

## January 2025 Delegates Report

I want to thank Tamera for all her hard work putting things together for us this weekend. Tamera also put together all of the Directories that have been distributed today. I also want to acknowledge Derek, Lon and the rest of the Communications Committee. They have taken on the responsibility of all the Audiovisual and recording portions of the assembly. This is no small task, and we are fortunate to have such talent in Area 16.

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I want to remind everyone of our theme for 2025: Working Together, Increasing Trust. The presentation topics are:

1. Delegating: It's okay to ask for help
  2. Closing the Gap: How do we make the voice of every Group count?
  3. Our Financial Responsibility in Carrying the Message.
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I have received a working schedule of conference dates and when information will be made available.

Sometime in January I will be receiving the inventory question for the conference inventory that I will be participating in.

As Delegate Chair to the 75<sup>th</sup> Conference Committee to GV/LV, I will be participating in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Board Meeting at the end of January. I have already made travel arrangements to be there for the GV/LV Board meeting that actually happens the Thursday preceding all the other events.

I will be meeting with the full conference committee for GV/LV at some point in February to take care of some housekeeping business.

The conference background materials will be sent to us over a period of a week, the same as last year. I will ask Kirby to distribute the information as it is made available.

The final agenda item list should come with the background information. If your District meeting is usually held at the beginning of the month, please consider having it after Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> so that your DCM can get the background information to you. The Pre-Conference planning meeting is being held Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. So your DCM will have about 5 weeks to get feedback from your groups.

The list of all PAI's submitted, those sent forward, and those that were not, will be made available between Feb. 24-28.

Those conference committees that have corresponding Trustees committee will be jointly, virtually, at the end of March.

There will be a remote communities meeting, only available to conference members mid-April.

The conference itself will be held April 27-May 3.

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We have been informed that there were 143 total PAIs submitted. The 74<sup>th</sup> Conference Committee to GV/LV met with the Trustees Board Chair to GV/LV on October 15<sup>th</sup> to review the 10 items received for GV/LV.

There was an agenda Item list forwarded to the DCMs November 22, 2024. Of the 10 Items we talked about during that October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, one of those items was on the agenda.

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The southeast regional forum was held in Biloxi, at the Golden Nugget Hotel, on December 6-8, 2024.

There were 484 in attendance representing all the areas in the Southeast, including Puerto Rico. There were also 25 in attendance from areas outside the Southeast.

I was asked to present a workshop, and I chose the topic “Grapevine: more than just a magazine”.

There was good discussion and input.

I learned some things, one of which is that I’m no good at playing slots, but Tracy is!

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I was asked to present a workshop on Grapevine. I chose the topic “Not just a magazine”.

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We have talked much about the App over the past year, and you even know about the podcast. But did you know that the podcast is also available on YouTube? Every one of the over 170 episodes is there.

There are also videos on a wide range of topics. In 2024 a new section was added for the deaf alcoholic in ASL.

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### **Did you know that most of our literature is also available as AUDIO BOOKS**

Some of the same print books are offered in audio format (either as a CD or MP3), but there are also new titles here that are worthy of exploring:

A Lifetime of AA

Attitude Adjustment

It Works if We Work it

Not for Newcomers Only

Partners on the Journey

Pathways to Spirituality

Powers of Example

The Story of AA, How the Fellowship Began

What it was Like: Early AAs tell their stories

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The Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Hour has exceeded 1 million downloads!

You can access the Podcast FREE through the App. There is a new episode every Monday at 9am.

One of the hosts was in Biloxi at the SERF!

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It was announced in December that Grapevine book pricing will increase by \$1 per book effective February 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are planning to get some books from Grapevine, now is the time.

New List Prices for certain Discount Literature Packages will go into effect on January 22, 2025.

These adjusted List Prices have been calculated to reflect a consistent 35% discount off the combined total list prices of the contents of the packages.

The updated Discount Literature Packages List Prices will be reflected on the AAWS online web store as well as in our updated digital and print 2025 Catalog.

Please keep in mind that the only income Grapevine has is through the sale of subscription and print literature. The AA Grapevine, Inc. is providing services for the body for free. Services like: the weekly podcast, the Instagram page, and the YouTube Channel. Quantity purchases in excess of \$500 will still be eligible for a 20% discount.

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#### Apps

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Grapevine downloads: 48,903 compared with 40,654 in June

» Total in-app subscriptions: 6,110 compared with 5,755 in June

» Total subscribers with app access: 14,392 compared with 14,033 in June

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La Viña downloads 2,052 compared to 1,689 in June

» Total in-app subscriptions 280 compared with 210 in June

» Total subscribers with app access: 440 compared with 345 in June

Print Magazines subscription averages

first half of 2024

Grapevine 45,943

La Viña 6,782

Total Subscription averages first half of 2024

(print, app, online, complete)

Grapevine 59,032

La Viña 7,158

Income to date from Apple Store and Google Play:

\$125,784.25

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For the nine months ended September 30, 2024, total operating revenue is \$14,591,894 which is 3% more than the year to date (YTD) budget of \$14,140,375.

Total operating expenses before depreciation are \$13,417,466, which is 3% less than the YTD budget of \$13,826,110.

Operating surplus before depreciation is \$1,174,429 compared to a budgeted YTD surplus of \$314,265, so we have an extra \$860,164 more than we anticipated at this point in the year.

The reserve fund is at 6.41 months of 2024 reforecast operating expenses versus a target range of nine to 12 months.

I will say that the reserve fund is low, but in tracking the numbers just this year, it has increased slightly.

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Before the Covid pandemic, the Fellowship had robust literature sales and strong margins on those sales. As you can see in the chart below, we experienced severe drops in sales during the pandemic. “Gross Sales” are what we sell literature for — a \$10 book = \$10 in gross sales. Gross sales though aren’t the whole story. What did that book cost to print? If it cost \$6, then we made \$4. If the book cost \$12, we actually would lose money. That amount we make is called many things: gross margin, margin, or net sales, for example. Gross Margin Percentage is what we make divided by the sale — so \$4 made on a \$10 book is 40% gross margin. With that primer in mind, this chart shows a bit of recent history.

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The Trustees Corrections committee reviewed the draft service piece “Facilitating Online Meetings in Correctional Facilities” and asked the Staff secretary to work with Publishing to add this service piece to the Corrections workbook and kit.

So, there will be a new section in the Corrections workbook about facilitating online AA meetings inside a correctional facility.

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Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (AAWS) is thrilled to announce the launch of Our Primary Purpose, the official podcast from the General Service Office (GSO) of Alcoholics Anonymous for the U.S. and Canada. Through engaging interviews with GSO staff and A.A. members—and voices from A.A. history—this new podcast explores how GSO supports A.A. groups and members to carry the message of recovery to those who need it most—which is Our Primary Purpose.

**Start Listening:** First Episode available already on [streaming platforms](#). It premiered on **January 14, 2025**.

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The International convention is an event that commemorates the the anniversary of both Bill W.'s first meeting with Dr. Bob (May 12, 1935) and the birthday of Alcoholics Anonymous (June 10, 1935).

The 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary is being held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, July 3-6

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You can find the registration link online at [aa.org](#). Search for International Convention in the search bar, or use the QU code on the screen, it will take you right there. Registration is available in English, Spanish and French.

A virtual option is available for only \$35. With that you can stream the major speaking events that are being held in the main arena.

You will be asked to select your preferred level of participation, and you will be offered several other add ons. You can pay for your all of this at the end. There are several payment options available.

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I have already started forwarding the new “Chit-Chat” memo to your DCMs. I will continue to do so as I receive them from GSO. These are helpful bits of information designed to drum up excitement and enthusiasm while providing valuable information about the event. There's only 166 days to go before all the fun begins!

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“About AA” is by no means new, but it is a valuable resource of information to anyone working to inform a professional about AA. You can sign up for free to receive issues via email. Past issues are available to read on [aa.org](#) under resources and newsletters.

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The Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and accessibilities is pleased to announce the launch of the military veteran interview project. This initiative invites AA members who are Veterans of the United States or Canadian Armed Forces to participate in a unique opportunity to share their experiences. The goal of this effort is to enhance AA outreach specifically tailored to Military Veterans on the US and Canada. A key component will be the creation of several audio interviews, in which anonymity-protected AA members who are Military Veterans share their experience, strength and hope – focusing on the intersection of military service and recovery in AA.

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The Corrections desk publishes the newsletter Sharing from Behind the Walls quarterly. It contains excerpts from letters sent to GSO by persons in custody with their permission. These newsletters are for distribution to A.A. members in correctional facilities. Anyone

can copy “Sharing From Behind The Walls” to share with all members in the Fellowship especially those incarcerated.

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**Support for Neurodivergent members** - Thanks to some incredible shared experience from neurodivergent A.A. members, we are currently updating the flyer “ Serving All Alcoholics: Making the A.A. Message Accessible” (F-107) with suggestions for meetings and sponsorship to better support those in the Fellowship who are neurodivergent. The term “neurodivergence” can include those with Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, OCD, Down Syndrome and Tourette syndrome to name a few.

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If you are a new GSR, DCM or just want to know more about being a trusted servant, visit [aa.org](http://aa.org) and go to the tab on the top of the page labeled “Inside AA”. A dropdown menu will appear with several options.

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In the” Information for New Trusted Servants” section, you can find website listings for all the area websites in the US and Canada, as well as contact information for all of the Staff Assignments.

You can view listings of everything you need for a GSR Kit or DCM Kit. Those lists have links to all the needed materials that you can download digitally for free.

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All the committee sections will take you to copies of their respective workbooks and/or work kits. They also provide information about those committees and share links with useful information. Please check the all out.

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The English version of the “2024-2026 A.A. World Service Manual is available in both print and digital formats.

The Spanish and French versions will be available in mid January. I will send out a notice once they are available for download and purchase.

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It is a privilege to serve as your Panel 74 Delegate. Thank you so much for allowing me to represent you at the General Service Conference.