

DELEGATE'S REPORT

September 17, 2023

Good morning,

My name is Tracy, and I am an alcoholic. I want to thank everyone for their dedication and service to Area 16. Special thanks to Tamera for all her hard work. These Assemblies require planning and coordination. I think of the swan swimming on the lake. This all looks smooth on the surface. Beneath the surface there is a lot of work being done to keep it afloat. I want to thank the FLTC for always providing us with great support with anything we need during our Assembly Weekend. I am also very grateful to have our special guest, Jimmy Dean, with us this weekend. Please don't forget to come by Lee's table before you leave. He will have recordings from our speaker last night, the Business Meeting today, and other recordings as well.

73rd General Service Conference Reports are available for you today. The report is also available on the aa.org website.

Since our May Assembly we have had 2 Cluster Forums in Area 16. I want to thank the Districts in our Southeast Region and our Northwest Region for their hard work. Both forums gave great presentations. I saw members that had never been to an Assembly or Forum getting involved and being of service. The hospitality, food, and fellowship were outstanding. Our last Cluster Forum for the year will be held by District 17 in Smyrna on November 11.

SSAASA is scheduled for November 17th thru 19th. Tom and I will be attending. This service assembly is a great opportunity to encourage service work. You can go to SSAASA7.org for more information and to register.



Area 16 Feedback
ROUND ROBIN REPORT
Tracy Miller
Delegate
Panel 72 Area 16

Area 16 held a Round Robin Forum at our May 2023 Assembly with the focus being communication from our Area, to provide feedback on the numerous Agenda Items that have been submitted related to the changes approved by the 2021 General Service Conference that follow, noting the importance and interest of these Advisory Actions to the Fellowship.

Advisory Actions from the 71st General Service Conference:

A revision be made to page 117 in the book, 12 steps and 12 traditions, replacing the phrase “opposite sex” with the word “partner” as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context to the change as it relates to inclusivity:

The text on page 117 which currently reads:

“Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way...”

Be revised to read:

Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a partner with whom the fullest possible union can be made - spiritual mental emotional and physical this mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way..."

The sentence which includes the phrase "lustful enough to rape" in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter "Step Six" of the book, "12 Steps and 12 Traditions", be revised to refer to the Seven Deadly Sins without specific mention of examples that are severe in nature as follows, and that

The text on page 66 which currently reads:

"No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health."

Be revised to read:

"No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust, or gluttony.

- In response to these Advisory Actions the Fellowship submitted 34 PAI'S to the 72nd General Service Conference referring to the changes to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.
- The Items were reviewed by the Trustees Committee on Literature. The Committee Took No Action:
- The Trustees' Literature Committee requested that the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature discuss changes to the text of the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions directed by the 71st General Service Conference.
- At the 72nd General Service Conference the Conference Literature Committee took no action. The Committee noted that there does not appear to be a consensus on the changes among A. A. members at the local level.
- **Floor Action:**

It was recommended that the Advisory Actions from Panel 71: in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, be returned to the original text. **Decline to consider.**

In response the Fellowship submitted 28 PAI'S on the **same** Advisory Actions to the 73rd General Service Conference

- The Trustee's' Literature Committee reviewed proposed agenda items related to the changes approved by the 2021 General Service Conference to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and noted the importance and interest of the Advisory Actions to the Fellowship.
- The trustees' Literature committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Literature Committee all proposed agenda items related to the changes in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* as **one grouped item** with the suggestion that the Conference Literature Committee consider forwarding the item to the General Service Areas for wider discussion looking toward a policy setting whether to edit AA's cofounder's words and, if so, then how to edit them in our current literature.
- The agenda item would be discussed by the Fellowship during the 2023-2024 Conference year and considered by the Conference Committee on Literature at the 2024 General Service Conference.

*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.*

In response to this Advisory Action the Fellowship submitted 16 PAI'S to the 72nd General Service Conference referring to the development of the Plain Language Big Book.

- The Trustees Committee on Literature Took No Action:
Oversight of the development of the plain language book is within the scope of TABB subcommittee. The committee requested that these observations inform a future progress report from the TABB subcommittee.

Floor Action:

It was recommended that:

The translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language, that the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts, not be translated into plain language in any way: that these remain in the existing form in English as in previous editions of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. **Decline to consider.**

In response the Fellowship submitted 32 PAI'S on the same Advisory Action to the 73rd General Service Conference

- The trustee's' Literature Committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Literature Committee all new proposed agenda items related to the Plain Language Big Book as **one grouped item**.
- The committee also discussed requests from some members regarding access to the draft of the Plain Language Big Book.
- After due consultation, the committee agreed to provide a monitored, "closed" reading room for Conference members only during the 2023 General Service Conference, where Conference Literature Committee members will be given first viewing of draft chapters in a controlled environment.
- The Conference 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.

A special session was held at the 73rd General Service Conference. Delegates had an opportunity to share their thoughts on the draft.

At Area 16's Georgia State Service Assembly May 20, 2023, approximately 180 members assembled in circles of 15 to 20. Each group had a facilitator, a timekeeper, and a note taker. Each member was allowed 2 minutes to share on the question or topic. Each group received 2 questions or topics. The questions were distributed randomly.

The questions were:

A. Changes to the book "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" were implemented in two Advisory Actions at the 71st General Service Conference. Share your input regarding any possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s founders.

88 responses yielded.

43 - Don't change the words of the Founders.

3 - Literature is sacred. Not enough GSRs to come and participate. Recent changes were not made with a groundswell of support from current members.

3 - Bottom-up discussion. Questions come from the top, filter down to groups, discussed there and sent back up the chain. (doesn't seem to be getting anywhere).

2 - Possible future changes should go through 3 conferences at NY before changes to Founders literature.

2 - Everything that came from founders would have to have to be approved by 3/4ths of all groups in writing.

2 - Agenda comes from NY Feb 15-vote on in April 20. Minimum of two-year time frame for changes to books.

2 - Not opposed to change.

B. The development of the Plain Language Big Book is almost complete. Projected to be ready by June of 2023. There were numerous Agenda Items submitted for the Conference Agenda in 2022 and in 2023 from the fellowship with concerns about a translation of the 4th edition. Share your thoughts on the Translation of the 4th edition of Alcoholics Anonymous to Plain and Simple Language.

29 - No problem with it. If a PL BB can reach more people, great.

3 - This would be very useful to many people.

1 - This would be a new translation. The original BB will not go away. It could make the BB more accessible to a newcomer. Trust the process!

13 - If it's not broke don't fix it. Concerned that more translations will dilute the message.

6 - I have problems with the process. People in my district don't want it. I don't think the delegates were given enough time to review, digest, and weigh in.

3 - Plain language - not started at the grassroots level. Felt like conference directive rather than member driven.

3 - Totally against it. Feels that all of the changes made during the covid emergency should be reevaluated since there was lack of feedback and participation during that time.

Additional Questions

1. The Plain Language Big Book is designed to help members that might have difficulty reading "Alcoholics Anonymous". Are there other options that might be helpful?
 - Sponsor's responsibility to help someone understand.
 - Audiobooks
 - Sitting with someone and reading it to them
2. Was there discussion in your District/Home Group on the Agenda Items for Conference concerning Literature changes to the Twelve and Twelve and/or the Plain Language Big Book translation?

- 9 - Yes (mixed reviews, misinformation, heated discussions)
- 9 - No (report but no discussion, unaware it was a translation)

3. GSR attendance at the Area 16 Assembly has declined in the past several years. What are your ideas to help encourage increased attendance and participation at the Area 16 Assembly from registered groups and their designated GSR? (see GSR Survey Report)

4. What are your thoughts on possibly developing a plain language translation of the Twelve and Twelve?

- 12 - No changes to the Twelve and Twelve.
- 1 - Use money to Translate to foreign languages.

5. How does your Voice reach the General Service Conference? Are you familiar with Agenda Item Submission Forms (PAIs)?

- 21 - Not familiar with PAI'S
- 11 - Informed by GSR's and DCM's
- 9 - our voice is not heard by the General Service Conference

A spreadsheet with the notes taken from the comments made by participants in the Round Robin will be available on aageorgia.org along with this report. I want to thank all of you for participating.

From GSO

[Archives](#)

- Completed cataloging of the 2023 General Service Conference

Publishing

- 85 titles are backordered. 44 of them should be available in the next 30 days.

Operations

- Service Kit contents provided in a digital format with QR Codes has allowed for the fulfillment of backorders of over 7,100 service kits since March 1st.

Communications

- GSRs will be receiving *Box 459*. 60,000 members are on the distribution list.
- 102 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) go live on aa.org in 3 languages.

Staff Services

- The Big Book has been translated into Haitian Creole and is being reviewed by a group in Haiti.

Translations, Licensing, and Intellectual Property

- Licensing inquiries started out at 965. 736 have been processed and completed leaving 229 to go. Expectation is to be current in the next 45 days.

AAWS

- Daily Reflections available in audio format in English, French and Spanish for \$11.99
- “AA for the Older Alcoholic” in new booklet perfect-bound format for \$2.00

Grapevine\La Viña

- The Grapevine App launched Sept. 1st. Official launch was announced at the ICYPAA convention in San Francisco and the Hispanic Convention in Seattle. The new App is available through the Apple and Google app stores. \$2.99 monthly or \$28.97 annually. GV Complete package is \$54.00 annually. La Viña has a bi-monthly subscription of \$2.99 for digital/\$14.95 annually. La Viña Complete is \$27.00 annually.

- GV Podcast has over 530,000 downloads
- Fall Book is a Spanish translation of *Prayer and Mediation*.
- Instagram: Grapevine has 10,600 followers. La Viña has 1,351 followers
- YouTube: 11,000 subscribers, 107 videos with 157,222 views
- Grapevine Website: 2nd quarter averaged 104,356 new visitors; 8,151 returning visitors and 283,343 page views.
- Carry the Message certificates processed YTD: 1,137
- Audio Project: New push to get members involved and get more audio stories.

Trustees' Committees

Archives

- Remove the digital sharing section in the Archives Workbook.

General Service Conference Committee

- General sharing sessions to be held at least 2 times a year, utilizing virtual meeting technology, these meetings are being coordinated by the GSB Chair, Delegate Chair, and our General Manager.
- Took no action on extending the Sept. 15th PAI submission deadline.

CPC/ Treatment/Accessibilities

- Military audio project – work plan and budget to be developed for 2024
- Inventory of Accessibilities-related AA and GV resources is postponed to be discussed in October 2023
- Carrying the message to those with intellectual or information-processing challenges – postponed to October 2023

Corrections

- Experience shared on virtual meetings in correctional facilities. 11 stories from members in custody have been submitted.

Finance and Budgetary

- Report quarterly the fiscal performance of the AAWS, GSB and GV Boards throughout the year to the GSC – The committee discussed ways to ensure that the financial reporting strategy is cohesive across

all 3 boards and both offices (Grapevine and GSO); clarifying policies and practices for responding to ad hoc requests for financial information; review current reporting and the effectiveness or redundancies created by new additional reporting; ensuring consistency of reporting over time.

International Conventions and Regional Forums

- A digital option for 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. \$25,000-\$30,000 estimated cost.
- Subcommittee appointed to explore virtual format options for Regional Forums.
- Closing the Big Meetings will be forwarded to the 2024 ICRF Conference Committee with additional background.

Literature

- ❖ *AA for the Black and African American Alcoholic* – seeking local input on the history of the Canadian AA Black Community.
- ❖ Fifth Edition – working group of additional readers from the fellowship for the substantial number of story submissions.
- ❖ Plain and simple Language Big Book – subcommittee renamed to “Subcommittee for the Development of the Plain Language Big Book of *Alcoholics Anonymous*.”
- ❖ Consideration to seek Fellowship input regarding changes to Bill’s writings – questions to be forwarded to Regional Trustees and Delegates to allow local sharing sessions and engagement from the Fellowship.

Public Information

- 2022 membership survey – webpage and pamphlet with a QR code should be rolled out together.
- Mesmerize Point PSA distribution channel is airing PSAs in 2,193 pharmacies and 2,500 doctor’s offices.
- Submit a video to the Young People’s Video Project at <https://www.aa.org/young-peoples-video-project>

Unaudited Financials

OPERATING CASH

As of July 17, operating cash on hand is \$528,108 which represents 0.37 months (between one and two weeks) of 2023 budget operating expenses.

REVENUE

- YTD Contributions are \$4,839,110 down **3%** from Last Year.
- YTD Gross Literature Sales \$7,877,177 up **37%** from Last Year
- YTD Literature Gross Margin \$4,082,317 up **49%** from Last Year
- Cost of Goods Sold is \$3.8 Million. That is 48.8%. It was 46.4% Last Year.
- Budget reforecast 3.0 shows an operating deficit of **\$292,931**.

RESERVE FUND

as of June 30th, total \$13,098,822.

Subtracting the GV Liability fund of \$573,012 leaves \$12,525,810 at **7.11 months**

I would like to thank our outgoing Committee Chairpersons, Mark G. (Archives), William B. (PI/ CPC) Janie C. (Communications), and Dave L. (Web Committee) for their service to Area 16 during their four years as Co-Chair and then Chair of their respective committee. We are very grateful to David M., for stepping up and filling the Office Committee Chair position. We will miss him on the Office Committee, and we appreciate his service. David was our Panel 58 Delegate. He has held every position on Area 16's Office Committee in the past and is one of our most humble servant leaders.

The spirit of rotation is a beautiful principle. I have been on a journey in Alcoholics Anonymous that has presented me with many opportunities to serve. Each time I have felt overwhelmed at the beginning. I have been blessed with people that told me to get in the car, but also people that suggested that God won't drive a parked car. Our General Service Structure is our gift from our Co-Founders. I am honored to be a part of that General Service Structure. I believe I have a right to be grateful. There is a priceless freedom that comes with that right.

On the last page of the *AA Service Manual*, Bill ends with these few sentences:

“Freedom under God to grow in his likeness and image will ever be the quest of Alcoholics Anonymous. May our General Service Conference be always seen as a chief symbol of this cherished liberty. To a man, we of A.A. believe that our freedom to serve is truly the freedom by which we live—the freedom in which we have our being.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Delegate.

