, and
- Nov. – Dec.: La Viña Short Stories








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- 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.

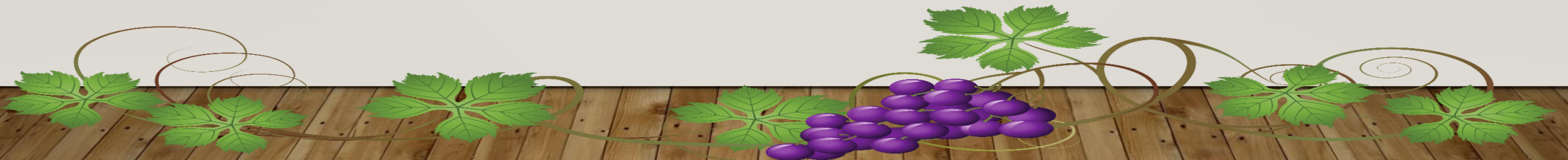
- To illustrate, podcast downloads topped over 180,000 since inception.

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

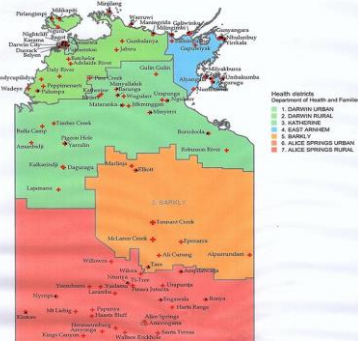


Instagram Update, thru June 30, 2022:

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



# Treatment /Accessibilities/Loners and Internationalists Meeting:



## A.A. Guidelines

Serving Alcoholics  
With Special Needs

From G.A.O., Box 400, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10168

A.A. Guidelines are compiled from the shared experience of A.A. members in various service areas. They also reflect guidelines given through the Twelve Traditions and the General Service Conference (U.S. and Canada). It is hoped that our Tradition of autonomy, except in matters affecting other groups in A.A. as a whole, most decisions are made by the group conscience of the members involved. The purpose of these Guidelines is to assist in reaching an internal group consensus.

While there are no special A.A. members, many members have special needs. For the purpose of these Guidelines, we define A.A. with special needs as persons who are blind or visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, chronically ill or handicapped, those who are three generations disabled, and many others who may face less visible challenges.

### SPECIAL NEEDS/ACCESSIBILITIES COMMITTEES

Some A.A. units are attempting to meet such needs by forming Special Needs/Accessibility Committees. Since the goal is to make A.A. accessible, some committees refer to themselves as Accessibility Committees. In some facilities, committees have formed according to the specific need addressed, such as "Hearing Impaired Committee." Other one or more members of an A.A. group have special needs (such as the need for an American Sign Language interpreter or wheelchair accessibility) or have an illness which prevents them from getting to the meeting room. A.A. members from that group will at length to see that these needs are met. The members of a Special Needs Committee explore, identify, and offer resources to make the A.A. message and participation in our program available to who reaches out for it. A U.S.O. staff member who was Special Needs assignment, is available as a resource and takes with local Special Needs Committees.

In the interests of good communication and working together, Special Committees are encouraged to have their own central local central group office informed of their activities helpful to work closely with committees handling Public and Cooperative With the Professional Community in terms the public and appropriate agencies informed about A.A. be able to alcoholics with special needs.

### HOW TO ORDER A.A. MATERIAL FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

The first section of the rotating Conference-approved (the Other Service Material) into a wide range of formats and as material for alcoholics with special needs. For the blind or impaired there is recovery literature in Braille and large print, audio tapes and CDs, Alcoholics Anonymous and Twelve Traditions are available in American Sign Language (ASL) for the deaf and hard of hearing.

### CARRYING THE MESSAGE TO A.A. WITH PHYSIC DISABILITIES AND/OR CHRONIC ILLNESSES

Our Fellowship includes A.A. members who are hard of

blind, visually impaired or blind, brain injured, confined to their beds with a chronic illness, or who are wheelchair, walkers or crutches. Members of a group may feel stymied when first faced with these out of the ordinary challenges that, in fact, there are many accommodations that can be made so that alcoholics with special needs can be active, participating members of a "regular" group. Some adjustments are simple and some are more complicated, but all are possible for the member willing to "go to any length" for his or her own sobriety and to help another alcoholic.

Other A.A.s will take a meeting to an A.A. member who is home- or house-bound. "I can't tell you," one hospitalized A.A. reported, "what a difference it made in my mental and emotional state when these six people showed up in my room carrying the message of A.A. and all the love and support of our Fellowship. And they did it twice a week for three months, and I was able to make meetings again. I was so down in the dumps before, I really had sort of given up, to be honest, I had started thinking I might as well have a drink, since I was dying anyway. But hearing the experience, strength and hope of others in the program inspired me to fight with my disease—the cancer and my depression. I am now a recovered alcoholic and a recovering addict."



A.A. for  
the Older  
Alcoholic

—Never too late

LARGE PRINT





# ONLINE MEETINGS



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.

**558** GSRs and  
**143** alternate GSRs.

*There are, as of now, 371 meetings in "Area 95". (GSO miscellaneous file)*





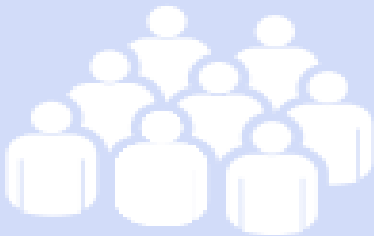


- The Committee discussed the inclusion of QR codes that refer to [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) on all pamphlets and agreed to continue the discussion at the October 2022 meeting. Some with CPC and Treatment Facilities experience “chimed in” that this would be a novel idea at trade shows and other Public Information-type venues.
- The Technology team has made great progress and is using NetSuite’s native Support Case functionality to support translation and license requests



# Nominating:

April 2023, the positions of

- Northeast Regional Trustee,
- Southwest Regional Trustee, and
- Trustee-at-Large Canada will be up for election.

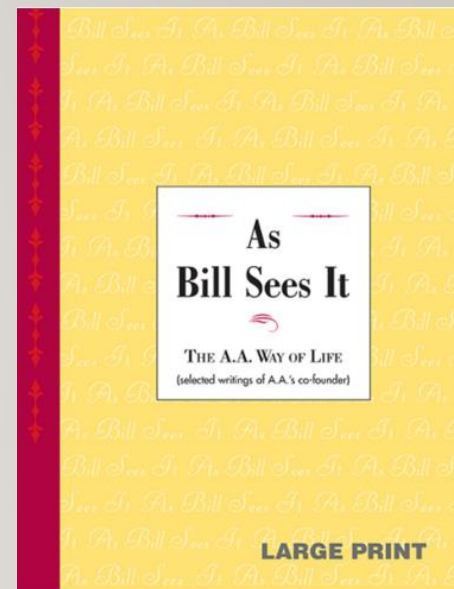
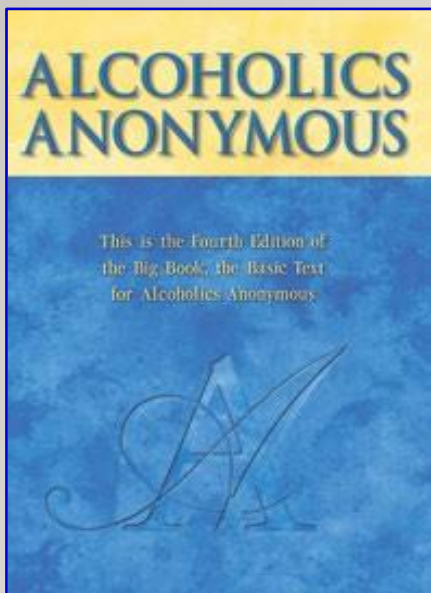
ALCOHOLIC (Class B) TRUSTEES		
<b>8 REGIONAL TRUSTEES</b>  <i>SIX from U.S. TWO from Canada FOUR successive ONE-year terms</i>	<b>4 GENERAL SERVICE TRUSTEES</b>  <i>TWO from A.A.W.S. TWO from Grapevine FOUR successive ONE-year terms</i>	<b>2 TRUSTEES-AT-LARGE</b>  <i>ONE from U.S. ONE from Canada FOUR successive ONE-year terms</i>



# Call For Paper

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 check with the State Office or your local Intergroups and Central Offices for availability





# CORRECTIONS



- In addition to maintaining correspondence with persons in custody, coordinating the Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS), 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 CCS 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.







# 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. The Committee discussed a consideration to research the best methods for future podcast episodes to be completed in Spanish and French.
- The current reports for “*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>

# AROUND THE PICNIC TABLE



**UNAUDITED**

in Prior, CFA, CPA  
(alcoholic) Trustee  
e Board Treasurer



# UNAUDITED

## 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.

# UNAUDITED

## Expense - Unaudited:

- Year to June 30 payroll and benefits expense 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 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. We are 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.



# GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

## A.A. WORLD SERVICES, INC.

### AA GRAPEVINE, INC.

#### 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):

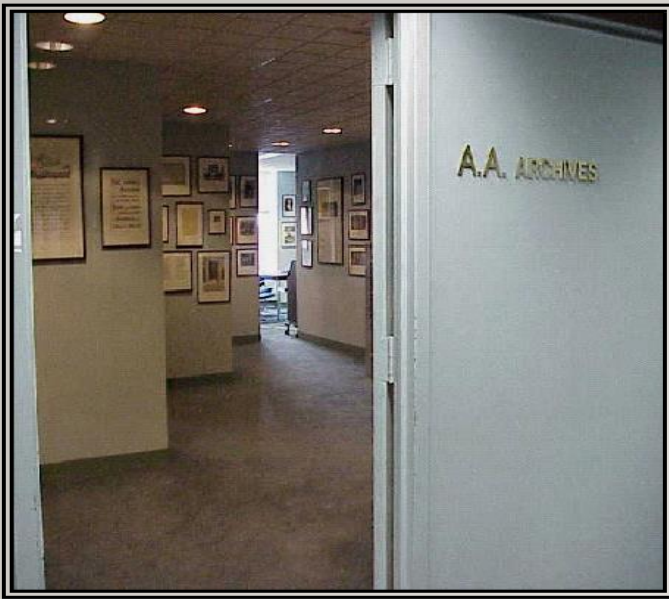
- The Spring 2022 issue of *About A.A.* went out in April. The issue focuses on efforts to reach out to mental health professionals, looks at "*A.A. as a Resource Around the World*" and introduces three new Class A (non-alcoholic) General Service Board Trustees. Work has already begun on the fall 2022 issue. See also <https://www.aa.org/about-aa>.
- The Committee is also considering a request to remove the pamphlet "*A Member's-Eve View of Alcoholics Anonymous*" from the CPC Kit contents list. The Committee noted that, while "*A Member's-Eve 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 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, which can be seen at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/aaworldservicesinc>.







# 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 Committee discussed the section “*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 Michelle Mirza, our non-alcoholic Archivist, provide more information on this topic from nationally recognized ASL associations.

Archives  
WORKBOOK

[www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

# AREA 16 ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IN GEORGIA

GEORGIA STATE SERVICE ASSEMBLY



**THANK YOU!**

[delegate@aageorgia.org](mailto:delegate@aageorgia.org)

478-960-4574

