

Report

March, 15 2026

Eastern Canada Delegates' Orientation

Virtual Meeting
March 15, 2026
Meeting ID: 890 5390 1395
Passcode: 005505

orientation des délégués de l'est du Canada

"HUMILITY IN ACTION"

Sunday – March 15, 2026 - *morning*

9:00 am to 9:10 am

Opening Remarks

Eastern Canada Regional Trustee – Joyce S.

Meeting Chair - Panel 68, Area 86 – Dale S.

9:10 am to 9:30 am

Area Highlights (2-minutes, timed)

Area 81	New Brunswick/ Prince Edward Island	Robin S.	Panel 76
Area 82	Nova Scotia/ Newfoundland/Labrador	Dwayne M.	Panel 75
Area 83	Eastern Ontario	Amy L.	Panel 75
Area 84	Northeast Ontario	Jim P.	Panel 76
Area 85	Northwest Ontario	Joel C.	Panel 75
Area 86	Western Ontario	Tammy S.	Panel 76
Area 87	Southwest Quebec	Sylvie B.	Panel 76
Area 88	Southeast Quebec	Jean-Yves M.	Panel 75
Area 89	Northeast Quebec	Jocelyne C.	Panel 75
Area 90	Northwest Quebec	Mélanie C.	Panel 76

9:30 am to 10:00 am

Eastern Canada Regional Trustee's Report – Joyce S.
General Sharing on Trustees Report

10:00 am to 10:10 am

Break – (10 minutes)

10:10 am to 12:40 pm

Delegates' presentation (15 minutes)
On respective General Service Conference committees

Area 81	Robin S.	Panel 76	Trustees Committee
Area 82	Dwayne M.	Panel 75	Literature & Archives
Area 83	Amy L.	Panel 75	Report & Charter
Area 84	Jim P.	Panel 76	Public Information
Area 85	Joel C.	Panel 75	Corrections
Area 86	Tammy S.	Panel 76	Grapevine
Area 87	Sylvie B.	Panel 76	Corrections
Area 88	Jean-Yves M.	Panel 75	Report & Charter
Area 89	Jocelyne C.	Panel 75	Treatment and Accessibilities
Area 90	Melanie C.	Panel 76	CPC

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12:40 pm to 1:10 pm	**Lunch**

Sunday, March 15, 2026 - afternoon

1:10 pm to 2:50 pm

Alternate Delegate Presentations (10 minutes)

GSC Workshop & Themes
"Responsibility in Service: When and How to Give"

Area 86	Jay R.	Panel 76	Restoration and discovering grace?
Area 84	Gaetanne G.	Panel 76	Unity in our Fellowship
Area 83	Bill C.	Panel 75	Gossip or Facts: Examining the Health of Our Own Communications
Area 82	Paul B.	Panel 75	Participation in All of AA – Is My Triangle Balanced?
Area 90	Nathalie R.	Panel 76	Many faces: One Fellowship
Area 81	Robin S.	Panel 76	Keeping our House in order
Area 88	Paule R.	Panel 75	Safety through the Structure in our Fellowship
Area 87	Nancy C.	Panel 76	Alcoholics Anonymous in a Digital Age
Area 85	Luca L.	Panel 75	Finding common ground
Area 89	Michel C.	Panel 75	Remote Communities: One Fellowship, Many Paths: Ensuring Access to AA for All

2:50 pm to 3:15 pm	**General Service Conference Process** **Rob M. – Panel 69, Area 83 East Ontario**
3:15 to 3:25 pm	***Break – (10 minutes)***
3:25 pm to 3:50 pm	**General Service Conference Agenda & Orientation** **Jean-Noël L. – Panel 67, Area 88 Southeast Quebec**
3: 50 pm to 4:10 pm	**Sharing from Past Delegates**
4:10 pm to 4:30 pm	**Ask it Basket and General Sharing Session**
4:30 pm	**Close with the Unity Declaration**

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"HUMILITY IN ACTION"

The Unity Declaration

This we owe to A.A.'s future: to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come.

Déclaration d'unité

Parce que nous sommes responsables de l'avenir des AA, nous devons : placer notre bien-être commun en premier lieu ; et préserver l'unité de l'association des AA, car de cette unité dépendent nos vies et celles des membres à venir

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89053901395?pwd=bVpkdDZnQkFQWXVEaC9HdDJtVm1HZz09

Meeting ID: 890 5390 1395
Secret Code: 005505

Hello everyone,

Here is the report from our very interesting Eastern Canada Delegates' Orientation Day, held on March 15, 2026. We had 58 participants.

In addition to the remarks and guidelines from our moderator, there were also comments and questions that are not included in his document.

Several former delegates came to tell us how much their participation in the Conference changed and enriched them, and they all keep an unforgettable memory of it. Some also shared a few amusing anecdotes, even though they were not always so amusing at the time they happened.

Throughout the day, participants posted questions in the Chat. When these were requests for presentations, they were sent quickly. The other questions were addressed at the end of the day.

The translation was carried out with the help of artificial intelligence. We therefore ask for your understanding in case a few errors may have slipped in.

Thank you for your participation, for your promptness in sending me your documents, and for your unfailing support.

Diane P.
A89 P65, Secretary for the ECDO.

9:00 am to 9:10 amSaturday – MARCH 15, 2026

Thank you, Joyce. Good morning and welcome! I am an alcoholic and I serve Area 86 Western Ontario as the Panel 68 Delegate. I am an active member of The Milton Thursday Night Group, and my name is Dale S[redacted].

Thank you for attending the Eastern Canada Delegates' Orientation. This is going to be a great day with dedicated Trusted Servants. Please relax, enjoy and absorb as much as you can. We hope when the day is over you will leave with a better understanding of the General Service Conference and also that you will get to know those who are representing Alcoholics Anonymous at the conference.

We will open the meeting with Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can,
and wisdom to know the difference.

Traditions read in French by Nicole B. GSR A84

Concepts read in English by Jaylene A. CPC A86 P76

Anonymity Statement

There may be some here who are not familiar with our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level:

"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films."

Thus, we respectfully ask that A.A. speakers and A.A. members not be photographed, videotaped, or identified by full name on audiotapes or in any published or broadcast reports of our meetings, including those reports on the Internet or other new media technologies.

The assurance of anonymity is essential in our efforts to help other problem drinkers who may wish to share our recovery program with us. And our Tradition of anonymity reminds us that A.A. principles come before personalities.

NOW A FEW WORDS ABOUT MEETING ETIQUETTE:

Use headphones if you are in a place where others' anonymity might be compromised and strongly consider not attending if you are in a public space. Please remember that people nearby might overhear or see the other people on the meeting.

Silence any other electronic devices when not muted so all can concentrate on your presentation.

Treat this meeting like you would if you were present in person and focus on the meeting and those present. If you have other things to do, please save that for before/after the meeting so it is not distracting to others on the stream.

Turn off your video if you're doing something distracting such as; walking, eating, smoking, talking on the phone or any other disturbances.

Diane, our secretary will be recording the event for purposes of taking minutes only.

Translation for English and French is being provided. At the bottom of your screen you will see a button for translation, choose the language that you would like to use.

Closed captioning is also available. If required, you can turn it on by clicking on the button at the bottom of the screen.

For our guests here today, if you are able, rename yourself as: Guest, first name & initial and area. If you are a Past Delegate rename yourself as: Area #, Panel # and name.

If have any questions, we have scheduled the Ask it Basket at 4:10 today. You can send any questions to Tim M. for English or Carl S. for French in the chat. Their names are preceded with a zero.

9:10 am to 9:30 am –

We will now start with the area highlights which are given by each delegate at their first conference. Today, we have asked all 10 Delegates to give highlights. The highlights are a report about the individual areas.

At the virtual microphone you will have 2 minutes, as is the custom at the General Service Conference. When the 2 minutes are up you will be notified and we ask that you leave the virtual podium by muting yourself.

DELEGATES, PLEASE RAISE YOUR VIRTUAL HAND SO TECH SUPPORT CAN EASILY LOCATE YOU. THE RAISE HAND BUTTON IS NOW UNDER REACTIONS. IF NOT THERE YOU CAN FIND IT UNDER PARTICIPANTS.

INTRODUCE EACH DELEGATE BY AREA #, AREA NAME, DELEGATE NAME & PANEL

The theme for the 2026 General Service Conference is: Humility in Action

Area 81	**New Brunswick/ Prince Edward Island**	**Garry L.**	**Panel 76**
Area 82	**Nova Scotia/ Newfoundland/Labrador**	**Dwayne M.**	**Panel 75**
Area 83	**Eastern Ontario**	**Amy L.**	**Panel 75**
Area 84	**Northeast Ontario**	**Jim P.**	**Panel 76**
Area 85	**Northwest Ontario**	**Joel C.**	**Panel 75**
Area 86	**Western Ontario**	**Tammy S.**	**Panel 76**
Area 87	**Southwest Quebec**	**Sylvie B.**	**Panel 76**
Area 88	**Southeast Quebec**	**Jean- Yves M.**	**Panel 75**
Area 89	**Northeast Quebec**	**Jocelyne C**	**Panel 75**
Area 90	**Northwest Quebec**	**Melanie C.**	**Panel 76**

Thank the delegates for their highlights.

9:30 am to 10:00 am Eastern Canada Regional Trustee's Report – Joyce S.

General Sharing on Trustees Report

Please help me in welcoming Joyce S., our Eastern Canada Regional Trustee who will be giving us her Trustees' report.

If have any questions, we have scheduled the Ask it Basket at 4:10 today. You can send any questions to Tim M. for English or Carl S. for French in the chat. Their names are preceded with a zero.

10:00 am We will now take a 10-minute coffee break and return promptly at 10:10.

As a reminder, if you are stepping away from your computer turn off your video.

WELCOME BACK!

For those of you who just joined us this meeting is being translated. Click on the translation button to choose your language. Also, if you require closed captioning, click on that button, as well.

10:10 am to 12:40 pm (15 minutes each) NOT TIMED

Delegate's presentation on their respective General Service Conference committees.

DELEGATES, PLEASE RAISE YOUR VIRTUAL HAND SO TECH SUPPORT CAN EASILY LOCATE YOU.

INTRODUCE EACH DELEGATE BY AREA #, DELEGATE NAME & COMMITTEE

Area 81	**Garry L.**	**Panel 76**	**Trustees**
Area 82	**Dwayne M.**	**Panel 75**	**Literature/Archives**
Area 83	**Amy L.**	**Panel 75**	**Report & Charter**
Area 84	**Jim P.**	**Panel 76**	**Public Information**
Area 85	**Joel C.**	**Panel 75**	**Corrections/Inter Conv-Region Forums**
Area 86	**Tammy S.**	**Panel 76**	**Grapevine**
Area 87	**Sylvie B.**	**Panel 76**	**Corrections**
Area 88	**Jean-Yves M.**	**Panel 75**	**Report & Charter**
Area 89	**Jocelyne C.**	**Panel 73**	**Treatment/ Accessibilities**
Area 90	**Melanie C.**	**Panel 76**	**Cooperations with the Professional Community**

Thank the delegates for their presentations about the committees they are on)

If have any questions you can send it to Tim M. for English or Carl S. for French in the chat. Their names are preceded with a zero.

12:40 pm We will now break for lunch. We will be resuming promptly at 1:10.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable lunch and welcome back! At least you didn't have too far to travel. We have a scheduled 10-minute coffee break later this afternoon.

For those of you who just joined us this meeting is being translated. Click on the translation button to choose your language. Also, if you require closed captioning, click on that button, as well.

1:10 pm to 2:40 pm (12 minutes each)

Alternate Delegate Presentations GSC Workshop & Themes

ALTERNATE DELEGATES, PLEASE RAISE YOUR VIRTUAL HAND SO TECH SUPPORT CAN EASILY LOCATE YOU. THE RAISE HAND BUTTON IS NOW UNDER REACTIONS. IF NOT THERE YOU CAN FIND IT UNDER PARTICIPANTS.

Alternate Delegate Presentations (12 minutes)

GSC Workshop & Themes
"Responsibility in Service: When and How to Give"

1:10 pm to 2:40 pm	**Area 86**	**Jay R.**	**Panel 76**	**Restoration and Discovering Grace**
	Area 84	**Gaëtanne G.**	**Panel 76**	**Unity in our Fellowship**
	Area 83	**Bill C.**	**Panel 75**	**Gossip or Facts Examining the Health of our own Communication**
	Area 82	**Paul B.**	**Panel 75**	**Participation in all of AA Is my Triangle Balanced**
	Area 90	**Nathalie R.**	**Panel 76**	**Many Faces; One Fellowship**
	Area 81	**Robin S.**	**Panel 76**	**Keeping our House in Order**
	Area 88	**Paula R.**	**Panel 75**	**Safety through the Structure in our Fellowship**
	Area 87	**Nancy C.**	**Panel 76**	**Alcoholics Anonymous in a Digital Age**
	Area 85	**Luca L.**	**Panel 75**	**Finding Common Ground**
	Area 89	**Michel C.**	**Panel 75**	**Remote Communities; One Fellowship: Many Paths; Ensuring Access to AA for All**

If have any questions, we have scheduled the Ask it Basket at 4:10 today. You can send any questions to Tim M. for English or Carl S for French in the chat. Their names are preceded with a zero.

2:40 pm to 3:10 pm General Service Conference Process

3:10 pm to 3:20 pm We will now take a 10-minute coffee break and return promptly at **3:20.**

Gentle reminder, if you are stepping away from your computer turn off your video.

3:20 pm to 3:50 pm General Service Conference Agenda & Orientation

Please help me in welcoming Rob Mc.. who will be presenting on the **General Service Conference Agenda & Orientation.**

If have any questions you can send it to Tim M. for English or _____ for French in the chat. Their names are preceded with a zero.

3:50 pm to 4:10 pm Sharing from Past Delegates.

We value your input and would like to hear your experience, guidance or wisdom. Please raise your virtual hand and you will be taken in the order received.

4:10 pm to 4:30 pm

Ask it Basket and General Sharing Session

If have any questions, we have scheduled the Ask it Basket at 4:10 today. You can send any questions to Tim M. for English or Carl S. for French in the chat. Their names are preceded with a zero.

(If we have time left and all questions have been answered ask for any questions/comments from the room.)

4:30 pm Close with the Unity Declaration

We will now recite the Unity Declaration:

This we owe to A.A.'s future: to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depends our lives and the lives of those to come.

Thank you for being here today and for making this first Eastern Canada Delegates' Orientation a success.

A huge thank you for all our participants, Our Tech Team and askit Baskit team our Secretary, Diane. And Our Eastern Canada Regional Trustee Joyce S. We wish the Delegates all the best for the upcoming conference. Good luck and have fun!

Area 81 report

Garry L. Area 81 Delegate

Panel 76, Trustees Committee

Good morning. My name is Garry L., and I am an alcoholic. I serve as the GSD for Area 81, covering New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, Canada. I'm here to provide a short summary of what this Area includes and where it is located.

As the Delegate for Area 81, I am honored to participate in this Delegate's Orientation and give an overview of our area.

Area 81 is distinguished by its rich cultural heritage, comprising French, English, and Indigenous populations alongside vibrant other communities. Situated on Canada's east coast, the region is well-known for its significant agricultural sector, particularly potato farming, as well as its robust lobster fishing industry and dynamic tourism activities.

Our Area provides a variety of meetings accessible to all A.A. members, including discussion, speaker, Big Book, Tradition, and Step meetings. There are also many smaller groups that do an intense study on the Steps and Traditions. Area 81 is comprised of 10 Districts and offers 228 in-person, as well as numerous online meetings. Our Area also has the oldest penal institution (Dorchester) meeting in Canada.

Area 81 conducts two Assemblies each year, in addition to a pre-conference meeting before the Delegate's participation at the Conference and a sharing session after the Conference concludes. These sessions are designed to collect relevant information ahead of the Conference and to facilitate post-conference discussion. Monthly Area service meetings are also held to address issues affecting our Area especially the ongoing problem of getting people involved in service. Our election Assembly occurs biennially in odd-numbered years where we choose our area officials. As we continue forward, it is our goal to make sure Area 81 is in good hands. I remain forever grateful to A.A. for its ongoing and vital role in my sobriety.

Thank you!

Area 82 Nova Scotia/Newfoundland

Area Highlights

Area 82 is the easternmost Area in Canada, stretching from Yarmouth, NS in the west to Cape Spear, NL the easternmost point in Canada. It stretches from Cape Sable Island, NS in the south to Cape Chidley, Labrador in the north. Area 82 borders two oceans, the Atlantic and the Arctic, and includes the Arctic Circle, and Canada's warmest province. It covers and land area of 460,464 square KM.

Our Area is split in the middle by the Gulf of St. Lawrence, with an 8-hour ferry ride needed to get us all together for assemblies. It IS a challenge, but one Area 82 overcomes annually to get together in one of the provinces for our Fall Assembly. The assembly rotates between four cities, two in each province.

Each province holds a provincial service weekend to deal with Area topics specific to their province each spring, and to prepare for items common to both provinces for the Fall Assembly. With Covid, these weekends were ceased, and a were replaced with a virtual Zoom Assembly each spring. The groups decided at the Fall 2024 Assembly that we would return to the service weekends and cease the Spring Assembly. We returned to the Provincial Service Weekends this past May.

We currently have 279 active groups scattered over the two provinces and one territory. We have physically remote communities in Labrador year-round, and seasonally in Cape Breton in the winter months. Our area has made good use of Zoom for remote communities. An ongoing hybrid meeting is hosted by Area 82 every Wednesday evening, with the in-person side taking place in Makkovik, Labrador, and members from across the area and Canada Zooming in.

We have also started a Quarterly Area Officer/DCM meeting on Zoom. As you will understand, with the great distances covered by our districts, prior to Zoom this was an impossibility for our Area. These meetings allow us more transparency in financial matters, as well as an ability to have the entire Area Committee have a say in decisions made between assemblies.

Zoom has also given us the opportunity to hold a Pre-Conference Assembly each spring to allow our Delegate to have a better handle on the Conscience of the Area going to New York.

Our Active Area Committees are chaired by our Alternate DCM, with Co-chairs of each committee from each province. The Active Area Committees host a meeting on the last Monday of each month, open to members of all districts, to share ideas, what's working in their districts, and what's not. A general service sharing session, that has been well received and attended.

Area 82 began an online Service Manual and Concepts study in November. We have had wonderful support from other Areas and GSO. We have had presenters from both countries, GSDs, Past GSDs from all over North America, as well as GSO staff and Trustees. An extra special thanks go out to Gerry W. P73 Delegate for Area 82, and Alan W. P74 Delegate for Area 84 for the great deal of service they have done for this meeting. Please join us Tuesday Evenings at 6 pm Atlantic time/6:30 Newfoundland---and bring a newbie!

Thank You,
Dwayne Mac[redacted], GSD P75/A82 Literature/Archives

Area 83 Highlights

Perched on the north shore of Lake Ontario, Area 83 spans an impressive 445 km from Quebec border east to Mississauga, reaching north up to the wilds of Algonquin Park and dipping south into New York State. This is home to 13,000 members across 568 active groups—including 33 virtual and eight in correctional facilities—our Area includes Toronto, the most linguistically diverse city in Canada. District 16 ensures our Spanish-speaking members are supported, and we continue seeking ways to reach the other 100+ languages spoken here.

Embracing the digital age, we elected our Panel 75 trusted servants with seamless electronic voting, including a new Technology Chair. Our tech committee ensures all Area meetings—four Assemblies and seven ACMs per term—are hybrid, allowing participation from every corner of our Area. Our monthly online GSR and DCM workshops, now in their second term, have become a gateway for many to catch the *service bug,* igniting passion for AA's future in Eastern Ontario.

Now in its sixth year—and third as a hybrid event—our preconference agenda-sharing sessions continue to grow in participation, helping our delegate better understand the collective conscience of Area 83. As part of the Eastern Canada Region, we actively engage in CERAASA (odd years) and the virtual Eastern Canada Delegates' Orientation (even years), both of which strengthen regional unity and prepare delegates for the General Service Conference.

With its energy, dedication, and ever-evolving approach to service, Area 83 remains a shining example of dynamic, inclusive General Service. Being part of this journey is an honor, and I am forever grateful to serve.

Good morning, my name is Joel C[redacted], Area 85 Delegate, Panel 75 serving on the Corrections Committee and Chair of the International Convention/Regional Forums Committee.

Area 85, Northwestern Ontario, spans from the Manitoba border all the way to Wawa, about an 11-hour drive East to West. With 6 of our 7 districts being dark, most of the groups that are active reside in Thunder Bay, the most central and largest city in our Area at approximately 100,000 people. The dark districts and low participation in Area Assemblies have been trending downward since I have been active in General Service. At my first Assembly in 2018 I bet we had 30-40 voting members with 3-4 DCM's, but our last few Assemblies have had less than 20 voting members with 1 DCM. Bringing light back to our "dark" districts has been a main priority of our Area Committee for the last few years. Our very own "Turning on the Lights Committee" has been making some steps in the right direction recently. We are hosting our first GSR Workshop in a very long time with a full slate of past Delegates, current Delegate and, so long as he doesn't make anyone mad in the next 9 months, our next Delegate. I am very optimistic that we will see growth in our Area and more "light" to be brought to our "dark" Districts

Not to paint a completely dark picture of our Area, we do have some things I believe are going very well. Despite the low numbers in service, it has not slowed down our Corrections and Area 85 Round-Up Committees. Our Round-Up has seen growth since the pandemic pause, and this year we have had to rent a larger venue to accommodate the growing attendance. The theme this year is "Change is Possible" featuring local speakers from Thunder Bay and Winnipeg and if you would like to see our beautiful Area it is being held on May 23-24. I would also like to highlight the Corrections Committee. They hold regular committee meetings, consistently holding meetings inside the correctional facility here in Thunder Bay and are very eager to grow their services to other districts.

Thank you for your time and attention, I am very proud to be from Northwestern Ontario and feel incredibly lucky to be able to serve in this capacity.

Joel C[redacted]

Area 85 Delegate

Panel 75

Tammy S[redacted]

Western Ontario General Service, Area 86

Area Highlights:

Ontario (Western), Area 86: Area 86 serves the Western Region of Ontario—a province in Canada—supporting an estimated 12,000 alcoholics under the auspices of 550 active groups spread across 23 Districts.

Geographically, Area 86 is uniquely situated among three of the five Great Lakes—Huron, Erie, and Ontario—with Georgian Bay also bordering our area. We share land-based borders with Area 83 and Area 84 to the north-northeast and are just one bridge crossing away from Area 50 (Buffalo, NY) and Area 33 (Detroit, MI). From within our Area, there are multiple points of access to our neighbors to the south via well-known crossings such as the Blue Water, Ambassador, Rainbow, and Peace bridges.

Area 86 may be smaller in land mass compared to other Areas, but it absolutely shines when it comes to supporting the still-suffering alcoholic and helping people stay sober, one day at a time.

Each year we hold a Pre-Conference Spring Assembly and a Fall Assembly. In odd-numbered years, the Fall Assembly includes the election of our five Area officers. Area Committee Meetings are held three times in even-numbered years and four times in odd-numbered years, with the December meeting primarily dedicated to electing nine sub-committee positions.

We are exploring the use of electronic voting in future elections. Just as individual alcoholics grow and evolve through connection with one another, Area 86 grows as well—by communicating with other Areas, asking questions, and being willing to both offer and receive help.

Area 86 participates in CERAASA (Canadian Eastern Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly), which rotates biennially among the ten (10) Areas of the Eastern Canada Region. We also support a newer initiative, the Eastern Canada Delegates' Orientation (ECDO), a virtual Conference orientation that includes participation from all Areas in the Eastern Canada Region.

It truly is a privilege, and an honor to serve the members of Alcoholics Anonymous in Area 86. I remain deeply grateful for the trust placed in me by a Fellowship that gave me my life back.

Tammy S.

Region Highlights at the 2026 Conference

Sylvie B[redacted], Delegate
Region 87 — Panel 76

Hello, my name is **Sylvie B[redacted]** and I am an alcoholic. I am the **delegate for Region 87, Southwest Quebec**. My sobriety date is **February 14, 1989**, and my home group is **“Viens partager” (Come Share)** on Friday evening in **Boucherville**, which I have attended for the past ten years.

Our region is **trilingual**, with **French, English, and Spanish**. We have **416 registered groups**, for a total of approximately **676 meetings per week**. The region is composed of **21 districts** and **12 service committees**.

Since our region is geographically small, we are fortunate to have **six regional meetings**, which include the executive committee, the **District Committee Members (DCMs)**, and the committee coordinators, in addition to **five general assemblies per year**. This allows us to remain close to our members and their groups.

We also have an **ad hoc service sponsorship committee**. This committee promotes the importance of **service sponsorship**. It also maintains a list of approximately **25 experienced service sponsors**, who are matched with service members in our region who request one. This helps them carry out their service with greater serenity and knowledge.

We are also fortunate to have a **Group Services Committee**, which provides moderators to help groups conduct a **group inventory** and develop **guidelines**.

The committee also organizes **workshops** on the role of the **General Service Representative (GSR)** and the **District Committee Member (DCM)**. Workshops on the **Traditions** and the **Concepts** are also offered. Finally, **service seminars** are organized that explain the **structure of Alcoholics Anonymous** and the **General Service Conference**.

These services are greatly appreciated, especially by **new service members** who want their groups to have an **informed group conscience**.

Thank you and have a great Conference.

REGION 88 – SOUTHEASTERN QUEBEC

Jean-Yves M[redacted] Delegate – Panel 75

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF REGION 88

Geographically, Region 88 is highly diverse. South of the St. Lawrence River, it includes beautiful farmland in the western part of the region and rugged landscapes at the eastern end of the Gaspé Peninsula. It also includes a narrow strip in the northern part of the Province of New Brunswick, as well as the Magdalen Islands, located northeast of the Province of Prince Edward Island. Some areas are so vast that members may travel approximately up to 650 kilometers to attend the Annual General Assembly. Our members speak with different accents, reflecting their diverse origins.

COMPOSITION OF THE REGION AND BRIEF HISTORY

Our Region was founded in 1974 and originally had eight Districts. Today, we have 18 Districts, 148 Groups, and 156 meetings per week. Of these, six are virtual Groups holding ten meetings. We have only four English-speaking Groups, which hold six meetings per week. French has been the predominant language since the beginning of our Region. The number of French-speaking Groups increased significantly in the early 1960s following the publication of the Big Book in French in 1963.

We hold three Regional Assemblies and one Annual General Assembly each year, in addition to several local Conventions. In collaboration with the three other Regions of Quebec, we hold various joint committee meetings.

The theme of our 2026 Conference, Acting with Humility, is well chosen. It reminds us to “keep it simple,” referring to Tradition Two — “Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.” — and to Tradition Eleven — “Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion.”

Region 88 is especially noteworthy for the dynamism of its members, its strong democratic spirit, and its ability to adapt to change.

Jean-Yves M[redacted]

Delegate, Region 88 Southeastern Quebec

Panel 75

2026 Highlights – Area 89 – Northeast Quebec

Area 89 began its activities in September 1975. It covers a vast territory stretching 800 kilometers along the St. Lawrence River and 550 kilometers northward, including a district on the south shore in front of Quebec City.

Our Area consists of 17 districts and 205 groups, primarily French-speaking, but also includes five English-speaking groups and four groups located in Native Communities. Among our 205 groups, 17 are online. Our Area serves seven Correctional Centers and 26 Treatment Centers.

Our annual regional calendar includes eleven executive committee meetings, four executive meetings with our eight committees' chairs, two general assemblies for GSRs and MCDs, and four regional meetings. Our committees are the following: Public Information including CPC and Remote Communities, our newsletter called "Le Nordet" (East Wind), Archives, Literature, Corrections and Treatment Centers, Helpline, Seminars and Web Services.

At our annual regional meeting in December, we hold a service meeting, alternating each year between *"Welcoming New Servants"* and *"Our Regional Inventory."*

Our area has implemented a new Internet-based VoIP telephone system for our help line. This system routes incoming calls to responders who are pre-scheduled through a Google Calendar. Incoming calls from the provincial phone line are also redirected via VoIP to the province's 35 local call centers, based on the call's origin.

An in-house software program called Switchboard registers the contact details of scheduled responders in the VoIP platform. Voicemail messages left by callers who did not receive a response are sent via email to a Google account. The account manager can then follow up accordingly.

Our remote communities are located on the North Shore of the St. Lawrence River at the easternmost part of our area and in the northern part of the province.

Every August, a Native community organizes a Roundup held in a traditional longhouse built specifically for this occasion. They also offer participants a traditional meal prepared by their community. Many Native individuals have found their way to AA through this special event.

I am very proud and grateful to serve an Area that honors the principles and traditions of AA.

Québec (Northwest), Area 90:
Area 90 began its activities in **August 1976** and covers a vast territory in the **northwestern region of Québec**. This territory extends from the **city of Ottawa in the west to Joliette in the east**, a distance of more than **244 kilometers**, and from the **northern tip of Montréal in the south to Kuujjuaq**, the northernmost point, over **1,445 kilometers away**.

We have a total of **305 groups distributed across 23 Districts**. Although this number is difficult to determine precisely, we estimate that the Area includes **nearly 6,000 members**. We have **more than 20 groups in correctional institutions** and **about a dozen in treatment centers**.

Predominantly **French-speaking**, our Area is **diverse, multicultural, and multilingual**. We have **seven Area officers** and **six standing committees**:

- Corrections
- Treatment
- Accessibility and Remote Communities (CTAC)
- Publications
- Public Information
- *La Vigne AA* (similar to the **Grapevine**)
- the regional service newsletter called **L'Héritage**.

In addition, there are **two working groups**: **Archives** and **Communications and Digital Technologies (CTN)**.

Our service calendar includes **six Area meetings**, **two general assemblies**, **a welcome assembly for new trusted servants and members interested in service**, as well as **a Pre-Conference Day and a Concepts Day**. Several other activities are added to this calendar, such as **one-day information sessions** (on the GSR, the DCM, finances, etc.) and **sharing sessions with committees**. All these activities help keep our members in the spirit of service while stimulating their interest.

We have successfully adapted to the **new reality**, and many of our meetings now take place **in person, by videoconference, or in hybrid format**.

Area 90 is vibrant and thriving, thanks to service.

— **Mélanie C.**

Eastern Canada Delegates' Orientation

orientation des délégués de l'est du Canada

" HUMILTY IN ACTION"

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Joyce S.

Eastern Canada Regional Trustee

The U.S./Canada service structure has ninety-three areas that are part of one of eight regions. A Regional Forum is held in alternate years in each region on a rotating basis. (For a better view of the map, you can find it in the A.A. Service Manual Page 93)



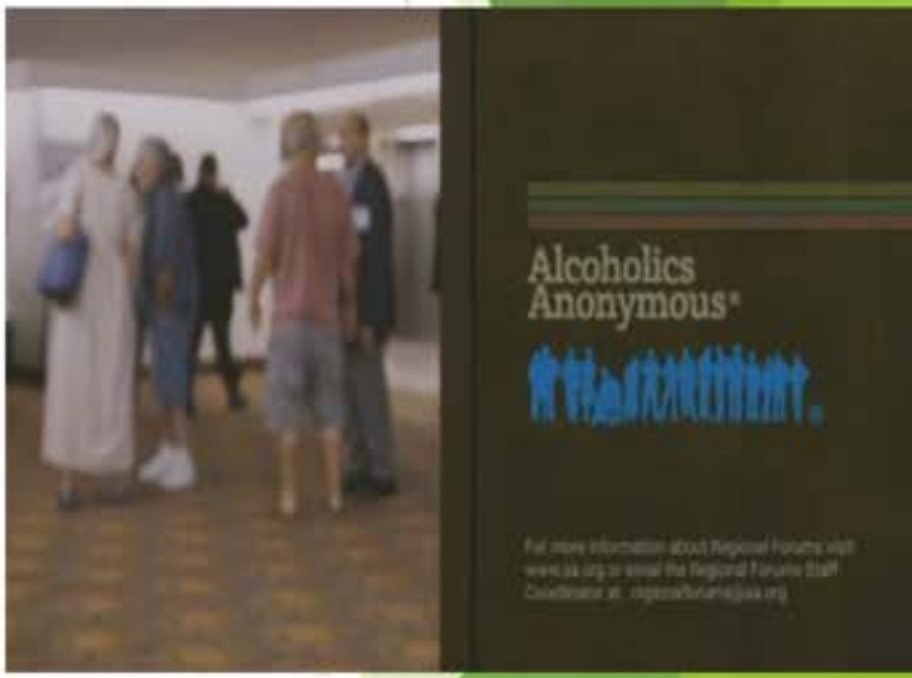
Area 81 - New Brunswick/Prince Edward Island
Area 82 - Nova Scotia/Newfoundland/Labrador
Area 83 - Eastern Ontario
Area 84 - Northeast Ontario
Area 85 - Northwest Ontario
Area 86 - Western Ontario
Area 87 - Southwest Quebec
Area 88 - Southeast Quebec
Area 89 - Northeast Quebec
Area 90 - Northwest Quebec



Boucherville, Quebec from August 21st to 23rd, 2026, hosted by the General Service Board and will be in Area 87, Southwest Quebec.



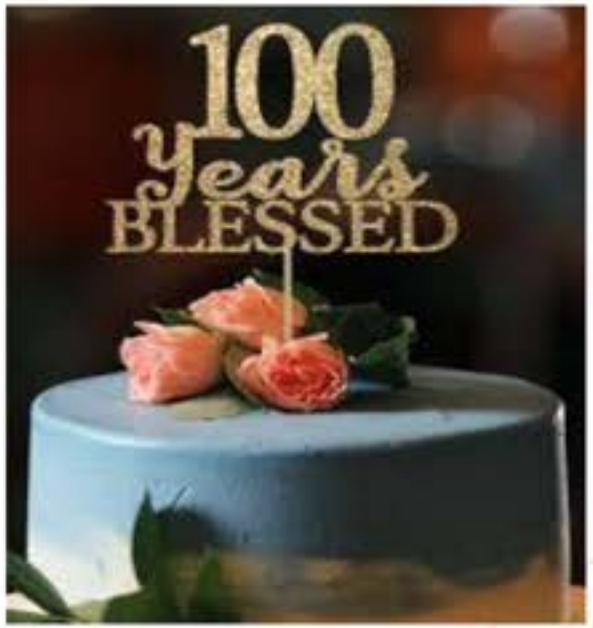




St. Louis, Missouri is the site for the 2030 Alcoholics Anonymous International Convention. July 4 - 7, 2030

- www.aa.org/international-convention





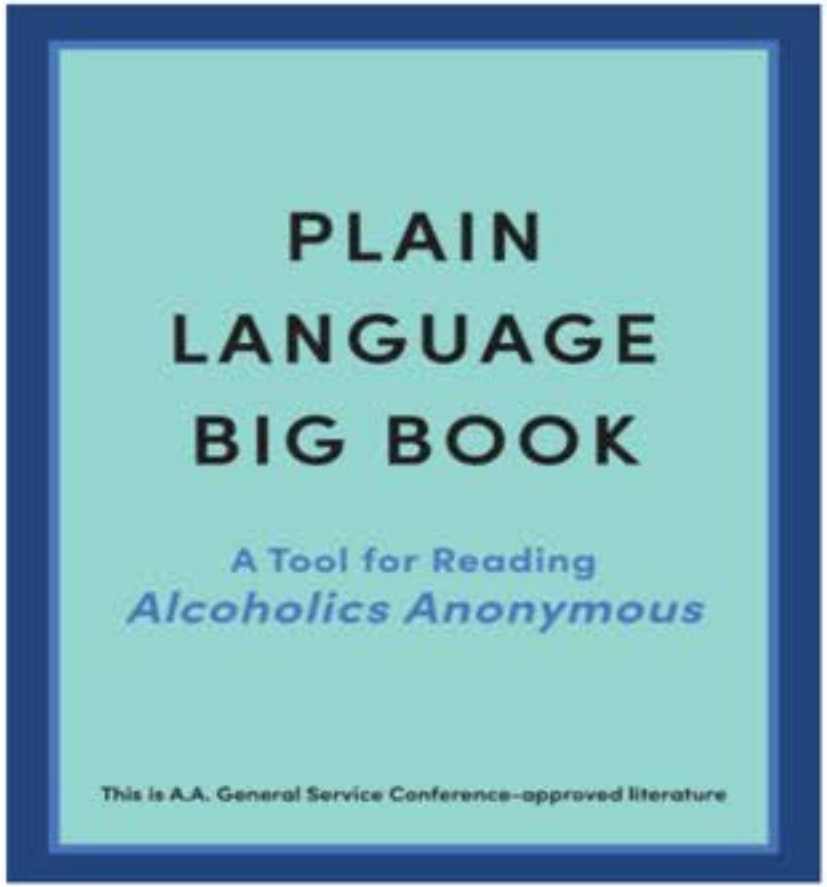
https://www.aa.org/regional-forum-video

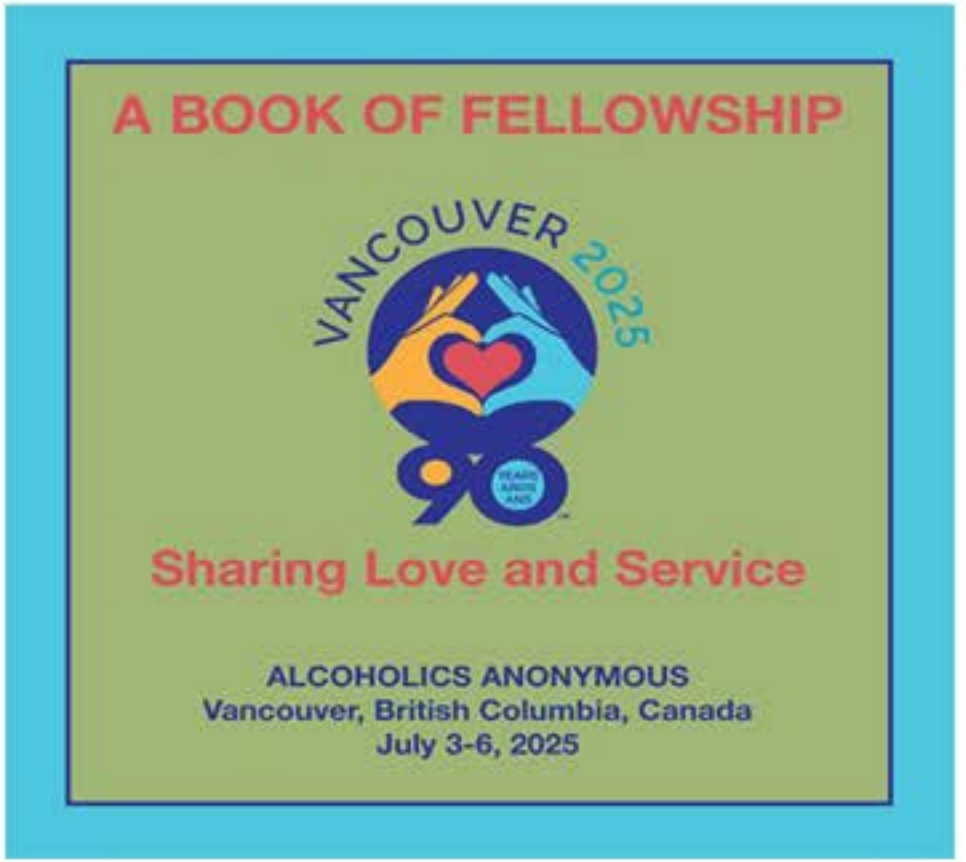


You can register for the forum at forumregistration@aa.org.









SPECIAL COMBO OFFER – Buy 1 Plain Language Big Book & get $1.00 off 1 Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous in English, French or Spanish hardcover print editions!

There is a reduction of the list price for the beautifully published A Book of Fellowship : 90 Years of Sharing Love and Service, the official 2025 International Convention Souvenir Book.





SHARING FROM BEHIND THE WALLS

A.A. General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 — Fall 2023

Dear A.A. Friends,

Let's open our meeting with a moment of silence, followed by the A.A. Preamble:

"Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

"The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.

A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety."*

Hooked: How Big Book

"I am serving a 15 year bid in the Department of Corrections here in South Carolina. I am in need of the A.A. Big Book. I will take care of the A.A. book you send me, and the most important thing is, I'll read it and apply it to my life. As of right now, I'm seven months clean and sober." — **Richard R., Southeast Region**

Looking for Support After Release

"I was recently authorized by the prison to start a recovery group here on the penitentiary. This is a peer-led group without an inside staff or outside sponsor, but it's modeled off A.A.'s Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. We have open sharing and discussion regarding the Twelve Steps.

I am a recovering alcoholic with 24 years' sobriety and have an outside sponsor. I currently chair the meetings but have been encouraging others in the group to take turns chairing, making the coffee, and checking out the various recovery books. Ideally, I would like to connect members in the group who have alcohol issues with an outside sponsor and coordinate with established A.A. groups in the various Washington State counties to support individuals being released from prison."
— **Jeffrey M., Pacific Region**

*Copyright by the A.A. Grapevine, reprinted with permission

Not the Person I Used to Be

"I am in prison for a D.U.I. I took another human's life. For the past seven years I've been working the Steps. I have been locked up for 25 years, and I go to the board in December 2025. I have been in recovery classes since 2012. I am not the same person I was 25 years ago. I need brothers that want me to be a part of their lives. Steps One, Two, and Three are how I started in the Twelve Steps. Step 1: Honesty. Step 2: Open-mindedness. Step 3: Willingness. I understand I have a disease!" — **Allen F., Pacific Region**

Acceptance Is the Answer

"My name is Eric, and I'm an alcoholic. I've been sober and applying the Steps of the Big Book for seven days, as of writing this letter, but I have not drunk alcohol in over two years. I am incarcerated and serving a life sentence. I am asking for a Big Book because I experienced a spiritual awakening on our six of my recovery. My recovery began when I quit running on self-will and actually turned my will and life over to the care of God as I understood Him. I just got out of the way, didn't grasp, let God handle it, and it worked out just the way it was supposed to. Acceptance was the answer that I discovered. Thank you, A.A."— **Eric W., Southwest Region**

Asking for Help

"I want to share the message with everybody, but I have to start with my accepting that there is a Power higher than myself — I want to be able to feel that! In the past, not having a Higher Power was just one of my issues. That feeling and the confidence of knowing beyond any doubt that there is a power greater than myself to assist me. What I have done or believed (or not believed) has only ever gotten me to places like the one I'm in currently. It's not working. I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired. I wish there was something more I could donate or give back, but unfortunately the only thing I can share is the word of A.A. and spread it within the community here and the community on the outside, if or when I ever get out of here. I sit in this little cell, where I use the same contraption to drink water and urinate into, but I also have food, and I'm blessed in at least have that. I don't want

YOUNG PEOPLE SHORTS



Young People Shorts – Fun

3.3K views



Young People Shorts – More

4.8K views



Young People Shorts - Don't Have to Drink

2.9K views



Young People Shorts – Bigger

1.7K views



Young People Shorts – Better

4.5K views

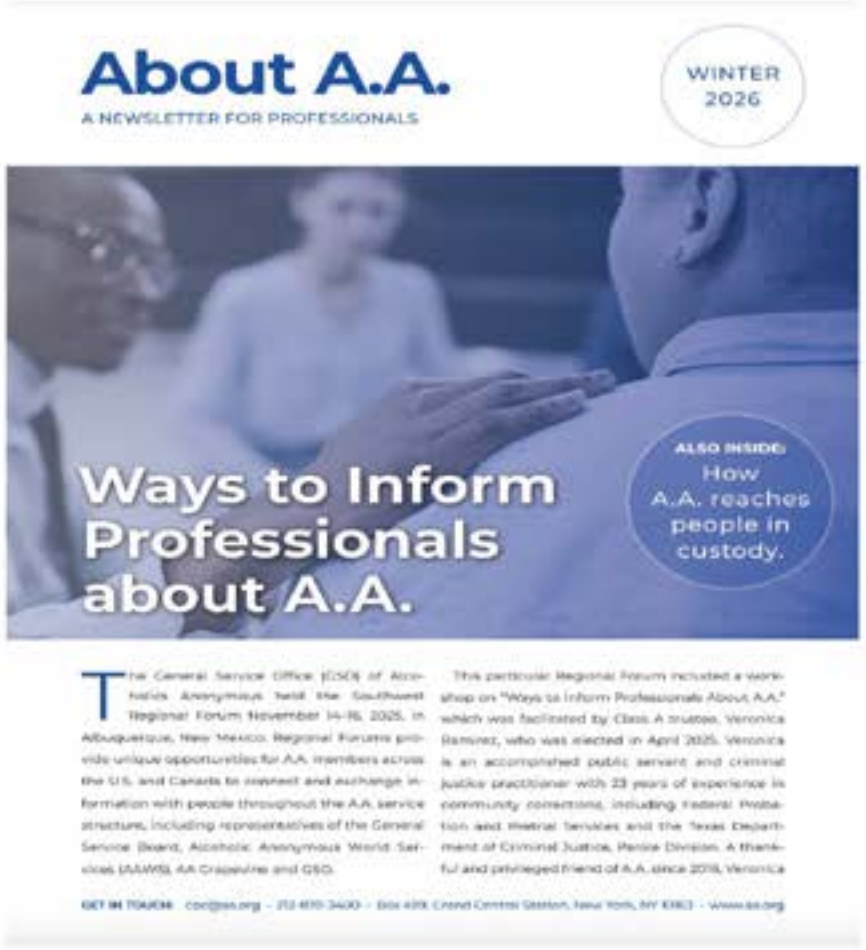
PUBLIC INFORMATION

This service card for young people can be placed any where.





CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY



About A.A.

A NEWSLETTER FOR PROFESSIONALS

WINTER 2026

Ways to Inform Professionals about A.A.

ALSO INSIDE: How A.A. reaches people in custody.

The General Service Office (GSO) of Alcoholics Anonymous held the Southwest Regional Forum November 14-16, 2025, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Regional Forums provide unique opportunities for A.A. members across the U.S. and Canada to connect and exchange information with people throughout the A.A. service structure, including representatives of the General Service Board, Alcoholic Anonymous World Services (AAWS), AA Grapevine and GSO.

This particular Regional Forum included a workshop on "Ways to Inform Professionals About A.A." which was facilitated by Class A trustee, Veronica Ramirez, who was elected in April 2025. Veronica is an accomplished public servant and criminal justice practitioner with 23 years of experience in community corrections, including federal Probation and Pretrial Services and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Parole Division. A thankful and privileged friend of A.A. since 2016, Veronica

GET IN TOUCH: corr@aa.org – 212.870.3400 – Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 – www.aa.org



LITERATURE


CALL FOR STORIES
In 2024, there was a General Service Conference advisory action that "a pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in A.A. be developed." The Trustees' Literature Committee is seeking recovery stories from transgender, non-binary, genderqueer, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming members in the A.A. structure of U.S. & Canada.
MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROJECT
www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/Asian_and_Asian_American_Alcoholic_Call_for_Stories.pdf
SUBMIT YOUR RECOVERY STORY
www.aa.org/submit-story-asian-and-asian-american-alcoholic-alcoholic-pamphlet
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS
MARCH 31, 2026

LITERATURE



In 2024, there was a General Service Conference advisory action that "a pamphlet on the Asian and Asian-American alcoholic in A.A. be developed."

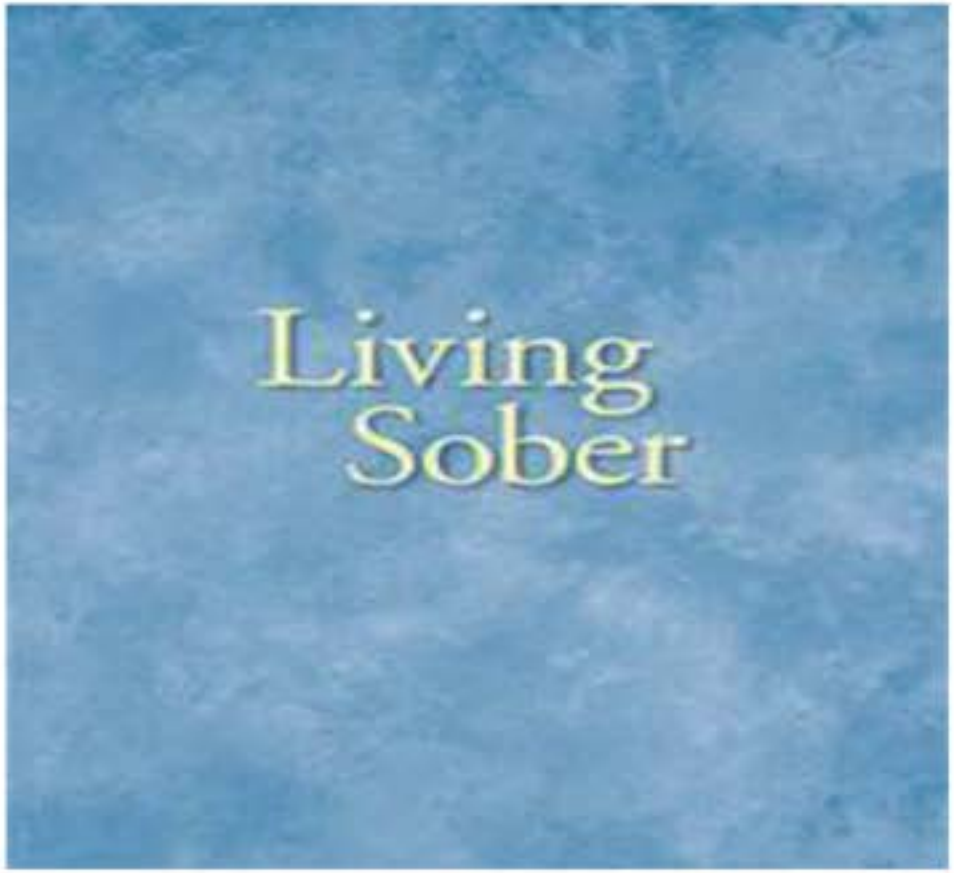
The trustees' Literature Committee is seeking stories of personal recovery from all members in the A.A. structure of the United States and Canada with ethnic or cultural ties to Asia.

SUBMIT YOUR RECOVERY STORY

https://www.aa.org/submit-story-asian-and-asian-american-alcoholic-alcoholic-pamphlet

MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT

www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/Asian_and_Asian_American_Alcoholic_Call_for_Stories.pdf


Living
Sober

New Conference-approved redesigned pamphlet!

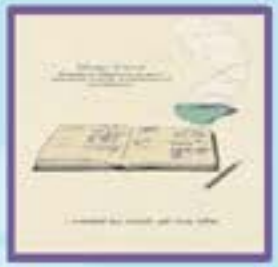
"Twelve Steps Illustrated" (Item P-55) $.75 USD



Completely redesigned, this is an easy-to-read presentation of A.A.'s program of recovery. Each of the Twelve Steps is explained through illustration and simplified text.

General Service Conference-approved.







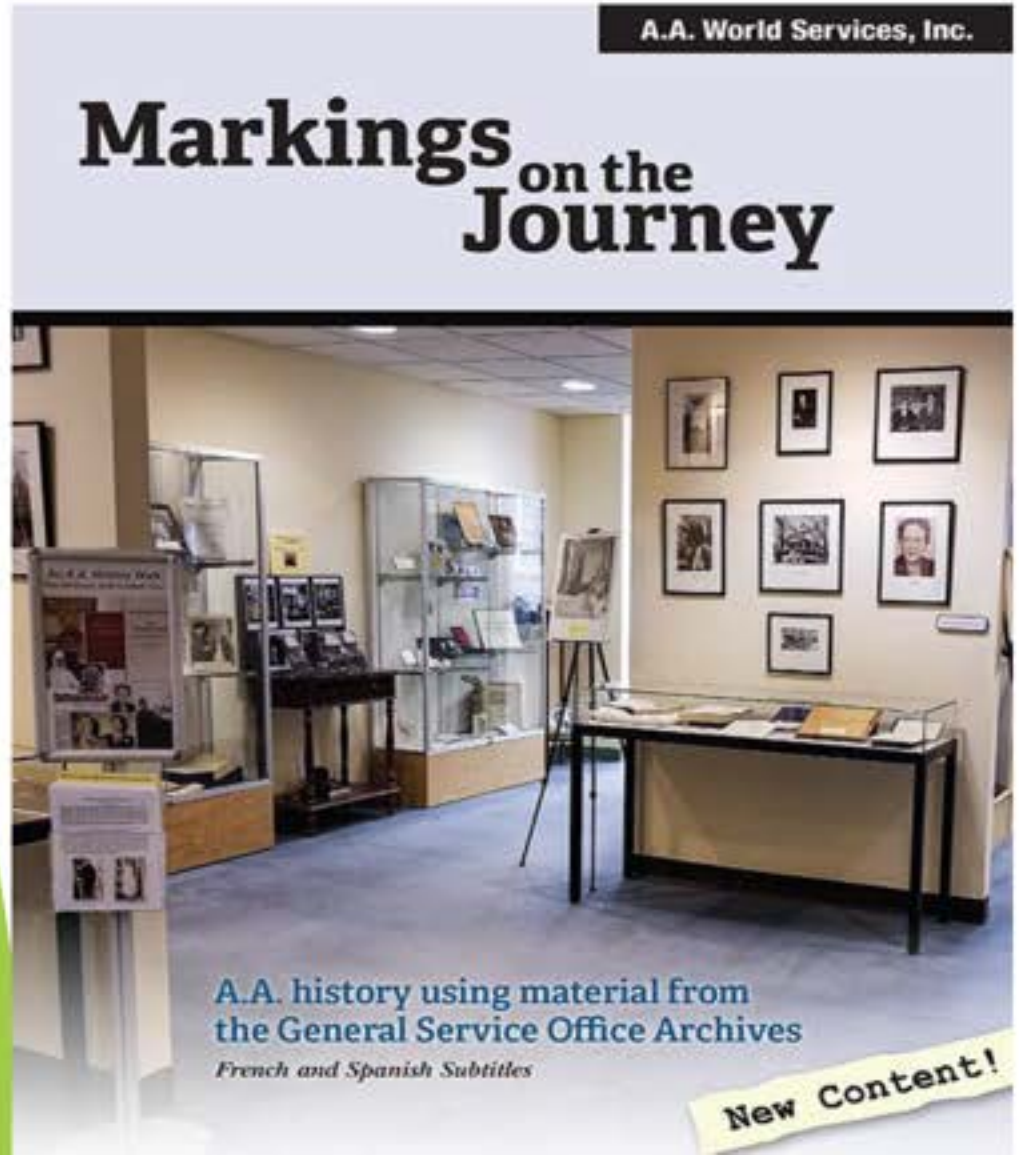
Now in print and digital formats!



2025 General Service Conference Final Conference Final Report The 75th General Service Conference was held April 27-May 3, 2025, at the New York Hilton Midtown in New York City. The 2025 General Service Conference The report is now available in print in English, French, and Spanish editions.

Print version (Item M-23) $1.95 USD

The newly revised video in a new format is available for purchase are the aa.org store . This video can be used by Archives Committees.



Markings on the Journey, our much-beloved video showcasing the history of Alcoholics Anonymous through words and images culled from the GSO Archives.

When visiting your General Service Office, it is must to stop by the Archives. You could spend hours there.



Celebrating 50 Years of the GSO Archives: A Legacy Preserved

Fifty years ago, the General Service Office (GSO) Archives opened its doors with a mission both simple and profound: to preserve the evolving story of Alcoholics Anonymous and to make that history available to members worldwide. Today, with a staff of six professionally trained archivists, the GSO Archives continues this vital work — cataloging, organizing, preserving, and digitizing a vast and growing collection of materials that document the spiritual journey and service work of A.A. members across generations.

From dusty letters to digital records, the GSO Archives is a living, breathing testament to A.A.'s past and its promise for the future. As we celebrate 50 years of preservation, we're reminded that our shared history is not just a story — it's a service.





The current Staff Assignment Coordinators as of September 2025 are as follows:

Treatment/Accessibilities/Remote Communities:
Michael R., access@aa.org

Conference Coordinator:
Rainer L,. conference@aa.org

Cooperation with the Professional Community:
Karina C., cpc@aa.org

Corrections:
Kacie N., corrections@aa.org

Group Services:
Irene D., groupservices@aa.org

International:
Patrick C., international@aa.org

Regional Forums:
Diana L., regionalforums@aa.org

Literature:
Misha Q., literature@aa.org

Nominating:
Eileen A., nominating@aa.org

Public Information:
Kelley C., publicinfo@aa.org

Self Support/Finance:
Nick S., selfsupportfinance@aa.org

Staff Coordinator:
Racy J., staffcoord@aa.org

A.A. Grapevine & La Viña

YOUR MULTI-MEDIA TWELFTH STEP TOOL

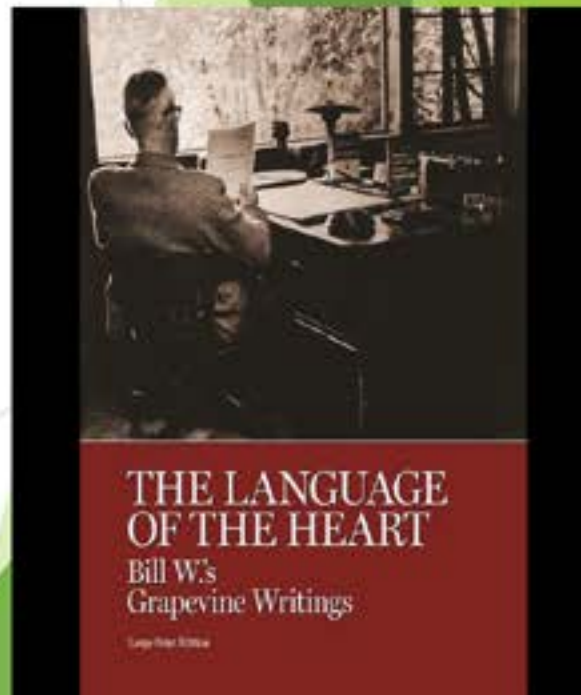






Grapevine has a new, updated Victor E.
Check him out on YouTube at AA Grapevine

Carrying The Message with the Language of the Heart



SCAN THE QR CODE AND SIGN UP

AAGRAPEVINE

GET THE APP

iOS

AAGRAPEVINE

GET THE APP

Android



CHECK US OUT ON YouTube

GRAPEVINE IS EVERY WHERE

Expect to see these shades at the Forum



ENJOY THE REST OF THE DAY

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS DON'T FORGET TO SEND THEM TO THE ASK-IT-BASKET IN THE CHAT.

YOU ALWAYS DROP ME A NOTE AT Ecrt.Joyce@bell.net





I am an active member of the St. Clement's Group in Toronto, and I have the honour of serving the Fellowship as the Eastern Canada Regional Trustee. I am an alcoholic and my name is Joyce. I also serve on the Board of Directors for AA Grapevine.

There are a couple of exciting events coming up.

The 76th General Service Conference will be held at the New York Hilton Midtown from April 26 to May 2, 2026. I am especially excited for the Panel 76 Delegates who will be attending their first Conference. I look forward to sharing two luncheons with you, where you will have the opportunity to openly share your thoughts, concerns, and anything else that may need to be discussed. I will also be on the stage with you when you deliver your two-minute highlights and will have the pleasure of introducing you. Some of you may be feeling nervous, but I will likely be the emotional one.

Another exciting event is the 2026 Eastern Canada Regional Forum, which will be held in Boucherville, Quebec, from August 21 to August 23, 2026. The Eastern Canada Region includes ten areas, and each area has the opportunity to assist GSO in putting on the Regional Forum once every twenty years. I will speak more about this shortly.

SLIDE #2

The U.S./Canada service structure has ninety-three areas that are part of one of eight regions – 2 in Canada and 6 in the US. A Regional Forum is held in alternate years in each region on a rotating basis. There are 10 areas in Eastern Canada. There are 4 areas in Ontario, 4 in Quebec and 2 in the Maritimes.

SLIDE #3

This is a list and location of all 10 areas in Eastern Canada.

SLIDE #4

Because of your Seventh Tradition contributions, Regional Forums are provided at no cost. General Service Board trustees, AA World Service directors and AA Grapevine directors, as well as staff and other employees of GSO and Grapevine will be available at the Forums to share experience, respond to questions and hear suggestions. The mix of first-time forum attendees and those who come to see old friends and spread the message of the value of service always makes for a lively weekend.

Now Trevor will play a short video on Regional Forums and what they are all about.
I would like to thank Trevor and his team for the great job today!

I hope you have enjoyed this video on Regional Forums. This should give you an idea of what to expect when hopefully you attend the Eastern Canada Regional Forum in Boucherville from August 21st to 23rd, 2026, hosted by the General Service Office and will be in Area 87, Southwest Quebec. It is one of my favourite events to attend.

Look under the Regional Forum tab for further information at aa.org.

You can also register for the forum at forumregistration@aa.org.

SLIDE #5

Taking place once every five years, the A.A. International Convention marks the anniversary of Bill W.'s first meeting with Dr. Bob and the birth of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935. A.A. members and their families and friends from around the globe attend the event. At the International Convention people attend meetings, workshops, dances and events. A highlight was the traditional flag ceremony to celebrate sobriety worldwide. An A.A. member from each country will be chosen to carry the flag for their country. Names will be picked from registration.

The 2030 International will be held in St. Louis, Missouri. It is never too early to start saving. This will mark the 100th anniversary of the beginning of our Fellowship's founding. For sure, there will be some exciting events to help us celebrate.

SLIDE #6 Regional Forum registration information

SLIDE #7 AAWS Publishing Committee.

The Publishing Committee oversees AAWS's licensing and publishing activities, including recommending initial pricing for all A.A. literature. They also track the progress of international translations and literature production.

The Plain Language Big Book (PLBB) is nearing its first year with 214,101 print copies sold and about 7,500 eBooks reported. Reviews remain strong at 4.5 stars on Amazon with over 300 comments and positive social media feedback.

One of the members who purchased the PLBB, later wrote a heartfelt letter to the General Service Office. They explained that, despite living with brain injury and long-standing challenges with reading —and despite not being new to the program— this was the first time they were able to fully appreciate the spiritual depth.

The audiobook version is moving forward, with two narrators secured and an estimated production cost of ~$10.5K; the target launch is mid-2026. Recent promotions have also performed well. The Facsimile First Edition email campaign led to 23,828 copies distributed, with 26,432 still in stock.

The committee approved a $15 price for the Convention Souvenir Book (effective 90 days after notice) and a New Year's combo offer pairing the PLBB with the hardcover Alcoholics Anonymous (English, French, or Spanish) at $1 off the combined price.

SLIDE #8 Corrections

The desk responds to an average of 60-80 letters each week from individuals in custody. We receive an average of 30 phone calls each month from trusted servants, members behind the walls, and correctional facility professionals. The desk continues to maintain and find ways to improve correspondence with members in custody. This includes sharing information about the services available through GSO such as Corrections Correspondence and Prerelease Services as well as literature on tablets and electronic communications.

In Corrections, digital access continues to expand, with nearly 85,000 literature items accessed via tablets this year and a pilot project in Canada underway.

The desk and the Publishing department remain in active communication with the Area 83 Corrections Chair in Eastern Ontario, who is in contact with a professional in a Federal Penitentiary in Kingston, Ontario. They currently use a D2L system and have a Digital Resource Library to which the inside members have access. In December we received an agreement signed by a principal at the Collins Bay Institute. The agreement has been processed and submitted to our Legal Department and General Manager for review and signature.

There is a total of 1,330 active Correctional Facilities groups listed with the office.

SLIDE #9 – Public Information

Some common inquiries from the Fellowship include questions on anonymity and social media, anonymity breaks, where to find radio and video PSAs, requests for A.A. literature by professionals in the film industry, students requesting information on A.A. for projects, questions on resources for young people in A.A., etc.

- January: The 2026 Annual Anonymity Letter to the Media and communication through our service structure.
- February – Press Release introducing our new Class A's – Veronica Ramirez, Kelly Parsley, and Tom Ivester

YPAA (Young People in A.A.) Connections

The staff correspondent has some very insightful and inspiring meetings with various YPAA entities across US and Canada. They had meetings with ICYPAA committee chairs, the YPAA chair of the Dallas Fort Worth chapter, and YPAA Montreal. Because of this communication, we were able to get direct feedback on the new Young People Service Cards and YouTube Shorts (including "these are great, but the music is cringe" which we were able to fix before the videos went live!). I hope to continue these discussions as we develop more content for young people in A.A.

If you haven't had a chance, check out some new service material for our young members at aa.org –

1. Young People shorts – These are experience, strength and hope from our young folks, from their perspective.

SLIDE #10

1. Service Card for Young People in A.A. now available in ENG, SP and French on aa.org/. Picture of these service cards are being used on meeting Literature displays.

SLIDE #11 Cooperation with the Professional Community

The Spring *About A.A.* issue is in development will feature an article on the "Ways to Inform Professionals About A.A." workshop, that was led by our class A trustee Veronica Ramirez at the Southwest Regional Forum this past October in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The issue also includes sharing from our Corrections desk on resources available to persons in custody as well as current statistics on groups and literature in correctional facilities.

The CPC welcome letter has been updated for 2026 to provide incoming chairs with a reference guide of resources to get started. We have sent out the communication and have been answering questions and getting to know the new panel.

Additionally, the updated CPC PowerPoint is now available on aa.org at https://www.aa.org/cpc-presentation-lets-be-friendly-our-friends and is in translation for Spanish and French. Our CPC Service Card for the Meeting Guide app is being updated to include the new online section that was recently added.

Many CPC chairs have rotated this past month, and we have been receiving many emails asking for guidance and how to get started. There are currently 65 CPC chairs, and 381 district CPC chairs - as well as 30 Intergroup CPC chairs - that we will continue to work on communicating with and engaging for local initiatives and providing helpful resources.

SLIDE #12

This effort is in response to the 2024 General Service Conference Advisory Action that "a pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in A.A. be developed."

As of January 8, 2026, there have been 11 story submissions, including one in French. The committee is seeking a diverse range of voices, including non-binary, Two-Spirit and gender non-conforming members.

March 31 is the submission deadline. If you know of anyone who would be ideal for this project, encourage them to submit their story.

SLIDE #13

Also, Literature has a call for stories for the pamphlet "A.A. for the Asian & Asian-American Alcoholic"

The deadline for this is also March 31st.

SLIDE #14

Following the 2025 General Service Conference, the trustees' Literature Committee appointed a subcommittee to begin work on revising the booklet *Living Sober*.

In consultation with the Publishing Department and GSO Staff, the subcommittee identified three Living Sober chapters to which to begin the revision process:

- Chapter 10 "Telephone Therapy"
- Chapter 14 "Fending off Loneliness"
- Chapter 16 "Being Good to Yourself"

SLIDE #15

There is a new conference-approved redesigned pamphlet "Twelve Steps Illustrated" (Item P-55) for $.75 USD each.

Completely redesigned, this is an easy-to-read presentation of A.A.'s program of recovery.
Each of the Twelve Steps is explained through illustration and simplified text.

The conference committee for the 76th General Service Conference reported there would be no final conference reports available and printed . However, it would be posted on aa.org for layout and publishing. So, layout would be done, but we would have to publish it ourselves if we wanted hard copies.

SLIDE #16 Archives

The newly revised video in a new format is available for purchase are the aa.org store . This video can be used by Archives Committees.

Markings on the Journey, our much-beloved video showcasing the history of Alcoholics Anonymous through words and images culled from the GSO Archives.

When visiting your General Service Office, make sure to stop by the Archives. You could spend hours there.

SLIDE #17

Fifty years ago, the General Service Office (GSO) Archives opened its doors with a mission both simple and profound: to preserve the evolving story of Alcoholics Anonymous and to make that history available to members worldwide. Today, with a staff of six professionally trained archivists, the GSO Archives continues this vital work — cataloging, organizing, preserving, and digitizing a vast and growing collection of materials that document the spiritual journey and service work of A.A. members across generations.

From dusty letters to digital records, the GSO Archives is a living, breathing testament to A.A.'s past and its promise for the future. As we celebrate 50 years of preservation, we're reminded that our shared history is not just a story — it's a service.

SLIDE #18

The current Staff Assignment Coordinators as of September 2025 are now listed on aa.org.

If you have any questions for any of the coordinators, please feel free to email them—they always welcome hearing from members.

I have the utmost admiration for the staff. They are extremely knowledgeable and deeply dedicated to their work, rotating positions every two years. Whenever I've asked a question, they have always responded promptly with the information needed.

SLIDE #19

I mentioned during my introduction that I am a Grapevine Director. I would be amiss if I did not inform you of a what is happening at Grapevine/La Vina. La Vina is our Spanish magazine.

It is exciting to tell you about our new and improved Victor E. When you have a minute go to AA Grapevine on You Tube. It will show you how far we have come in technology.

Now, I am going to read a message from the Grapevine Publisher, Chris C. It aptly describes what Grapevine is all about. It is quite lengthy, so please bear with me as I feel it is important.

Please help spread the word about all Grapevine and La Viña are doing to help alcoholics recover. Too many members do not yet know about us.

I want to share a little about how AA Grapevine and AA La Viña are carrying the message today. We're still grounded in the Steps and Traditions. That hasn't changed. But we're also trying to respond thoughtfully to the world our members live in.

Grapevine and La Viña have always been known as the voice of the Fellowship.

The stories come from members and every story is read and edited by 3 AA members. Every page is real experience, strength and hope — recovery as it's happening now.
That part hasn't changed.
What has changed is how far that voice can travel, how fast it can get there, and how easily an alcoholic can access it.
Today, members can connect with Grapevine and La Viña in a lot of ways — print magazines, digital editions, audio, video. Not because the message needed updating, but because the alcoholic who still suffers may be finding or accessing the message differently.

Some are Deaf
Some have trouble reading
Some people are in remote areas.
Some are in institutions.
Some are new and not sure they belong yet.
Some carry their whole world in their pocket on a phone.
Meeting people where they are isn't drifting from our purpose. It's advancing it.

A clear example of that is our Grapevine and La Viña apps. Through the apps, members can read or listen to the current magazine, access the full archive going all the way back, and use tools that support daily sobriety.
The apps are used around the world. We've just added the European Union to complete our global expansion. For some members, it's just convenient. For others, it's the only connection they have.

Same stories.
Same principles.
But fewer barriers.

We've also expanded visually. Our YouTube channel is growing, and we're especially proud that it includes American Sign Language videos. That's not about being cutting-edge. It's about responsibility to underserved AA members.

If the message is for everyone, then we want to grow access for everyone.

Grapevine and La Vina also show up on social media — carefully guided by attraction rather than promotion. Short reflections, humor, inspiration, news, our resurrected Victor E. We try to be present where members already are, especially younger members and newcomers.

For some people, that might be their first gentle contact with AA literature. For others, it's a great reminder of the Program and Fellowship between meetings.

Beyond the magazines, we now offer books in print, eBook, and audiobook formats. That's simply recognizing that people access books differently. Some read. Some listen.

The message stays the same.
We try to widen the doorway.

All of this operates in the spirit of the Seventh Tradition. Subscriptions — print, digital, or both along with book sales— move Grapevine and La Viña toward self-support and accountability to

the Fellowship. Digital access also means members can get the most current content right away, wherever they are, in an efficient and low-cost way.
As trusted servants we're asked to hold two things at the same time:

Protect what must never change.
And support what needs to grow.
Grapevine and La Viña are one way the Fellowship does both. We keep the Traditions at the center while we try to expand access.

At the end of the day, it's simple: we're just trying to carry the message — faithfully, responsibly, and with love.

Thank you for your patience. If any of the Grapevine Representatives would like a copy of this, you can contact me at ecrt.joyce@bell.net and I will gladly send it to you.

SLIDE #20 -22

SLIDE #23

Closing and Thank You.

THE TRUSTEES OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

In the spring of 1938, a tax-free charitable trust or foundation was formed. They decided to call it the Alcoholics Foundation, now called the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. It was then that the Board of Trustees should consist of alcoholics and nonalcoholics. The first Board consisted of five Trustees. Dick Richardson, Frank Amos, and Dr. Strong were the nonalcoholic members, and Dr. Bob and one of New York A.A.'s as the alcoholic contingent. The New York member soon got drunk. Drunkenness on the part of an alcoholic Trustee meant immediate resignation. Another alcoholic was named in the drunken brother's place and they proceeded to do business.



Today, the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous consists of 21 trustees. Seven Class A nonalcoholics and 14 Class B alcoholics who provide custodial oversight for A.A.'s two operating corporations AAWS, inc. and AA Grapevine, inc. The board is structured to balance professional expertise with the lived experience of recovery through two distinct classes of trustees.

Class A Trustees serve two Consecutive three-year terms.
Class B trustees generally serve for four successive annual terms.

TRUSTEE COMMITTEES

15 Committees
There are 11 standing and 5 auxiliary committees of the General Service Board.
Archives
CPC/Treatment and Accessibilities
Corrections
Finance and Budgetary
General Service Conference
International
International Conventions/Regional Forums
Literature
Nominating
Public Information
Audit
General Sharing Session

- Audit
- Compensation
- Legal Affairs
- Employees' Retirement
- Retiree Medical Benefits Fund

EASTERN CANADA REGIONAL TRUSTEE

Votes
Trustees' Nominating Committee 5
Conference Committee on Trustees 5
Delegates from Region 10
TOTAL: 20
2/3 Needed 14
1/3 of Total 7
1/5 of Total 4

Trustee Candidates (Four Successive Annual Terms)

Area No.	Area Name	Name of Candidate
81	New Brunswick/Prince Edward Island	J.J. S.
82	Nova Scotia/Newfoundland/Labrador	Kirk S.
83	Eastern Ontario	Robb W.
84	Northeast Ontario	[No Candidate]
85	Northwest Ontario	Lorraine P.
86	Western Ontario	Jeff S.
87	Southwest Québec	Lucien J.
88	Southeast Québec	[No Candidate]
89	Northeast Québec	[No Candidate]
90	Northwest Québec	Michael C.

Voting Members
EASTERN CANADA REGIONAL TRUSTEE
Area Delegates (10 votes)
All 10 delegates from the Eastern Canada Region will vote in this election

Area No.	Area Name	Name of Delegate
81	New Brunswick/Prince Edward Island	Robin S. (If voted into the conference)
82	Nova Scotia/Newfoundland/Labrador	Dwayne M.
83	Eastern Ontario	Amy L.
84	Northeast Ontario	Jim P.
85	Northwest Ontario	Joel C.
86	Western Ontario	Tammy S.
87	Southwest Québec	Sylvie B.
88	Southeast Québec	Jean-Yves M.
89	Northeast Québec	Jocelyne C.
90	Northwest Québec	Melanie C.

Trustees' Nominating Committee (9 votes)
Five (5) members of this committee will vote in this election.

Teddy B.W.	Hon. Kerry Meyer+	Ken T.
Reilly K.	Molly Oliver+	Carolyn W.
Robert L.	Gail P.	John W.

Conference Committee on Trustees (5 votes)
Five (5) members of this committee will vote in this election. Robin S. from Area 81 is automatically a voter as a Delegate from the Eastern Canada Region - if voted into the conference

Bill A.	Lyle C.	Al M.
Nisaa A.	Christina S.	Anne M.
Cheryl B.	Garry L.	Lisa S.

Slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.

Background notes:

Excerpt from the minutes of January 30, 2026, meeting on the trustees' Nominating Committee:
The trustees' Nominating Committee reviewed and recommended to the General Service Board the following slate of trustees for election at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2026, following presentation at the 2026 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any.

Class A Trustees+	Class B Trustees (See "Note" below)
Thomas "Tom" Ivester, MD, MPH	Teddy B.W.
Dawn Klug	Jennifer B.
Tim Marx	Charles "Charlie" H.
Hon. Kerry Meyer	Scott H.
Molly Oliver	Teresa J.
Kelly Parsley	Robert L.
Veronica Ramirez	Clinton M.
	Cheryl "Sherry" S.
	Gail P.
	David S.
	Ken T.
	Susan V.
	John W.
	Pacific regional trustee-elect
	Eastern Canada regional trustee-elect
Nonalcoholic+	*Note: Pacific and Eastern Canada regional trustees to be elected at April 2026 Conference*

Chairperson:	Scott H.
First Vice-Chairperson:	David S.
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Ken T.
Treasurer:	Hon. Kerry Meyer+
Secretary:	Kelly Parsley+
Assistant Treasurer:	Paul Konigstein+*
Assistant Secretary:	Racy J.*

*GSO employees
+Nonalcoholic

Slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
Background:
Excerpt from minutes of January 30, 2026, meeting on the trustees' Nominating Committee:

The committee reviewed and recommended to the General Service Board the following slate of Directors of A.A. World Services, Inc., for election in April 2026, following presentation at the 2026 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Julie C.	Clinton M.
Charles "Charlie" H.	Racy J.*
Grace F.	Susan V.
Matthew K.	John W.
	Bob W.*

**GSO employee*

Slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.
Background:
Excerpt from the minutes of the January 30, 2026, meeting on the trustees' Nominating Committee:
The trustees' Nominating Committee reviewed and recommended to the General Service Board the following slate of Directors of AA Grapevine, Inc., for election in April 2026, following presentation at the 2026 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any:

Teddy B. W.	Nikki O.
Chris C.*	Gail P.
Fredy M.	Cheryl "Sherry" S.
Daniel S.	David S.
Veronica Ramirez+	

**Grapevine employee*
+*Nonalcoholic*

Following the 75th General Service Conference in April, the General Service Board selected three new Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees who will serve the Fellowship over the next six years:



Kelly Parsley, of Helena, Montana, a professor of Health Sciences.

Kelly Parsley grew up in Idaho in a family with multiple members who were affected by alcoholism. But it wasn't until her husband, Jeff M., joined Alcoholics Anonymous, and she started attending open A.A. meetings, that she truly began to understand the depth and impact of the program. "I remember being struck by the life-and-death, spiritual commitment of members working to save one another," she said. "I was so moved and wanted to be a part of the amazing work this fellowship was doing."



Tom Ivester, M.D., of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Chief Clinical Officer at Novant Health. Dr. Tom Ivester specializes in maternal-fetal medicine — high-risk obstetrics and is currently the chief clinical off icer for the triad region of North Carolina for Novant Health. He was raised in the small town of Aberdeen, North Carolina, where he had more than a passing acquaintanceship with Alcoholics Anonymous from a young age. With his father a member of A.A., he "literally grew up in the Fellowship," he said.



Veronica Ramirez, of Weslaco, Texas, retired Chief Probation Officer of the Eastern District of Louisiana.

"Let me tell you a little bit about my community corrections journey," Veronica Ramirez said. "I started with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice as a parole officer and, in 2001, I got hired with Federal probation, where I spent the next 21 years in several different offices and in different roles. I worked in Laredo and San Antonio, Texas; Denver, Colorado; and San Francisco, California.

Class A trustees are friends of the Fellowship specifically selected for their professional expertise and the unique skills they bring to the board's work of carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. In addi-tion, A.A.'s Class A trustees can do certain things that Class B (alcoholic) trustees cannot do, such as show-ing their faces on camera or using their last names without violating the Traditions and principles of anonymity.

Presentation Script: Eastern Canadian Delegate Orientation 2026 Literature Committee Agenda Review

Good evening, everyone. My name is Dwayne MacDonald and I am an alcoholic. I am a member of the Serenity Group, In New Glasgow Nova Scotia, and I have the honour of representing Area 82, Nova Scotia/Newfoundland for Panel 75, I serve on the Literature & Archives Committees.

Our literature is often called the 'heartbeat' of A.A.—it is how we carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Today, I'm going to walk you through the current 'works in progress' at the General Service level. We are currently in a period of significant transition as we update our foundational texts for the next generation.

The most significant items on our plate involve the 'Big Book,' Alcoholics Anonymous.

The 5th Edition (English):

At the 76th conference, we will be reviewing the draft manuscript of the 5th edition of Alcoholics Anonymous. This project started from a 2021 Advisory Action. The committee received a staggering 2,393 stories from the fellowship. Out of those, 26 new stories have been selected. To make room, 30 stories from the 4th Edition are being removed, while 12 will remain. We are also looking at updates to the Appendices, the Preface, and the Foreword. Specifically, the committee is considering expanding the medical and religious views to be more inclusive of modern medicine and diverse spiritual or non-religious paths.

The 4th Edition (Spanish):

Similarly, the Spanish Big Book, Alcohólicos Anónimos, is moving into its 4th Edition. The working group has received 180 new stories and is currently deciding which ones best reflect the Spanish-speaking fellowship today. They expect a draft manuscript to be ready for the 77th Conference.

The 'Legacy' Story Proposal:

There is a specific proposal to take those 30 stories being removed from the English 4th Edition and publish them in a new, separate volume. This would allow us to 'retire' them from the Big Book to keep it of a manageable size, while still preserving the history and experience of those members in a permanent A.A. publication.

Accessibility & Modernization

A.A. is always looking for ways to carry our message to those with different needs.

Plain Language Big Book (PLBB):

The subcommittee has developed a clear visual workflow—or 'swim lanes'—to ensure there is no 'double-headed management' or confusion in the writing process. Per the 75th Conference, all proposals to stop or change this project are being deferred until the 77th Conference so the work can be completed and evaluated fairly.

Living Sober Update:

The committee is reviewing 'eyes-only' revisions to three key chapters: 'Telephone Therapy,' 'Fending off Loneliness,' and 'Being Good to Yourself.' The goal here is to make sure the advice in this book reflects the world we live in today.

Outreach & Targeted Literature

As always, we are looking at specific demographics that are currently underrepresented to try to better serve these communities.

Spanish-Speaking Tools:

A 12-question survey is being sent out to our Spanish-speaking members. We want to know exactly what tools they need, whether digital or print, to better access the Big Book and other literature.

Asian & Asian American Pamphlet:

Following a 2024 Advisory Action, a working group is gathering stories for a new pamphlet specifically for the Asian and Asian American alcoholic. They are seeking a wide range of cultural representations. The deadline for story submissions is March 31st.

Archives & Area Structure

Finally, we turn to the **Archives Committee**, which is currently grappling with how A.A. functions in a digital world.

First, they are conducting a routine review of the **Archives Workbook** to ensure our local groups have the best tools to preserve our history. But the more pressing item is **PAI 46**, a request sparked by a member in the District of Columbia regarding **online groups**.

As many of us know, you can now live in California but have a 'Home Group' in New York. This raises a fundamental question about our service structure:

- **Should a member be eligible for Area-level service like DCM or Delegate if they live outside the geographic boundaries of that Area? And further, should a member be able to stand for Trustee in an area where they didn't serve as a Delegate?**

Essentially, the committee is asking us to define whether 'participation' in a digital group carries the same weight as 'physical residency' when it comes to leadership and service. It’s a landmark conversation about the future of our legacy.

Conclusion & Group Conscience

In closing, the Literature Committee isn't just 'editing books'—we are trying to ensure that when a newcomer picks up a piece of literature, they see a version of themselves.

I’d like to leave you with two questions to consider for our group conscience:

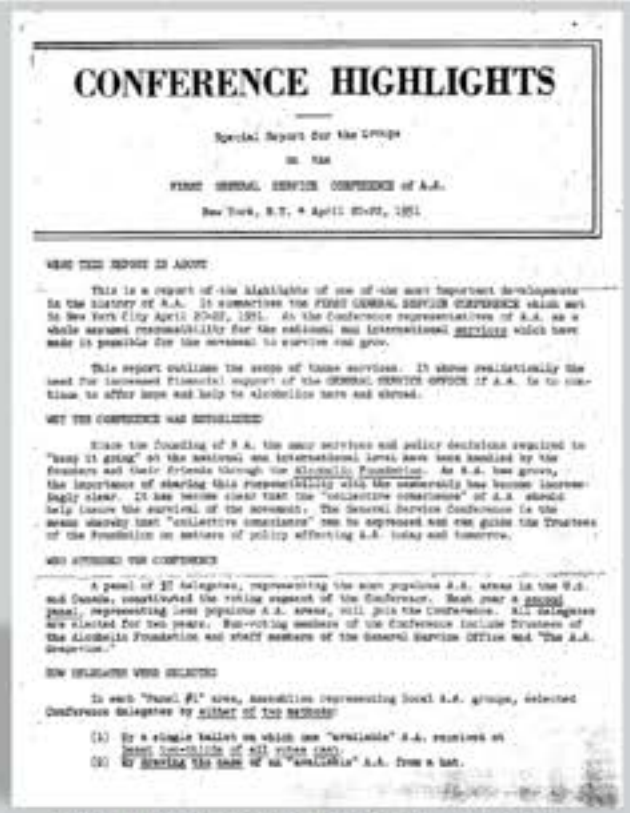
Are we in favor of updating the Big Book’s medical and religious views to be more inclusive?

Do we support creating a new book to house the 30 stories being removed from the 4th Edition?

Thank you for your time and for allowing me to be of service.

76th General Service Conference

Humility in Action



CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Special Report for the Groups

on the

FIRST GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE of A.A.

New York, N.Y. • April 25th-28th, 1951

WHAT THIS REPORT IS ABOUT

This is a report of the highlights of one of the most important developments in the history of A.A. It summarizes the FIRST GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE which met in New York City April 25th-28th, 1951. At the Conference representatives of A.A. as a whole assumed responsibility for the national and international services which have made it possible for the movement to survive and grow.

This report outlines the scope of these services. It shows realistically the need for increased financial support of the GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE if A.A. is to continue to offer hope and help to alcoholics here and abroad.

WHY THE CONFERENCE WAS ESTABLISHED

Since the founding of A.A. the many services and policy decisions required to "keep it going" on the national and international level have been handled by the founders and their friends through the Alcoholic Foundation. As A.A. has grown, the importance of sharing this responsibility with the membership has become increasingly clear. It has become clear that the "collective conscience" of A.A. should help insure the survival of the movement. The General Service Conference is the means whereby that "collective conscience" can be expressed and can guide the Trustees of the Foundation on matters of policy affecting A.A. today and tomorrow.

WHO ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE

A panel of 37 delegates, representing the most populous A.A. areas in the U.S. and Canada, constituted the voting segment of the Conference. Next year a second panel, representing less populous A.A. areas, will join the Conference. All delegates are elected for two years. Non-voting members of the Conference include Trustees of the Alcoholic Foundation and staff members of the General Service Office and "The A.A. Grapevine."

HOW DELEGATES WERE SELECTED

In each "Panel #1" area, committees representing local A.A. groups, selected Conference delegates by either of two methods:

(1) By a single ballot on which were "available" A.A. members at least two-thirds of all votes cast.
(2) By drawing the name of an "available" A.A. from a hat.

Final Report, 1st General Service Conference

Report and Charter

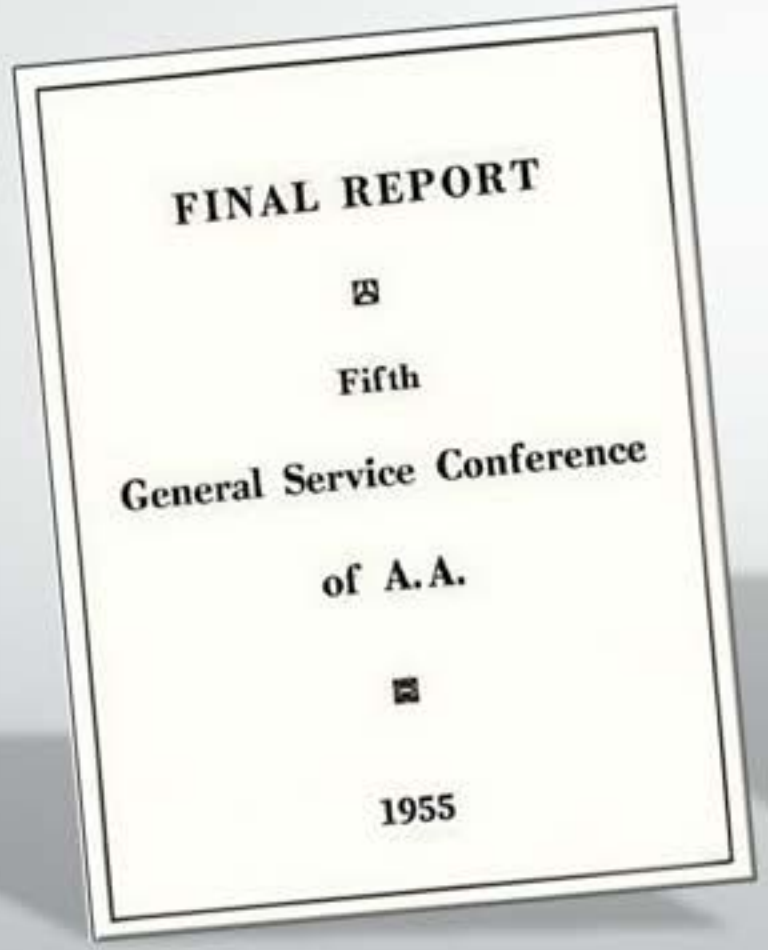
Delegate, Panel 75

Area 83-Eastern Ontario

Eastern Canada
Delegates' Orientation

REPORT AND CHARTER History

5th General Service Conference, 1955



APPENDIX K:

CONFERENCE CHARTER

ORIGINAL CONFERENCE CHARTER — 1955

(North American Section)

1. Purpose: The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of the World Services and of[2] the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Conference shall be a service body only; never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous.

2. Composition: The Conference (North American Section) shall be composed of State and Provincial Delegates, the Trustees of the General Service Board, Directors and staff members of the New York Headquarters and such ex-Trustees or foreign Delegates as the Conference may wish to invite.[3]

Other Sections of the Conference may sometimes be created in foreign lands as the need arises out of language or geographical considerations. The North American Section of the General Service Conference will then become the Senior Section, related to the other Sections by ties of mutual consultation and a cross linking of Delegates.

But no Conference Section shall ever be placed in authority over another. All joint action shall be taken only upon two- thirds vote of the combined Sections. Within its boundaries each Conference ought to be autonomous.[4] Only matters seriously affecting A.A.'s worldwide needs shall be the subject of joint consideration.

3. Conference Relation to A.A.: The Conference will act for A.A. in the perpetuation and guidance of its World Services, and it will also be the vehicle by which the A.A. movement can express its views upon all matters of vital A.A. policy and all hazardous deviations from A.A. Tradition. Delegates should be free to vote as their conscience dictates; they should also be free to decide what questions should be taken to the group level, whether for information, discussion or their own direct instruction.

But no change in the A.A. Tradition itself may be made with less than the written consent of two-thirds of all the A.A. groups.[5]

4. Conference Relation to A.A. Headquarters: The Conference will replace the founders of Alcoholics Anonymous who formerly functioned as guides and advisors to The General Service Board and its related Headquarters services. The Conference will be expected to afford a reliable cross-section of A.A. opinion for this purpose.

To effectively further this same purpose it will be understood, as a matter of tradition, that a two-thirds vote of a Conference quorum shall be considered binding upon the General Service Board and its related corporate services. A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of all the Conference members registered.[6]

But no such vote ought to impair the legal rights of the General Service Board and the service corporations to conduct routine business and make ordinary contracts relating thereto.

It will be further understood that, as a matter of tradition, a three-quarters vote of all Conference members may bring about a reorganization of the General Service Board and the Headquarters, if or when such reorganization is deemed essential.

Under such a proceeding, the Conference may request resignations, may nominate new Trustees and may make all other necessary arrangements regardless of the legal prerogatives of the General Service Board.

119

The original Conference Charter, pg 119-121 Service Manual 2024-2026

19th General Service Conference, 1969



A.A.'s Legacy of Service

by BILL W.

Our Twelfth Step—carrying the message—is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles: it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.

Hence, an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer—ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service.

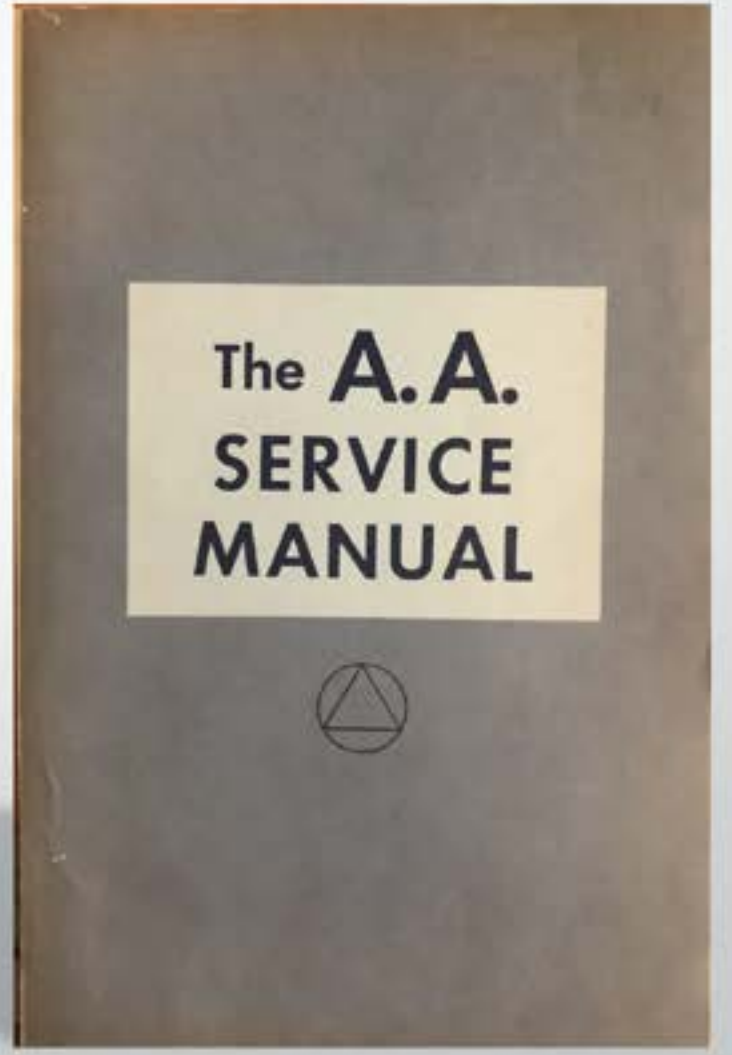
Services include meeting places, hospital cooperation, and intergroup offices; they mean pamphlets, books, and good publicity of almost every description. They call for committees, delegates, trustees, and conferences. And, not to be forgotten, they need voluntary money contributions from within the Fellowship.

Vital to A.A.'s Growth

These services, whether performed by individuals, groups, areas, or A.A. as a whole, are utterly vital to our existence and growth. Nor can we make A.A. more simple by abolishing such services. We would only be asking for complication and confusion.

Concerning any given service, we therefore pose but one question: "Is this service really needed?" If it is, then maintain it we must, or fail in our mission to those who need and seek A.A.

The most vital, yet least understood, group of services that A.A. has are those that enable us to function as a whole; namely, the General Service Office, A.A. World Services, Inc., the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., and our Board of Trustees, known legally as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anony-




The A.A. Service Manual
Twelve Concepts for World Service
1984-1985 EDITION
THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL
TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE
by Bill W.
2024-2026 Edition
The A.A. Service Manual
Combined With
Twelve Concepts for World Service
by Bill W.
REFLECTING ACTIONS OF THE 2000 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE
The A.A. Service Manual
Combined With
Twelve Concepts for World Service
by Bill W.
2004-2005 Edition
REFLECTING ACTIONS OF THE 2004 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE
THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL
TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE
by Bill W.
2024-2026 Edition
THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL
TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE
by Bill W.
1983-84 EDITION
The A.A. Service Manual
Combined With
Twelve Concepts for World Service
by Bill W.
2006-2007 Edition
REFLECTING ACTIONS OF THE 2006 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE
The A.A. Service Manual
Combined With
Twelve Concepts for World Service
by Bill W.
2006-2020 Edition
REFLECTING ACTIONS OF THE 2006 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

REPORT AND CHARTER: Scope

1. Considering any proposal or recommendation for change in ***The A.A. Service Manual*** (which includes the Conference Charter) and in the ***Twelve Concepts for World Service***

2. Consider any improvements to format, method of reporting, style or content of the **Conference *Final Report***.

3. **Review drafts** of the Conference *Final Report* and tear sheets of all changes to *The A.A. Service Manual* with careful attention to accuracy, completeness of reporting, together with any other suggestion that may occur.

4. **Establishing a deadline** for examining the rough drafts of the Conference *Final Report* and *The A.A. Service Manual* and returning to G.S.O. with corrections or suggestions, usually within 14 days of receipt.

REPORT AND CHARTER: Agenda Items



ITEM A: Discuss the A.A. Service Manual, 2026-2028 Edition

1. Review list of editorial updates.*
2. Consider request to remove a quote from Dr. Bob in The A.A. Service Manual.
3. Review progress report on the development of a new "Amendments" section to be added to The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service.

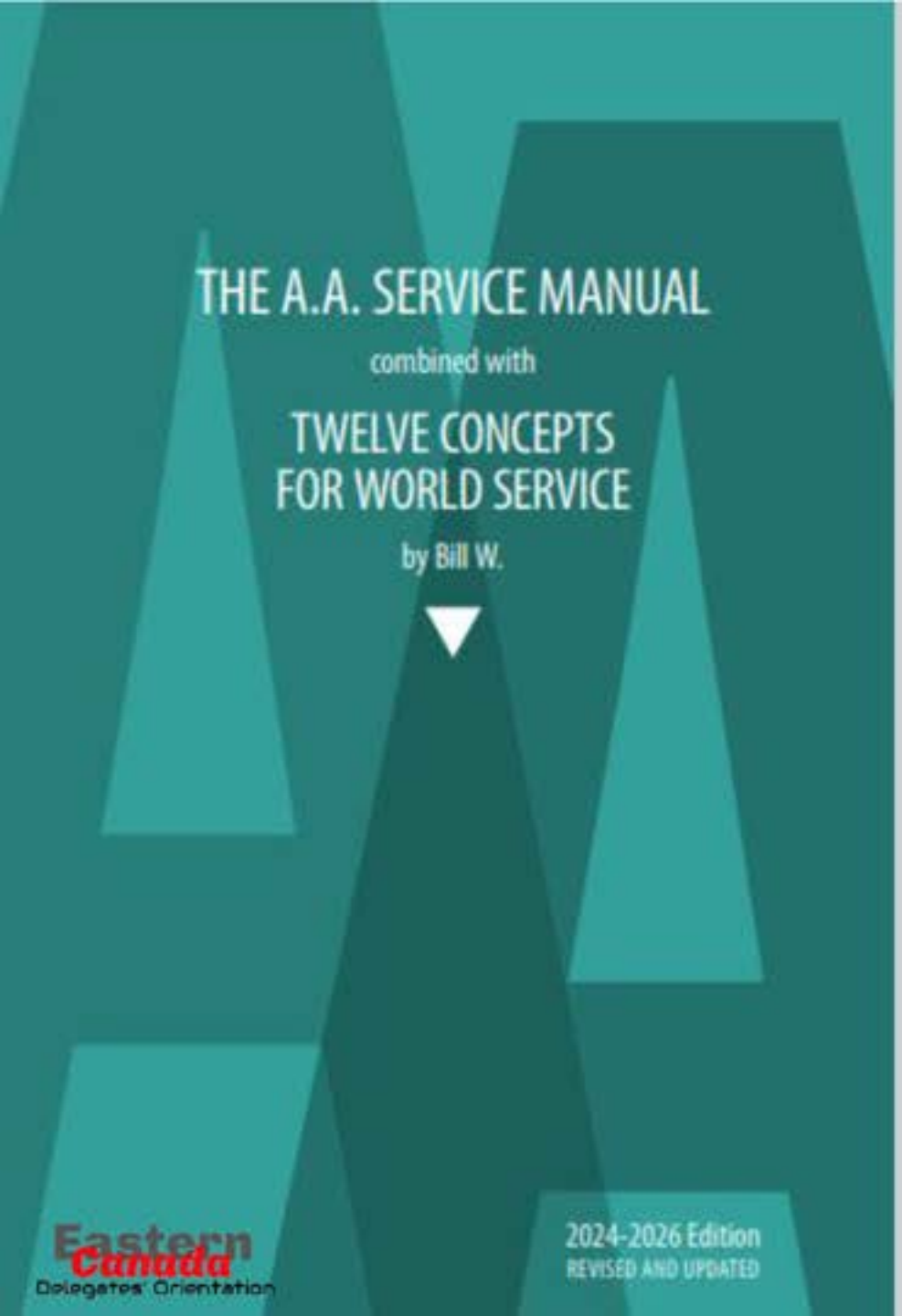


ITEM B: Discuss the General Service Conference Final Report.

ITEM C: Discuss workflow and anonymizing practices for the Final Conference Report.



ITEM D: Discuss progress on classification of AAWS and AA Grapevine literature



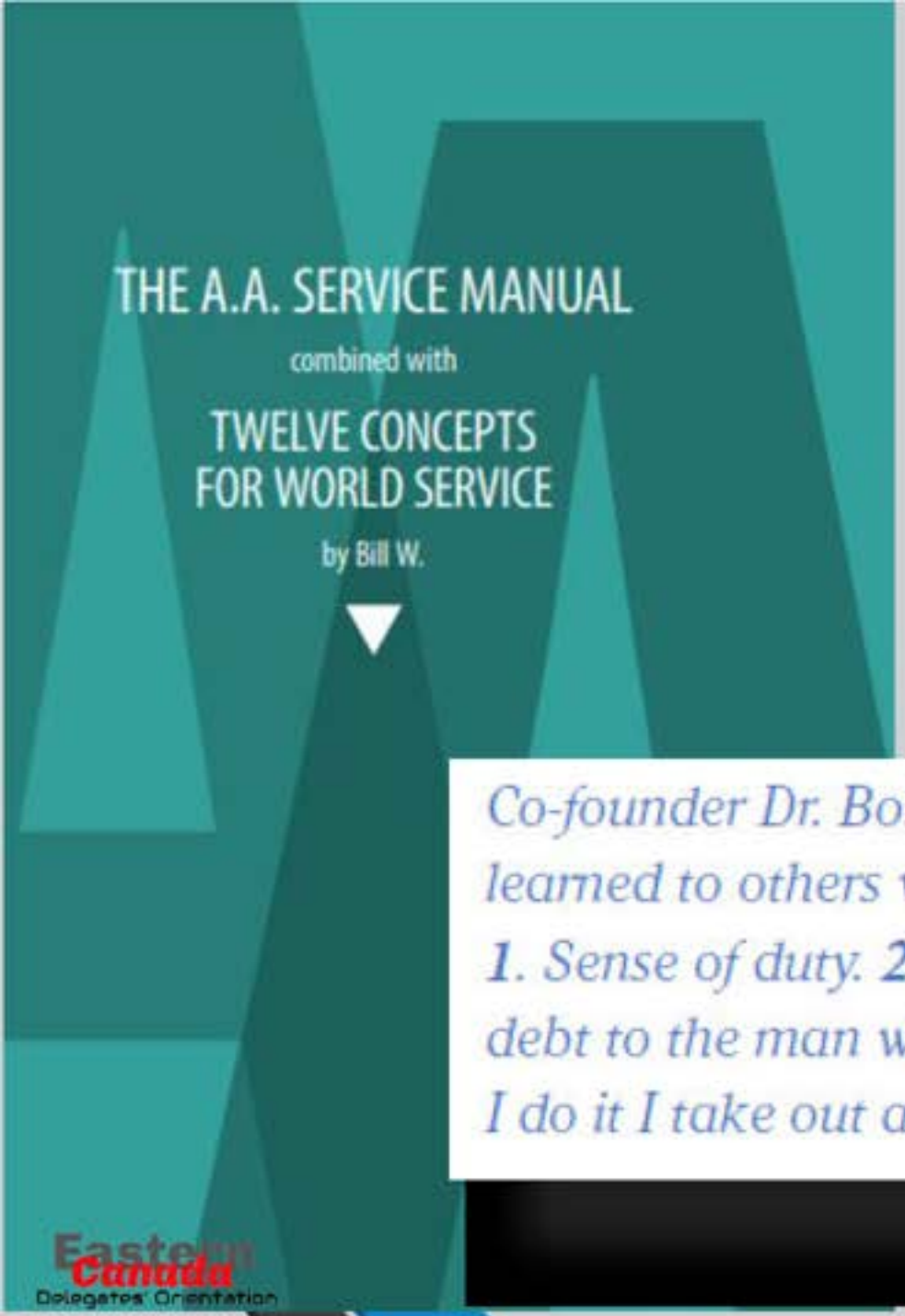
REPORT AND CHARTER: Agenda items

- *the A.A. Service Manual*, 2026-2028 ed

A-1: Review a list of editorial updates

Substantial changes between 2021-2024 printing

Typos, clarity, usability

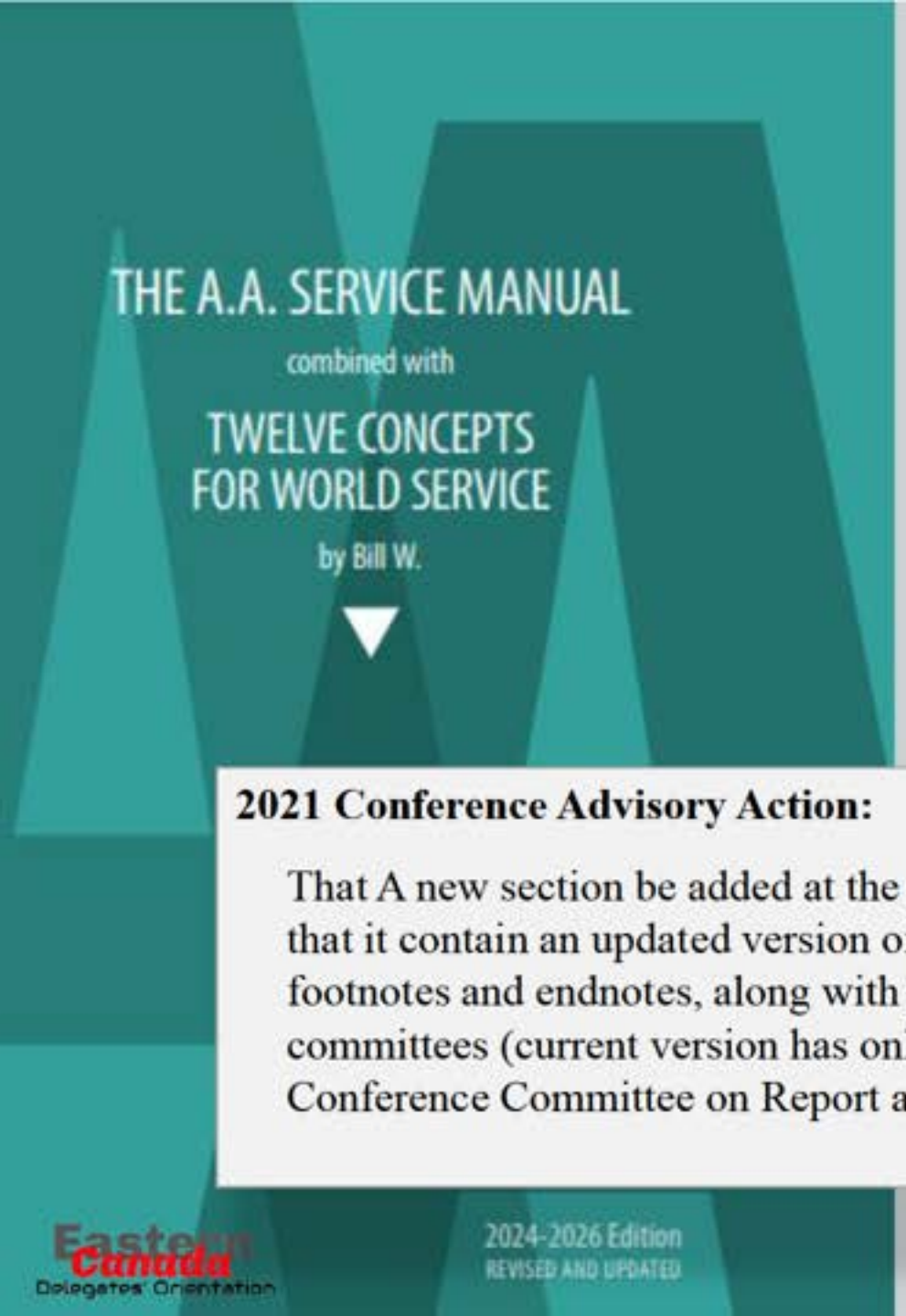


REPORT AND CHARTER: Agenda items

- *the A.A. Service Manual*, 2026-2028 ed

A-2: Consider request to remove a quote from Dr. Bob in *The AA Service Manual*.

Co-founder Dr. Bob said, "I spend a great deal of time passing on what I learned to others who want and need it badly. I do it for four reasons: ***1****. Sense of duty.* ***2****. It is a pleasure.* ***3****. Because in doing so I am paying my debt to the man who took time to pass it on to me.* ***4****. Because every time I do it I take out a little more insurance for myself against a possible slip."*



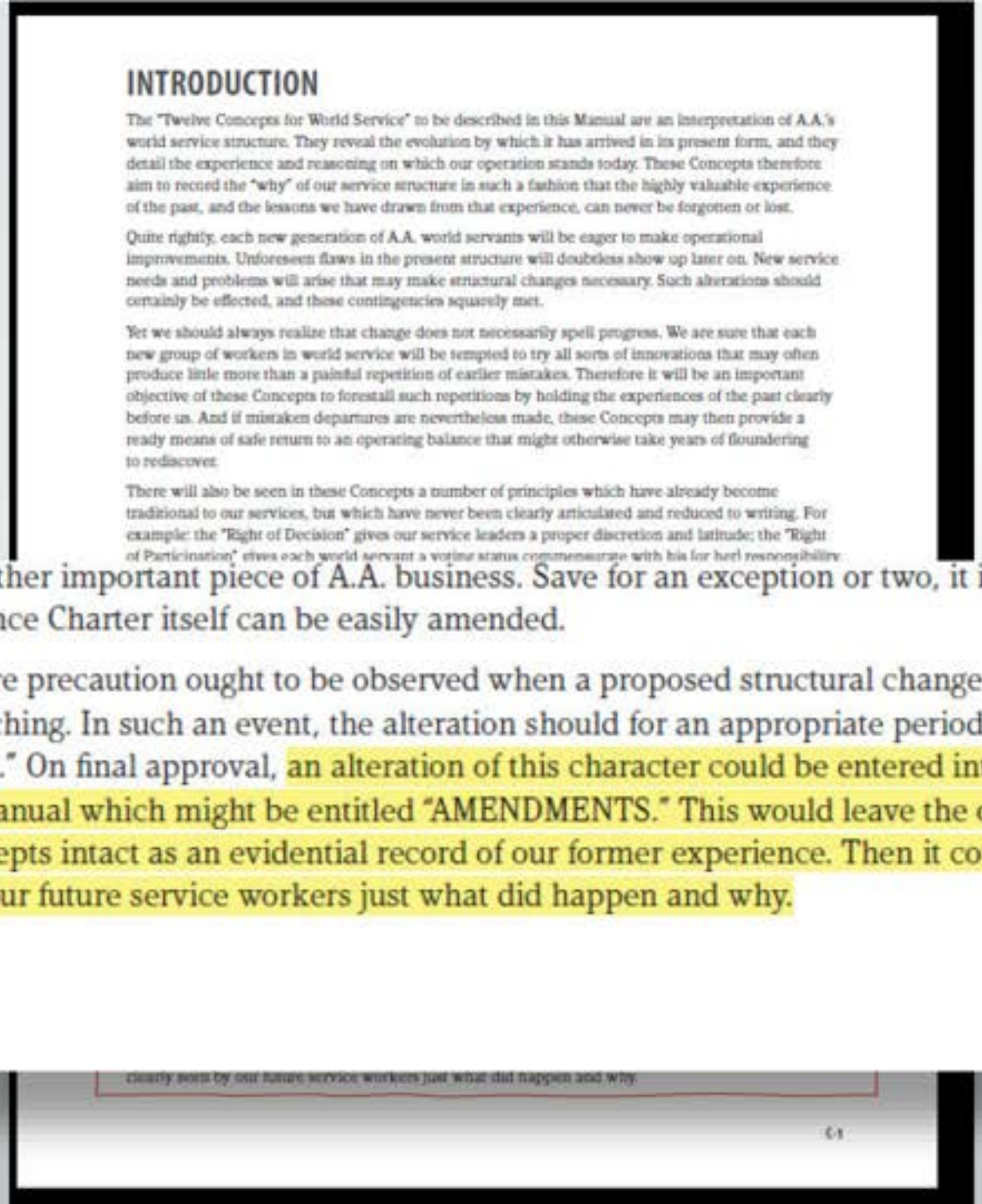
REPORT AND CHARTER: Agenda items

- *the A.A. Service Manual*, 2026-2028 ed

A-3: Review progress report on the development of a new section "Amendments" to be added to the *Twelve Concepts for World Service*.

2021 Conference Advisory Action:

That A new section be added at the end of the Twelve Concepts for World Service titled "Amendments," and that it contain an updated version of the Concept XI essay that incorporates the information in the current footnotes and endnotes, along with comprehensive descriptions of the current General Service Board committees (current version has only 5), and that a draft or progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.



INTRODUCTION

The "Twelve Concepts for World Service" to be described in this Manual are an interpretation of A.A.'s world service structure. They reveal the evolution by which it has arrived in its present form, and they detail the experience and reasoning on which our operation stands today. These Concepts therefore aim to record the "why" of our service structure in such a fashion that the highly valuable experience of the past, and the lessons we have drawn from that experience, can never be forgotten or lost.

Quite rightly, each new generation of A.A. world servants will be eager to make operational improvements. Unforeseen flaws in the present structure will doubtless show up later on. New service needs and problems will arise that may make structural changes necessary. Such alterations should certainly be effected, and these contingencies squarely met.

Yet we should always realize that change does not necessarily spell progress. We are sure that each new group of workers in world service will be tempted to try all sorts of innovations that may often produce little more than a painful repetition of earlier mistakes. Therefore it will be an important objective of these Concepts to forestall such repetitions by holding the experiences of the past clearly before us. And if mistaken departures are nevertheless made, these Concepts may then provide a ready means of safe return to an operating balance that might otherwise take years of floundering to rediscover.

There will also be seen in these Concepts a number of principles which have already become traditional to our services, but which have never been clearly articulated and reduced to writing. For example: the "Right of Decision" gives our service leaders a proper discretion and latitude; the "Right of Participation" gives each world servant a voting status commensurate with his (or her) responsibility

passage of any other important piece of A.A. business. Save for an exception or two, it is noteworthy that the Conference Charter itself can be easily amended.

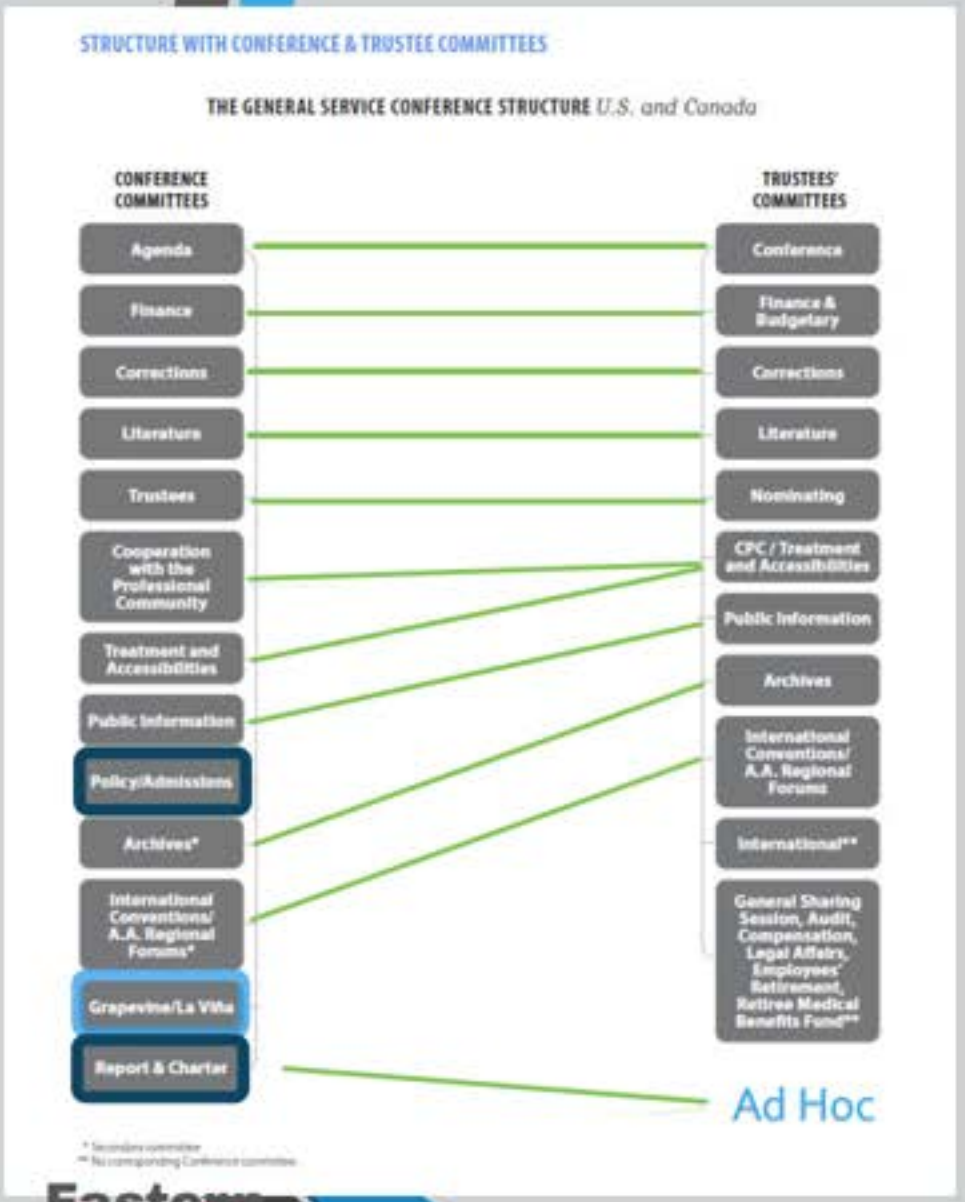
Perhaps one more precaution ought to be observed when a proposed structural change is to be specially far-reaching. In such an event, the alteration should for an appropriate period be labeled as "experimental." On final approval, an alteration of this character could be entered into a special section of this Manual which might be entitled "AMENDMENTS." This would leave the original draft of the Twelve Concepts intact as an evidential record of our former experience. Then it could always be clearly seen by our future service workers just what did happen and why.

C-1

clearly seen by our future service workers just what did happen and why.

C-1

REPORT AND CHARTER: Workflow



75th General Service Conference

Explored the creation of a corresponding Trustees' committee for Report and Charter.

Due to irregular demands, the committee found creating an Ad Hoc Committee on an as needed basis would work.

Amendments Section

- To be inserted at end of Concepts
- Include all changes in the Concepts
  - What was changed
  - The Conference Advisory Action

Tracking Updates and changes



Table of Contents

| Note: Vertical lines in outer margins (like that at left) indicate changes made in the 2016-2018 edition.

AA's Legacy of Service *(Foreword and historical background by co-founder Bill W.)* S1
The Twelve Traditions *(long form)* S13

Chapter One: Introduction to General Service

The Conference Structure: An Overview S15
An Upside-Down Organization S15
Communication Through the Structure *(group–district–area–Conference–trustees)* S17
Chart of the General Service Conference Structure S18
The Conference Charter (see Appendices A, C) S19
Glossary of General Service Terms S19
Why Do We Need a Conference? *by Bernard B. Smith* S20
Third Legacy Procedure S21

Regional Forums

Regional Forums, which originated in 1975, are weekend-long sharing and informational sessions which provide unique opportunities to share and exchange valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas. They are also designed to help the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, and A.A. Grapevine, and G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members stay in touch with A.A. members, trusted servants and newcomers throughout the A.A. service structure. G.S.O.'s staff member on the Regional Forums assignment coordinates details for the Forum and works closely with the volunteer host chair who recruits volunteers to assist staff with hospitality, set-up and registration during the Forum. Forums are held on a rotating basis, at the request of each region. There is no registration fee for Regional Forums. The General Service Board covers the expenses of meeting rooms. As all Forums are intended to be sharing sessions, no formal actions result. Sharing is captured in Forum Final Reports, which are distributed to all attendees, and are available on G.S.O.'s website. Regional Forums carry A.A.'s message of love and service by improving communication at all levels of our Fellowship.

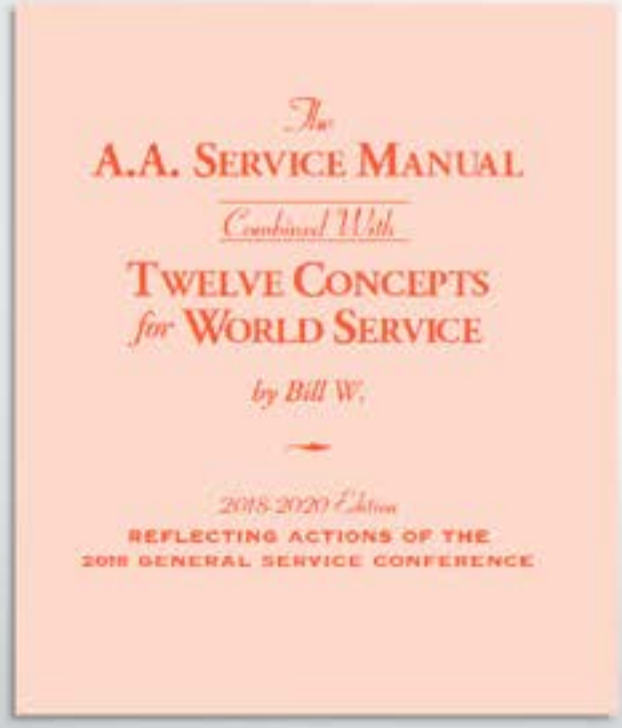
Local Forums

In October 2006, the concept of Local Forums was approved by the General Service Board. The purpose of Local Forums is to bring Forum information to A.A. members in remote, sparsely populated areas, urban neighborhoods or underserved A.A. communities. Any

A.A. community or service entity may request a one-and-a-half or two day Local Forum. Unlike Regional Forums, the responsibility for Forum expenses, such as meeting room rental and miscellaneous expenses, are assumed by the Local Forum Committee. The General Service Board will send two participants, one from the Board and one from the General Service Office or Grapevine office and display literature at Board expense. Like Regional Forums, Board participation in Local Forums requires the approval of the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums. The Regional Forums Coordinator works closely with the Local Forum organizing committee to create an agenda that is responsive to local needs.

Tracking Updates and changes in Concepts

2018 New way of recording the changes



2021 record of changes removed

These are the changes made to the 2018-2020 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual/ Twelve Concepts for World Service*, and the origin of those changes.

Page	Changes	Source of Change
Copyright Page	Update	Publishing Dept.
Table of Contents and Index	Update pagination and/or add new entries, as needed	Publishing Dept.
Various pages	Update any page references affected by shifts in pagination	Publishing Dept.
S9	Update footnote #6 regarding "Three Talks to Medical Societies"	Publishing Dept.
S10	Update footnote #8	Publishing Dept.
S21	Add Definition of the word "Panel" to Glossary of Terms	68th G.S.C.
S22	Update Third Legacy Procedure Chart	Publishing Dept.
S28	Update pamphlet title	68th G.S.C.
S29, S30	Update "New Group Form," "Group Information Change Form"	Publishing Dept.
S35	Update "D.C.M./D.C.M.C." Form	Publishing Dept.
S41, S42	Add text on Area Websites	67th G.S.C.
S48	Update delegate fee	67th G.S.C.
S65	Add text on GSB's Mission-Vision-Action statement	67th G.S.C.
S69	Update election chart	Publishing Dept.
S77	Add boxes that visually display the member positions on each of the three corporate boards	68th G.S.C.
S79	Update contribution limits	68th G.S.C.
S80	Add text reflecting "The Blue People" graphic	68th G.S.C.
S82	Update G.S.O. Structure Chart	G.S.O. General Manager
S86-S88	Update publication lists	Publishing Dept.
S91-S95	Add Grapevine Editorial Updates	Grapevine Board
S104, S110	Add a footnote about the word "registered" to the Original Conference Charter and the Current Conference Charter	68th G.S.C.
S114-S125	Update GSB Bylaws	General Service Board
S126, S135	Add Bylaws of A.A. World Services Inc. and AA Grapevine Inc. as appendices	67th G.S.C.
Page 31, 33	Add footnote in Concept VII to reflect accurately the current ownership and incorporation of the service corporations	Publishing Dept.
Page 59	Update footnote 1 to replace "Special Needs" with "Accessibilities"	Publishing Dept.
Page 59	Update footnote 3 to add years that A.A.W.S. and AA Grapevine were incorporated	Publishing Dept.
Concepts copyright page	Update, as needed	Publishing Dept.
Footnotes 26,33,58,73	Update, as needed	Publishing Dept.

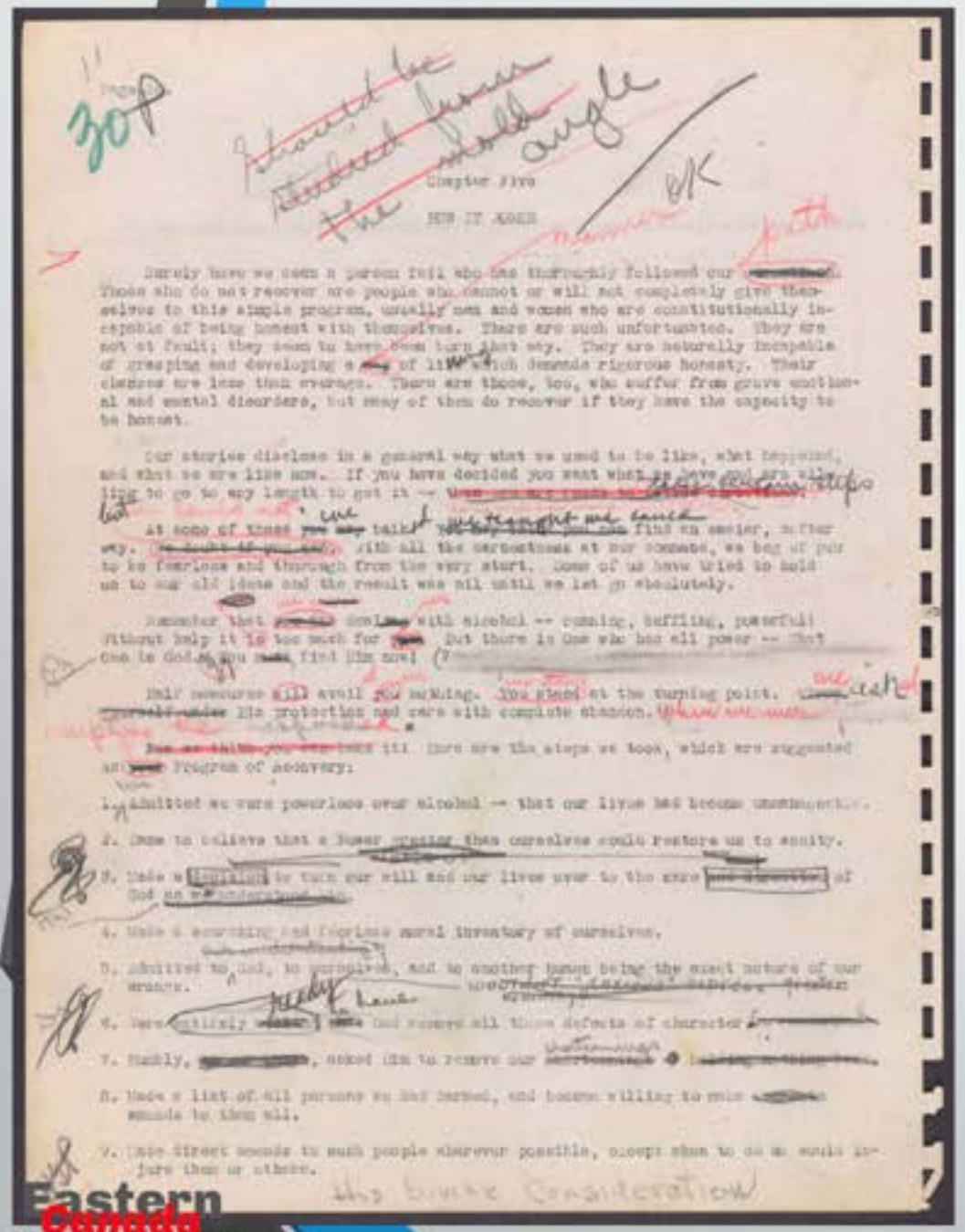
S148

Tracking Updates and changes in Concepts

Concept	Original language	Source of change
C IV	New volunteer corporate directors will ask why any paid **woman** staff member should also be a director and thereby have a vote as good as their own.	2025-Advisory Action
C IV	For example, A.A. World Services, Inc. (which also includes the A.A. Publishing division) currently has **seven** directors, only two of whom are Trustees.	1985-Advisory Action- nine
C IV	We should also note that the **seven** AA Grapevine directors are elected on the same principle as those of A.A. World Services, Inc.	1985-Advisory Action - reflect current facts- range from 7-10 directors
C XI	"Most staff members' assignments are changed **yearly**"	1985-Advisory Action - reflect current facts- serve **two years** on each assignment."
C XI	two paragraphs have been removed from the Concept Eleven essay and are available upon request from the G.S.O. Archives Department as a reference to A.A. history.	2016-Advisory Action

For the 75th General Service Conference

	PAI 81	PAI 15	PAI 26	PAI 109
What?	All Founders writing-including early Grapevine	Alcoholics Anonymous, 12 Step and 12 Traditions	Alcoholic Anonymous 1-164, plus forward, Dr's opinion as they appear in 2022	Translation of Steps, Traditions and Concepts in PLBB
How?	**75% of GSC**	**2 step process:** 75% of GSC then out for consultation and vote of 67% at next GSC	**Never**: Remains unchanged	Send it out to all Registered groups for ¾ support of change
Why?	Defines what is Founder's writing, and what level of approval is required	Changes to literature happening too quickly without enough consultation.	Make it binding on future GSC	Creating disunity and did not consider the harm to AA as a whole
Who?	Area 35	District 13 in Area 12	District 13 in Area 12	District 9 in Area 35



Chapter Five

HOW IT WORKS

Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our [illegible]. Those who do not recover are people who cannot or will not completely give themselves to this simple program, usually men and women who are constitutionally incapable of being honest with themselves. There are such unfortunates. They are not at fault; they seem to have been born that way. They are naturally incapable of grasping and developing a [illegible] of life which demands rigorous honesty. Their chances are less than average. There are those, too, who suffer from grave emotional and mental disorders, but many of them do recover if they have the capacity to be honest.

Our stories disclose in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now. If you have decided you want what we have and are willing to go to any length to get it -- [illegible]

At some of these [illegible] we talked [illegible] fast as seems, as fast as we could. We [illegible] with all the earnestness at our command, we beg of you to be serious and thorough from the very start. Some of us have tried to hold on to our old ideas and the result was nil until we let go absolutely.

Remember that [illegible] dealing with alcohol -- cunning, baffling, powerful! Without help it is too much for [illegible]. But there is One who has all power -- that One is God. May you [illegible] find Him now!

Half measures will avail you nothing. You must be at the turning point. [illegible] His protection and care with complete abandon.

[illegible] there are the steps we took, which are suggested as a program of recovery:

1. Admitted we were powerless over alcohol -- that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care [illegible] of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely [illegible] to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly, [illegible], asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

[illegible] Conscientious

REPORT AND CHARTER: Agenda items

Report and Charter Committee
76th General Service Conference

"Protect" Founders' Writings *continues*

D. classification of AAWS and AA Grapevine Literature released prior to 1971

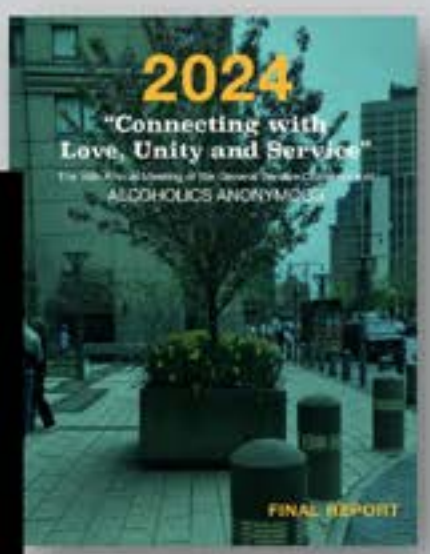
Chapter 5, How it Works, original MS

Illustrating Founders writings

1971

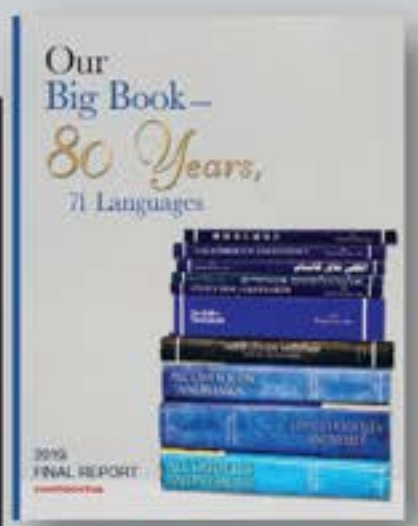
Recovery · Service · Historical

REPORT AND CHARTER: Agenda items









- Conference *Final Report*

B: Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*

C: Discuss workflow and anonymizing *Final Report*





Thank you.

Delegate@Area83aa.org



Hello friends I am an alcoholic. My name is Alan Wilkinson I have the honour and privilege to serve as Delegate for Panel 74, Area 84 Northeastern Ontario. I am assigned to the Grapevine/La Vina Conference Committee for the 74th General Service Conference. Thank you to the Eastern Canada Delegates Orientation committee for putting this day together for our region to come together and share this experience.

AAGV items are published for several reasons: first, to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous through stories from members and friends of the Fellowship; and second, to help GV maintain its self-supporting status. Furthermore, GV items provide a service to the Fellowship by making Grapevine and La Viña articles available in a wide range of formats: print, audio and digital. They also introduce both magazine titles through these anthologies to those who are unfamiliar with them; and help deepen members' interest and understanding of the Steps, Traditions, and history of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Composition

There are not more than nine voting members of this committee and a nonvoting secretary.
The new panel members will be selected by lot geographically in mid-December (at the time of the A.A.W.S. Board meeting), in the presence of two trustees or members of the Trustees Conference Committee.

The members of the committee will include:

Not more than five delegates from the previous year's panel (they continue to serve on this Committee for their second year).

And

Not more than five delegates from the current year's panel.

The new chairperson and alternate chairperson are elected by written ballot at the final committee meeting from the first-year panel members and take office immediately following the Conference.

Scope

The Grapevine Committee was formed in 1954. It is responsible for reviewing the development and circulation of the Grapevine for the past year at the individual and

group level. Its members are invited to make suggestions and recommendations in any area of the Grapevine, including material and format.

Procedure

1. Meet as a committee during the annual meeting of the General Service Conference.
2. Meet jointly at least once with the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board during the annual meeting.
3. When appropriate, make recommendations, reached in committee by majority vote, to the entire Conference.
4. Present these recommendations to the Conference for approval, disapproval, or amendment in a report given by the committee chairperson.
5. Maintain correspondence with the committee secretary and other committee members during the year.

74th General Service Conference Grapevine Agenda Items.

A. Review AA Grapevine Workbook.

B. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2025 or after.

C. Discuss the cost effectiveness and sustainability of continuing to print La Viña.

D. Explore the services provided by AA Grapevine and how they should be funded.

E. Consider a request to develop a pamphlet on the Asian and Asian-American alcoholics in A.A.*

Background Notes 74th General service Conference

A. From 2023 Additional Committee Considerations: The committee reviewed the AA Grapevine Workbook and provided some editorial suggestions and ways to access the workbook more easily.

B. From 2002 Advisory Actions: It was unanimously recommended that the Conference Committee on the Grapevine annually review a list of proposed related items at least one year in advance of possible production, so that the Conference might provide guidance, recognizing that the committee may request more than one year to review some proposed items.

C. This is a review of La Viña magazine circulation, revenue, costs, and the contribution from the General Service Board over the past 6 years, and the corresponding budget for 2024. Note that La Viña's circulation peaked in 2019, but then dropped dramatically in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID shutdowns hurt circulation in 2021 and 2022 as well. A rebound has been slow, but circulation did improve in 2023 and we expect that trend to continue. *The column "Other Revenue" refers to La Viña books and other items from the catalog. The budget for 2024 shows improved circulation and a reduction in costs and GSB contribution.

D. At the request of the General Service Conference, AA Grapevine, Inc. provides digital publishing services to the Fellowship at no charge to members. The Conference Committee on Grapevine will be discussing how these services shall be funded going forward. Below is a rundown of the cost of these services in 2023.

    These costs include vendor, talent, editing, freelance and platform fees. Project 2023 costs Notes AAGV Podcast $47,640.00 Talent, Editing, Travel, Captivate, Apple, staff time. GV & LV Instagram $14,850.00 Stikky Media, research, scheduling, posting, creative. GV & LV YouTube Channel $2,900.00 Editing, posting. In-house cost estimate $26,000.00 Staff time, promotional materials, equipment, zoom, etc. Total $91,390.00

E. Excerpt from the October 28, 2023, trustees' Literature Committee meeting report: The committee considered a request to develop a pamphlet for Asian and Asian American alcoholics with stories of experience, strength and hope from Asians and Asian-Americans and agreed to forward to the 74th General Service Conference.

As you can see, we will have a healthy discussion on these topics at conference as a committee, I trust with an informed group conscience with a loving God of our understanding, we will make recommendations to the conference on the two hard questions regarding funding. When Financial and Spiritual entities meet tough questions must be asked and discussed, and trust in the process.

In closing it is a privilege to serve as Delegate for Panel 74, Area 84 Northeastern Ontario.

Alan Wilkinson



Corrections Committee

Area 85 – Panel 75

Outline

Recommendations and Considerations from 75th General Service Conference Committee on Corrections

Current Agenda Items for the 76th General Service Conference Committee on Corrections

Recommendations

No Recommendations were made by the 75th General Service Conference Committee on Corrections

Initially we were going to have a Recommendation on the Appendix IV Agenda Item(will review later), but the creation of the 5th Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous was made as a result of a successful Recommendation (Advisory Action) so we were informed after that we could not make a Recommendation on an Advisory Action in the progress of being completed





Considerations

From 75th General Service Conference Committee on Corrections

Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) Process Summary

The 2021 General Service Conference started a three-year EDW trial (2022–2024).

After the third year, the 2024 General Service Conference formally approved the EDW process after gathering feedback through surveys and sharing sessions.

Question – Why do some agenda items seem to be misplaced?

Answer – The EDW process allows new agenda items to be assigned to Conference Committees with shorter agendas.

Pamphlet on Transgender Alcoholic in A.A. (EDW item from Literature)

The Committee reviewed Progress Report and expressed support for the process

The Committee requested a progress report be forwarded to the 76th General Service Conference Committee on Corrections

Update Appendix IV to include other Awards and commendations (EDW item from Literature)

The Committee suggested that a footnote of a URL to be added directing readers to the Awards page on AA.org instead of adding any new awards/commendations awarded to Alcoholics Anonymous to Appendix IV in the proposed 5th edition of the Big Book

Update: The 5th Edition Draft to be brought to the 76th General Service Conference adopted this suggestion

IV

THE LASKER AWARD

In 1951 the Lasker Award was given Alcoholics Anonymous. The citation reads in part as follows:

"The American Public Health Association presents a Lasker Group Award for 1951 to Alcoholics Anonymous in recognition of its unique and highly successful approach to that age-old public health and social problem, alcoholism . . . In emphasizing alcoholism as an illness, the social stigma associated with this condition is being blotted out . . . Historians may one day recognize Alcoholics Anonymous to have been a great venture in social pioneering which forged a new instrument for social action; a new therapy based on the kinship of common suffering; one having a vast potential for the myriad other ills of mankind."

Corrections Kit and Workbook

The Committee suggested these additional updates:

- Information on A.A. literature on tablets
- Editorial Suggestions
- Additional Hyperlinks in the Corrections kit
- Reference for the A.A. Group Handbook for Groups that meet in Correctional Facilities (CF-36) in the Corrections Workbook

Q12. Do you have any lessons learned from doing service on the inside of correctional facilities?



Corrections Survey (from local Correction Committees around North America)

Excellent work was done and the results of the survey were very informative

The Committee suggested that the survey be made available upon request and that it be included in the Corrections Workbook

2024 Data report from the tablet Vendor Edovo



Edovo ebooks engagement by title

Title eBooks	Unique Starts	Unique Completes
A.A. in Prison: A Message of Hope	1,377	250
Alcoholics Anonymous (4th Edition)	1,255	137
Alcoholics Anonymous (Comes of Age	866	92
As Bill Sees It	828	73
Came to Believe	796	85
Daily Reflections	7,529	427
Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers	888	88
Experience, Strength & Hope	2,202	138
Living Sober	894	164
Our Great Responsibility	744	85
Pass It On	1,139	101
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions	929	164
Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous	306	25

Title eBooks	Unique Starts	Unique Completes
Experience, Force & Hope	242	190
Le Mouvement des AA Devient Adulte	189	28
Les AA en Prison	723	94
Les Alcooliques anonymes	334	34
Les Douze Étapes et les Douze Traditions	103	39
Notre grande responsabilité	323	55
Nous en Sommes Venus à Croire	253	27
Réflexions Quotidiennes	208	22
Vivre ... sans alcool	53	16
AA Llega a su Mayoría de Edad	432	50
Alcohólicos Anónimos	430	58
Como Lo Ve Bill	596	57
Doce Pasos y Doce Tradiciones	233	38
Viviendo y Creer	865	100
Nuestra gran responsabilidad	1,009	113
Reflexiones de Bill	521	45
Reflexiones Diarias	1,300	77
Viviendo Sobrio	191	28

Again, the Report proved to be very informative

There was much discussion over the report

It was noted that there was interest in A.A. Audiobooks

The Committee suggested the production of an Audio Plain Language Big Book with hopes it will be added to the Edovo library

Update: The Plain Language Audiobook is set to be available in June on Edovo tablets

A.A. Group Handbook for Groups That Meet in Correctional Facilities

The Committee noted the availability and usefulness of this handbook and suggested that updates be made by the staff member on the corrections desk

Contents of the A.A. Group Handbook for Groups That Meet in Correctional Facilities

List of Contents (this page) **(CF-36)**

TOOLS FOR A.A. MEETINGS:
A.A. Preamble **(SMF-92)**
"How It Works" **(P-10)**
The Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous **(SMF-121)**
The Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous - Short Form **(SMF-122)**
The Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous - Long Form **(SMF-187)**
Suggestions for Leading Beginners Meetings **(MU-1)**
Suggested Topics for Discussion Meetings **(SMF-56)**

GENERAL INFORMATION AND OTHER TOOLS FOR A.A. GROUPS:
Twelve Traditions Checklist **(SMF-131)**
Chart of the General Service Conference Structure (U.S. and Canada) **(SMF-116)**
Conference-Approved Literature **(SMF-29)**
Information on Alcoholics Anonymous **(F-2)**
A.A. Guidelines on Safety and A.A. Groups **(MG-25)**
Concepts Checklist **(SMF-91)**
Services Provided by G.S.O./A.A.W.S. **(SMF-176)**
Sponsorship-A Vital Stepping Stone to Service & Sobriety **(SMF-110)**
A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Information - Inside **(F-163)**
Corrections Correspondence Service Insider Request Form **(F-73)**
A.A. Fact Sheet **(SMF-94)**

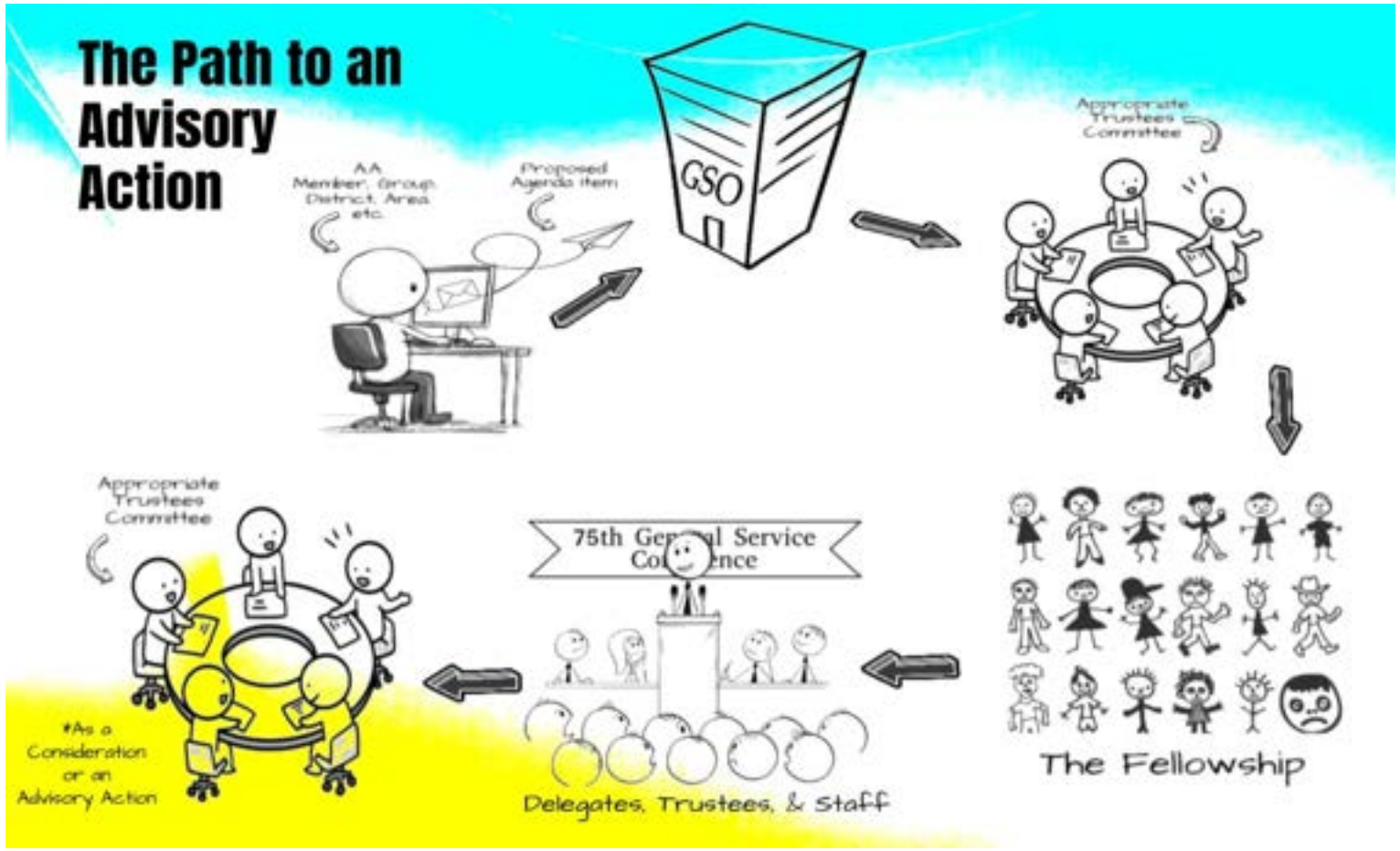
PAMPHLETS:
The A.A. Group...Where it all Begins **(P-16)**
G.S.R.: General Service Representative **(P-19)**
Circles of Love and Service **(P-45)**
A Newcomer Asks **(P-24)**

Quick thought on Recommendations versus Considerations

Bringing items to the Full Conference floor is necessary sometimes but you'll notice that two of our Considerations were successful

A Recommendation that fails to make substantial unanimity but has a simple majority will also be considered a suggestion and referred to the GSB

When in your Committees, keep in mind that an idea can be stopped in its tracks if brought as a Recommendation and failing to reach a majority in a vote





Agenda Items

For 76th General service conference committee on corrections

Corrections Committee Agenda Items

01	Review Content and Format of Corrections Kit and Workbook
02	Review Progress Report on Development of a Pamphlet of the Transgender Alcoholic in A.A. *
03	Consider a Request to Update the Pamphlet "The A.A. Member - Medications and Other Drugs“ *

*EDW item from Literature

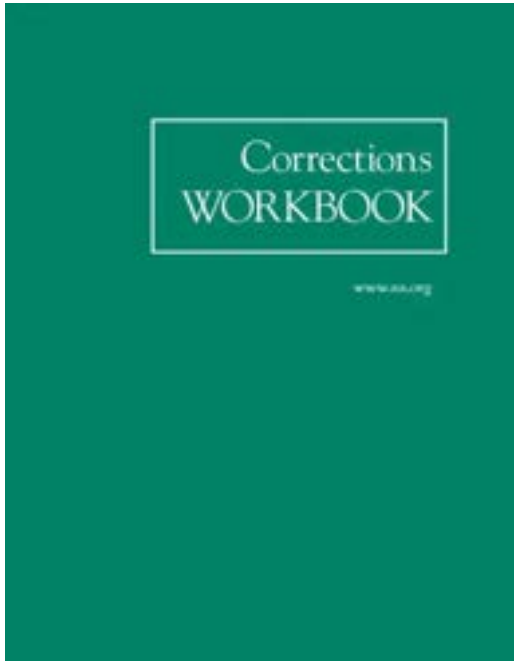
A. Review content and format of Corrections Kit and Workbook

NOTE: Workbooks are service material, not Conference Approved Literature, and any proposed changes and/or additions are not to be put forth as Recommendations but rather as Committee Considerations. Once a piece of literature or suggested edit is brought to the Conference as a Recommendation and reaches Substantial Unanimity in a vote it automatically becomes Conference Approved Literature and would need to be voted on again to be edited/changed. Keeping an item as “Service Material” allows GSO staff to operate more easily with kits and workbooks and update more frequently.

The Committee had lengthy discussion on the Kit and Workbook at the 75th General Service Conference

Workbooks for Archives, CPC, Corrections, Public Information and Treatment and Accessibilities are reviewed by appropriate Conference Committees Annually


CONTENU DE LA POCHETTE DES CENTRES DE DETENTION



B. Review progress report on the development of pamphlet for the Transgender alcoholic (EDW from Literature)

Advisory Action from the 74th GSC

- 75th GSC Committee on Corrections requested a progress report be forwarded to the 76th Conference Committee

Working Group consisting of 6 members and currently looking to add two more members

Have received 11 story submissions as of January 8th, 2026

Current story submission deadline is set at March 31st, 2026



B. Review progress report on the development if pamphlet for the Transgender alcoholic (EDW from Literature) - Continued

"We have identified several key themes — which we expect to refine further in the next two meetings — that we hope to see reflected in the submissions":

- The Spiritual Journey: Finding a "moment of grace" and developing a relationship with a Higher Power from various religious and secular backgrounds.
- The Newcomer Experience: Navigating the specific barriers to recovery faced by the transgender community while finding a sense of belonging and safety in the rooms.
- Identity & Sobriety: The experiences of transitioning, gender presentation, and coming out in sobriety, as well as the vital role of sponsorship and special interest meetings.
- Intersectionality: Ensuring the pamphlet speaks to a broad membership, including diverse gender identities and varied ethnic, socio-economic and geographic backgrounds.
- Appeal to Reader: Evaluating if the narrative is emotionally resonant, carries a clear message of hope and remains timeless for future members.

C. Consider a request to update the pamphlet "The A.A. Member — Medications and Other Drugs." (EDW item from Literature)

The Committee will evaluate two separate proposals to update the pamphlet (item P-11)

- PAI 50: Proposes a general review and modification of the story section to include more relatable, modern language and terminology
  - Submitted from a District in Area 10
- PAI 56: Recommends revising and expanding the pamphlet to address topics not currently covered, such as the use/abuse of pain medications in acute or chronic pain situations, legal marijuana, and various over the counter (OTC) addictive medications
  - Submitted by Area 21



Area85delegate@gmail.com
807-738-5318
Joel C[redacted]

Happy to be of service and please reach out to me if you have any questions.



GRAPEVINE COMMITTEE



76th General Service Conference
Agenda Highlights

Presented by:
Tammy S[redacted]
Area 86 Panel 76 Delegate

Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña

Composition

There are not more than nine voting members of the committee and a non-voting secretary.

Scope

The AA Grapevine and La Viña Conference Committee supports Alcoholics Anonymous' international journals of recovery and their online platforms, sharing the collective experience, strength, and hope of AA members. The committee provides oversight and guidance on editorial direction, digital and print distribution, and accessibility, ensuring that both publications remain inclusive, relevant, and faithful to AA's principles.



AGENDA ITEM F:

Consider AA Grapevine Inc. Accept Contributions

Consider AA Grapevine Inc. Accept Contributions

Members already support Grapevine indirectly through:

- Group, district, and area contributions to the General Service Board
- General Service Board funds AA Grapevine, Inc. (and La Viña)



In principle:

- Members are already paying for Grapevine
- Grapevine is already part of AA's self-support system

Consider AA Grapevine Inc. Accept Contributions

That means the question is no longer “should Grapevine accept contributions at all?”

It becomes:

Is it spiritually sound or structurally wise for Grapevine to accept direct contributions in addition to indirect ones?



Consider AA Grapevine Inc. Accept Contributions

Concerns

Even though the money comes from AA members either way, the route the money takes matters in AA.

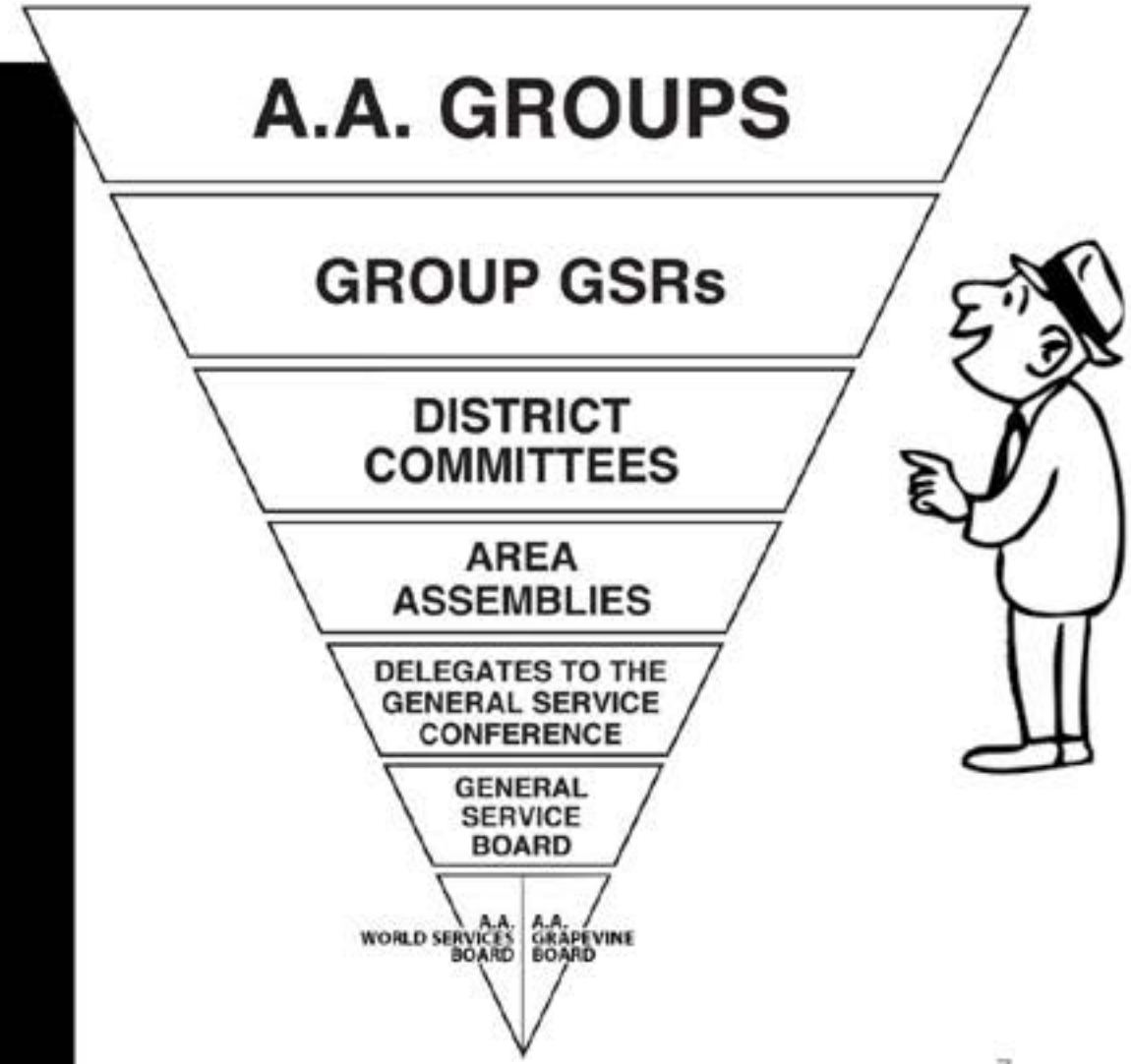


1. Group conscience and accountability

AA's service structure is intentionally layered:
Groups » Districts » Areas » Conference » GSB

Consider AA Grapevine Inc. Accept Contributions

This protects:



Consider AA Grapevine Inc. Accept Contributions

Concerns



Consider AA Grapevine Inc. Accept Contributions

Concerns

3. Double-funding optics

Even if it's technically fine:

- Some members will ask, "Why am I being asked twice?"
- Others may reduce group contributions to compensate



This can undermine:

- Area and Conference budgets
- The unity principle in Tradition One

AGENDA ITEM D:

Review Progress of the AA Grapevine Survey of the Membership

Review Progress of the AA Grapevine Survey of the Membership

Advisory Action directed Board to obtain Fellowship feedback

Survey was to access relevance, usefulness, and financial viability of Grapevine and La Viña products and services



- Magazines
- Books (print, digital, audio)
- Podcast and social media (Instagram and YouTube)

Review Progress of the AA Grapevine Survey of the Membership

Assess how Grapevine and La Viña products and services are:

Reporting Requirements:



Review Progress of the AA Grapevine Survey of the Membership

Subcommittee Convened to develop survey guided by:

Two working meetings:



Review Progress of the AA Grapevine Survey of the Membership

Survey Design & Key Focus Area

Core Areas of Inquiry



Review Progress of the AA Grapevine Survey of the Membership

External Research and Support



Review Progress of the AA Grapevine Survey of the Membership

Proposed Timeline (Summer Implementation)

Deliverables



AGENDA ITEM C:

Review Five-Year Plan for Grapevine and La Viña

Review Five-Year Plan for Grapevine and La Viña

Overview

- Examine long-term vision and strategic direction
- Assess alignment with Conference priorities
- Consider sustainability and growth
- Evaluate measurable goals and benchmarks



Review Five-Year Plan for Grapevine and La Viña

Strategic Vision & Mission Alignment



Review Five-Year Plan for Grapevine and La Viña

Content and Platform Development



Review Five-Year Plan for Grapevine and La Viña

Financial Sustainability



Review Five-Year Plan for Grapevine and La Viña

Metrics, Accountability & Fellowship Impact





Thanks!

Tammy S[redacted]

Area 86 Panel 76

Delegate

Text for the 2026 Eastern Canada Delegates Orientation Day

Hello,

My name is **Sylvie B[redacted]** and I am an alcoholic. I have the responsibility and the privilege of serving **Region 87 as Delegate**.

I am pleased to present the **Corrections Committee** to which I have been assigned. I had a bit of difficulty speaking about the committee because this is my **first Conference** and I have not yet served on it.

Therefore, I will not speak from experience, but rather from the reading I have done of many, many pages.

The **Conference Corrections Committee** helps A.A. members carry the message to alcoholics **behind the walls**.

According to **Statistics Canada**, 70% of federal inmates (men and women) struggle with alcohol and/or drug problems, and **40% were intoxicated at the time they committed their crimes**.

Within correctional facilities, there are several rehabilitation programs offered to inmates with alcohol problems, including the presence of **Alcoholics Anonymous**.

We can therefore conclude that the **A.A. message truly has its place behind the walls**, which highlights the importance of having a **Corrections Committee at the Conference**.

Experienced workers in penitentiary centers learn that it is vitally important to **understand and explain the Traditions to correctional staff**. A careful reading of A.A. publications, such as the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, is essential for anyone working with non-members.

Main Areas of Work of the Committee

The committee mainly discusses various ways to stimulate **Twelfth Step work in correctional institutions**, such as:

- Organizing **A.A. gatherings in detention centers**
- Introducing correctional staff to A.A. by inviting them to correctional events and/or A.A. meetings behind the walls
- Reviewing **all aspects of services offered to A.A. correctional groups**
- Recommending corrections and updates to correctional service documents when necessary

- Clarifying **what A.A. does and does not do**, in keeping with the Traditions, to help alcoholic inmates behind the walls and upon their release

Using the background material, I prepared a **brief historical overview** of the committee.

Historical Overview

In **1977**, the General Service Conference recommended that the **Institutions Committee** be abolished and replaced by **two new committees**: one responsible for **correctional facilities** and the other for **treatment centers**.

The **1983 General Service Conference** recommended the creation of a **Corrections Workbook** to help carry the A.A. message into correctional institutions. It includes suggestions on how A.A. members can be most helpful in prisons and suggestions for activities for local committees.

Maintaining an **active connection between a Corrections Committee and the various correctional institutions** is therefore essential, as it provides professionals and staff in these institutions with information about A.A.

Later in that decade, it was recommended that efforts be made to **build bridges** between A.A. members on the **inside** and those on the **outside** to help inmates. Greater emphasis was also suggested on **pre-release sponsorship**, involving responsible A.A. members and former inmates in recovery whenever possible.

Regional committees, district committees, intergroup/central office committees, and group representatives in correctional facilities discuss specific ways to coordinate efforts in order to **sponsor inmates upon their release**.

It was also recommended that the **General Service Office take the necessary measures to avoid delays in responding to correspondence with inmates**.

Another suggestion was that the Corrections Committee obtain a **permanent mailing address or post office box**, so inmates could use the same address when requesting literature or contacts upon their release.

Developments in the 1990s and 2000s

In the **1990s**, the committee recommended that the **Corrections Workbook** be published in book format and included in an envelope containing appropriate pamphlets and guidelines. The new format of the Corrections Workbook was accepted.

In the **early 2000s**, the **Service Workbook** began to be studied on a continuing basis by the Conference Corrections Committee. It became an essential tool for anyone wishing to carry the A.A. message behind the walls.

It was also recommended that a **media presentation** be prepared, featuring a credible personality from the correctional services field, to present A.A. to training academies and correctional staff. This presentation was to be submitted to the Corrections Committee at the next Conference.

Later, for **alcoholic inmates in youth facilities**, the committee suggested that the Board Committee on Correctional Facilities explore ways to use A.A. materials more effectively in those institutions.

Developments in the 2020s

In the **early 2020s**, the committee requested that the pamphlet **"The God Word / Agnostic and Atheist Members in A.A."** be added to the list of materials in the corrections kit and suggested several changes to the Workbook to reflect current practices and resources.

In **2023**, the committee suggested that **AA Grapevine** consider including shared experiences on sponsoring incarcerated individuals in the July prison issue and in future issues.

In **2024**, following the equitable workload distribution plan, the committee examined the development of a **pamphlet about transgender alcoholics in A.A.** and requested that a draft or progress report be presented to the Conference Corrections Committee.

In **2025**, the committee reviewed the **Corrections kit and Workbook** and made additional updates to the kit, including:

- Information about the **Meeting Guide app**
- Editorial suggestions
- Additional **hyperlinks** in the Corrections kit

The committee also reviewed a **progress report on the pamphlet for transgender alcoholics in A.A.** and expressed support for the progress made so far. It requested that another progress report be presented to the **2026 Conference Corrections Committee**.

Current Topics

This year, the committee will again review the **progress report on the development of the pamphlet for transgender alcoholics in A.A.**

There is also a request to **study updates to the pamphlet "The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs."** This pamphlet has not been revised since the **1980s**.

Closing

Having personally carried the A.A. message **behind the walls**, my research for writing this presentation helped me understand all the work done beforehand to ensure that, on a weekday evening at **7:00 p.m.**, an alcoholic behind the walls can see **a glimmer of hope** regarding their problem with alcohol.

Thank you for listening, and have a good remainder of the meeting.

CONFERENCE 2026

Acting with Humility

BY JEAN-YVES M. / Delegate R88 P75

BYLAWS AND CHARTER COMMITTEE

Committee Mandate

• Reviews The A.A. Service Manual and the Final Conference Report; discusses suggestions and recommends corrections when needed.
• Reviews preliminary versions of the Conference annual report and verifies their accuracy.
• Reviews and recommends any necessary changes to the Conference Charter.

Four Agenda Items Proposed for the Committee in 2026

1. Discuss The A.A. Service Manual, 2026–2028 edition.
2. Discuss the Final Report of the General Service Conference.
3. Discuss the workflow and anonymization practices for the Conference Final Report.
4. Discuss progress on the classification of AAWS and Grapevine publications.

1. Discuss The A.A. Service Manual, 2026–2028 Edition

a) Review the list of editorial updates.
b) Consider a request to remove a quote from Dr. Bob in The A.A. Service Manual.
c) Review the progress report on the creation of a new “Amendments” section to be added to the Twelve Concepts for World Service.

Committee Concerns – Item 1a

The committee has undertaken a multi-year process to evaluate the accuracy and effectiveness of the restructured edition of The A.A. Service Manual and the Twelve Concepts for World Service.
Although greater functional clarity is needed, a significant number of revisions have been identified and corrected in order to avoid further delays in the printing process.

The committee asks that the General Service Board assign a trustee liaison to the Conference Bylaws and Charter Committee in order to ensure proper implementation of these revisions in The A.A. Service Manual and the Twelve Concepts for World Service for future printing.

Item 1b – Request Concerning a Dr. Bob Quotation

Consider a request to remove a quotation from Dr. Bob in The A.A. Service Manual.

Committee Concerns – Item 1b

Excerpt from the report of the Trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference dated November 2, 2025:

The committee reviewed the request to remove the Dr. Bob quotation in the section "The Service Sponsor" in the chapter on the GSR, page 10 of The A.A. Service Manual, and agreed to forward it to the Conference Bylaws and Charter Committee for consideration at the General Service Conference.

Item 1c – Amendments Section

Review the progress report on the creation of a new "Amendments" section to be added to the Twelve Concepts for World Service.

Committee Concerns – Item 1c

Topic studied by the Conference Bylaws and Charter Committee during recent Conferences.

Item 2

Discuss the Final Report of the General Service Conference.

Item 3

Discuss the workflow and anonymization practices for the Conference Final Report.

Item 4

Discuss the progress made in the classification of AAWS and Grapevine publications.

Conclusions

• The chair of the Bylaws and Charter Committee and the committee prepare the final agenda outcomes for accuracy and distribution.
• The Bylaws and Charter Committee organizes a new launch of the Conference Final Report.
• The ad hoc trustees' committee will conclude at the end of the Conference. Continuation will depend on decisions of the Conference and the General Service Board.

Closing Message

Conference 2026
Let us keep in mind to always act with humility.

76TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE
APRIL 26 TO MAY 2, 2026

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES

COMPOSITION

There are not more than nine voting members of this committee and a non-voting secretary. The new panel members will be selected by lot geographically in mid-December (at the time of the A.A.W.S. Board meeting) in the presence of two trustees or members of the Trustees' Conference Committee.

The members of the Committee will include four or five delegates from the previous year's panel (they continue to serve on this committee for their second year), and four or five delegates from the current year's panel.

The new chairperson and alternate chairperson are elected by written ballot at the final committee meeting during the Conference session from the first-year panel members and take office immediately following the Conference.

SCOPE

The purpose of a Treatment and Accessibilities committee is to coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in a wide variety of treatment settings, and to set up means of "bridging the gap" from the treatment setting to the A.A. Fellowship. In addition, the committee supports the work of individual A.A. members and groups serving those who experience barriers to accessing the A.A. message and participating in A.A.'s Three Legacies – Recovery, Unity, and Service.

Finally, the committee supports the work of individual A.A. members and groups striving to ensure that A.A. members who live in underserved or remote communities — communities difficult to reach because of geography, language or culture — have access to the A.A. message.

The committee will review all aspects of service to A.A. groups/meetings in non-correctional in-patient and out-patient treatment settings, as well as to A.A.s who experience access barriers, and make recommendations for changes

PROCEDURES

1. To meet jointly at least once with the Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities before or during the annual Conference meeting.
2. Committee meetings during the Conference, on Monday and Tuesday mornings, to discuss the items on the committee's agenda and to formulate recommendations, observations, or suggestions to the entire Conference.
3. To present these recommendations to the Conference for approval, disapproval or amendment in a report given by the committee chairperson.
4. To maintain correspondence with committee secretary and other committee members during the year.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR 2026

These items include standing items for each committee, ongoing items carried over from the previous Conference, and new items submitted to the Conference.

The final list of agenda items, which includes the new items submitted to the Conference as well as the distribution among committees as part of the fair workload distribution, were available by February 20 after the General Service Board meeting.

Below is the list of agenda items for the Treatment and Accessibility Committee:

A. Review the progress report on the Military and Veterans Interview Project.

The General Service Office has continued to post recordings on the "Military Members/Veterans in AA" on aa.org, as well as interviews to the "Military Audios" YouTube playlist. An interview with a nonalcoholic lieutenant general of the Canadian Armed Forces has been posted online.



B. Review contents and format of Treatment Kit and Workbook.

C. Review contents and format of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.

Each year at the General Service Conference, the relevant Conference committees review the service manuals and committee workbooks, including those on Accessibility, Treatment, and Remote Communities.

Between Conferences, suggestions for revisions to a manual may be received. The Board committee may review these changes and implement them or choose to forward an idea to the Conference committee for consideration.

Since the manuals are service documents, proposed content changes by the Conference committee are presented as items reviewed by the committee rather than as recommendations.

D. Review the A.A. Guidelines on Accessibility

The Guidelines are published by the General Service Office (GSO) and reflect the collective experience of AA members and groups. These Guidelines are intended to help achieve an informed group conscience.

GSO staff members periodically review AA Guidelines to ensure that the most current collective experience of the Fellowship is included. The AA Guidelines on Accessibility (item FMG-16) were revised and updated by the staff secretary in 2025; the title was changed to align with the other AA Guidelines.

The Guidelines are service documents. Proposed content changes by the Conference committee are presented as items reviewed by the committee rather than as recommendations.

E. Consider a request to review locally produced safety-related video service material and provide input on the potential for this video service material to be adapted for use by GSO.

Many groups do not know how to apply in practical terms the guidance provided in the Safety Card and the Safety flyer. We need practical, easy-to-understand tools that show groups how to preserve their unity in difficult situations.

Short video materials offering examples of ways to help ensure safety in groups would inform and support each group's conscience. Trusted servants from California Area 93 have created videos rooted in AA practices that could be used by the General Service Office (GSO).



English translation of the document
Source:

Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee (CPC)

Hello to all of you gathered today with the goal of supporting the orientation of delegates from the Eastern Canada territory. I still feel quite new to this subject, but the research has been an enriching and beneficial exercise.

Last December, I was assigned to the Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee.

As suggested in the invitation note, I will first outline the profile of my assigned committee—its composition, scope, and procedures. Then I will discuss its recent recommendations as well as the items currently on our agenda and our workload for the 76th General Service Conference.

Composition of the CPC Committee

The Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community is composed as follows:

There are no more than nine voting members on this committee and one non-voting secretary. In our case, we will be eight.

Members of the new Panel are drawn geographically by lot in mid-December (during the A.A.W.S. Board meeting), in the presence of two trustees or members of the Board Committee on the Conference. I was at a regional office meeting when I opened the email informing me of my assignment on December 16. I was excited and pleased about the path that seemed to be unfolding for me.

Members of this committee include:

- Up to five delegates from the previous year's Panel (who continue to serve on this committee during their second year), and
- Up to five delegates from the current year's Panel. In our case, this will be four delegates from the previous Panel and four new delegates from Panel 76.

The new chair and vice-chair are elected by written ballot at the last committee meeting during the Conference sessions from among the first-year Panel members, and they take office immediately after the Conference. Dan and Jim were elected Chair and Vice-Chair of the Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee respectively.

Dan convened our meeting on February 27, where we became acquainted and received guidance from the four more experienced delegates. They answered our questions and also provided important information about preparation and travel logistics. We will elect a

new chair and vice-chair at our final committee meeting at the end of April 2026. Four of us are candidates for two positions. God knows what the future holds for me.

Scope of the CPC Committee

The committee has the responsibility of suggesting policies to the Conference and recommending activities that can help:

1. Serve the primary purpose of A.A., which is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers, by sharing information about the A.A. program with professional groups and individuals who have contact with alcoholics.
2. Foster understanding and mutual cooperation between the Fellowship and others who deal with the problem of alcoholism and wish to help the alcoholic.
3. Increase awareness among members, groups, and outside organizations about ways to cooperate with others without affiliating with anyone, while respecting A.A. Traditions.

Our predecessors indicated during our first meeting that they were impressed by the scope of the recommendations and the importance of our voice. Proper preparation is essential.

Committee Procedures

The procedures include:

1. Meeting as a committee during the annual General Service Conference.
2. Meeting jointly at least once with the Board Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment during the annual Conference.
3. Presenting recommendations formulated by the committee by majority vote to the Conference in plenary session.
4. Presenting these recommendations to the Conference for approval, rejection, or modification through a report delivered by the committee chair.
5. Maintaining correspondence with the committee secretary and other committee members throughout the year.

Recommendations from the 75th Conference

Now let me speak about the recommendations from the 75th Conference of the Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee.

Regarding the CPC budget for 2026:
The committee received the preliminary CPC budget for 2026 and did not approve it.

The committee asked the Board Finance and Budget Committee to consider revising the budget from $6,000 to $63,000 (half of the initial proposed budget) on a provisional

basis for CPC exhibits. The committee requested that the staff secretary send a memorandum to the Board Finance and Budget Committee presenting the requested increase to the preliminary CPC/Treatment-Accessibility Board Committee for 2026 in order to allow continued participation in national professional exhibitions. We received a positive response from our committee chair during our recent meeting.

2025 Conference – Topics Considered by the Committee

Progress report on the development of a brochure for mental health professionals

The committee recommended reconsidering the project to develop a brochure for mental health professionals by using existing content from the current draft and modifying the format so it can be folded into four sections. The committee requested that a draft brochure or progress report be presented to the CPC Conference Committee in 2026.

Progress report on the effective use of CPC videos on aa.org

The committee recommended that the Board Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment-Accessibility replace the three existing videos —
“A.A. Videos for Health Care Professionals,”
“A.A. Videos for Legal and Corrections Professionals,” and
“A.A. Videos for Employment and Human Resources Professionals” —
with a new video available in English, Spanish, and French.

The format and message of this video should reach all professionals, be versatile, and be suitable for distribution on multiple platforms. The committee requested that a progress report or draft video be presented to the CPC Conference Committee in 2026.

Progress report on the AAWS LinkedIn page

The committee recommended that AAWS subscribe to a premium LinkedIn account for a one-year trial period at a cost not exceeding $1,000 USD per year, and that a report on the effectiveness of the premium account be presented to the CPC Conference Committee in 2026. However, during our February 27 meeting we learned that LinkedIn does not consider A.A. eligible for a premium account.

Other Topics Discussed by the Committee

The committee offered suggestions to the Communications Services Department to better inform professionals visiting aa.org about the resources offered by A.A.

The committee also discussed shared experience regarding informing professionals about how A.A. can serve as a resource for homeless and neurodivergent alcoholics. No action was taken. The committee noted that other Conference committees are addressing neurodivergent alcoholics and that some overlap exists. The committee agreed that the new information did not justify reversing the decision of the 74th General Service Conference to take no action.

Regarding the change in direction for the brochure for mental health professionals, the committee asked the staff secretary to send a memorandum to the Publishing Department with suggestions for developing additional content and updating the layout and format, including:

- Adding hyperlinks to stories and shared experiences previously provided in interviews and the earlier brochure draft
- Updating subject headings, including:
    - Short FAQ
    - How A.A. can help with mental health treatment
    - How can I suggest A.A.?
    - How can we be found?

The committee also asked the Board Committee on CPC/Treatment-Accessibility to review these recommendations and provide a report on how the work will be carried out at the 2026 Conference CPC Committee meeting.

The committee asked AAWS to explore the possibility of increasing the frequency of LinkedIn posts and the resources required to support that effort.

Development of a New CPC Video

The committee asked that the most cost-effective means be used to produce the new video, using internal resources when possible. It also requested that the video reflect the diversity of the Fellowship.

The committee asked AAWS to consider the principle of “singleness of purpose” when developing a policy on social media.

It also asked that the Board Committee on CPC/Treatment-Accessibility contribute annually to the review of the overall media plan and collaborate with the Board Committee on Public Information to use technology effectively in reaching professionals using current industry standards and adapting to new and emerging technologies.

Current Agenda Items for the 76th General Service Conference

Work will continue on most of the previously mentioned projects:

- Progress report on the AAWS LinkedIn page
- Progress report on the development of the brochure for mental health professionals
- Review of the CPC kit and CPC Workbook (updated annually)
- Progress report on the effective use of CPC videos on aa.org

- Consideration of a request to create independent audio/video clips during the production of videos for professionals

Rationale for This Proposal

The current media landscape favors communicating information quickly and effectively through short-form content. Busy professionals are unlikely to watch a long video unless their interest has first been captured. Providing short audio excerpts allows new videos to have a longer life, since new clips can regularly be produced and added to the collection.

Expected Results

The expected result is the creation of short, engaging audio clips that attract the attention of busy professionals. These “hooks” would highlight how Alcoholics Anonymous can benefit their patients, helping us carry the message more effectively and in a way that aligns with today’s evolving media environment.

I hope I have been able to give you some insight into our Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee and our program for the upcoming Conference.

For my part, I am trying to savor this experience day by day, because I am often told that it will pass very quickly.

Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to joining our efforts in this shared experience at the end of April.

Mélanie Charette
Delegate P76
Region 90 — North-West Quebec

Keeping our House in order

Questions About A.A.

- How do we go from active alcoholism to living "happy,
- joyous and free"?
- How do the Twelve Steps bring order and recovery to our personal lives?
- How do the Twelve Traditions guide us from disorganization to unity as a fellowship.
- How do we strengthen our unity and focus on principles before personalities?
- How can we better carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic?


How Alcoholics Anonymous Works



A.A.’s Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service

Here is how the circle and triangle symbolize "keeping our house in order"

1. **The Three Legacies (The Triangle)** The equilateral triangle represents recovery, unity and service, with all three sides being equal to show that they are equally important.
•Recovery (Base): Represents the Twelve Steps, focusing on personal recovery and individual sobriety.
•Unity (One Side): Represents the Twelve Traditions, helping groups maintain unity and relate to the world.
•Service (Other Side): Represents the Twelve Concepts for World Service, ensuring the message is carried to others.

2. The Circle of Wholeness (The Circle) The surrounding circle represents the "whole world of AA," symbolizing inclusivity, safety, and the continuous nature of recovery. It is often described as a "circle of welcome" or a "circle of love and service".

3. "Keeping the House" in Practice:

- Balance: The equilateral shape acts as a reminder that if one leg – Recovery, Unity or Service – is neglected, the entire structure becomes unstable.
- Daily Reminder: The symbol is frequently found on AA milestone coins (medallions) to remind members to keep their personal "house" (mind, body and spirit) in order.

4. Banishing Evil Spirits

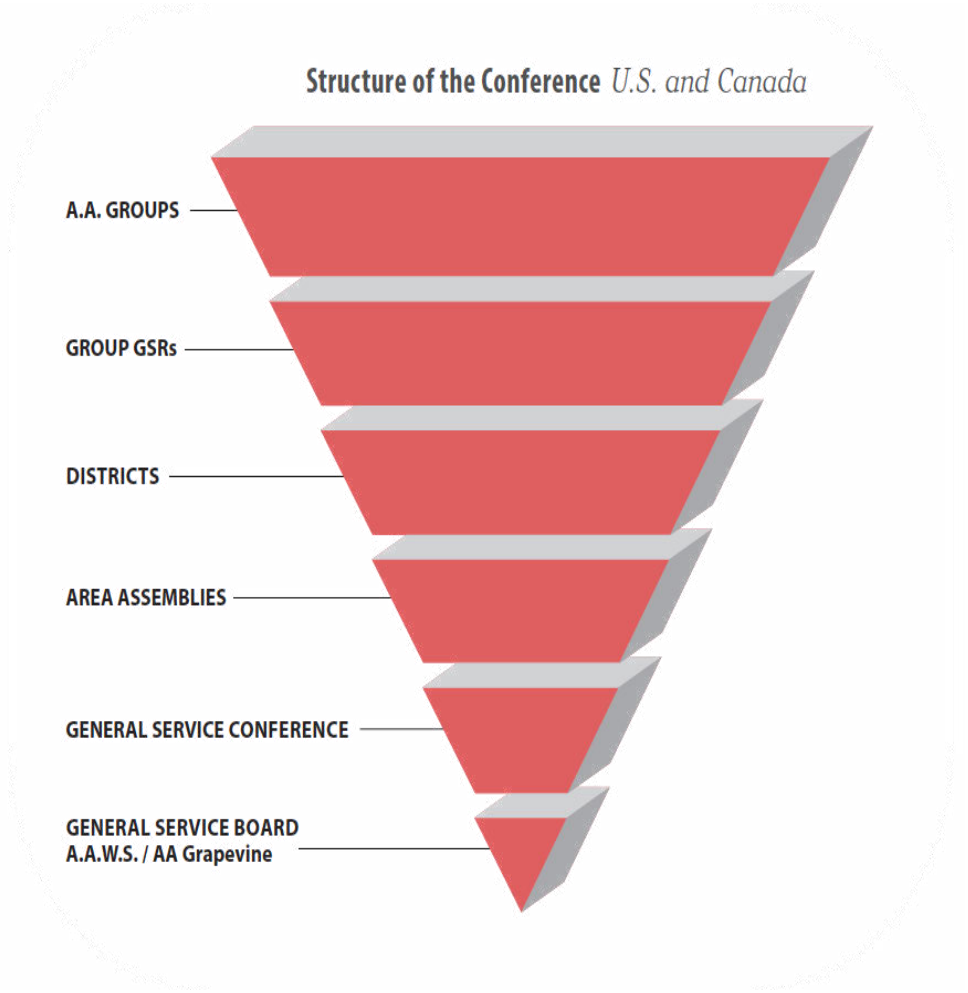
In 1969, the symbol that was chosen for our Society was the circle which encloses the triangle. It was decided that A.A. should have some sort of symbol and the circle seemed to indicate the movement or the group. The triangle suggested the three principle aspects: recovery, unity and service. After the symbol was chosen, a student of ancient history came up with this startling announcement: he said that, in times gone by, this identical symbol was used by medicine men, magicians, wise men, whatnot, and every time they wanted to get rid of evil spirits, they just brought up and brandished this circle containing the triangle!

So, the circle and triangle is befitting of our organization and Bill thought that through God's grace primarily, and the lessons of our experience of suffering, come such a distance in the banishment of evil spirts.

While it still has special meaning for members around the world, the symbol is no longer considered an "official" or "legal" symbol for Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Conference Structure

- Alcoholics Anonymous has been called an upside-down organization because, as the structure chart shows, the groups are on top and the trustees at the bottom. Bill W. wrote in Concept I: “The A.A. groups today hold ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world services…” Then in Concept II, Bill made it clear that the groups “delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference… the actual voice and effective conscience for our whole society.”



Reasons for the Structure

The upside-down triangle is how we determine what needs tending to in A.A. as a whole. Looking back, there are traces of this type of service structure from the beginning of A.A. In A.A.'s first five years of existence, the first 40 members realized they had a solution for alcoholism. The decision was made to write down a middle of the road description of what was working for them.

Our co-founder Bill W. called himself the designated "scribe." He wrote the first draft, shared it with other members, received input, and amended that first draft accordingly. By 1939 when The Big Book was finished and published, there were 100 sober members in Alcoholics Anonymous.

In the beginning of A.A., Dr. Bob and Bill W. were the people to go to for solutions to problems. When Dr. Bob became ill, it became obvious we would need a way to keep A.A. functioning after our founders passed on.

We had traditions which are the spiritual principles we practice to create unity. We also needed a way to make decisions and move forward in a way we hope is in the best interest of A.A. and alcoholics around the world.

In 1950, the first annual meeting for Alcoholics Anonymous was held in New York City, NY. Delegates had the responsibility to check out the General Service Office, meet the staff and make a few decisions. We now call that weeklong event the General Service Conference.

Closing Message

In the spring of each year, Delegates, Trustees, and GSO staff meet in New York to discuss, review and vote on important matters that affect alcoholics as a whole.

If there is a break down in all or any of our service structure, this would greatly affect Alcoholics Anonymous purpose of "carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic".

If Alcoholics Anonymous were ever to die, it would die from within. Let us remember why we are here—to stay sober, to help other alcoholics, and to safeguard the gift so freely given to us.

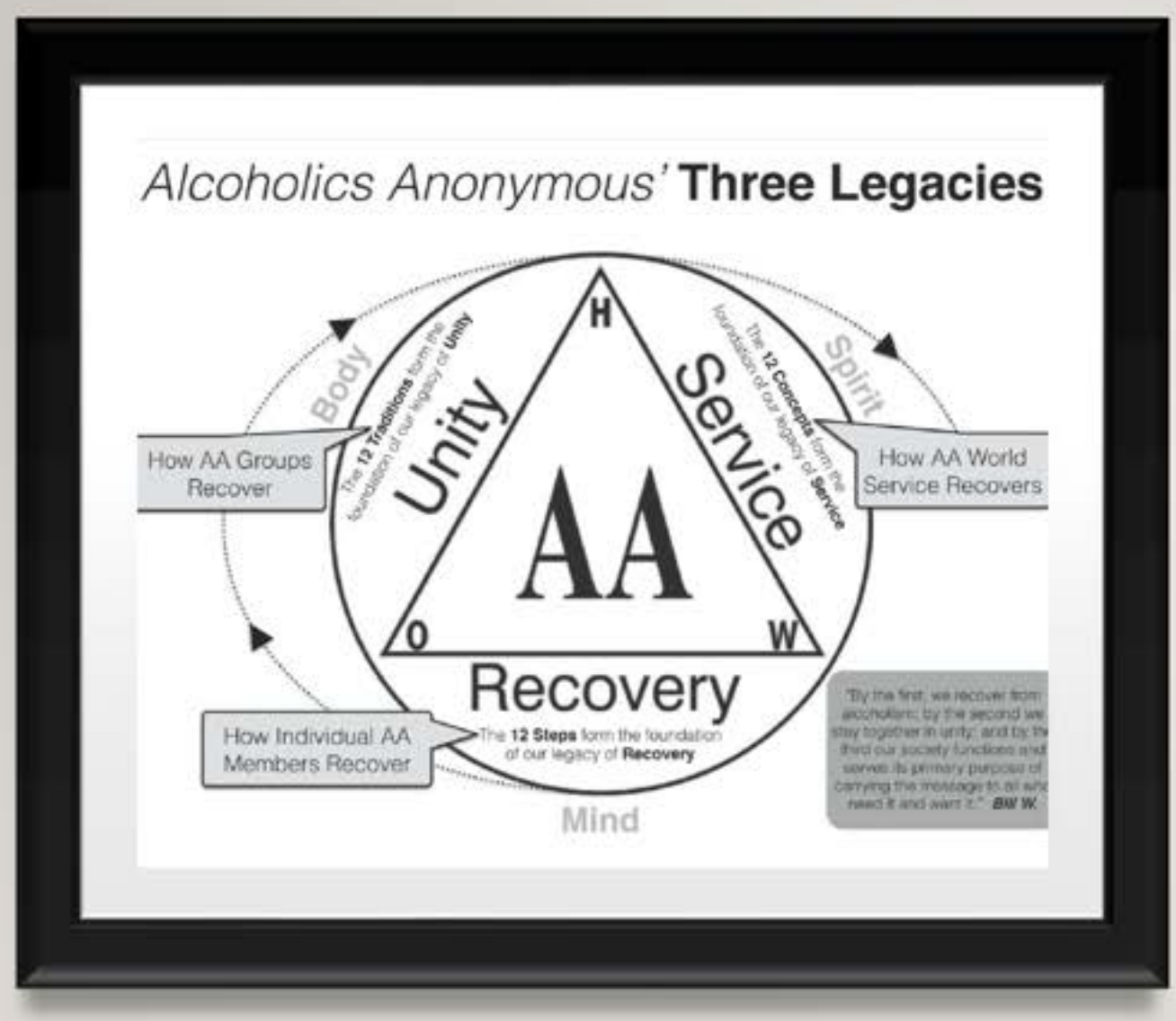
Thank you

IN AA

TRIANGLE BALANCE



(OPEN)



HISTORICAL FACTS

- The AA Triangle is a central symbol representing the core Principles and structure of the AA Program. It was adopted in 1955.

THREE LEGACIES OF AA

Recovery

Representing the 12 Steps , this is located at the base of the triangle and supports the other two sides .

Unity

Unity in AA is essential for the sur vival and effectiveness of the fellowship. It is achieved through a shared purpose though the 12 Traditions, participation and mutual support

Service

Service reflects the 12 Concepts of world Service and is the principle of Giving back.

12 STEPS OF AA (RECOVERY)

THE 12 STEPS

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol— that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.



AA 12 TRADITIONS (UNITY)





Service Material from the General Service Office

THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

(SHORT FORM)

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

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Rev. 12/14 SM F-103

SERVICE


THE 12 CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE


"The Twelve Concepts for World Service"
The what?
The Twelve Concepts for World Service
illustrated
Oh!

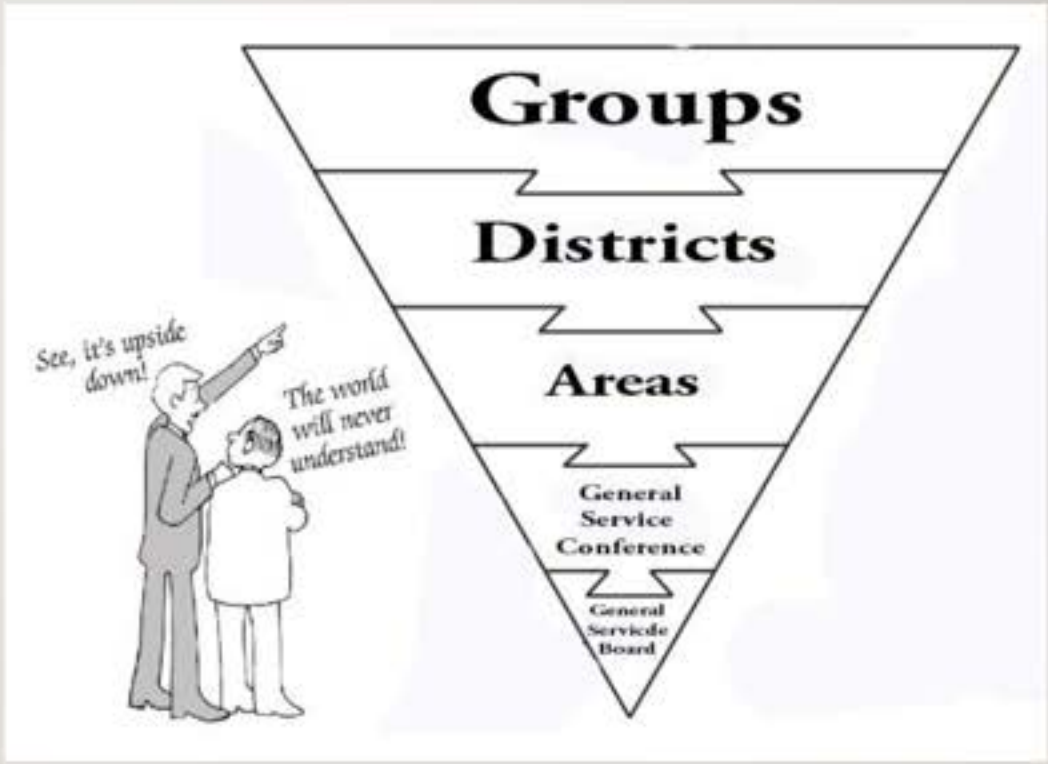
PARTICIPATING IN ALL OF A.A.



WAYS OF DOING SERVICE



FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE TRIANGLE



PARTICIPATING IN AA AND BEING BALANCED

- Commitment To myself
- Personal Growth in Life
- Level of Responsibility
- 3-legged stool

{OPEN}

CLOSING

- The triangle balance ensures that personal Growth which is Recovery and community engagement which signifies Unity and giving back which is Service are all part of a person daily life to maintain long term Sobriety

{OPEN}

ECDO 2026

Bill C

Area 83, Panel 75

Alternate Delegate



Alcoholics Anonymous
Area 83 Eastern Ontario International



Motivations

Alcoholics Anonymous
Area 83 Eastern Ontario International

Three Sieves

True?



Kind?



Necessary?



PLACES & THINGS

Principles Over Personalities

Healthy Communication



Unhealthy Communication



Alcoholics Anonymous
Area 83 Eastern Ontario International



Sacred Trust of Anonymity

Dry Drunk Symptom

Gossip or Facts

The Health of Our Own Communications

Gossip

- Information

Facts

- Objective truths

ECDO 2026

Slide Notes

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SLIDE	
1	In the context of our Program and the Fellowship, the quality of our speech is often seen as a direct reflection of our spiritual condition. Examining whether we are sharing "gossip or facts" isn't just about being polite; it's about maintaining the unity of the group and the integrity of our own recovery. **Story about Clowns** It was bring your child to work day and a young father (Bill) was excited to bring his young daughter (Ann) to his office and show her around. Off they went both excited and looking forward to the day. The dad took Ann around the office and introduced her to his work colleagues. A special treat was waiting for all the kids when the break time arrived. When Bill and Ann came into the break room, she started crying uncontrollably. "My goodness, what is the problem, Ann?" asked Bill. Ann said, "I wanted to meet all of the **CLOWNS** that you work with".
2	We will use this example throughout this discussion when we examine a few key perspectives on the health of our communications through the lens of the Program: From the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Step Six (p. 67): "Gossip barbed with our anger, a polite form of murder by character assassination, has its satisfactions for us, too. Here we are not trying to help those we criticize; we are trying to proclaim our own righteousness." **1. The "Inventory" of Our Speech** In AA, we are taught to be rigorously honest. When we find ourselves talking about others, we can apply the principles of the **Fourth Step** to our conversation:
3	**Motivations:** Am I sharing this information to be helpful, or am I trying to make myself look "better" or "more sober" by highlighting someone else's struggles?
4	**The "Three Sieves":** Before speaking, many members ask: Is it **true**? Is it **kind**? Is it **necessary**? If it fails any of these, it's likely gossip.
5	**People, Places and Things …** PLBB, GSO offices in NY,
6	**2. Principles Over Personalities** The **Twelfth Tradition** reminds us to place "principles above personalities." Gossip thrives on focusing on personalities—who did what,

	who said what, and who is doing what to whom, who is doing the program wrong. **Healthy Communication:** Focuses on the solution, carrying our Group Conscience, the Big Book, and our own experience. **Unhealthy Communication:** Focuses on the flaws of others, which often serves as a distraction from our own character defects.
7	**3. Protecting the "Sacred Trust" of Anonymity** Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of the program. When we share "facts" about someone else's life or their share in a meeting, we are often breaking their anonymity. **The Difference:** A "fact" is that someone attended a meeting. "Gossip" is telling a third party why they were there or what they disclosed in confidence. **Impact:** Gossip creates an environment of fear where newcomers may not feel safe sharing their truth, potentially stalling their recovery. **Personal experience of being broken and the role of Loving Service in building and restoring confidence … if there is time**
8	**4. The "Dry Drunk" Symptom** Often, a return to gossiping and "checking the pulse" of others is a warning sign of a spiritual malady. **Self-Correction:** If our communication is focused on the drama of the fellowship rather than the work of the steps, it may indicate we are drifting away from our own program. **The Goal:** To move from "taking others' inventory" to maintaining our own.
9	**The Difference:** • "Gossip" is information—true or false—shared to isolate, judge, or elevate oneself. • "Facts" are objective truths shared with the intent to help or seek guidance. Let's remember **Facts without love can still do harm. We need to consider Step 9. … except to do so would harm them or others.** **The Spiritual Stake:** Remind the group that the Twelve Traditions are designed to protect our unity; gossip is often the primary force that breaks it. Remember …Communication is one of the most practical ways we practice these principles in all our affairs. When we stick to the facts of our own experience, we stay safe; when we trade in gossip, we risk our sobriety and the safety of the rooms and potentially the recovery of others.

UNITY IN OUR FELLOWSHIP

Foundation and
lifeblood of
Alcoholics Anonymous





AGENDA

- Understanding the AA Declaration of Unity
- Meaning and Importance of Unity in AA
- Practical Expressions of Unity in Meetings
- Unity's Enduring Impact on Growth and Effectiveness

AA DECLARATION OF UNITY



This we owe to AA's future;
to place our common
welfare first;
to keep our fellowship united.
For on AA unity
depend our lives,
and the lives of those to come.

DECLARATION ORIGINS & MILESTONES

01

1952

Introduction

Members draft the Declaration to center unity and shared purpose.

02

1953

Early Adoption

Groups begin using it to bridge traditions and practices.

03

1955

Recognition

Formally affirmed at the International Convention.

04

1960

Literature

Widely integrated into AA publications and group materials.

05

1970

Reinforcement

Reasserted during organizational growth to sustain cohesion.

THE WORDING'S SIGNIFICANCE

Our common welfare first

Centers fellowship over self, preventing division, and keeping unity at the heart of service.

Carry the message

Clarifies AA's primary purpose—spiritual action shared through one alcoholic helping another.

Unity and responsibility

Reaffirms AA's spiritual foundation and collective duty, helping guard against fragmentation.



DECLARATION'S ROLE IN AA

How unity guides literature and practice



The Declaration of Unity anchors AA's service and fellowship, guiding decisions and sustaining cohesion across literature and practice.

Service Manuals

Printed in official manuals, it clarifies group structure, leadership roles, and shared responsibility.

Pamphlets

Pamphlets present unity as a core value, ensuring consistent outreach and newcomer guidance.

Conventions

Recited in gatherings, it renews shared purpose and strengthens collective spirit.

Traditions

Reinforces the spirit of the Twelve Traditions, centering unity and group conscience.

Concepts

Echoes the Twelve Concepts for World Service, supporting effective, trusted governance.

Global Cohesion

Its presence across literature helps maintain unity and identity worldwide.

UNITY IN AA

UNITY IN AA

Harmony for sobriety and mutual aid

Definition

Unity is the harmony and cooperation among members to support sobriety and mutual aid, expressed through shared purpose and respect for AA traditions.

Core Elements

Shared spiritual principles guide group conduct; members prioritize collective well-being over individual agendas; traditions safeguard continuity and service.

Unity vs. Uniformity

Unity does not require sameness. AA welcomes diverse recovery paths while aligning members around common aims, traditions, and principles.

72%

Maintain sobriety after one year in cohesive groups (vs. 45%).

UNITY WITHIN THREE LEGACIES



Recovery

Focuses on personal healing and maintaining sobriety, forming the basis for transformation within AA.



Unity

Acts as the essential bond connecting members, ensuring group cohesion and a supportive environment for all.



Service

Encourages helping others, translating personal recovery into outreach and sustaining AA's mission.



Interrelationship

Unity binds recovery and service, ensuring individual growth strengthens the group and extends support.

UNITY IN AA MEETINGS

GROUP TRADITIONS & DUTIES





CORE TRADITIONS

Anonymity – protecting identities to build trust;

Self-Support – funding ourselves to remain independent;

Non-Affiliation – no outside ties to preserve purpose.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

Rotating Service Roles – everyone participates;

Group Conscience – decisions made together;

Collective Ownership – steward unity and meeting health.

INCLUSIVITY AND RESPECT IN AA

Welcoming To All

AA embraces all ages, genders, ethnicities, and backgrounds—diversity strengthens our fellowship.

Respect In Practice

Listening, welcoming newcomers, and affirming diverse spiritual beliefs foster belonging.

Global Access

Multilingual meetings and outreach serve marginalized communities internationally.



UNITY RESOLVES CONFLICTS

01

Center on shared purpose

Affirm unity, humility, and patience before dialogue.

02

Use group conscience

Invite all voices and seek substantial unanimity.

03

Apply the Traditions

Let principles guide options, boundaries, and tone.

04

Decide and reconcile

Record decisions, make amends, and monitor trust.

ENDURING IMPACT OF UNITY

UNITY'S GLOBAL REACH

>180

countries reached by AA — unity preserves core principles, boosts retention, and sustains new group growth.

UNITY IN TIMES OF CHANGE

01

2020: Virtual Meetings

Rapid shift online kept members connected during pandemic onset.

02

2021: Global Support

Expanded networks aided isolated members across regions.

03

2022: Engagement Sustained

Continuous participation reinforced unity and purpose.

04

2023: Change Managed

Unified focus prevented splintering and preserved recovery.

SUSTAINING UNITY FOR AA

Continuous Education



Workshops and resources on AA Traditions build understanding and uphold unity.

Open Dialogue



Honest communication fosters trust and collective problem-solving across all levels.

Technological Integration



Digital platforms keep members connected and engaged anywhere.

Proactive Governance



Transparent leadership and sound decisions sustain stability and adaptability.

UNITY: AA'S HEARTBEAT

The AA Declaration of Unity affirms unity as the foundation and lifeblood of Alcoholics Anonymous—linking its history to daily practice in meetings. Unity nurtures recovery, mutual support, resilience, and remains vital to AA's growth, effectiveness, and enduring community bonds for future generations.

Gaëtanne G.

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FINDING COMMON GROUND IN AA: BUILDING UNITY FROM OUR SHARED JOURNEY

Strengthening bonds through shared support and experiences

THE ORIGINS OF AA: BILL W. AND DR. BOB'S SHARED VISION



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BILL W. AND DR. BOB'S FIRST MEETING: SEEKING CONNECTION IN SHARED STRUGGLE

Foundational Meeting

Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith met in 1935 seeking solutions to their alcoholism, sparking a transformative connection.

Power of Peer Support

Their meeting demonstrated how empathy and mutual aid could support lasting recovery beyond professional treatment.

Foundation for Fellowship Model

This encounter laid the groundwork for Alcoholics Anonymous' fellowship approach that remains central today.

DISCOVERING COMMON GROUND: THE FOUNDATION OF AA



Area 85 Finding Common Ground

Shared Experience and Bond

Acknowledging powerlessness over alcohol formed a unique bond among members, creating a foundation of empathy and support.

Framework of Mutual Aid

The discovery led to creating mutual support groups centered on shared experiences rather than judgment, fostering acceptance.

Development of AA Tools

Collaboration resulted in the Twelve Steps and key tools emphasizing unity and collective recovery purpose.

A BRIEF LOOK AT HOW THEIR PARTNERSHIP SHAPED AA'S BEGINNINGS



Founding Partnership

The collaboration between two founders structured AA's foundation focused on personal responsibility and peer support.

Publication of the Big Book

Their joint efforts produced the 1939 Big Book, outlining the Twelve Steps and methods for sobriety.

Global Fellowship Impact

Their grassroots vision grew into a global fellowship, influencing millions toward recovery and personal growth.

AA LITERATURE: WORDS THAT UNITE US

QUOTES FROM THE BIG BOOK ON UNITY AND SHARED EXPERIENCE

Emphasis on Unity

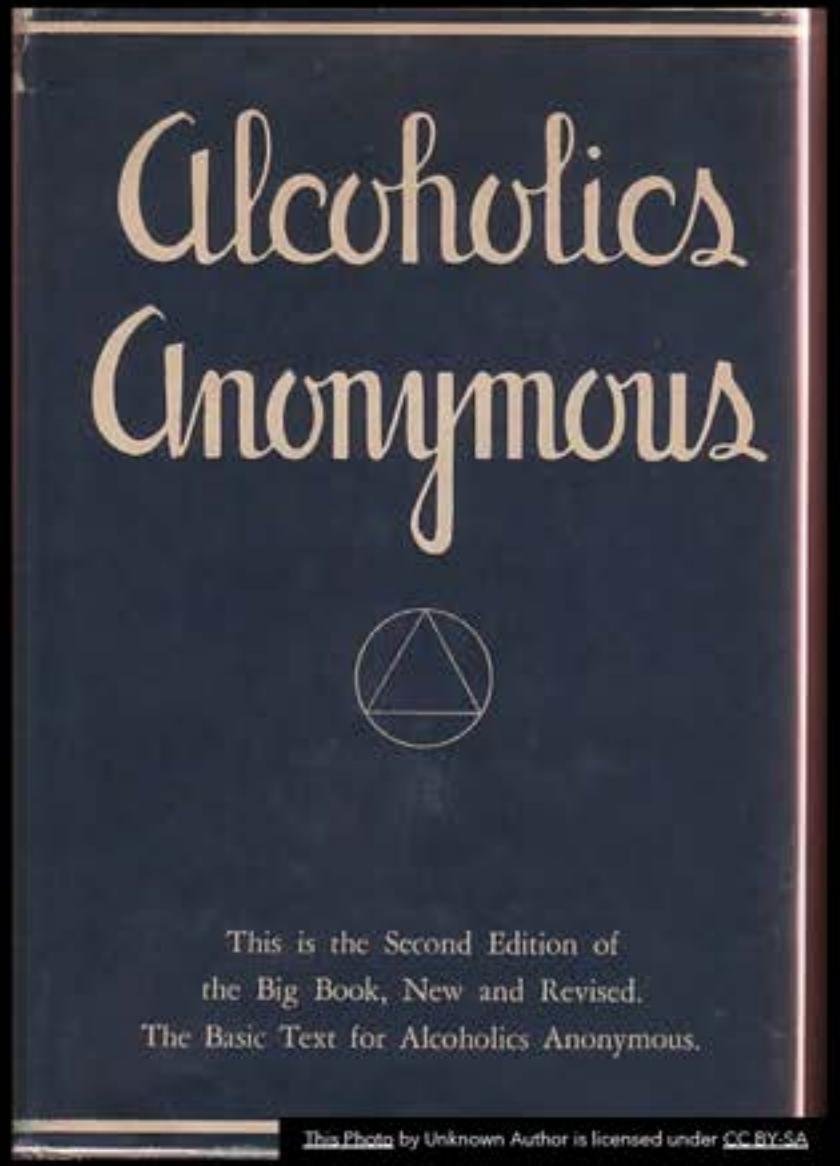
The Big Book highlights the importance of unity as a foundation for recovery and mutual support. "We are people who normally would not mix."
Big Book, "There Is a Solution," p. 17

Shared Experience Encouragement

Quotes from the book encourage collective encouragement reinforcing that no one faces struggles alone. Practical experience shows that nothing will so much ensure sobriety…"
Big Book, "Working With Others," p. 89

Literature Connecting Members

The Big Book validates common challenges and shared hope, connecting members through its message.



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TWELVE TRADITIONS: PRINCIPLES THAT HELP US FIND COMMON GROUND



Promoting Unity

The Twelve Traditions promote unity by encouraging mutual respect and placing common welfare above personal interests.

Anonymity and Non-affiliation

Emphasizing anonymity and non-affiliation helps protect members' privacy and maintain group focus on recovery.

Building Trust and Cooperation

These traditions foster trust and cooperation, contributing to the group's longevity and organizational strength.



THE POWER OF GROUP CONSCIENCE AS DESCRIBED IN AA WRITINGS

Democratic Group Process

Group conscience is a democratic process where members openly discuss and decide on group matters collectively.

Equality and Shared Responsibility

This practice fosters equality and shared responsibility, enhancing group unity and reducing division.

Consensus Benefits

Consensus-driven decisions increase engagement, accountability, and solidarity within the community.

FINDING COMMON GROUND IN MEETINGS AND BEYOND

HOW SHARED STORIES AND MUTUAL RESPECT FOSTER CONNECTION IN MEETINGS



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Sharing Experiences Helps Normalize Difficulties

Discussing personal journeys during recovery meetings fosters a sense of normalcy around individual struggles and promotes empathy among members.

Mutual Respect Lowers Stigma

The respect cultivated through shared experiences reduces stigma and enhances the unity of the group.

Sharing Supports Well-being

Sharing within AA boosts emotional well-being and reinforces dedication to sobriety.

BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT



Area 85 Finding Common Ground

Prevalence of Sponsorship

Members actively participate in sponsor-sponsee relationships within AA, highlighting widespread engagement and the practice of the 12 steps to help find common ground.

Role of Sponsors

Sponsors offer experience working the 12-steps spiritual guidance, accountability, and personalized support, fostering trust and continuity in the fellowship.

Impact on Recovery

Sponsorship relationships significantly improve recovery outcomes and strengthen community interconnectedness within AA.

OVERCOMING DIFFERENCES: EMBRACING ALL BACKGROUNDS IN AA



Area 85 Finding Common Ground

Inclusivity Across Backgrounds

AA welcomes members from all social, cultural, and economic backgrounds, fostering a supportive community focused on sobriety.

Growth Through Inclusivity

AA has grown by addressing diversity challenges and promoting acceptance over decades, strengthening its community.

Benefits of Diversity

Diverse AA groups enhance creativity, resilience, and support, helping members feel united and valued despite differences.

SERVICE WORK AND THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE: UNITY IN ACTION

WHAT IS THE GSC AND WHY IT MATTERS TO AA UNITY



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Role of the GSC

The GSC is AA's governing body that meets annually to uphold fellowship integrity and unity worldwide.

Collaborative Decision-Making

Delegates from diverse regions collaborate to maintain principles and guide AA's future direction.

Ensuring Unity and Responsiveness

The democratic structure helps AA stay united and responsive to member needs, reinforcing common purpose.

DELEGATES FINDING COMMON GROUND IN SERVICE



Area 85 Finding Common Ground

Consensus in Diverse Views

Delegates with differing opinions often reach consensus, illustrating the power of respectful dialogue and unity in service.

Balancing Tradition and Change

Debates on literature and service policies lead to compromises that honor tradition while embracing necessary adaptation.

Service Participation Benefits

Active service participation fosters common ground and strengthens unity despite varied delegate perspectives.



Area 85 Finding Common Ground

QUOTES AND EXPERIENCES ILLUSTRATING UNITY AT THE GSC

Emphasis on Unity

Unity is recognized as the central fact and core strength within the GSC community, fostering cohesion.

"At the heart of our Fellowship lies unity, which is our most vital spiritual quality and the foundation of all our traditions." – from the 12 Concepts for World Service

Collaborative Experiences

Delegates share stories highlighting collaboration, respect, and shared purpose in their service roles.

Importance of Collective Service

Collective service strengthens AA's foundation and bonds among members.

INSPIRING THE DESIRE FOR MORE: THE PROMISE OF AA UNITY



Area 85 Finding Common Ground

PERSONAL TESTIMONIES: THE REWARDS OF SEEKING COMMON GROUND

Healing Through Unity

Shared experiences in AA foster profound healing and help members achieve lasting sobriety together.

Alleviating Isolation

Common ground creates connection, reducing isolation and strengthening members' resilience during challenges.

Inspiring New Members

Testimonies inspire newcomers and reinforce the fellowship's communal and supportive ethos.

HOW UNITY STRENGTHENS RECOVERY—FOR INDIVIDUALS AND THE FELLOWSHIP



Unity Enhances Recovery Success

Unity within the fellowship strengthens recovery outcomes for individuals by fostering a supportive environment.

Building Trust and Reducing Stigma

Fostering trust and reducing stigma creates a safe space where members feel encouraged and accepted.

Sustaining Fellowship Longevity

Strong unity supports program credibility ensuring continued impact across generations.

INVITING EVERYONE TO PURSUE DEEPER CONNECTION AND LASTING AA INVOLVEMENT



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Encouraging Deeper Engagement

AA promotes active participation through service and sponsorship to deepen members' connection and commitment.

Strengthening Fellowship Unity

Greater involvement expands the network of shared responsibility, fostering unity within the fellowship.

Benefits of Increased Involvement

Active participation correlates with personal growth and stronger group cohesion.

CONCLUSION: EMBRACING UNITY TO STRENGTHEN OUR SHARED AA JOURNEY

Foundational Vision

AA's founders established a vision centered on unity and mutual support for lasting recovery.

Power of AA Literature

AA literature serves as a unifying guide fostering understanding and shared principles among members.

Connection Through Fellowship

Meetings, service, and mutual support build strong connections essential to recovery and unity.

Inspiring Hope and Growth

Embracing common ground inspires hope and fosters growth for all AA members.

Restoration and Discovering Grace?



2025 Final Conference Report theme and topic page 36

Restoration and Discovering Grace, Unity and Fellowship

Restore: to bring back or put into a former or original state

Discover: To obtain sight or knowledge for the first time

Grace: an unmerited (unearned) gift

Unity: a condition of harmony; the quality of being made one

Fellowship: a community of interest, activity feeling or experience; a company of equals or friends

THE DISCOVERY OF GRACE ENGENDERS

Humility

Equality (I am no less than or greater than)

Gratitude

Service (gratitude in action)

UNITY

One problem – alcoholism

One solution – the 12 steps

Singleness of purpose – to carry the message to the suffering alcoholic

Fellowship

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism (preamble)

We are people who normally would not mix. But there exists among us a fellowship, a friendliness, and an understanding that is indescribably wonderful.

Alcoholics Anonymous

in the Digital Age

Nancy Crowe
Alternate Delegate
Area 87
SW Quebec

What It Was Like

Brief look :

How Area 87 South West Québec carried the A.A. message Pre-COVID-19.

What Happened...

- Provincial Public Health Emergency
- In-person meetings close
- Prejudices overcome
- Area 87 quickly pivoted and moved online.

What Happened…

- It worked !
- Expanding Recovery, Unity, and Service online.

What It Is Like Now…

- What began as a forced adaptation is now a matter of choice.
- In-person, online, or hybrid meetings, provide flexibility and remove barriers.

What It Is Like Now...

- Area 87 continues to grow in its digital understanding, recognizing that this virtual space is where legions of still-suffering alcoholics can be reached.



Thank you for your attention and this opportunity to serve.

Grateful to be sober and to be with you today !

Nancy Crowe

Alternate Delegate A87 P76

Eastern Canada Delegates' Orientation
15 March 2026

- Slide 1

Presentation topic: **Alcoholics Anonymous in the Digital Age**

- Slide 2

What It Was Like …

Overall, before 2020 and the onset of COVID-19, Area 87's digital presence was limited to our area website (aa87.org) and our involvement with the provincial website via the interregional (aa-quebec.org). Both were launched around 2002. While cell phones had been widely used by many members since the late 1990s and early 2000s, their use was personal in nature, mostly limited to such functions as phone calls, text messages and some social media. From my understanding, the technology was not used directly as a tool for carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Around 2019, the A.A. *Meeting Guide app* was beginning to gain popularity among the membership. But computer and network equipment at the Area 87 Service Office (ASO) remained limited compared to today. Communications with members, groups, districts, and committees were primarily handled via email and what we used to call regular mail. Members' uncertain perception of social media at the time, largely due to concerns about anonymity, made us cautious about using digital tools as a means of carrying the message.

Slide 3

What Happened …

COVID hit. In March 2020 a public health emergency was declared by the authorities and our regular group meetings were shut down. Area 87 then pivoted … out of necessity. The Area members' vital need to achieve and maintain sobriety and to fulfill our primary purpose made next steps clear. The emergence of virtual meeting platforms opened our eyes and minds to how technology could help carry our message of hope. We had no real choice but to change … if we wanted to survive. Sound familiar ? We truly entered the digital age.
One of the early highlights during the COVID crisis was the establishment of a new virtual group which began hosting virtual meetings in our area. From this, a sort of working group was created … which later became an area committee … to assist members and groups who wanted to move online or start new online meetings. At the height of the pandemic, the number of virtual groups reached approximately 250 … I find this to be pretty darn impressive … another demonstration of A.A. love and service. (Currently, only about 20-30 virtual groups remain in our area). Looking back, we gratefully recognize that the A.A. message was delivered with minimal interruption and our area's technological tool box grew.

- Slide 4

Area 87's website evolved to become trilingual (French, English, Spanish) - and included an area 12-step meeting list linked to the *Meeting Guide*. The site expanded to offer a French radio show, audio speaker shares, event calendars, and extensive service information for members. It became clear that digital access benefited area members who, for a variety of reasons, were unable to participate in in-person meetings and activities. It is worth mentioning that some of the older technology from this period is still in use. At the start of the pandemic, a virtual "telephone" group was created, and this group is still active today. Our area also created a Facebook page which allowed users of this platform to connect with Alcoholics Anonymous in a new way.

- Slide 5

What we are Like Now …

What initially seemed detrimental and was considered a forced adaptation is now a deliberate choice. Whether in-person, virtual, or hybrid, today's meetings offer flexibility making the A.A. program more accessible. Barriers such as distance, health, and family circumstances are overcome … allowing our message to be carried in a way which is appropriate for our times. Our area Technology Committee in collaboration with the Group Services Committee ensures that most of our area assemblies and area meetings are presented in hybrid…which greatly benefits many of our members.

- Slide 6

As an area, we continue to move forward, deepening our understanding and effectiveness in the digital world. We recognize the virtual space as an opportunity to reach legions of alcoholics who are still suffering. One example is the Online Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous (OIAA), where many have found sobriety. OIAA hosts hundreds of groups with thousands of members, representing a wide variety of digital meeting formats. OIAA provides a centralized platform for 'virtual' sobriety. In-person or online … our message remains the same.

- Slide 7

Thank you for your attention and for this opportunity to serve. Grateful to be sober and with you today !

Nancy Crowe
Alternate Delegate A87 P76

SAFETY IN OUR FELLOWSHIP

The AA Group

For most members, an AA group is a place of peace — a refuge when life becomes more difficult.

Safety in AA groups refers to creating an environment where every member can share with confidence, without fear of intimidation, harassment, discrimination, or violation of privacy. This also includes disruptive behavior, verbal or physical violence, and actions that undermine the dignity of individuals.

Although AA members are called to help one another with love and kindness, Bill W. stated in 1969: "This kindness does not mean that we cannot exclude those who seriously disrupt or interfere with the functioning of the group." (Safety and AA Groups – AA Guidelines)

As stated in many Conference-approved pamphlets, every AA group commits to providing a safe space for all participants and to fostering a welcoming environment that supports their growth.

Unity and Safety

Common Welfare — Unity

Tradition One reminds us that: "Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. AA must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity."

Maintaining unity — the first of our Traditions — is based on mutual respect, tolerance, and solidarity among members.

The book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions tells us: "No member can be compelled to do anything. No one can be punished or expelled."

However, it is also said that "An AA group may ask someone not to attend meetings if that person disrupts the group and prevents it from carrying the message."

At first glance these statements may seem contradictory.

Addressing Problems Within the Group

Remaining silent about an inappropriate situation or behavior out of fear of breaking unity does not reflect the spirit of Tradition One.

A negative experience may influence whether someone feels safe enough to return to AA.

When dealing with group problems, it is important to remember that "the member is but a small part of a great whole, and no personal sacrifice is too great if it means the survival of the fellowship."

Tolerating unacceptable situations can ultimately lead to the dissolution of the group. If the group cannot survive, the individual will not survive either.

Safety and Anonymity

Anonymity is a fundamental principle in AA. It protects the identity and privacy of members, encouraging trust and openness in sharing.

Anonymity applies not only outside the fellowship (with the media and the public) but also within the group among members.

It can sometimes feel difficult to report problematic behavior within the framework of anonymity. However, AA members are subject to the same laws that apply outside the fellowship.

Those who struggle to receive the AA message because of harassment can — and should — inform the group or a trusted member so that appropriate action can be taken.

Limits of Anonymity

Anonymity cannot be used as a shield for dangerous or illegal behavior. Safety for everyone must be ensured.

Being a member of AA does not mean that one must tolerate sexual harassment, threats, or intimidation.

According to the spirit of Tradition Ten, an AA group cannot pursue legal action against someone as a group, but an individual who has suffered harm may take legal action personally.

Actions a Group Can Take

In AA there is no central authority controlling members. According to Tradition Four, the creation and functioning of an AA group are determined by the group conscience of its members.

Through an informed group conscience, AA members and groups address safety situations that may arise.

It is helpful to discuss safety concerns during business meetings so that members remain informed and able to ensure the safety of the meeting place.

Some situations may provoke strong emotions such as anger. Even so, we should strive to speak and act with tolerance and love.

Suggested Practices

• Establish clear guidelines for the functioning of the group.
• Regularly inform members about the importance of maintaining safety.
• Clearly identify behaviors that are not acceptable within the group.
• Manage conflicts in a transparent and compassionate manner.

Bill W. noted that disturbances and controversies in meetings were nothing new, but he believed they could contribute to growth.

He said that in AA we will probably always be discussing issues — and working through them together is a healthy exercise in the school of life.

Actions a Member Can Take

• Identify the problematic situation.
• Name the situation and speak about it with someone you trust. Do not remain alone with the problem.
• Take concrete action to stop the behavior.

Possible actions include:
– Asking the person to stop the behavior, accompanied by another member.
– If the situation continues, speaking with group conscience members (GSR, chairperson, or another trusted member).
– Taking legal action in one's own name if necessary.

It is important to care about what happens within the group. We should not look the other way but place principles before personalities.

My Experience as Alternate Delegate

My role takes me to many places within Region 88 where I meet members from various districts.

In many of these places, members have spoken to me about uncomfortable situations and harassment. The issue was significant enough that I reported it at a regional meeting and shared a document with members to help them discuss harassment within their groups.

The problem is real, and some members suffer from it.

We must remember that we come from different backgrounds, cultures, and generations. Certain actions or remarks that were once accepted may not be today. Often, only a small minority of members act in ways that compromise the safe recovery of others.

Let us approach questions of safety calmly, accompany those who suffer with compassion, and ensure that our meeting rooms remain places where recovery can flourish.

Conclusion

Safety, unity, and anonymity are three inseparable pillars of the AA fellowship.

Respecting these principles ensures a healthy, inclusive, and confidential environment where members can share and recover.

Every member has a role to play in preserving these values, which safeguard the strength and continuity of the fellowship.

Thank you for listening.

Paule R.
Alternate Delegate – Region 88

Remote Communities

- Activities related to remote communities began in 1985 in Toronto during the 50th anniversary of
- Alcoholics Anonymous.
- At first, Canadian delegates met informally during the Conference.
- In 1996, the delegate from Alaska joined the Canadian delegates, and a Northern Remote
- Communities meeting was held in Toronto.
- Beginning in 1998, the meeting was opened to all delegates.

Members Reached

Remote communities may include:

- Those who are geographically remote
- Those who speak another language
- Those from a different culture, including visible minorities
- First Nations

Toolkit

- Technological tools
- Zoom, Skype, Teams, teleconferences
- aa-intergroup.org
- Meeting Guide application
- Websites: aa.org and regional websites
- WhatsApp, Messenger
- Email
- AA literature
- • Books and pamphlets
- • Translations of AA publications
- • Remote Communities Kit (FF-227)
- • Box 459: Fall 2018, Spring 2016, Winter 2013
- • La Vigne, Grapevine, La Viña
- • Guidelines for Remote Communities (MG-19)
- AA conventions
- • Territorial forums
- • Provincial gathering (Quebec)
- • Regional meetings
- • Intergroups
- • Public information committees
- • Workshops

Suggestions

- Identify community resources:
- Local radio stations
- Places of worship
- Medical services, hospitals, clinics
- Social clubs
- Schools
- Police service prevention officers

Conclusion

Responsibility Declaration:

I am responsible… When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

Many Faces: One Fellowship

Eastern Canada Delegates' Orientation (ECDO)

15 March 2026

Nathalie R.
Alternate Delegate P76
A90 Northwest Quebec



What does this theme mean

Many Faces: One Fellowship

AA is made up of people from every walk of life — different ages, cultures, beliefs, professions, and life stories.

Some of us grew up in stable & loving homes, others in chaos. Some of us had many opportunities, others struggled from the start. Yet somehow, we all ended up in the same rooms.

Despite all these differences, we share one powerful thing: a desire to stop drinking and a willingness to help each other stay sober.

The Many Faces of AA

While you're sitting in a AA meeting, look around and you'll see…

High bottoms; they still have jobs, families and their home.

Low bottoms; they lost everything.

People who look fine and yet are dying inside.

People of all ages, beliefs, and backgrounds.

"We are people who normally would not mix." (Reprinted from Alcoholics Anonymous, p.17, with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.)

One Fellowship: What Unites Us

A common problem… alcoholism

A common solution… the Twelve Steps

A shared responsibility to help others

*"ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS® is a fellowship of people who **share their experience, strength and hope** with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism."*

(Copyright © by AA Grapevine Inc.; reprinted with permission)

Why Unity Matters

The Twelve Traditions remind us that:

- Principles come before personalities
- We don’t argue about outside issues
- We don’t endorse causes
- We don’t judge who “belongs”
- We listen without judgment

Our primary purpose: carry the message

Unity doesn’t mean we all think the same. It means we all stay focused on what matters: sobriety and service.

Why Unity Matters to Me

Offers me a sense of belonging

Offers me a sense of purpose

- Helping a newcomer
- Sharing with a sponsee

Makes me realize **I am not alone**

Helps me keep an open mind because I can now share with people completely different from me

It helps me protect my day one

The Miracle of Fellowship

The miracle of AA is that people who might never meet in the outside world (people who might disagree on everything and anything!) come together in a spirit of healing & recovery.

"Love and tolerance of others is our code." (Reprinted from Alcoholics Anonymous, p.84, with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.)

Many faces…

One fellowship…

One purpose…

One day at a time…

Thank you!

76th General Service Conference

"Humility in Action"

26 Apr – 02 May, 2026

New York Hilton Midtown

New York, NY

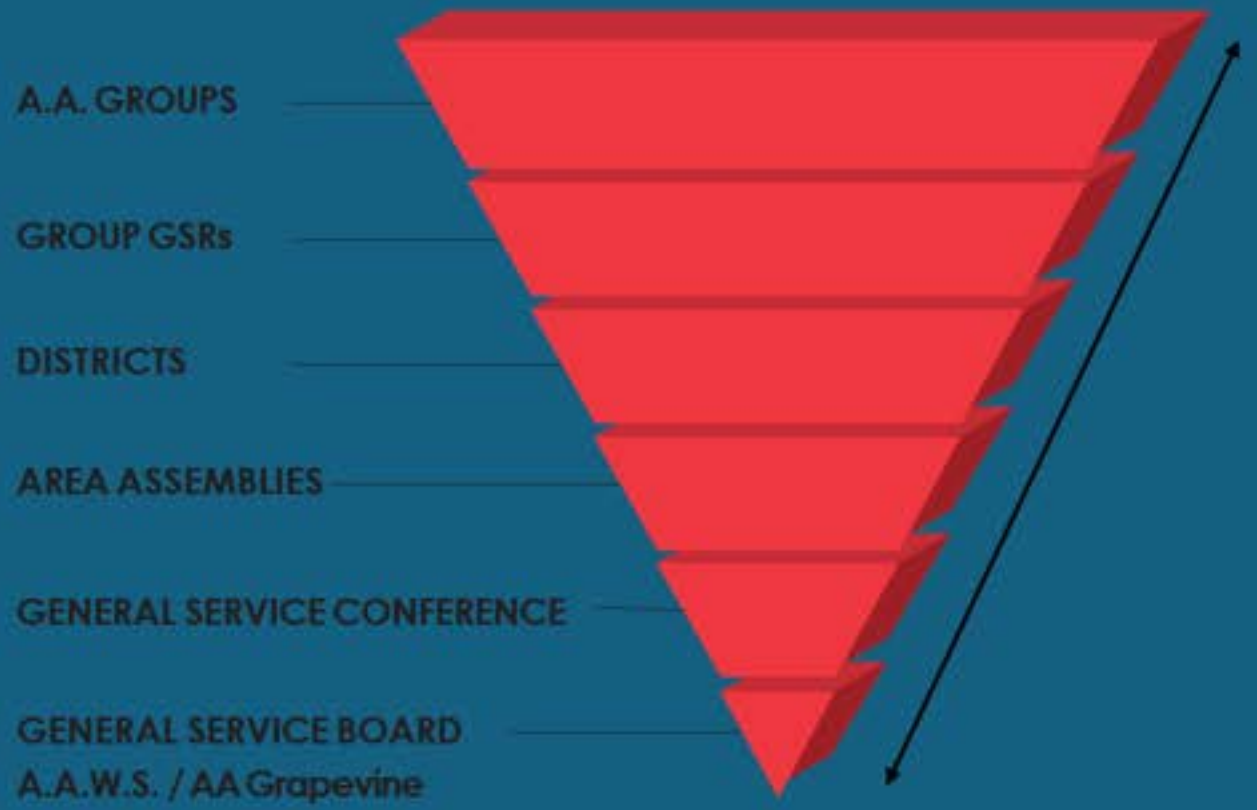
General Service Conference Process

2026 Eastern Canada Delegates' Orientation

Why This Matters

- You don’t attend for yourself
- You carry the conscience of members
- The process protects A.A.’s future

Structure of the Conference *U.S. and Canada*





- ***THE GROUP:***
- Group conscience begins here
- GSR is the voice, not the opinion
- Feedback returns after Conference

- ***THE DISTRICT:***

- Groups organized geographically
- DCMs coordinate and carry themes forward

THE AREA:

93 AREAS IN U.S./CANADA

DELEGATE ELECTED BY AREA ASSEMBLY

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE CONFERENCE:

- One full week
- Committee work first
- Full Conference discussion and votes



Delegate Buddy

- Pairs a new Delegate with a previous-Panel Delegate
- Provides support
- Used before and during Conference week
- Based on shared experience, not authority

General Service Conference Manual

69TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF A.A.

"Our Big Book — 80 Years, 71 Languages"

« Notre Gros Livre — 80 ans, 71 langues »

"Nuestro Libro Grande — 80 años, 71 idiomas"

MAY 19-25, 2019

CROWNE PLAZA TIMES SQUARE, NEW YORK, NY

How the Conference Operates

Generally speaking, the General Service Conference follows *Robert's Rules of Order*, and proceeds on as informal a basis as possible consistent with the rights of all concerned. It is important to remember that the purpose of rules of order is to make it easier for the Conference to conduct its business; rules exist to allow the Conference to do what it needs to do to carry out the will of the Fellowship by reaching an informed group conscience. Over the years the Conference has adopted some exceptions to *Robert's Rules*, which help it to proceed more closely in accord with the spirit of A.A. Tradition.

Conference Quorum

A Conference quorum — two-thirds of all registered members — is required to conduct Conference business.

Committee System

To the extent possible, important matters to come before the Conference will be handled via the "Committee system." This assures that a large number of questions can be dealt with during Conference week. Members are encouraged to trust the process. Each Committee has considered carefully the items before it and presents its recommendations to the Conference as a whole for acceptance or rejection. Recommendations of Conference committees are automatically motions that have been made and seconded. Members are asked to refrain from spontaneously amending the work of the Committee; there are no "friendly" amendments under Robert's Rules.

Substantial Unanimity

All matters of policy (Conference Advisory Actions) require substantial unanimity, that is, a *two-thirds majority*. Any actions, including amendments, that affect an Advisory Action, or motions that might result in such an action, also require a *two-thirds majority*. Because the number of members present in the hall during the week of Conference varies from time to time, the phrase "two-thirds majority" is taken to mean two-thirds vote of the Conference members voting, as long as the total vote constitutes a Conference quorum.

Minority Opinion

After each vote on a matter of policy, the side which did not prevail will always be given an opportunity to speak to their position. If the motion passes with two-thirds vote, the minority may speak. If the motion receives a majority vote, but fails to pass for lack of a two-thirds vote, the majority may speak.

Remember that saving "minority opinions" for after the vote, when there is no rebuttal, is a time-waster, for it can force the Conference body to reconsider a question that might well have been decided the first time around if it had been thoroughly examined from all sides.

General Rules of Debate and Voting

(Agreed to at the beginning of each Conference)

- People who wish to speak line up at the microphones and address their comments to the chair.
- Each person may speak for two (2) minutes.
- No one may speak for a second time on a topic until all who wish to have spoken for the first time.
- *Full* discussion of a recommendation should take place *before* each vote.
- Everyone is entitled to express his or her opinion. However, if your perspective has already been stated by someone else, it is not necessary to go to the mike and say it again.
- Our experience is that premature actions such as amending motions early in the discussion or hastily calling the question can divert attention from the subject at hand, confusing and/or delaying Conference business.

Motions Made During Conference

When making a motion, come to the microphone and address the chair. There are various types of motions we use to help reach an informed group conscience. The specific rules governing each are on the next page.

Tabling a Motion

Tabling a motion postpones discussion to a later time during the same Conference.

Motion to Recommit

The motion to recommit returns a motion or proposal to the respective trustees' committee for further consideration. A motion to recommit must be seconded; is debatable and can be amended.

Calling the Question

Calling the question brings debate to a halt while Conference members decide whether to proceed directly to a vote (the question) or go on with the debate.

Reconsideration

A motion to reconsider a vote may be made only by a member who voted with the prevailing side, but it can be seconded by anyone. If the majority votes to reconsider, full debate, pro and cons, is resumed.

Floor Actions



It is possible for a Conference action to come from the floor, but any matter which falls within the scope of a Conference committee ought first go through that Conference committee, so that the topic may receive due consideration. Floor actions may be introduced at any time during the Conference except at the Sharing Sessions. Any floor action regarding a piece of committee business that has not yet been concluded will be considered out of order. When a floor action is to be heard, its maker will be given two (2) minutes to state the rationale behind the action, after which the chair shall ask if there is a motion that the Conference decline to consider the floor action.

Declining to Consider a Floor Action

A motion to decline to consider a floor action is made without comment.

Committee System

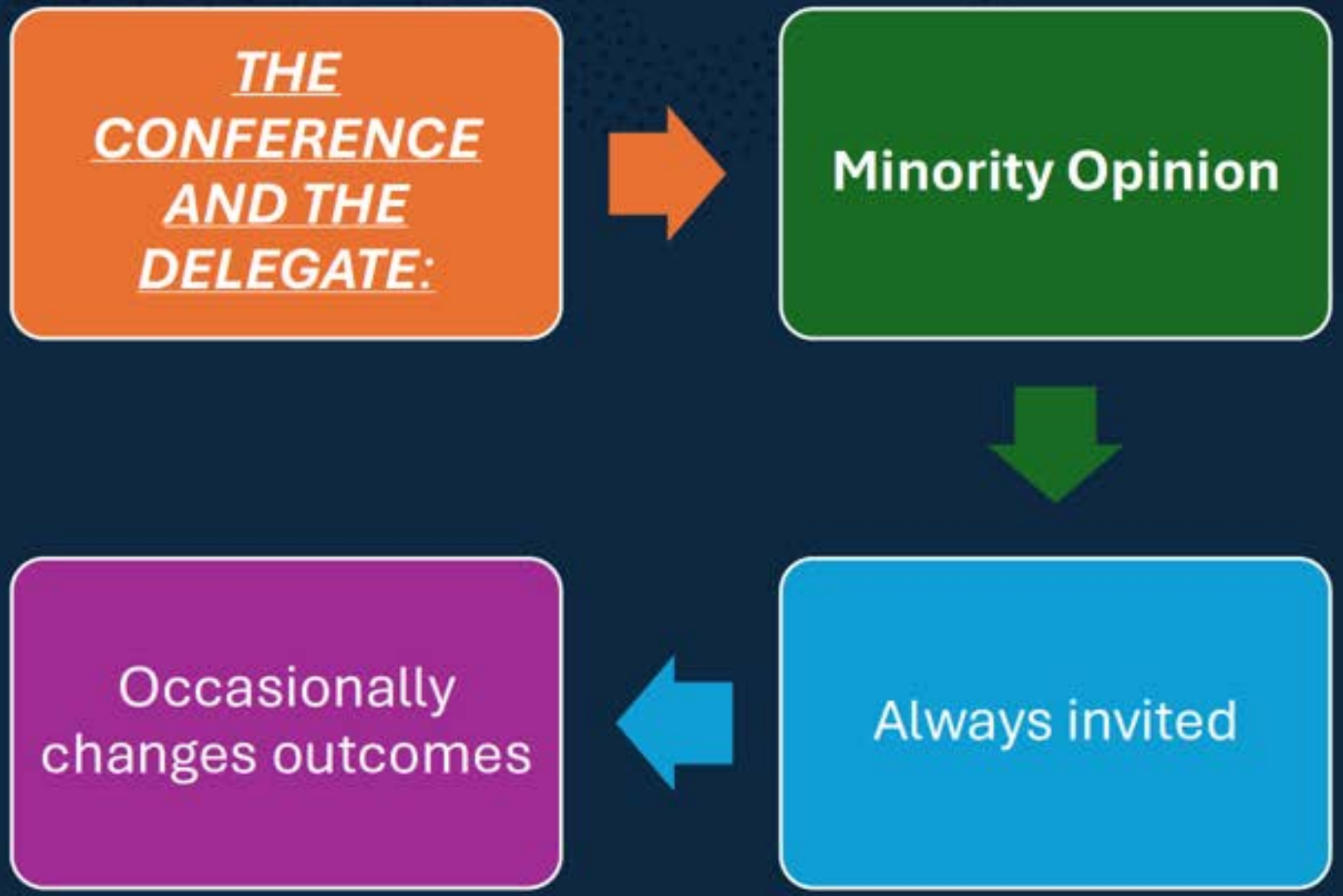
Most work happens here

Deep discussion, not quick decisions

Confidentiality matters

Substantial Unanimity

Two-thirds required
Protects against impulse and dominance


THE CONFERENCE AND THE DELEGATE:
Minority Opinion
Always invited
Occasionally changes outcomes

Rules of Debate

- All speak once before anyone speaks twice
- Respect time limits
- Process over urgency

Motion to Recommit

- Must be seconded.
- Is debatable and can be amended.

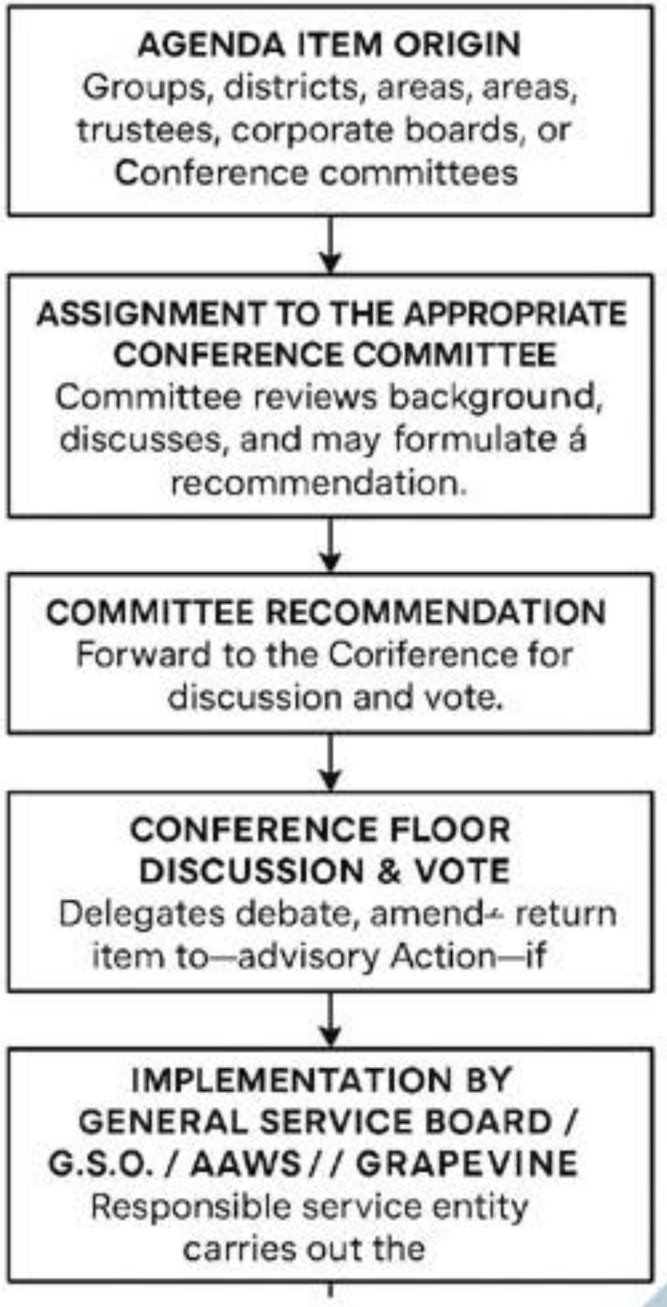
Calling the Question

- Brings debate to a halt
- Should not be used too often or too early

Floor Actions

Any floor action regarding a piece of committee business that has not yet been concluded will be considered out of order.

EVOLUTION OF AN ADVISORY ACTION



Summary of Conference Procedures

Remember:

- Motions must be made in order at the microphone.
- Address motions to the chair.

MOTION		Requires a "Second"?	Is Debatable?	Vote Required for Approval	Minority Voice Heard?
Committee Recommendation	Presented in the committee report.	Automatically seconded	YES	Two-thirds	YES
Amending a Motion	A motion on the floor is owned by the entire Conference body, no longer by the Committee which recommended it. The committee is not asked to vote on the motion to amend; any motion to amend a main motion depends on the approval of the Conference.	YES	YES	Two-thirds	YES
Tabling a Motion	Made without comment.	YES	NO	Simple Majority	NO
Moving to Recommit	Made without comment.	YES	YES	Two-thirds	NO
Calling the Question	Made without comment.	YES	NO	Two-thirds	NO
Reconsidering a Vote	May only be made by a member who voted with the prevailing side. No action may be reconsidered twice.	YES May be seconded by either side.	NO	Simple Majority	NO
Making a Floor Action	Made without comment. Introduced any time during the Conference except at the *Sharing Sessions*. Is submitted in writing by the maker to the Conference secretary.	YES	YES	Two-thirds	YES
Declining to Consider a Floor Action	Made without comment. May be made after the maker of a floor action is provided time to state the rationale for it.	YES	NO	Two-thirds	NO

Conference Membership

- 135 voting members
- Delegates = at least 2/3
- One person, one vote

- **Completing the Circle**
  - Report back
  - Share what you saw, heard, and felt



Why Do We Need a Conference?

"We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life.

"We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing over integration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.

"We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is."

On Trust — The Spirit of the General Service Conference

“So, since 1951 we have been holding these yearly Conferences, to see whether this movement was interested enough, was responsible enough, felt those services were worthwhile enough, to maintain so long as God will need this society. And I think it’s the conclusion of every delegate who has been there that yes, we should take these things over. So, in 1955 we propose to hold an International Convention, at which time, on behalf of the oldtimers, and of Smithy and me, we shall say to you, here is the remainder of your Third Legacy. This Conference shall become our successor. To you we hand the last torch. Carry on. Face your destiny with surety and courage, and God love you.”

— *Bill W., speaking at the 1954 Texas State Convention*


BE
HAPPY
AND
ENJOY
YOURSELF

SLIDE 1 – TITLE

Good afternoon everyone.

I'm an alcoholic, the Panel 69 Delegate from Area 83 Eastern Ontario, and my name is Rob McArthur.

Thank you for being here and thank you to the ECDO Committee for inviting me to do this presentation.

My compliments to our Delegates and Alternate Delegates on your excellent presentations. I know how challenging that can be, and you did a great job. I was especially pleased to hear the updates on what's happening across the Eastern Canada Region during the two-minute Area highlights from our ten Delegates.

In the next presentation Jean - Noel will discuss the Conference agenda, give you an idea what to expect during Conference week.

My presentation will walk us through the General Service Conference process — not as a rulebook, and not as a history lesson — but as a living system designed to help Alcoholics Anonymous speak with one voice.

This presentation is especially for Delegates, because the closer you get to the Conference, the more important it becomes to understand not just what happens, but why it happens the way it does."

SLIDE 2 – WHY THIS MATTERS

"One of the most important things to understand about the Conference is this: You don't attend for yourself. You attend carrying the Group conscience of the A.A. members in your Area some of whom you will never meet.

The process exists to protect A.A. from personality, urgency, popularity, and power. And once you see it clearly, you begin to trust it — even when it's uncomfortable."

SLIDE 3 – STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE

"The General Service Conference is not a top-down structure. It's more of a circle. It starts with the Group, moves through the District and Area, reaches the Conference — and then returns, carrying information, decisions, and responsibility back to the Fellowship."

SLIDE 4 – THE GROUP

"The process always begins at the Group level.

Groups form a conscience — not opinions, not preferences, but a conscience — and that conscience is carried by the General Service Representative.

The GSR's job is not to advocate personally, but to ensure the Group's voice is heard at every level and then to bring the results back after Conference."

SLIDE 5 – THE DISTRICT

Groups are organized into Districts mainly for communication.

District Committee Members help identify common themes, concerns, and questions across multiple Groups, and ensure those ideas don't get lost as they move down the triangle.

SLIDE 6 – THE AREA

"The U.S. and Canada are divided into 93 Areas.

Each Area elects a Delegate — not to decide for the Area, but to listen for it, and to bring that conscience to the Conference."

Area's have unique approaches to gathering feedback from members and Groups regarding General Service Conference agenda items, and how the Delegate will report the actions of the Conference. Some Areas devote time at their Assembly to discuss General Service Conference agenda items; others have full pre-conference Assemblies. Some Delegates visit Districts in their Area to gather member input. Decisions made at the Conference help shape the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. To ensure these decisions reflect the informed Group conscience of the Fellowship, member input is essential. For meaningful and well informed discussion of Conference agenda items, it is best to involve as many minds as possible.

SLIDE 7 – WHAT HAPPENS AT CONFERENCE

The Conference itself lasts a full week. The schedule runs from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and sometimes even later — or earlier.

Delegates will receive information regarding hotel, travel, etc. and are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to and from the Conference; the General Service Office will handle all housing details.

The Conference includes orientation, presentations, workshops and elections, but the real work happens in Committees.

Most of the decisions that shape A.A.'s future are formed quietly, thoughtfully, and respectfully in those rooms."

SLIDE 8 – DELEGATE BUDDY

Delegates should have received a Pre-Conference manual containing information about your Delegate buddy. The Delegate buddy system pairs a new Delegate with a more experienced Delegate from the previous Panel to help guide them through the General Service Conference experience. They offer shared experience rather than instruction, reinforcing the idea that everyone is still learning. As a first-year Delegate, the support I received from my Delegate buddy, Chuck, was invaluable. I encourage you to reach out to your Delegate buddy if you haven't already.

SLIDE 9 – CONFERENCE MANUAL

I received a hard copy of the Conference manual on site. My understanding is that this year the manual will be digital only. From my own experience, the Conference Manual was something I referred to often. It helped me arrive prepared, with an understanding of what we're being asked to do. Early on, it helped me get my bearings — what meetings I was heading into, where are they located. But more than that, it grounded me. When things felt busy or overwhelming, the manual reminded me why we do things the way we do and helped me stay focused on serving A.A. as a whole, not just my Area or my own opinions.

In the manual is a great deal of information regarding the workings of the General Service Conference. It includes.

SLIDE 10 – HOW THE CONFERENCE OPERATES

This document gives an overview of Conference procedures. It is a handy reference to have close when discussing committee recommendations. It includes.

SLIDE 11 – THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM

"The committee system exists so that matters can be thoroughly explored.

The real work happens in the committee room.

It also requires confidentiality. Committee discussions are not shared outside the room, so that everyone hears the full discussion together — not in pieces, and not through interpretation."

If committee work is rushed or careless, it can create conflict on the Conference floor. If committee work is thorough and respectful, the floor becomes unified. Preparation before the General Service Conference directly impacts unity during Conference week.

It's especially important to be well prepared for this. Study your background material, take notes, and be ready to take part in the discussion. Your thoughts and viewpoints on the agenda items are required for your Committee to make informed decisions.

Conference Committee Chairs will give their reports along with any Committee recommendations. Recommendations are basically motions that are discussed and voted on. If they receive substantial unanimity they become conference advisory actions.

Be sure to have your background notes, and any feedback from your Area handy. You may have an important point or question to add to the discussion.

SLIDE 12 – SUBSTANTIAL UNANIMITY

"For matters of policy, A.A. requires a two-thirds majority.

This is not about making decisions harder — it's about making sure decisions are well-considered, broadly supported, and free from impulse."

Substantial unanimity is not about slowing progress. It is about protecting unity. It forces persuasion instead of power. It encourages thorough discussion before voting. It ensures decisions reflect broad support rather than narrow victory. Unity over efficiency — always.

SLIDE 13 – MINORITY OPINION

After every policy vote, the minority is invited to speak.
That principle may be one of the most spiritually sophisticated aspects of our structure.

It builds humility into the system. Sometimes, a thoughtful minority opinion results in reconsideration. Occasionally, it even changes the outcome. That is not weakness. That is spiritual strength. It reminds us that wisdom is not confined to numbers.

SLIDE 14 – RULES OF DEBATE

Committees recommend — they do not rule.

The Conference is never obligated to accept a recommendation, and authority always rests with the collective conscience, not a body or individual.

People who wish to speak line up at the microphones and address their comments to the Chair. Each person may speak for two minutes. No one may speak for a second time on a topic until all who wish to have spoken for the first time.

Full discussion of a recommendation should take place *before* each vote. Everyone is entitled to express their opinion. However, if your perspective

has already been stated by someone else, it is not necessary to go to the mic and say it again.

These guidelines are not procedural inconveniences. They create fairness. They encourage restraint. They shape unity.
"The rules of debate exist to protect participation.

Everyone gets a voice. No one gets to dominate. Time limits, speaking order, and respect for process matter more than winning a point."

SLIDE 15 – MOTION TO RECOMMIT

The motion to recommit returns a motion or proposal to the

respective trustees' committee for further consideration. A motion

to recommit must be seconded, is debatable and can be amended.

SLIDE 16 – CALLING THE QUESTION

Calling the question brings debate to a halt while Conference members decide whether to proceed directly to a vote or go on with the debate. This privilege should not be used too often or too early – many goods points and opinions will come out in any discussions, and if discussion is prematurely cut off, you will not get to hear them.

SLIDE 17 – FLOOR ACTIONS

Most conference business is handled through committees, where issues are discussed carefully before coming to the floor. When a floor action is proposed, the Conference first votes on whether to take it up for discussion. This helps slow things down and ensures the body agrees it's appropriate to consider before debating or voting on it. This extra step helps protect the

Conference from acting on impulse and keeps the focus on informed group conscience rather than urgency.

Floor actions may be introduced at any time during the Conference except at the Sharing Sessions.

SLIDE 18 – ADVISORY ACTIONS

Conference Committee Chairs will give their reports along with any committee recommendations. Recommendations are basically motions that are discussed and voted on. If they receive substantial unanimity they become conference advisory actions.

At the conclusion of the Conference, the Advisory Actions are referred to the Trustees and are then sent to either the appropriate Trustees' Committee, G.S.O., or the Corporate Boards for implementation.

When a recommendation, whether from a Committee or floor action, is approved by a majority of the body but falls short of substantial unanimity, it is considered to be a "suggestion" referred to the General Service Board for consideration and possible action.

Again, have your background notes, and Area feedback ready. Be prepared to participate in the discussion.

During Committee reports you should take notes. The final General Service Conference report is generally available in the summer but many of you will be reporting to your Areas before then.

An idea can begin anywhere — a Member, a Group, a District, an Area. From there, it moves through layers.

Conference Advisory Actions don’t appear suddenly. They evolve from an idea to a Trustee Committee, to a Conference Committee, to the Conference floor, and finally to Board approval. It’s slow by design.”

SLIDE 19 – SUMMARY OF CONFERENE PROCEDURES

Another helpful document from the Conference manual is the summary of Conference procedures. It provides a quick view of the process followed for each type of consideration.

SLIDE 20 – CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP

Each year, there are approximately 135 voting members of the General Service Conference acting together as guardians of A.A. and of the Steps and Traditions. They are composed generally as follows:

• 93 area delegates (who make up at least two-thirds of the Conference body)

• 21 trustees of the General Service Board

• 6 Nontrustee Directors from Alcoholics Anonymous World Services and Grapevine

• 15 A.A. staff at the General Service Office

Delegates make up at least two-thirds of that body. Every member has one vote regardless of how many roles they hold.

This structure ensures equality of responsibility and protects the Fellowship from concentrated control. We are not sent to defend rigid positions. We are not sent to win debates. We are sent to listen carefully, weigh thoughtfully, and decide responsibly. Protection of unity must always outweigh personal

preference. That is the responsibility.

SLIDE 21 – COMPLETING THE CIRCLE

Conference work only matters if it's shared back home—making the Delegate's reporting role as important as the Conference program itself.

No Delegate could possibly report everything that took place. Each Area has it's own method of communicating information throughout the Fellowship. Chapter 5 of the Service Manual contains suggestions for reporting techniques that have worked well.

The Final Conference Report provides a complete record of reports, presentations, workshops and all actions taken by the Conference. The report is provided to the Fellowship through Area Delegates either in print or digital format. It is produced in English, French and Spanish and usually available during the summer.

Even after Conference week concludes, the responsibilities continue. Report what you saw. Report what you heard. Report what you felt. Not just outcomes but spirit.

The Conference is only half the job. Completing the circle strengthens the Fellowship's understanding of the process and builds trust in the structure.

SLIDE 22 – WHY WE NEED A CONFERENCE

The late Bernard B. Smith, non-alcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting. If you haven't read it you will find it in chapter 6 of the service manual.

Some of what he said was.

"We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room.

"We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is."

SLIDE 23 – ON TRUST THE SPIRIT OF THE GSC

"The final reminder is simple:

Trust the process.

You are part of something larger than any one voice, any one vote, or any one year." Because generations before us took this responsibility seriously. Now it is ours. Not to control. Not to dominate. But to protect.

"*On Trust – The Spirit of the General Service Conference* is one of the most important pieces in the Delegate orientation materials because it explains the spiritual foundation of the Conference itself. It reminds us that the entire AA Service Structure is built on mutual trust — trust from the Groups to their General Service Representatives, from Districts to Areas, and ultimately from the Fellowship to the Conference.

The document emphasizes that the Conference isn't just a business meeting. It's a spiritual process guided by principles like humility, responsibility, transparency, and Group conscience. Delegates aren't there to push personal opinions; they're there to carry the conscience of their Area.

It also ties directly into the Twelve Concepts, especially Concepts I, II, and III, which describe how authority flows from the groups and how trusted servants are empowered to act responsibly on their behalf.

This piece matters because it gives Delegates the 'why' behind all the procedural materials — the Service Manual, the communications kit, the buddy system. It frames the role as spiritual service, grounded in trust, unity, and responsibility.

This document comes directly from AA World Services and is included in the Pre-Conference Guide. It's been used for years to help Delegates understand the tone and character of the Conference. It's absolutely worth highlighting for anyone stepping into this service.

SLIDE 24 – BE HAPPY

Most important remember to have fun. Attending the General Service Conference is a once in a lifetime opportunity. It's lots of work and can be exhausting but it's also an extremely rewarding experience, something I will never forget. You have the confidence of your Area; they elected you because they trust you. Be as prepared as possible, be happy, and enjoy yourself.

Welcome to Brooklyn!



Pre-Conference

Friday, April 22, 2022

11:00 a.m. – Noon 475 A.A. Meeting (stay tuned for more information)

This meeting will be held if office is open

Saturday, April 23, 2022

12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Hospitality Room

2:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Workshop Sharing Session & Remote Communities Mtg.

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Dinner Break

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Delegates Only Meeting

Dress Code?







Bring a book for people to sign!

Leave room in your suitcase for materials received at the conference.

Try to journal nightly!







Group pictures??



Serenity Meeting

Every morning prior to our sessions

Monday – Friday
7:30 -8:30 a.m.

Recharge!

How the Conference Operates

Generally speaking, the General Service Conference follows *Robert's Rules of Order*, and proceeds on as informal a basis as possible consistent with the rights of all concerned. It is important to remember that the purpose of rules of order is to make it easier for the Conference to conduct its business; rules exist to allow the Conference to do what it needs to do to carry out the will of the Fellowship by reaching an informed group conscience. Over the years the Conference has adopted some exceptions to *Robert's Rules*, which help it to proceed more closely in accord with the spirit of A.A. Tradition.

Conference Quorum

A Conference quorum — two-thirds of all registered members — is required to conduct Conference business.

Committee System

To the extent possible, important matters to come before the Conference will be handled via the "Committee system." This assures that a large number of questions can be dealt with during Conference week. Members are encouraged to trust the process. Each Committee has considered carefully the items before it and presents its recommendations to the Conference as a whole for acceptance or rejection. Recommendations of Conference committees are automatically motions that have been made and seconded. Members are asked to refrain from spontaneously amending the work of the Committee; there are no "friendly" amendments under Robert's Rules.

Substantial Unanimity

All matters of policy (Conference Advisory Actions) require substantial unanimity, that is, *a two-thirds majority*. Any actions, including amendments, that affect an Advisory Action, or motions that might result in such an action, also require a *two-thirds majority*. Because the number of members present in the hall during the week of Conference varies from time to time, the phrase "two-thirds majority" is taken to mean two-thirds vote of the Conference members voting, as long as the total vote constitutes a Conference quorum.

Minority Opinion

After each vote on a matter of policy, the side which did not prevail will always be given an opportunity to speak to their position. If the motion passes with two-thirds vote, the minority may speak. If the motion receives a majority vote, but fails to pass for lack of a two-thirds vote, the majority may speak.

Remember that saving "minority opinions" for after the vote, when there is no rebuttal, is a time-waster, for it can force the Conference body to reconsider a question that might well have been decided the first time around if it had been thoroughly examined from all sides.

General Rules of Debate and Voting

(Agreed to at the beginning of each Conference)

- People who wish to speak line up at the microphones and address their comments to the chair.
- Each person may speak for two (2) minutes.
- No one may speak for a second time on a topic until all who wish to have spoken for the first time.
- Full discussion of a recommendation should take place *before* each vote.
- Everyone is entitled to express his or her opinion. However, if your perspective has already been stated by someone else, it is not necessary to go to the mike and say it again.
- Our experience is that premature actions such as amending motions early in the discussion or hastily calling the question can divert attention from the subject at hand, confusing and/or delaying Conference business.

Motions Made During Conference

When making a motion, come to the microphone and address the chair. There are various types of motions we use to help reach an informed group conscience. The specific rules governing each are on the next page.

Tabling a Motion

Tabling a motion postpones discussion to a later time during the same Conference.

Motion to Recommit

The motion to recommit returns a motion or proposal to the respective trustees' committee or appropriate corporate board for further consideration. A motion to recommit must be seconded, is debatable and can be amended.

Calling the Question

Calling the question brings debate to a halt while Conference members decide whether to proceed directly to a vote (the question) or go on with the debate.

Reconsideration

A motion to reconsider a vote may be made only by a member who voted with the prevailing side, but it can be seconded by anyone. If the majority votes to reconsider, full debate, pro and cons, is resumed.

Floor Actions



It is possible for a Conference action to come from the floor, but any matter which falls within the scope of a Conference committee ought first go through that Conference committee, so that the topic may receive due consideration. Floor actions may be introduced at any time during the Conference except at the Sharing Sessions. Any floor action regarding a piece of committee business that has not yet been concluded will be considered out of order. When a floor action is to be heard, its maker will be given two (2) minutes to state the rationale behind the action, after which the chair shall ask if there is a motion that the Conference decline to consider the floor action.

Declining to Consider a Floor Action

A motion to decline to consider a floor action is made without comment.

Rev. 11-2019

Summary of Conference Procedures

Remember:

- Motions must be made in order at the microphone.
- Address motions to the chair.

MOTION		Requires a "Second"?	Is Debatable?	Vote Required for Approval	Minority Voice Heard?
Committee Recommendation	Presented in the committee report.	Automatically seconded	YES	Two-thirds	YES
Amending a Motion	A motion on the floor is owned by the entire Conference body, no longer by the Committee which recommended it. The committee is not asked to vote on the motion to amend; any motion to amend a main motion depends on the approval of the Conference.	YES	YES	Two-thirds	YES
Tabling a Motion	Made without comment.	YES	NO	Simple Majority	NO
Moving to Recommit	Made without comment.	YES	YES	Two-thirds	NO
Calling the Question	Made without comment.	YES	NO	Two-thirds	NO
Reconsidering a Vote	May only be made by a member who voted with the prevailing side. No action may be reconsidered twice.	YES May be seconded by either side.	NO	Simple Majority	NO
Making a Floor Action	Made without comment. Introduced any time during the Conference except at the Sharing Sessions. Is submitted in writing by the maker to the Conference secretary.	YES	YES	Two-thirds	YES
Declining to Consider a Floor Action	Made without comment. May be made after the maker of a floor action is provided time to state the rationale for it.	YES	NO	Two-thirds	NO

Back to Memo

74th ANNUAL MEETING
GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

Theme: “Connecting with Love, Unity & Service"



Conference Week Schedule
April 14 - 20, 2024

New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge
333 Adams Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Co-Chairs:	**Mike L, Class B Regional Trustee** **Interim Chairperson, General Service Board**
	Bob W. **G.S.O. General Manager**
Delegate Chair:	**Mary A., Delegate Area 14 North Florida**
Coordinator:	**Diana L., Conference Coordinator**


69th ANNUAL
General Service Conference
69th General Service Conference



SUNDAY – April 14, 2024

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Registration – Foyer Outside Broadway Ballroom

SUNDAY OPENING SESSION

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 Opening Session

Welcome: Mike L., chair, General Service Board

Opening: Delegate

Roll Call: Bob W., general manager, G.S.O.

Greetings: Mary A., Area 39 Western Missouri, delegate chairperson

Overview of Agenda/Manual: .Diana L, conference coordinator

Keynote Address:

10:30 – Noon (Townhall Session) ?

Noon – 1:15 p.m. Lunch and Delegate Orientation by Region

East Central	Eastern Canada
Northeast	Pacific
Southeast	Southwest
West Central	Western Canada

Lunch for all others

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

1:15 – 2:00 p.m. **Mechanics of the Conference:** Bob W., general manager
Questions from Conference members

2:00 – 2:45 p.m. **Presentation/Discussion**: A.A. International/World Service Meeting

Moderator: G.S.O. staff

- REDELA (Meeting of the Americas) – Trustee-at-Large
- A.A. Around the World – Trustee-at-Large

2:45 – 3:00 p.m. **Break**

3:00 – 6:00 p.m. **Joint Trustee and Conference Committee Meetings**

C.P.C.	ROOM
Corrections	
Finance	
Policy and Admission	
Report and Charter	
Treatment and Accessibility	
Trustees	

Agenda	
C.P.C.	
Finance	
Public Information	
Literature	

Grapevine/LaVina

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. **First Conference Committee Meetings**

Policy/Admissions	ROOM
Report and Charter	ROOM

SUNDAY EVENING SESSION

6:30 p.m. **Opening Dinner and A.A. Meeting**

A.A. Meeting Chairperson: chair, Conference Agenda Committee

A.A.Meeting Leader: alternate chair, Conference Agenda Committee

Speakers:

Delegate
Delegate
Non-trustee director
Regional trustee
G.S.O. staff

MONDAY, April 15, 2024

9 a.m. – noon	**Conference Committee Meetings** *See your Conference committee meeting agenda for the room.*
Noon	**Lunch**

MONDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

1:30 p.m.	**Opening:** Panel 73 Delegate
1:30 – 2:45 p.m.	**General Service Board Report Summary:** Interim Chair, GSB *Questions and Sharing*
2:45 – 4:00 p.m.	**A.A.W.S. Board Report Summary:** Chair, AAWS *Questions and Sharing*
4:00 – 4:15 p.m.	**Break**
4:15 – 5:30 p.m.	**AA Grapevine Board Report Summary:** Chair, Grapevine *Questions and Sharing*
5:30 p.m.	**Dinner**

MONDAY EVENING SESSION

7 – 7:45 p.m.	**Finance Report:** Kevin P., General Service Board treasurer
7:45 – 8:30 p.m.	**Finance report:** *Questions and Sharing*
8:30 – 8:45 p.m.	**Break**
8:45 – 9:30 p.m.	**General Sharing Session – What's On Your Mind?**
9:30 p.m.	**Closing:** Panel 73 Delegate

TUESDAY – APRIL 16, 2024 - TUESDAY MORNING

9 a.m. – Noon	**Conference Committee Meetings** *See your Conference Committee meeting agenda for the room.*
Noon	**Lunch**

TUESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

1:30 p.m.	**Opening:** Panel 73 Delegate
1:30 – 2:15 p.m.	**Presentations/Discussion** **Moderator:** , regional trustee Presentation 1 Panel 73 Delegate "Safety Throughout The Structure in our Fellowship" Presentation 2 Panel 73 Delegate "1728 Sponsorship" Presentation 3 Panel 73 Delegate "Overcoming the Barriers to Participation" *Questions and Sharing*
2:15 – 2:45 p.m.	**Special Board Presentation (TBD)**
2:45	**Tuesday Closing:** Panel 73 Delegate
3:00 p.m.	**Announce Workshop Sessions –** Diana., Conference coordinator
3:15 – 5:15 p.m.	**Workshop Sessions** "Responsibility in Service: When and How to Give" *See Conference Manual section on Workshops for room number.*
5:15 – 6:00 p.m.	**Break**

TUESDAY EVENING SESSION

6:00 p.m. Delegates' Only Dinner and Delegates Only Meeting

6:00 p.m. Trustees' Only Dinner

Please take time this evening to fill out the electronic Conference Evaluation Form.



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WEDNESDAY – APRIL 17, 2024
WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION
Westchester Ballroom A, B & C

9:00 a.m.	**Opening:** Panel 73 Delegate
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	**Committee Reports and Discussion**
10:30 –10:45 a.m.	**Break**
10:45 – Noon	**Committee Reports and Discussion**
12:15 p.m.	**Regional Luncheons for Delegates**

East Central
Northeast
Southeast
West Central

Eastern Canada
Pacific
Southwest
Western Canada

Lunch for all others – Grand Ballroom North

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION
BROADWAY BALLROOM

1:30 p.m.	**Opening:**	Panel 73 Delegate
1:30 – 2:45 p.m.	**Elections:**	West Central regional trustee Western Canada regional trustee
2:45 – 3 p.m.	**Break**	
3 – 3:30 p.m.	**Elections, continued**	
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.	**Committee Reports and Discussion**	
5:00 – 5:30 p.m.	**Break**	



WEDNESDAY EVENING

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Joint Dinner Meetings

Trustees' and Conference Committees on Archives
Trustees' and Conference Committees on International Conventions/Regional Forums

5:30 p.m. **Dinner for all others**

WEDNESDAY EVENING SESSION
BROADWAY BALLROOM

7:30 – 8:15 p.m. Committee Reports and Discussion

8:15 – 8:30 p.m. Break

8:30 – 9:30 p.m. General Sharing Session – What's On Your Mind?

9:30 p.m. **Closing:** Panel 73 Delegate

Please take time this evening to fill out the electronic Conference Evaluation Form.






SHAKE SHACK
DENTAL



THURSDAY – APRIL 18, 2024
THURSDAY MORNING SESSION
BROADWAY BALLROOM

9 a.m.	**Opening:** Panel 73 Delegate
9 – 10:30 a.m.	**Committee Reports and Discussion**
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	**Break**
10:45 – Noon	**Committee Reports and Discussion**
Noon	**Archives Committee Lunch**
Noon	**Lunch for all others**

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

1:30 – 2:15 p.m.	**Sharing Session – What's On Your Mind**
2:15 – 3:30 p.m.	**Committee Reports and Discussion**
3:30 – 3:45 p.m.	**Break**
3:45 – 5:15 p.m.	**Committee Reports and Discussion**
5:15 – 5:45 p.m.	**Break**
5:30 – 6:45 p.m.	**AA Grapevine Board Dinner Meeting**
	A.A.W.S. Board Dinner Meeting
5:30 p.m.	**Dinner for all others**



THURSDAY EVENING SESSION
BROADWAY BALLROOM

7 – 8:15 p.m.	**General Sharing Session – What's On Your Mind?**
8:15 – 8:30 p.m.	**Break**
8:30 – 9:30 p.m.	**Committee Reports and Discuss**
9:30 p.m.	**Closing:** Panel 73 Delegate

Please take time this evening to fill out the electronic Conference Evaluation Form.



FRIDAY - APRIL 19, 2024
FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

9 a.m.	**Opening:** Panel 73 Delegate
9 –10:30 a.m.	**Committee Reports and Discussion**
10:30 –10:45 a.m.	**Break**
10:45 – 11:15 a.m.	**Committee Reports and Discussion**
11:15 – Noon	**Presentation/Discussion:** G.S.O. Publishing
	Moderator: **Presenter:** TBD (Loving Invite to David Rosen)
	Questions and Sharing
Noon	**Lunch**

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

1:30 – 3:15 p.m.	**Committee Reports and Discussion**
3:15 – 3:30 p.m.	**Break**
3:30 – 5:45 p.m.	**Committee Reports and Discussion**
	Collection of electronic voting devices
5:45 p.m.	**Closing:** Panel 73 Delegate
5:45 – 6:15	**Break**
6:15 p.m.	**Dinner**



FRIDAY EVENING SESSION
BROADWAY BALLROOM

7:15 – 8:15 p.m. **Final Sharing Session**

8:15 – 9:15 p.m. **Farewells by Rotating Delegates (2 minutes but could be 1 minute)**

9:15 p.m. **Closing Remarks** – Mike L chair, General Service Board

9:30 p.m. **72nd General Service Conference Adjourns**

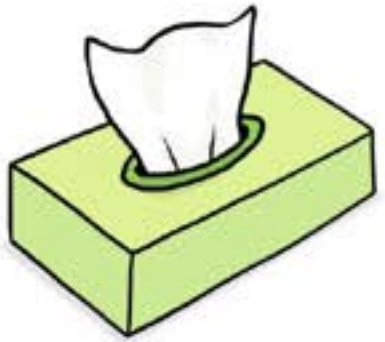
Closing – Serenity Prayer

English:	Delegate
French:	Delegate
Spanish:	Delegate

Gerry
James
Judy
Celine
Gisele



Please take time this evening to fill out the electronic Conference Evaluation Form.





SATURDAY – APRIL 20, 2024

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. **Closing Brunch**

9:30 – 11:15 a.m. **Farewell Talks by Rotating Trustees**

Chair:

Mike L. – East Central Regional Trustee, General Service Board
Irma Van de B.. – Western Canada Regional Trustee, General Service Board

11:15 a.m. **Adjourn**



Post-Conference

11:15 a.m. - Noon

Depart from Hotel for Stepping Stones

Trustees 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

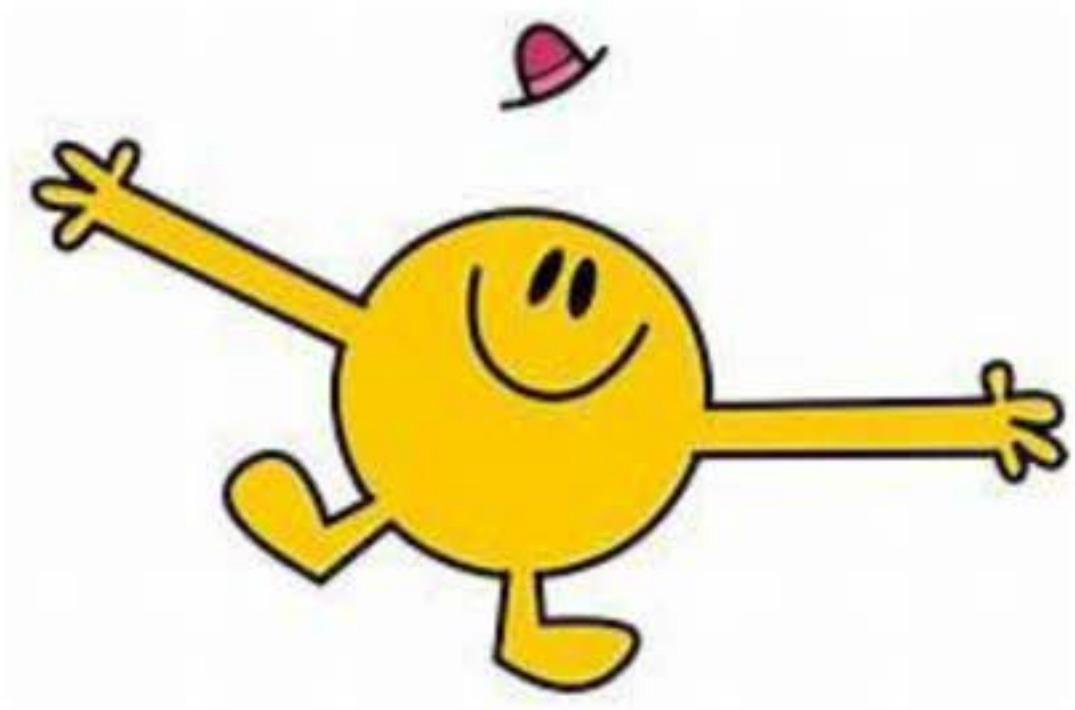
General Service Board 2nd Quarterly Meeting



Safe travels home and then……



…..share your experience!



See you in Brooklyn!

Sharing from Past Delegates and Ask it Basket

Note:
The summaries in this section were synthesized by artificial intelligence from the original exchanges.

Dale S. expressed appreciation for all the presentations, noting that the alternate delegates' presentations were particularly well prepared. Reflecting on earlier years when meetings of the Ontario Regional Committee were held in person, he recalled that presentations rarely used tools like PowerPoint. He also remembered past delegates such as Percy and Joe Downey.

Past delegates

[A86 P54 Jan L. Past Delegate]

Jan, a past delegate from Panel 54 for Western Ontario (Area 86) and former Eastern Canada Regional Trustee (2018–2022), briefly addressed the delegates. She encouraged them to enjoy their experience at the Conference and noted that procedures and practices have evolved over time. She reminded delegates to be punctual, respect the two-minute limit when speaking at the microphone, and keep committee discussions confidential. She also advised them to take breaks, go outside for fresh air, and sit with different people during the week to meet others. Jan emphasized that the week goes by quickly and encouraged delegates to make the most of their time in New York, reminding them that support is available if they feel overwhelmed.

Robb W. (Area 83 Panel 61)

Rob, a past Panel 61 delegate for Area 83, congratulated the presenters for their well-prepared and professional presentations. He shared that giving presentations can be intimidating but encouraged the delegates. He advised them not to make many outside plans during the Conference week because committee work can continue late into the evening. He also mentioned that delegates may experience a stressful moment around midweek and recommended reaching out to a service sponsor or trusted person for support. Rob concluded by reminding delegates to enjoy the experience, emphasizing that attending the Conference is a rare and unique opportunity.

Mel C., P63 Past Delegate, A83

Mel congratulated the delegates for their excellent presentations and expressed confidence in the future of service in Eastern Canada. He highlighted the importance of

attending the Saturday night delegates-only meeting, encouraging participants to listen to experienced delegates and learn from their advice. He also emphasized the importance of dressing professionally during the Conference as a sign of respect and representation of sobriety in A.A. Mel concluded with a humorous story about a fellow delegate named Tashi who wore a suit and tie all week, only for him to discover at the end of the Conference that Tashi was actually a Buddhist monk who normally wore traditional robes.

Ginette W. A87/P58

Thank you. Thank you for the inspiring day. I really enjoyed being with you today.

Ginette, past delegate from Panel 58 shared a brief message with the group. He recalled that during his Conference experience, some sessions continued very late into the night, emphasizing that the Conference week can be demanding and is not a vacation. He encouraged delegates to get plenty of rest beforehand. He also congratulated everyone for their impressive presentations, noting that he heard a great deal of wisdom in what was shared and that he looks forward to reading the full transcript. He concluded by wishing the delegates an enjoyable and meaningful week at the Conference.

Rob M Area 83 Panel 69 Delegate

Rob M., a Panel 69 delegate from Area 83, shared his experience of feeling uncertain and doubting himself before attending the General Service Conference. He explained that serving as a delegate was far outside his comfort zone and that he initially felt unprepared. However, encouragement from the regional trustee reassured him that he belonged there. After participating in his first committee meeting, he was surprised to learn that others saw him as well prepared and that he had contributed meaningfully to the discussion. He encouraged the delegates not to doubt themselves, to prepare as well as they can, and to trust that they will do well.

Dale S Area 86 P68

Dale S., a past delegate from Area 86 (Panel 68), encouraged delegates to actively participate in all the opportunities available during the Conference week, such as spending time with other delegates and joining informal activities like walks. Although the week can be tiring and demanding, he emphasized that delegates should make the effort to get involved because the experience usually happens only once or twice in a lifetime. He also shared practical advice about visiting New York: staying a few extra days after the Conference may not be ideal because delegates are often exhausted,

whereas arriving a few days early allows more energy to explore the city and enjoy the experience.

Dave A. A81 P64

Dave, a past delegate from Area 81 (Panel 64), reflected on several memorable experiences from his time at the General Service Conference. He spoke about the privilege of serving on the Report and Charter Committee and the International Conventions/Regional Forums Committee during the period surrounding the 2015 International Convention. One highlight for him was participating in a Remote Communities discussion where delegates speaking French, Spanish, and English sat together with translators, creating a powerful example of unity across languages. Dave also described the intense workload his committee faced and recalled experiencing the midweek “meltdown,” which he overcame by taking a break and reconnecting spiritually through prayer. He concluded with a lighthearted memory of giving his farewell at the end of the Conference by singing a parody of the Beatles’ song “When I’m Sixty-Four,” which helped create connection and memorable moments among the delegates.

Dan D. Del Area 86/P74

Dan D., a Panel 74 delegate from Area 86 who served on the CPC Committee, encouraged delegates to remain true to themselves while serving at the Conference. He advised them to be prepared, honest, and willing to speak when necessary, remembering that each delegate’s voice and opinion matter equally. Dan noted that the environment of Midtown Manhattan can feel intense and different from what many are used to, but he encouraged delegates to enjoy the experience and take care when navigating the busy city. He also suggested visiting nearby Central Park as a place to step away from the city’s intensity. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of integrity and authenticity in service.

Ask it Basket

Only one question in French

Question :
About your expenses to go to the conference and during the week ?

Answer :Breakfast at the hotel can be very expensive and may quickly consume a large portion of your weekly budget. A practical alternative is to buy breakfast items at nearby grocery stores. Many delegates choose to purchase fruit or simple foods for breakfast, which helps keep expenses reasonable during the week.

Question:
What is the estimated cost of producing a separate publication containing the 30 stories from the fourth edition that are not included in the fifth edition? It is also unclear whether this project would require the full layout and review process normally needed for a new book.

Answer (Dwayne):
The committee has not yet discussed this agenda item. The only meeting held so far dealt with housekeeping matters, and the agenda items have not yet been reviewed. Therefore, no estimate is available at this time. Additionally, even if such information were available, it might not be possible to share it yet.

Question:
Was the decision not to print the Final Report of the 76th General Service Conference a Conference decision?

Answer(Amy, Panel 75 Delegate, Area 83):
This issue was not discussed in our committee, so we did not make any decision regarding it.

Additional clarification (Joyce):
The proposal came from the Trustees' Conference Committee. It was introduced primarily as a cost-saving measure. The estimated savings from not printing the report are around $80,000. The Fellowship has been encouraging efforts to reduce expenses, so several measures are being implemented to cut costs. For example, the number of coffee and refreshment stations at the Conference will also be reduced, meaning participants may need to obtain drinks before entering meeting rooms.

Question:
Will the Grapevine Survey consider including non-literature products in its questions, particularly to determine whether members support exploring such options to help *Grapevine/La Viña* become more self-supporting?

Answer (Tammy, Area 86, Panel 76):
Tammy indicated that she would need to verify whether the survey already includes this type of question. She invited anyone with suggestions or feedback to contact her directly by email so the matter could be reviewed further.

Question:
Should delegates share all information with their alternate delegates, including material intended for committee eyes only?

Answer (Mel C., Area 83, Panel 63):
Yes. Mel emphasized that he always shared all information with his alternate delegate and received the same level of openness from the delegate before him. He believes that this level of trust is essential in service and that without it the process would be weakened.

Answer (Rob W., Area 83, Panel 61):
Rob agreed that it is very important for delegates to share all information with their alternates. He recalled that he had shared everything with Mel when Mel was his alternate. Shortly before the Conference, Rob was unable to attend and Mel had to replace him. Because all the information had already been shared, Mel was fully prepared and was able to represent the area effectively.

Question:
What type of LinkedIn account could A.A. use to track the metrics needed to better understand how it is connecting with the professional community?

Answer (Melanie C., Area 90, Panel 76):
This is something that may be explored in the future. At this time, no specific type of LinkedIn account has been identified.

Question:
Can someone explain the difference between a recommendation and a "for consideration" agenda item, including the advantages and disadvantages?

Answer (Dan D., Area 86, Panel 74):
Dan explained that the two types of agenda items serve different purposes depending on how ready an issue is for action.

A recommendation is intended for matters that are well developed and ready for decision. If a recommendation is approved by the Conference body, it carries significant weight and requires action by the Trustees Committee. For that reason, it is often used when a committee wants to ensure the issue receives strong attention and a concrete response.

A "for consideration" item, on the other hand, is more exploratory. It is sent to the Trustees Committee for reflection and evaluation, but it does not obligate them to act. This approach is useful when an idea still needs further study, discussion, or refinement.

Dan noted that in his committee's first year they submitted several items for consideration, but none resulted in action. The following year the committee chose to submit recommendations instead so the matters would reach the Conference floor and carry greater weight.

In summary:

- *Recommendation: Used when the proposal is ready and action is desired.*
- *For consideration: Used when the idea requires more development or further review before action is taken.*

Question:
What is the importance of having a service sponsor, especially the longer someone remains involved in service?

Answer (Rob M., Area 83, Panel 69):
*Rob explained that having a service sponsor has been very valuable throughout his journey in general service. When he was an alternate DCM, he asked Rob W. to be his service sponsor because he expected to move into greater service responsibilities and wanted guidance from someone with experience. Over the years, as he served in different positions at the area level, his service sponsor was able to provide practical advice, historical perspective, and guidance based on having served in those roles before. Rob added that this relationship not only helped him navigate service responsibilities but also led to a strong friendship, making the experience even more meaningful***.**

Question:
Should delegates rely only on the summaries prepared by an area, or should they read the full background information provided by the General Service Conference?

Answer (Joyce S.):
Joyce recommended reading the summaries because the official background material can be very extensive, sometimes consisting of many pages.

Answer (Alan W., Area 84, Panel 74):
Alan clarified that the summaries being discussed are usually prepared by an area and then shared with members of that area.

Answer (Amy L., Delegate Area 83, Panel 75):
Amy explained that her area produces summaries to help members understand the key points. These summaries can condense large amounts of material, sometimes reducing documents of 30 pages to only a few pages. For people who are not attending the Conference, this can often provide sufficient information. However, she personally prefers reading all the material to be fully prepared.

Answer (Jan L., Past Delegate Area 86, Panel 54):
Jan emphasized that delegates themselves must read all the background material

provided by the General Service Conference. This ensures they are fully informed when participating in discussions and voting during the full sessions. While summaries can be useful for an area's members, delegates should rely on the complete background information and review it carefully, often more than once, to fully understand the issues.

Question:
Is the section of the Service Manual describing how the Conference operates considered a "live" document, since it is in an appendix and has recently changed?

Answer (Alan W., Area 84, Panel 74):
Alan explained that the document describing how the Conference operates has already been modified in recent weeks and that participants have been advised it could continue to change before the Conference begins.

Answer (Amy L., Delegate Area 83, Panel 75):
Amy clarified that at the beginning of each General Service Conference the delegates review how the Conference will operate. Normally this review is mostly a formality. However, in a recent instance the chair suggested a change—specifically asking that floor actions not be submitted on the opening day—which led delegates to want more discussion about the procedure. Because of this, the topic was discussed during a sharing session. She noted that the operating guidelines remain open to modification until the delegates formally approve them at the start of the Conference.