

# **Area 08**

## **2018 Post Conference Assembly**

### **Delegate's Report**

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# Agenda

**1**

**Overview of General Service**

**2**

**Overview of the General Service Conference**

**3**

**AA World Services Report**

**4**

**AA Grapevine Report**

**5**

**Financial Report**

**6**

**Committee Reports and Advisory Actions**

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE  
A.A. WORLD SERVICES, INC.  
AA GRAPEVINE INC.



## Overview of General Service

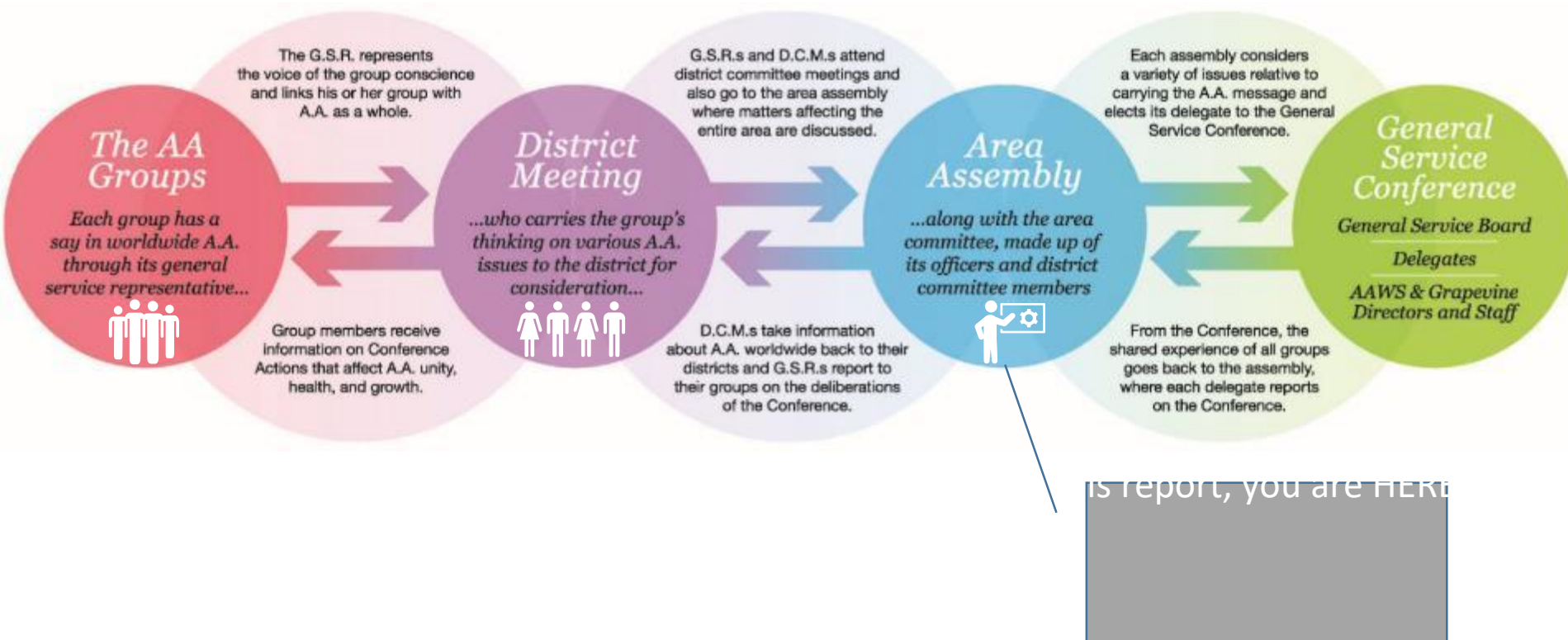
Conference Report  
Highlights May 2018

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# Circles of Love and Service

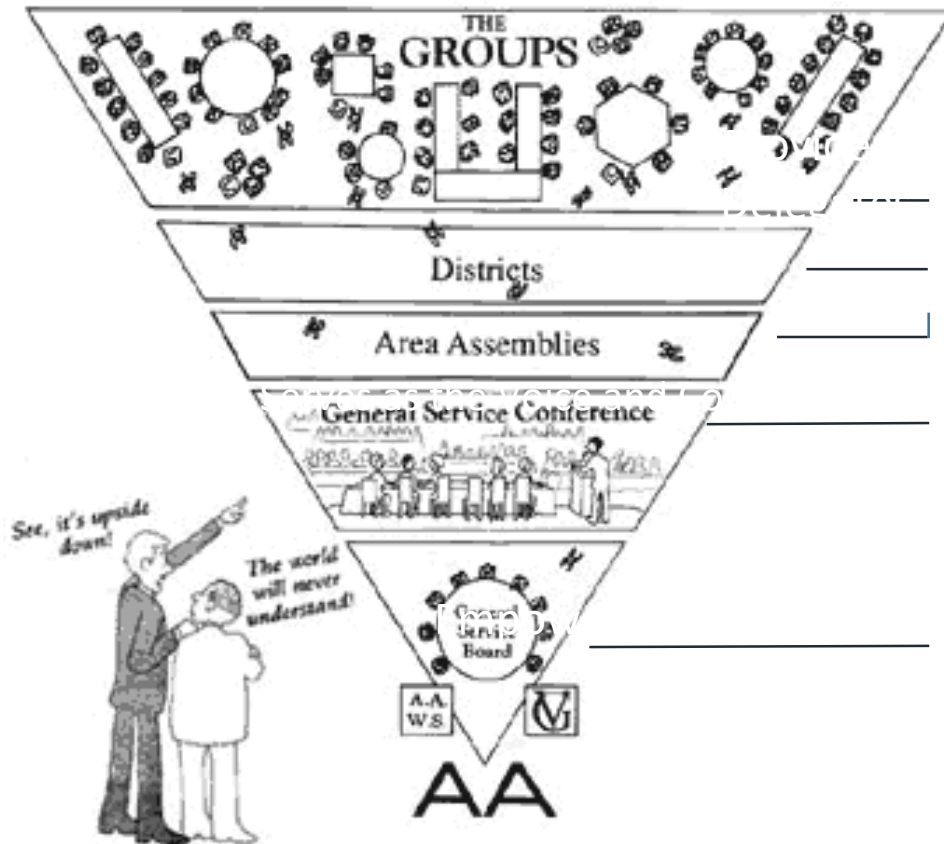
*Working to ensure every AA member's voice can be heard*

A.A. is made up of interconnected circles of people within the Fellowship, who work together to carry A.A.'s message of hope. But in order for A.A. to run itself without bosses or rules, in accordance with our Twelve Traditions, we need a system of communication for finding out how A.A. as a whole feels about its world affairs, and how it wants to operate.



# A Simplified View of the Upside Down Triangle

*“...our objective is always a spiritual one,’ nevertheless our world service is a ‘large business operation.’” – The 12 Concepts for World Service Illustrated*



Decision-making

Membership to Make Recommendations

Product World Service Affairs

**“The strength of our whole AA service structure starts with the group and with the General Service Representatives the group elects. I cannot emphasize too strongly the GSR’s importance” – Bill W.**





## Overview of the General Service Conference

Conference Report  
Highlights May 2018

## “Use of the Circle/Triangle Symbol” Service Material

On April 29, 1993, A.A. World Services Board distributed a statement advising that it would no longer oppose the use of the circle and triangle symbol on medallions, jewelry or other items.

For a number of years prior to that date, individuals and organizations, other than A.A. entities, used the circle and triangle symbol in connection with goods and services marketed primarily to A.A. members. When G.S.O. began to receive reports from the Fellowship regarding such misuse, along with related expressions of concern, A.A.W.S. responded with exhaustive, good faith efforts to prevent the continued, inappropriate use of its registered symbol. This policy was consistent with A.A.’s Sixth Tradition, the gist of which, as applied here, would urge that A.A. should not be associated with goods and services provided by sources outside of A.A.



# Why do we need a Conference?

*The late Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairman of Board of Trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting*

"We may not need a General Service Conference to insure our own recovery. We do need it to insure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to insure recovery of a child being born tonight, destined to 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 which brought us back to life."

"We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effects of the human urge for power and prestige which we must insure can never invade A.A. We need it to insure 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 insure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to insure that the doors of 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 insure 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."

**CONCEPT I:** Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.



# Who Makes Up the General Service Conference?

*The 68<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference consisted of 136 members from across the US and Canada*

**59** Average Age of Delegate

**76** Oldest Delegate

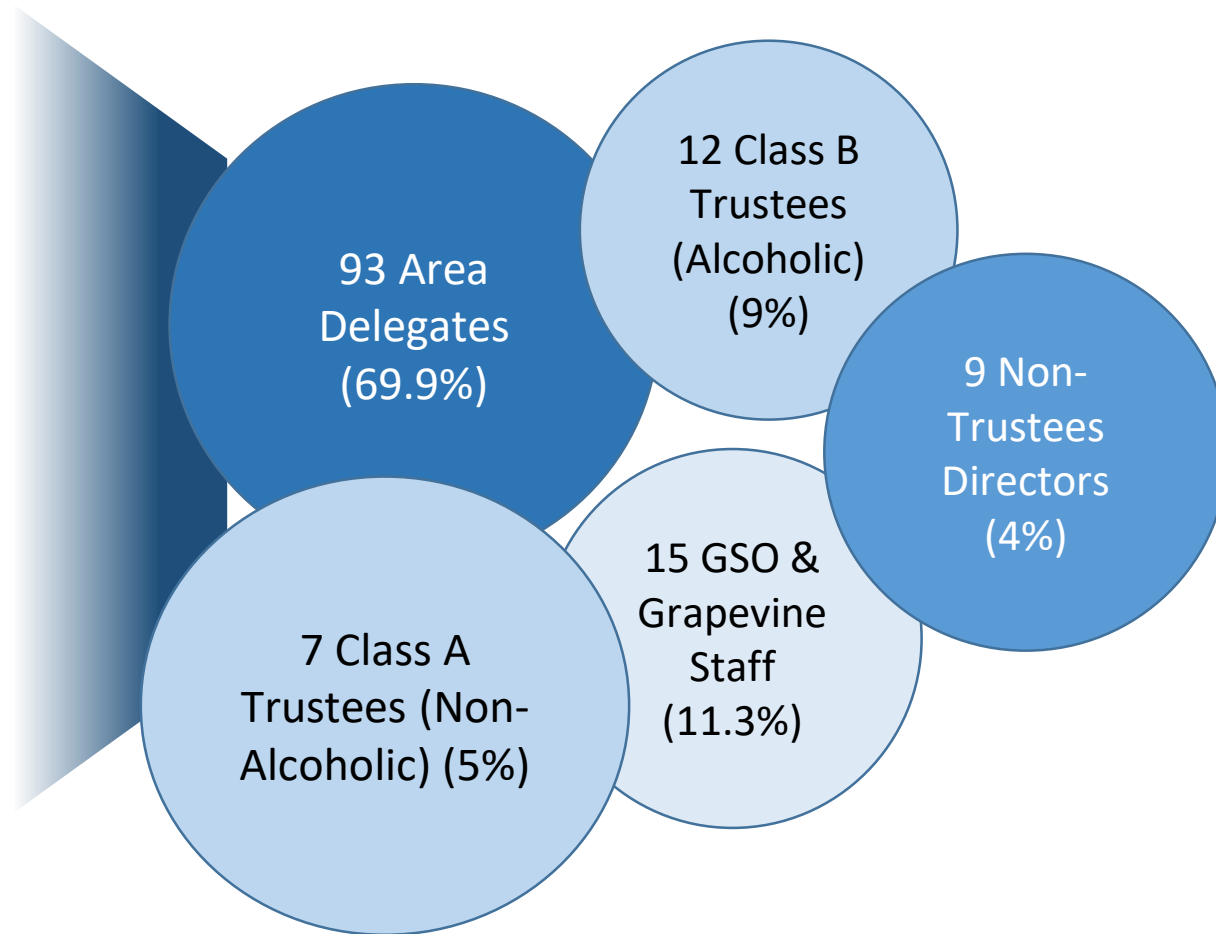
**35** Youngest Delegate

**23** Average Length of Sobriety

**38** Longest Sobriety

**8** Shortest Sobriety

**18** Average Length of Service



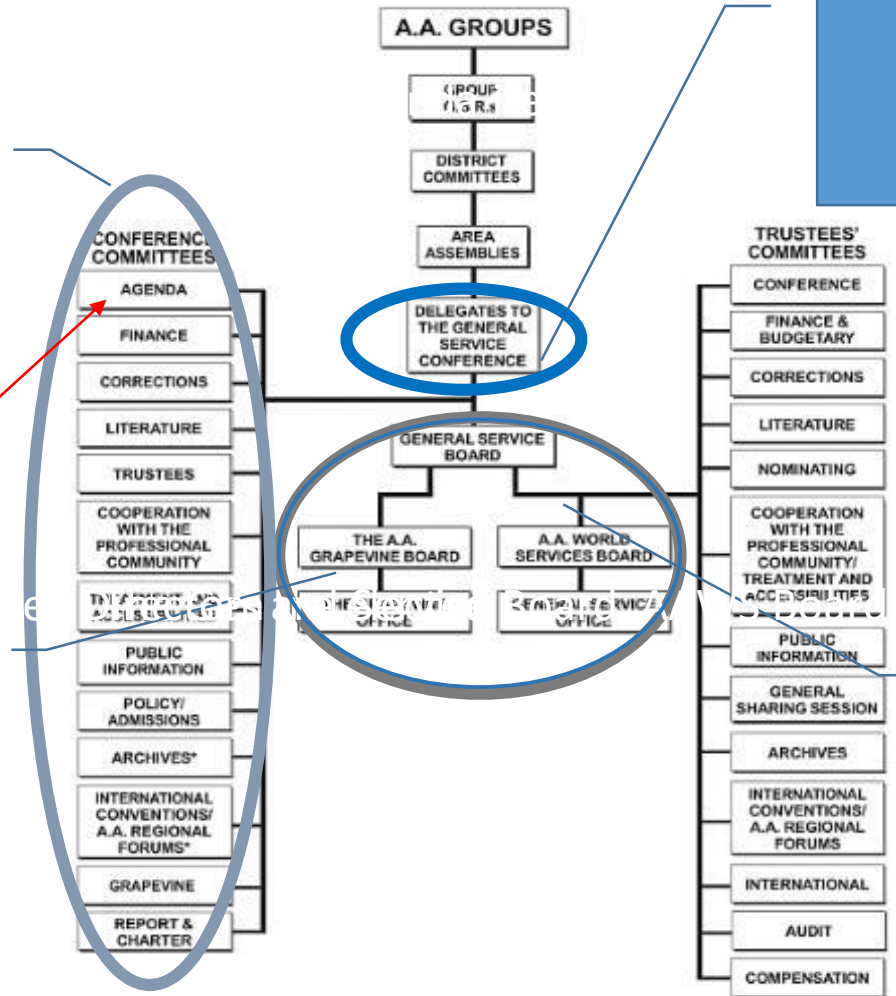
**CONCEPT IV:** Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation," taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge

## What Happens at the General Service Conference?

*The 7-day General Service Conference consists of 12+ hour days of meetings, rigorous and loving discussions, and some laughter...* **The General Service Conference Structure**

## The General Service Conference Structure

**(U.S. and Canada)**



# My Committee

**CONCEPT VI:** On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance.

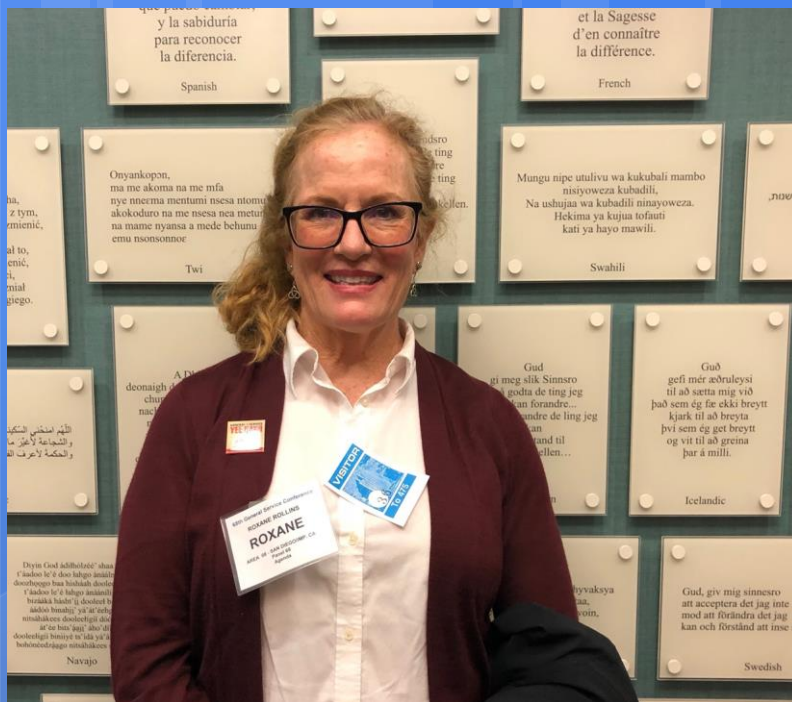
# At the General Service Conference





# On the Historical Tour to Stepping Stones...





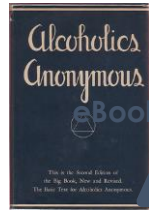
# AA World Services Report

Conference Report  
Highlights May 2018



# Last Year, the General Service Office of AA...

90 Employees responded to more than **90,000 emails and letters** from AA members, suffering alcoholics, distraught family members, professionals, students, the press and others interested in AA...



ONS

**BIG BOOKS SOLD**

**CORRECTIONS**

**ARCHIVES**

**SHIPPING**

Received over  
**73,000**  
Contributions

Big Books sold: **905,000**, eBooks, **54,790**  
Corrections, answers received **65,000** letters and daily, that's more than  
**1,300 requests** for information  
**8 million books** sent

*(AA received ~8,000 contribution letters in the month of December alone)*

# Our AA Website

*All communications, including email, are treated with the same level of care and attention and are answered in the order in which they are received. GSO staff members are committed to respond as soon as possible*

**AA.org** receives over **1,000 visits a day** for “**Need Help With A Drinking Problem**”

Online requests for **Public Information materials** for the media and press averaged **3,000 per month**

**AA.org** received over **12 million visits** last year



**AA.org is now mobile-friendly with more enhancements underway**

# What if...

... we didn't send the office  
over 200 envelopes every  
day?



A Typical Monday for Awilda

Making contributions  
a little easier



... more of our contributions  
were made directly online?  
*(currently only 7%)*

Its as easy as 1, 2, 3...

# 1. State you are a member / log in

## Welcome to A.A. MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS ONLINE



*The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members.*

[Read more...](#)

*—from the Long Form of Tradition Seven*

In keeping with Tradition Seven, you must be an A.A. Member to make a contribution.

We can be contacted at (212) 870-3400. For questions or problems with Contributions Online ONLY, click here: [Contact Us](#)

### Create a confidential User Profile

☐ I acknowledge that I am an A.A. member

☐ I am not an A.A. member

© Copyright 2015

Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.  
This is the Contributions Online web site of the General Service Office (G.S.O.) of Alcoholics Anonymous.

"Graphic images may not be downloaded, copied or duplicated without the express written permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc."

EMAIL US: [Contact Us page](#)

Clicking on the link(s) below will open a new browser window displaying standard e-commerce documents that verify the security of this portion of the A.A. Web site. These documents are not part of the A.A.W.S. Web site.




SecurityMetrics for PCI Compliance, QSA, IDS, Penetration Testing, Escrow, and Vulnerability Assessment



## 2. Select the type of contribution you are making

Welcome to  
**A.A. MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS ONLINE**



1. Contribution Type   2. Contribution Information   3. Confirm Information   4. Contribution Complete

New! Recurring Contributions. [Read more...](#)

**Contribution Type**

☒ Make an Individual Contribution

☒ This is my individual contribution

☐ This is my A.A. Birthday/Anniversary contribution

☐ Please credit this contribution to my Group


☐ Make a Group Contribution

Enter Contribution Information



### 3. Make the contribution

Welcome to  
**A.A. MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS ONLINE**



1. Contribution Type 2. Contribution Information 3. Confirm Information 4. Contribution Complete

**Contribution Type** [Go Back](#)

☒ **An Individual Contribution**



This is my individual contribution.

☐ **A Group Contribution**

**Contribution Amount**

Individual contributions are limited to \$3000 per year.

Amount \$ (US)

**Make this a Recurring Contribution** ☐ No ☐ Yes  

Contribution Frequency:

Start Date:

End Date:  ☐ No End Date

Notification Email:  This REQUIRED email address is where we send important email notifications about your Recurring Contribution

# Yes, things are done differently today...

*Communication channels and information sources change over time and AA must evolve to consistently carry its message of recovery*

**Look me up,  
I'm in the book...**



**1990**

Over 500 million phone directories printed per year (nearly two books for every American.)

1.6 billion pounds of paper

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**TODAY**

In most areas you have to make a special request for a phone book

[www.whitepages.com](http://www.whitepages.com)

**I'll call you  
from the road**



**1990**

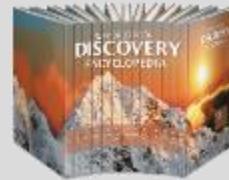
There were more than 2.6M payphones in the US

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**TODAY**

Less than 10% of those payphones are accessible today

**Why is  
the sky blue?**



**1990**

Over 120,000 sets of Encyclopedias were sold

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**TODAY**

Encyclopedia Britannica no longer prints theirs.. Ask Alexa

*"Google" is a verb according to dictionary.com*

**What do you  
want to watch?**



**1990**

33 was the average # of TV channels available per household

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**TODAY**

50% US households use streaming TV to watch over 200 channels

**The information is the same but how people access it has changed...**

Since each issue of the Grapevine cannot go through the Conference-approval process, the Conference recognizes the AA Grapevine as the International journal of Alcoholics Anonymous.

*2003 Advisory Action*

“The Grapevine should feel free to print articles expressing the widest differences of opinion on all topics of a strictly AA nature.” Bill W. 1946

## **AA Grapevine Board Report**

Conference Report  
Highlights May 2018

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# Grapevine and La Vina Highlights

*Landmark magazine issues and new technology enhance and grow our Fellowship's voice.*

ature

We now have 23 books in English, 3 in Spanish and 2 in French—28 in all.



New Initiatives

- Coordinating with AAWS on sharing of information to improve outreach
- Working with local forums to include opt-in for email outreach
- Free email daily quotes
- La Vina SMS messages

Project

Circulation

Subscribers

Collected 400 stories to date in English & ~70 stories slated for La Vina

- Grapevine: 71,81
- La Vina: 10,374
- Online: 5,030



## SOBER & OUT

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender  
AA Members Share Their Experience,  
Strength and Hope





# VOICES OF WOMEN IN AA

Stories of experience, strength  
and hope from Grapevine



# FRENTE A FRENTE

El apadrinamiento de AA en acción



# INSIDE JOB

With a good sponsor and the help of Step Three, an inmate in California finds hope and courage



## A LETTER FROM PRISON



take on the world. I was motivated, worked a full time job, took care of my daughter, went to a ton of AA meetings, did service, worked at conventions and created real friendships within the Fellowship.

Then, somewhere along the line, I got too confident. I moved out of my sober living house, cut back on meetings, didn't do what my sponsor suggested and began dating random guys. I believed I could do it all on my own. I was wrong.

I relapsed within a week of moving out. Soon I quit my job and ignored all my family and friends. It was horrible. Remorse and guilt overwhelmed me. I had

**P**RISON has been a rewarding experience for me. Time in here has helped me build a strong, sturdy foundation in recovery. I do not regret anything. I have forgiven myself for all my past transgressions.

Everything happened this way for a reason. Now that I know God has a plan for me, it's easier to stay on track. Prior to prison, I had a tiny taste of "the good life." With only 11 months of sobriety, I believed I could

WAS introduced to AA in 2001 right at the start of my prison term. I got a sponsor through the Corrections Correspondence Service. He was a great guy, but he passed away only five months after we connected. Then I was blessed to be connected to his sponsor, who is still my sponsor today. He also takes AA meetings into New York State prisons.

This man has been there for me through my several journeys through the Steps, each time getting closer and closer to the root of why I could not stop drinking.

In 2009, when I was 42 and had five years sober, I had a nervous breakdown. I went on suicide watch with my arms cut up. I believed I could no longer live. I didn't know who I was. I had been through so many years of hell.

While I was in prison, I truly the love of my life. I was able to understand completely what I was doing to my will and my health. I was given a prayer and I believe helped me to process all the suffering

discrimination and masculinization from both inmates and staff. Many times I've come close to relapsing but by using the tools of the program and "going to any lengths," I have survived those close calls. My sponsor suggested I write my story, and I have been a Grapevine contributor.

I also have a female sponsor here now. She lives in my parole region. She's awesome. One alcoholic Anonymous couple with courage, has given

complete honesty and willingness

**When I was 42 and had five years sober, I had a nervous breakdown**

# GRAPEVINE

AA'S MEETING IN PRINT JULY 2016  
WWW.AAGRAPEVINE.ORG

THE ANNUAL  
Prison issue

# INSIDE JOB

A Florida man returns to his old jail to help plant seeds and lift a few spirits

# DEAR MANUEL

For one member, corresponding with an inmate has been a long, wonderful journey

**I**N 2000, I walked into my first AA meeting, beaten and completely defeated. I eventually got a sponsor, and it was suggested that I get into service.

mean chairing meetings. As treasurer, GSR and several district. I also worked on local and out at AA assemblies and these things because I didn't let I found myself longing for was soon to find it.

getting my mail, I saw my little black plastic envelope when a new issue arrives. that it was the annual prison. I came across an article of his gratitude to have a from the outside.

was just what I needed. I contacted the prison and it wasn't long before I was in. I was first getting my feelings. It became

# 100 DAYS TO GO

The recovery she was getting inside with this group of AA-loving women was time well spent



**I**'VE been in prison for four years, four months and 17 days, with exactly 100 days to go. I showed up here just barely sober after only 47 days in county. I was fresh off the streets with a violent, explosive attitude. I hated the world and every-

could blame to justify my horrific alcoholic behavior. I was a victim and no one could convince me otherwise. I couldn't trust anyone either. Since I had nothing to lose, I signed up for AA meetings on the medium security side, which allowed

with just God and me. Writing is a sort of like meditation. It helps me of the ways God has my writing in this kind of courage to inmates is of the wonderful friend Manuel. I've been writing 3 years now. I've received three spondents over just wrote a column dropped off. I've had a long, together. When I leave the page to change. His me as he writes men in prison to the constant surround them. to just give in here," Manuel is a strong, spirit-believes that God army for him. ly fair, I would is, and be well-commodations. both in and out have read many

# 21 MEN

Under difficult circumstances, a group of sober prisoners find that patience and persistence pay off

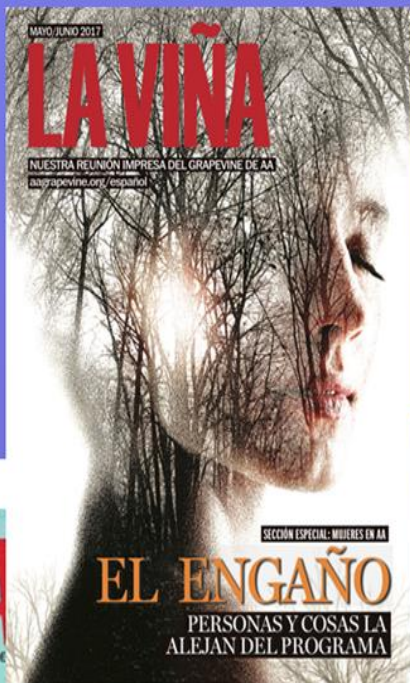


**W**E are a group of incarcerated men who continue to carry the message despite the disruptions and distractions of prison life. Within this therapeutic community, AA is voluntary. In a way, this is a good thing, for in our experience

AA works best for those who aren't forced to attend. After all, as our Traditions state, this is a program of attraction, not promotion. Nevertheless, a small group of us attended a Wednesday meeting that was once hanging on by a thread. After a couple of weeks, we decided to name it Wednesday Night Circle of Hope.

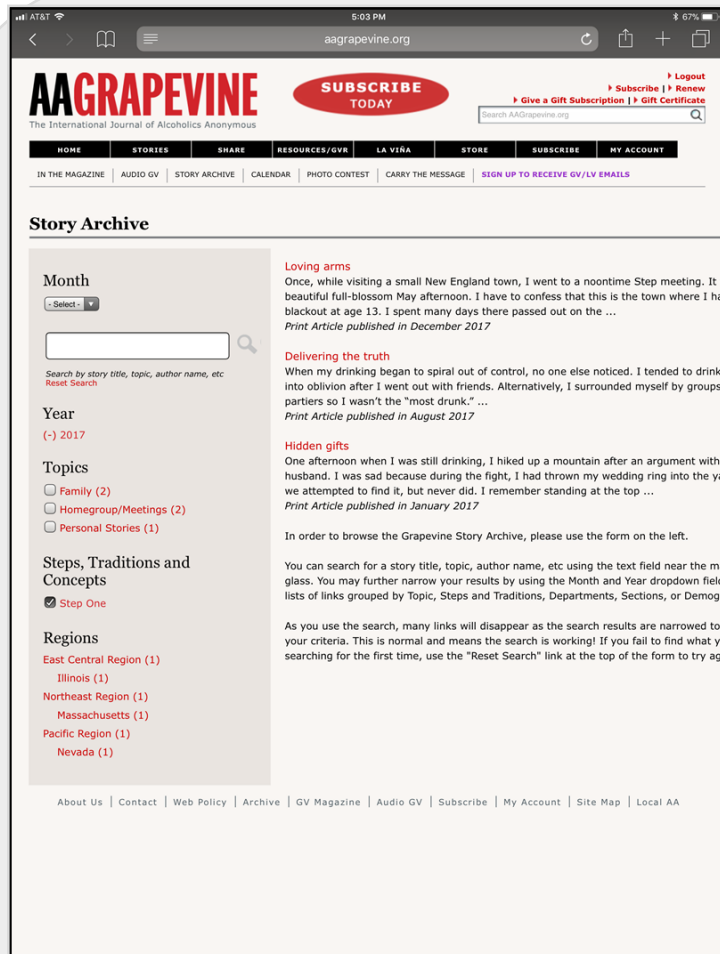
At first, we tried to explain to the other men the importance of these meetings to our recovery, but we soon realized the futility of our actions. At the end of the day, we were in prison and the vast majority of the men around us don't really care about our purpose, nor do they want to be in the program themselves.





# Grapevine Online Subscription and App

*Building subscriptions through new mediums and engaging new audiences*



- Online-only Content
- Each issue's stories available in separate downloadable recordings
- Story Archive: Every story since 1944
- Grapevine and La Vina resources
- Growing capabilities

- A digital copy of Grapevine Magazine for mobile devices
- A copy of your entire subscription in your pocket
- A lower subscription price while still supporting the creation of the content Grapevine produces.
- Ongoing development and additional of features expanding into audio and video

**Grapevine, Inc.** distributed **94,707** Grapevine and La Viña books, e-books, CDs, and other items.

**Grapevine's** average monthly print circulation was **69,249** in fiscal year 2017.

**Grapevine** Online (GVO) averaged **4,077** subscribers in 2017.

Average circulation of **La Viña** was **9,996**.

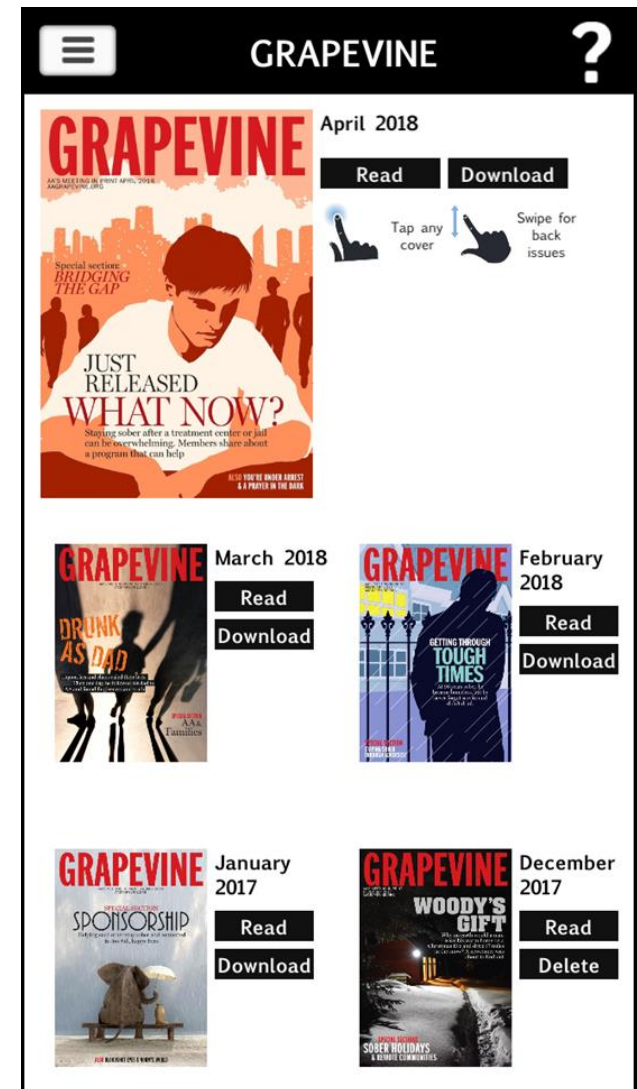
AA **Grapevine** continued cost-control measures resulting in expenses coming in **under budget**. In addition, database software was updated.

**Grapevine** ended 2017 with net income of **\$126,128** against budgeted net loss of \$113,959.

Gross profit for the magazine and subscription products reached **\$1,393,954**, ahead of budget by \$64,103.

Gross profit on books and related items was **\$537,742**.

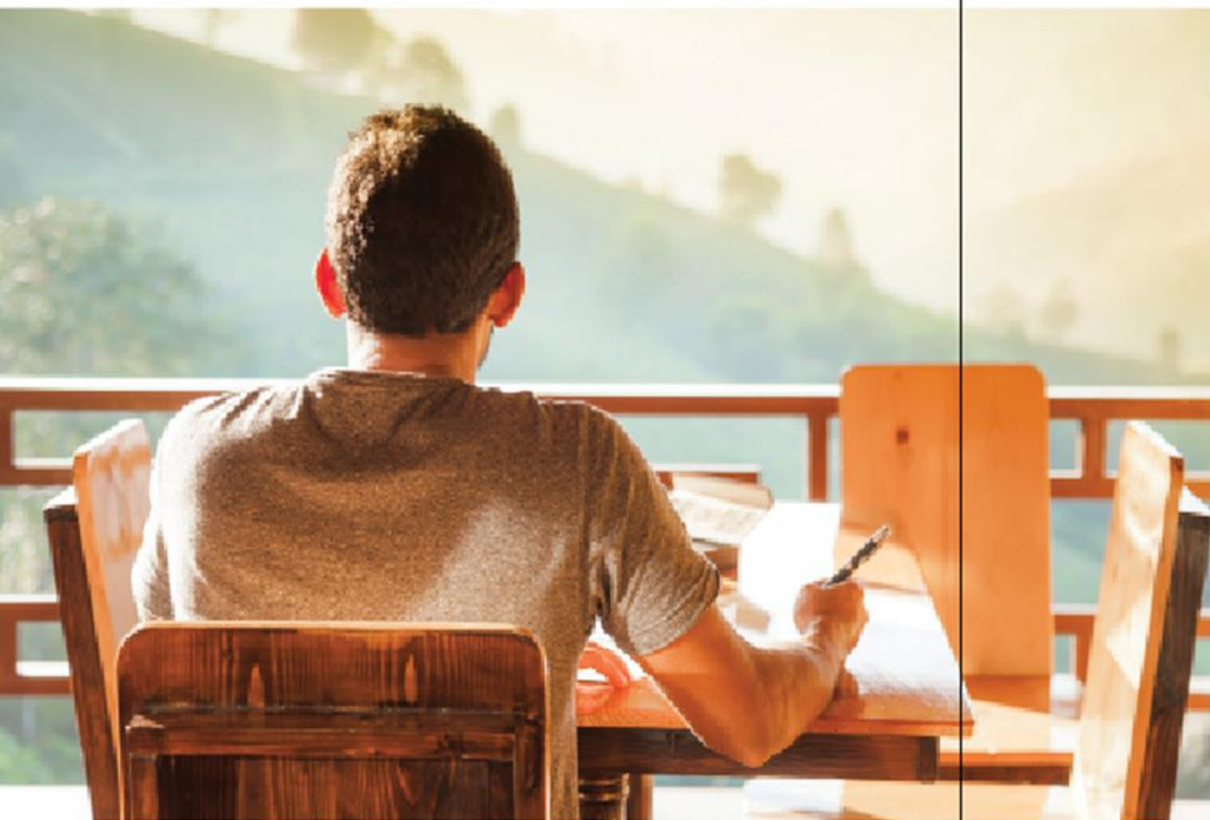
# Facts and Figures





# One Story At a Time

A former delegate challenges himself to write for Grapevine every month—service with a pen



**A**T the beginning of 2014, I found myself without a service position after rotating out as a delegate. In that position, I learned a lot about Grapevine. When I attended the General Service Conference, Grapevine had a bigger effect on me than I had expected. It was there I began to see its greater importance.

The Conference is the formal body of AA and Grapevine is its voice from the frontlines of recovery, so to speak. The magazine is the only publication where every member has an opportunity to share with the entire Fellowship. Without Grapevine, this voice would be silenced. Although I don't always like everything I read in the magazine, just as I don't like everything I hear in every meeting, I am inspired by the similarities of experience we see in its pages.

During my years of active service, every month I wrote a

report for our area newsletter. Having had the experience and the discipline of writing this report monthly, I decided for that for the next two years I'd contribute a monthly article to Grapevine, becoming a fully committed participant.

Writing a monthly article has been a challenge. I am not a professional writer and I do not have a writer's grasp of some of the technical aspects of writing. But I love hearing and reading our stories. Getting the words from my head into a written form that makes sense is a long and slow process. What do I have to say and how should I say it? Writing forces me to slow down and consider what I am saying and how my words will be taken by others.

Mainly, I share my experiences from different periods and mindsets of recovery, unity and service. When I started this process, I really doubted if anything I wrote would be published. But I still wanted to contribute to our Grapevine. Getting published was a hope, but not the goal. The goal was to follow through on my commitment. If anything I wrote did get published, that would be a bonus.

One gift that has come to me through this process of writing is becoming a better communicator while sharing something that might help another alcoholic. Another aspect of this process I like is that I can share personal experience and remain



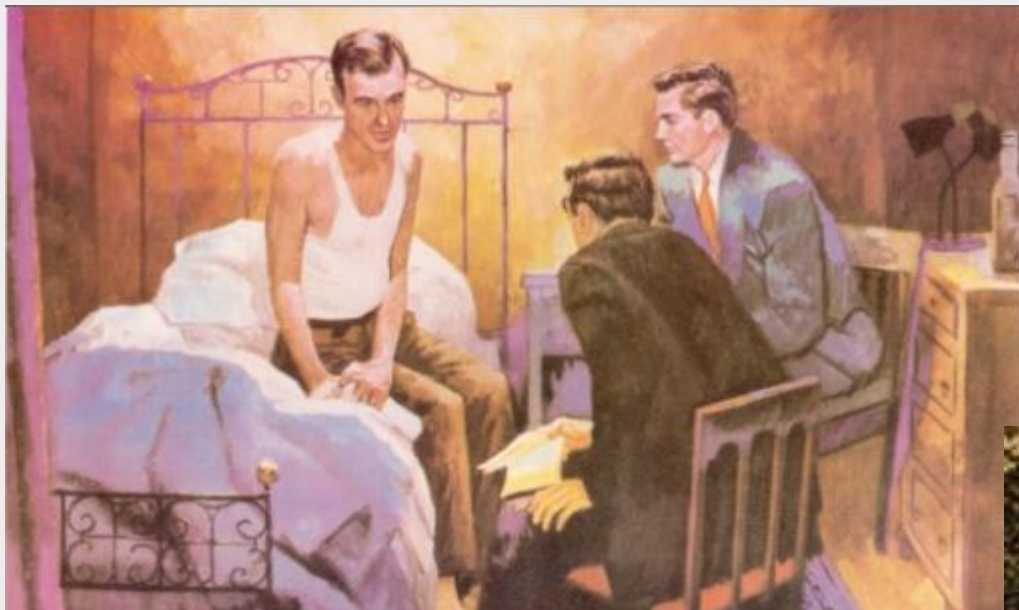


## **LUNCH BREAK**

Conference Report  
Highlights April 2018

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# Archives at GSO



## CHARLES B. TOWNS HOSPITAL

293 Central Park West

New York, New York

For **ALCOHOLISM** and **DRUG ADDICTION**

ANY  
PHYSICIAN  
having an ad-  
dict problem is  
invited to write  
for Hospital  
literature.

This institution has specialized in addictions for over 30 years. Its method of treatment has been fully described in THE JOURNAL A. M. A.; in The Handbook of Therapy, from the A. M. A. Press; and in other scientific literature. The treatment is a regular hospital procedure, and provides a definite means for eliminating the toxic products of alcohol and drugs from the tissues. A complete Department of Physical Therapy, with gymnasium and other facilities for physical rebuilding, is maintained. Operated as an "open" institution. Physicians are not only invited but urged to accompany and stay with their patients.

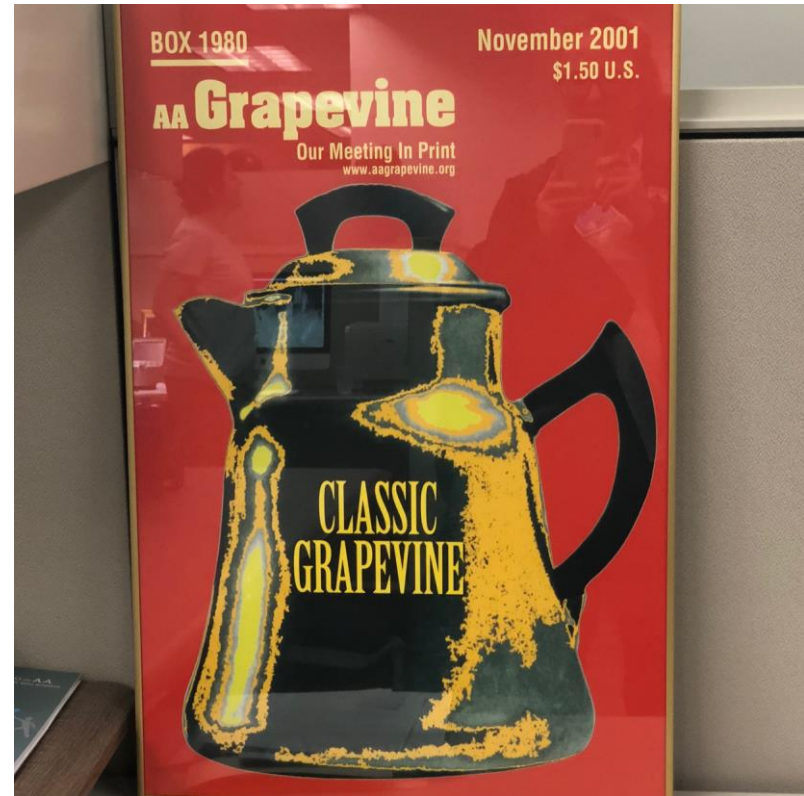


Located Directly  
Across from Central Park





Photo of Bill W. with reporters in Chicago, June 1943. A photograph similar to this one was printed on the front page of the Chicago Daily News along with a story of A.A.'s work. The article emphasized how many men and women had returned to the workforce during World War II due to the efforts of A.A.



# A DOLLAR IS NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE

Remember **inflation** when  
deciding upon your

7<sup>th</sup> Tradition

Self-Support

Contributions for:

- *Group Meetings*
- *Online Recurring Contributions*
- *Birthday Gifts*
- *November Gratitude Month*

1935: \$1.00



2018: \$18.04



## Finance Report

Conference Report  
Highlights April 2018



# 2017 Financial Overview

*For those who don't like charts, tables, and graphs...*

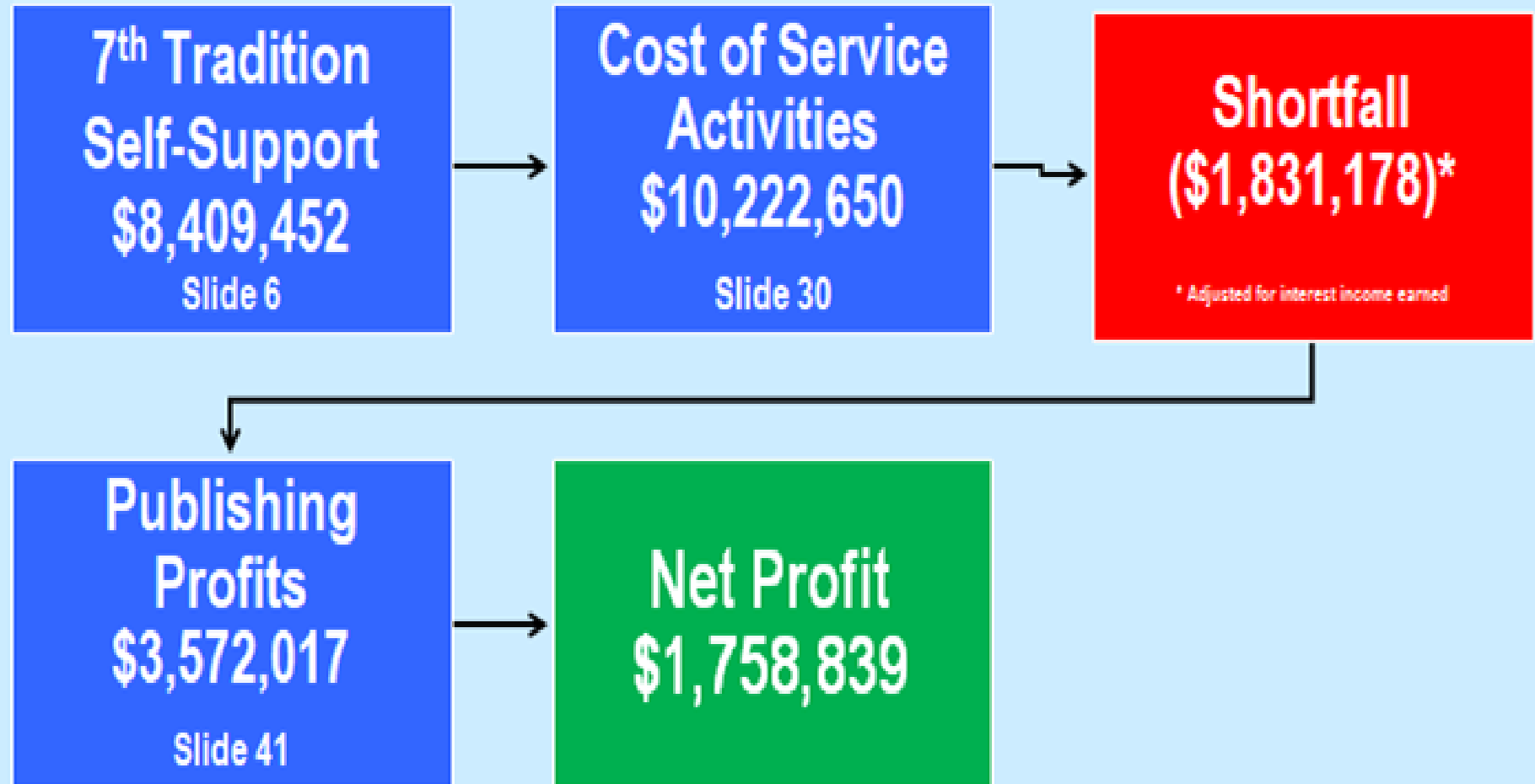
- **7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Self-support:** \$8.4 million (highest ever, by 6 %)
- Costs of Services provided to the Fellowship: \$10.2 million
- Shortfall between 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition of Self-Support and Costs of Services provided to the Fellowship: \$1.8 million
- **Contributions provide 82.3% of total cost of services to the Fellowship**
- **AAWS literature sales:** \$13.7 million (up by 3.8%)
- AAWS publishing gross profit: \$9.3 million
- Total Revenue: \$17.7million (up by 5.2%)
- Net “Profit” [Covered shortfall between 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Self-Support and Costs of Services provided]: \$1.7 million
- Grapevine Net Income: \$126,128 (5% drop in subscriptions)
- General Fund service support of La Viña: \$152,000
- **Reserve Fund:** \$14.9 million (resulting in a ratio of 10.3 months)



# 2017 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Amounts in \$	2017 ACTUAL	2017 BUDGET	COMPARED TO 2017 BUDGET	2016 ACTUAL	COMPARED TO 2016 ACTUAL
GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE					
7 <sup>th</sup> Tradition Contributions	<b>8.4 M</b>	7.7 M	0.7 M (9%) better	7.9 M	0.5 M (6%) increase
Costs of Service Provided to Fellowship	<b>10.2 M</b>	10.3 M	0.1 M (1%) better	9.9 M	0.3 M (3%) increase
Shortfall between 7 <sup>th</sup> Tradition & Costs of Service	<b>1.8 M</b>	2.6 M	0.8 M (31%) better	2.0 M	0.2 M (10%) decrease
Literature Profits	<b>3.6 M</b>	3.0 M	0.6 M (20%) better	3.4 M	0.2 M (6%) increase
Net Income	<b>1.8 M</b>	0.4 M	1.4 M (350%) better	1.5 M	0.3 M (20%) increase
GRAPEVINE & LA VINA					
Average Circulation	<b>75,329</b>	74,203	1,126 better	77,429	2,100 (3%) decrease
Net income (loss)	<b>126 K</b>	(114 K)	240 K better	165 K	38 K (23%) decrease
General Fund support of La Viña service activity	<b>126 K</b>	167 K	40 K better	152 K	26 K (17%) decrease
RESERVE FUND					
Coverage Ratio	<b>9.5 months</b>	10.7 months	Decrease of 1.2 months	10.3 months	Decrease of 0.8 months
M – millions; K – thousands					

# GSO & AAWS – OPERATING RESULTS – 2017

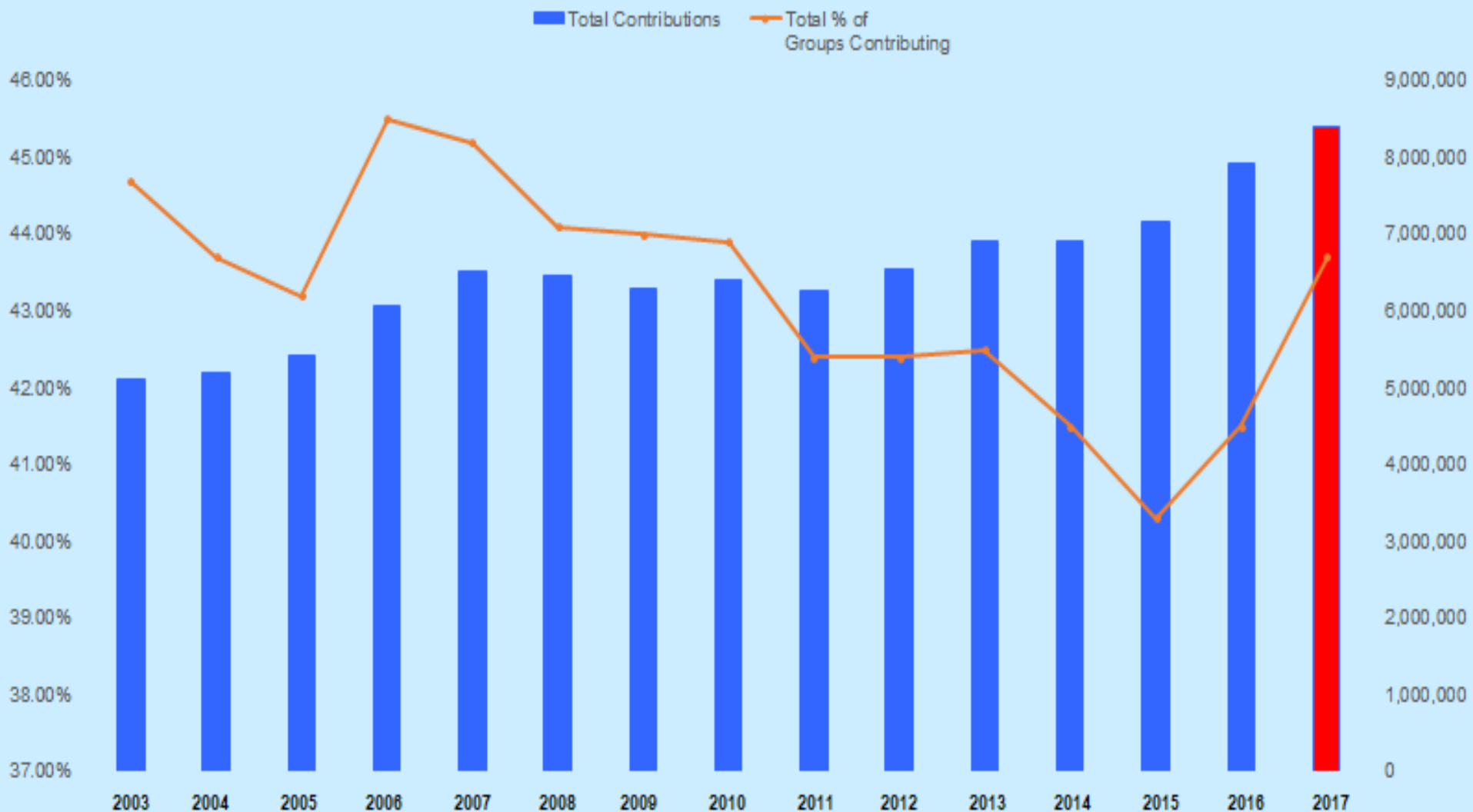


# 7<sup>TH</sup> TRADITION SELF-SUPPORT – 2003 – 2017

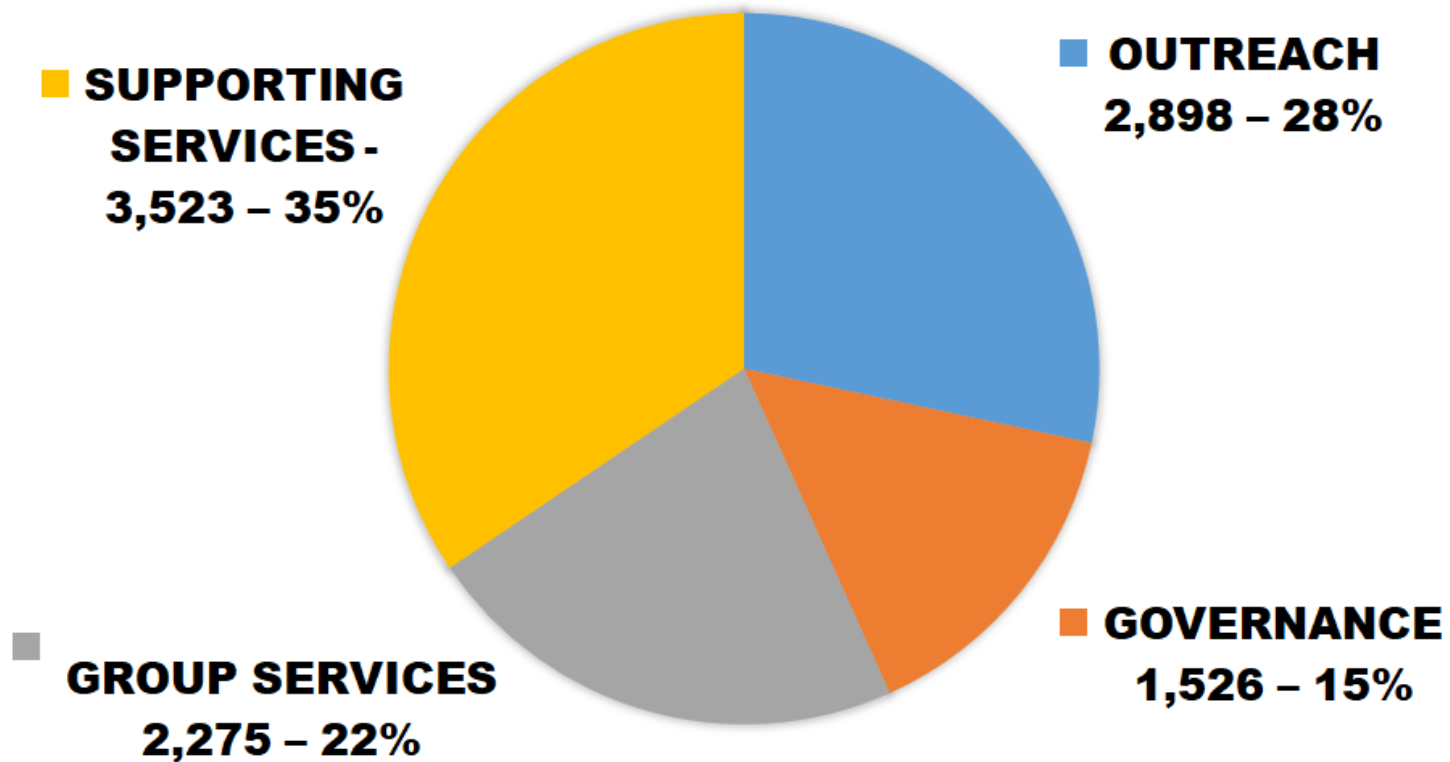




# 7<sup>TH</sup> TRADITION SELF-SUPPORT – 2003 – 2017



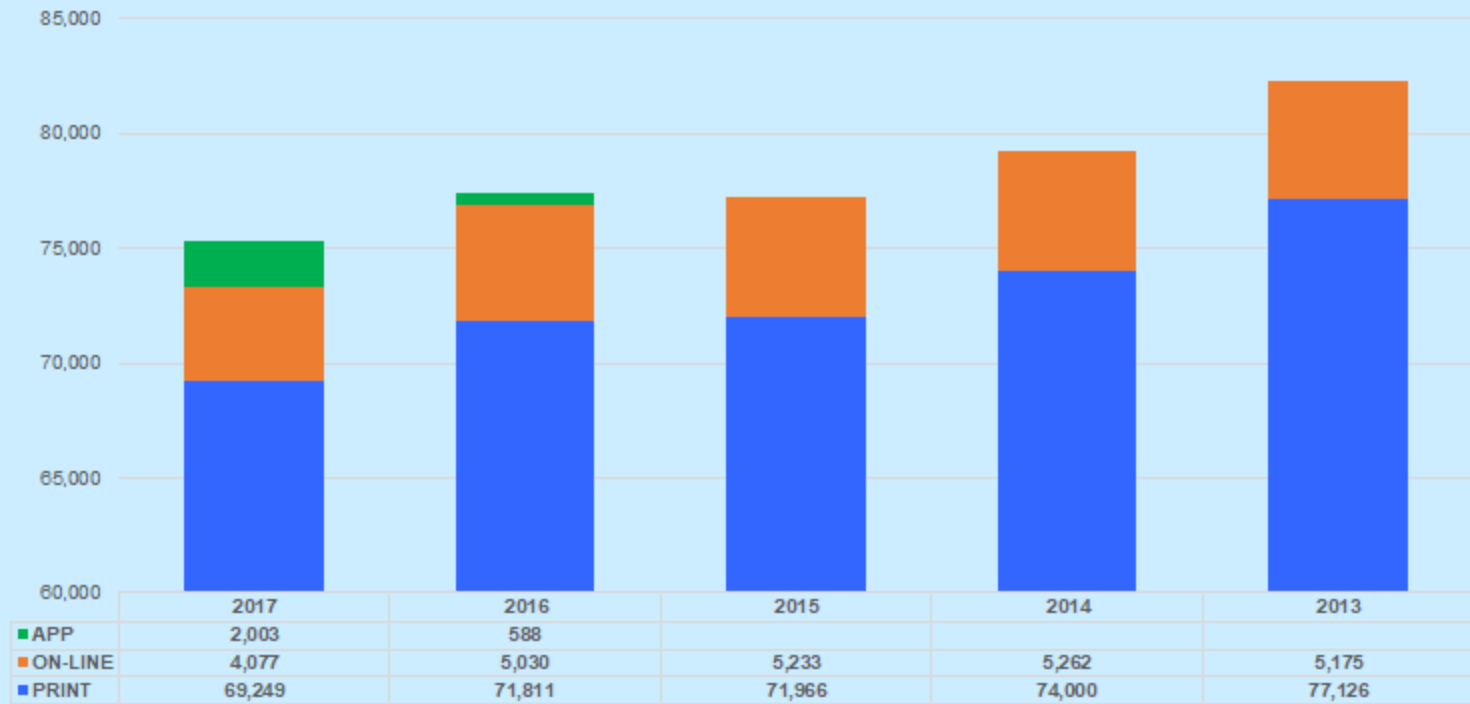
## **COSTS OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE FELLOWSHIP – 2017 – \$10.2 M**



# BIG BOOK PRICING

	Year Published	Original Price	2018 Inflation Adjusted Price
First 	1939	\$3.50	\$63.15
Second 	1955	\$4.50	\$41.96
Third 	1976	\$5.65	\$25.08
Fourth 	2001	\$6.00	\$8.45

## GRAPEVINE – AVERAGE CIRCULATION – 5 YEAR HISTORY





## LA VIÑA – AVERAGE CIRCULATION – 2003 – 2017



# 2018 Budget Outlook

*The success of 2017 allows the General Service Board to project a mild “profit” for 2018, assuming the Fellowship continues its commitment to self-support*

## ❖ GSO/AAWS

- Membership levels remain flat
- Contributions show small growth
- Literature sales show small growth – 1% per year
- Expenses continue to grow slowly – 2% - 3% per year

## ❖ GRAPEVINE

- Subscriptions revert back to decline 2% - 3% per year
- Expenses continue to grow slowly – 2% - 3% per year

## ❖ 2019 & 2020 Budget Outlook

- GSO/AAWS, Grapevine, and La Viña combined budgeted results is \$630,000 loss in 2019, with following year having even larger loss, assuming no changes in contributions levels and operating expenses

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

The American Public Health Association presented the Lasker Award to Alcoholics Anonymous "in recognition of its unique and highly successful approach" to an "age-old public health and social problem, alcoholism."

Started in 1946, these annual awards have been presented to individuals and groups which have made major contributions to public health efforts. This highly prestigious award is often compared to the Nobel Prize, and many of its laureates have received both honors.

The presentation was made in San Francisco at the Opera House on October 30, 1951. Mr. Bernard Smith (nonalcoholic), former chairman of the Board of the Alcoholic Foundation (now the General Service Board), accepted the award on behalf of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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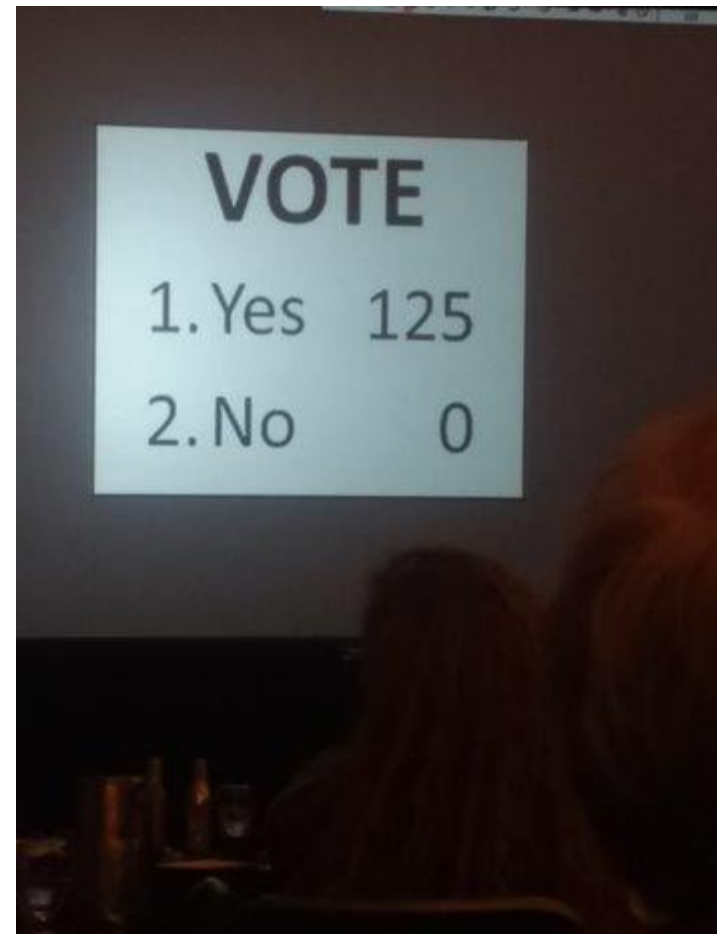
# Advisory Actions and Committee Considerations

## Conference Report Highlights May 2018

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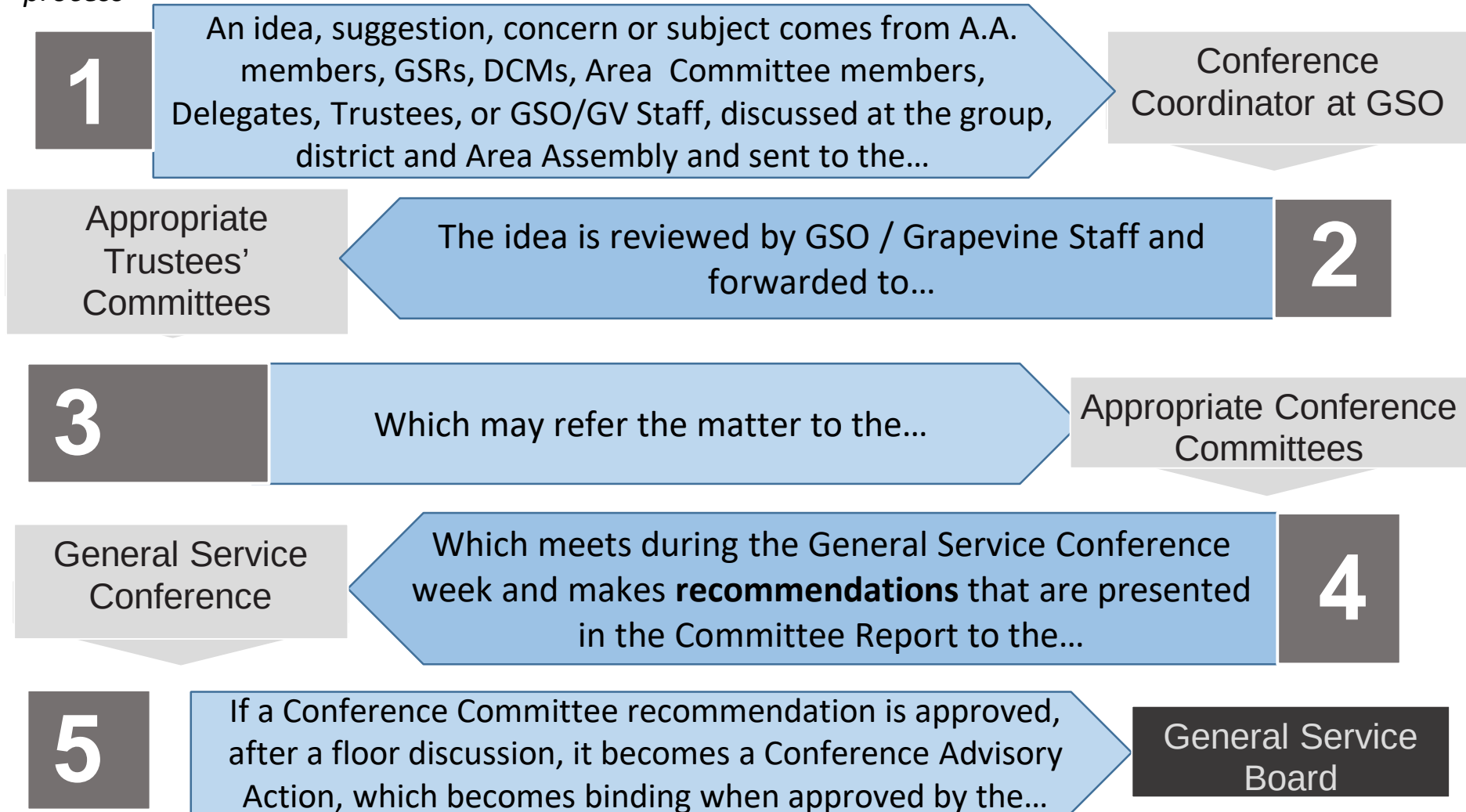
# ELECTRONIC VOTING WAS HEAVENLY





# Evolution of a Conference Advisory Action

*The voice of the Groups has a clear path to making an impact on AA as a whole through the Conference process*



*“Without Committees, it is doubtful that any Conference would be able to function effectively. Most questions suggested for the Conference agenda are assigned to a committee, where items can be discussed in a small group before they are forwarded for discussion to the full Conference body.” – AA Service Manual*

# Agenda Committee

*“Every AA member has something to say about the Fellowship’s present and future – and AA’s welfare is central to agenda of every General Service Conference” – AA Service Manual*

## Advisory Actions

- The theme for the 2019 General Service Conference will be:  
“Our Big Book--80 Years, 71 Languages.”
- The presentation/discussion topics for the 2019 General Service Conference will be:
  - Yesterday's World--Our Legacies Begin
  - Today’s World--Integrity, Anonymity and Service
  - Tomorrow’s World--Courage to be Vigilant
  - The workshop for the 2019 General Service Conference will be:  
“Addressing the needs of our meetings.”

## Committee Considerations Key Takeaways

- The effort to include Delegates in the General Service Conference Agenda process was again a topic in committee, and the General Service Board was urged to continue looking for ways to enhance the role of Delegates, and thereby the Fellowship as a whole, in the Agenda item selection process.
- Committee noted low number of respondents to Conference evaluation.
- Committee noted low number of participants in the quest for themes and topics.

# Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee

*“CPC work can begin when individual AAs reveal their membership to their doctors or drop a quiet word in the ear of a pastor, priest or rabbi that an A.A. member is available to the congregation” – CPC Workbook*

## Advisory Actions

- Revise text to include digital directories to “A.A as a Resource for the Health Care Professional”: PASSED
- Adding a section re: **Military** (Chaplains) to “Members of the Clergy Ask Alcoholics Anonymous”: PASSED
- Adding text regarding the **military** to, “If you are a Professional”: PASSED
- Review of trustees’ report regarding LinkedIn resulted in recommendation to develop a company page on **LinkedIn**.

## Committee Consideration Key Takeaways:

- Additional exploration of the usage of **LinkedIn** as a CPC tool should be continued, with the Trustees to develop a plan focusing on the social media components of the site (e.g., messaging, “following,” sponsored links) and clarifying that AA is not affiliated with any organization on the **LinkedIn** company page.
- Existing CPC materials should be reviewed and updated to ensure they accurately provide information related to working with **active duty military and veterans**, and new materials should be developed, as needed.

# Corrections Committee

*“To those involved, however, corrections work is an opportunity to carry the A.A. message to the confined alcoholic who wants to live sober, one day at a time. Through a corrections committee working with corrections personnel, alcoholics are reached who might never otherwise find the A.A. program.” –Corrections Workbook*

## Advisory Actions

- None

## Committee Considerations Key Takeaways

- Revise/Update **Corrections Service Material** “AA Corrections Prerelease Contact Information--For AAs on the Inside,” and “...Outside, with excerpts from existing literature.
- Create a letter to corrections professional to raise awareness about prerelease and **Bridging the Gap**.
- Add “A New Freedom” in Spanish and French to the **Corrections Kit** when completed.
- Update links on “Carrying the Message Behind These Walls” video.



# Finance Committee

*“Though not costly, these service agencies are absolutely essential to our continued expansion—to our survival as a Fellowship. Their costs are a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all of us. Our support of services actually amounts to recognition on our part that A.A. must everywhere function in full strength—and that, under our Tradition of self-support, we are all going to foot the bill.” – Bill W.*

## Advisory Actions

- Develop a method of standardizing increases to the limits on individual contributions and bequests to the GSB: **TOOK NO ACTION**
- Allow outside sales of Grapevine books and single-issue magazines: **PASSED**
- Reconsider the 2014 Conference Advisory Action regarding parity for LaVina: **PASSED**
- Approve revised pamphlet “AA Grapevine and LaVina: Our Meeting in Print” and change title to “AA Grapevine and LaVina: Our Meeting in Print and Other Media” **PASSED**

## Committee Considerations Key Takeaways

- Suggested adding language regarding group level electronic contributions, passing the “virtual basket” to the section *Passing the Basket* in the service piece “The AA Group Treasurer” and also be included in “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” and the Guidelines on Finance.
- Update Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet (F-203) to reflect current pamphlet covers
- Re: Grapevine-Suggested greater online presence
- Fact sheet on the topic of Grapevine be included in Self-Support Packet.

# Grapevine Committee

## Advisory Actions

- A.A. Grapevine, Inc. allow sales of Grapevine/ La Viña books, single-issue magazines and other products to non-AA entities, such as hospitals, treatment centers and book stores.
- AA Grapevine, Inc. continue to seek opportunities to expand bulk sales.
- AA Grapevine, Inc. provides notification to A.A. World Services' list of non-A.A. entities to let them know that they can now purchase AA Grapevine and La Viña books, single-issue magazines.
- La Viña be published at its current frequency as a service to the Fellowship, with perfect binding, at 68 pages, and in full color.

## Committee Considerations Key Takeaways

- The committee reviewed the 2018 social media report re: Instagram, Facebook and Google for Nonprofits suggesting that Grapevine continue to explore social media strategy in their strategic plan, considering anonymity, security, affiliation, outside contributions, privacy and promotion.
- Committee suggests all current and past delegates actively inform the Fellowship about GV and LV as tools for sobriety, by recruiting others, email and websites.

# Literature Committee

*"AA co-founder Bill W....often called the influence of AA literature 'incalculable...'" - AA Guidelines on Literature*

## Advisory Actions

- Drafts for 4 pamphlets approved: *Experience, Strength and Hope: Women of AA*, *Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in AA*, *Inside AA: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services*, *AA for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues and Those Who Sponsor Them*.
- Three requests for changes to the Big Book were recommended by committee but did not pass, including adding an appendix reflecting recognition from the Library of Congress.
- The request for revisions to *Living Sober* did pass.
- Request to update the video, "Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and The General Service Structure," was passed.
- Recommended that "The God Word" be adopted by AA World Services with minor changes.
- Request to develop a draft pamphlet on AA's Three Legacies passed.
- Request to develop a new pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women alcoholics passed.

## Committee Considerations Key Takeaways

- Suggested addition of AA Grapevine Literature be added to the list of AA Publications noted on the back of AA Literature
- Committee reviewed progress reports on several draft pamphlets including *Young People and AA* and *The Twelve Traditions*. These will be ready by 2019 GSC.
- Committee accepted 2017 matrix of AA recovery literature.

# Policy and Admissions

## Advisory Actions

- Approved request for observer from India (Valley) to attend 2018 Conference
- Reviewed draft process for polling between annual conferences
- Recommend 2 consultants from “Impact Collaborative” be admitted to the 68th GSC as observers to conduct a communications audit. (Special request from Board Chair)

## Committee Considerations Key Takeaways

- Committee accepted dates for 71st General Service Conference-April 25-May 1, 2021
- Reviewed report from GSO Manager on site selection of the General Service Conference
- Reviewed trustees’ report on Equitable Distribution of the Workload of Conference Committees. Committee encouraged review of options in order to create a workable plan for equitable distribution of the workload.
- Discussion of request for policy on the use of the Conference Dashboard
- Question forwarded from Trustees International Committee: Does the US/Canada have a role in assisting the development of AA structures around the world through sponsoring other countries?



# Public Information Committee

*“Like all of A.A., the primary purpose of members involved with public information service is to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers” – AA Guidelines on Public Information*

## Advisory Actions

- Approve video, “Changes” with revision of “That’s where AA came to my rescue” be replaced with “AA offered a solution.”
- Additionally, recommended that the PSA “Changes” be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$42,000 with data forwarded to P.I. Committee
- Recommended pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity,” with expanded content on Traditions 11 and 12, be approved.
- Recommended P.I. Committee develop language reflecting safety considerations in both “Understanding Anonymity” and “A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous”

## Committee Considerations Key Takeaways

- Committee reviewed and accepted 2018 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan and noted continued exploration of social media and social network platforms to carry the AA message to the public.
- Committee requested continued development on the use of Google AdWords and Google Grants including the cost of implementing a six month trial and the cost of a full years implementation. Progress report to be brought back to 2019 Conference Committee.

# Report and Charter Committee

*Responsible for the management and updates to the AA Service Manual and Conference Report*

## Advisory Actions

- Add “Panel” to the Glossary of Service Terms in the A.A. Service Manual.
- Add, on p. S75, above AA World Services, charts or text boxes that display member positions on each of the three corporate boards.
- Add footnote to the portion of the “Resolution” attached as part of the Original Conference Charter to clarify that groups are listed for communication purposes.
- Add text to “Trademarks, Logos and Copyrights” reflecting AAWS Copyright statement on “The Blue People” graphic.
- Next AA Service Manual to undergo evaluation, update and redesign with draft to be sent to 2019 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.

## Committee Considerations Key Takeaways

- The Committee suggested that Publishing add more language regarding local service committees in future manual rewrites.
- Committee considered a request to update the Third Legacy Procedure chart on page S22 in the AA Service Manual to correct inconsistencies.

# Treatment and Accessibilities

*“Respect for the dignity of others is the foundation for all our efforts to carry the message to alcoholics with special needs...” – AA Guidelines on Serving Alcoholics with Special Needs*

## Advisory Actions

- That the pamphlet title, “Accessibility for All Alcoholics” be changed to “Access to A.A.-- Members Share on Overcoming Barriers.”
- That proposed changes by CPC to this same pamphlet be approved.
- That the scope of committee be expanded to support the work of members and groups in underserved or remote communities.

## Committee Considerations Key Takeaways

- To review existing literature with military focus to expand this topic
- To create AA Guidelines and for carrying the message to members of the Armed Forces
- To look at need for National Veterans’ Workshop
- To produce a Remote Communities Kit and Workbook.
- To explore ways to meet the needs of AA members who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing.
- To review AA Website to determine if it is accessible to Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing members.
- To suggest AA Grapevine develop a book that includes Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing sharing.

# Trustees Committee

*“Good leadership originates plans, policies, and ideas for the improvement of our Fellowship and its services.” - Bill W.’s Essay on Leadership in AA – Ever a Vital Need*

## Advisory Actions

- Slate of trustees and officers for the General Service Board of A.A. approved.
- Slate of directors for the A.A. World Service, Inc. approved.
- Slate of Directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc. approved.
- Process for election of Trustee-at-large/U.S. revised so that the number of delegates voting from each region be equal to the number of delegates in the smallest region.

## Committee Considerations Key Takeaways

- Reviewed a proposal to censure and a proposal to reorganize the GSB but took no action.
- Suggested that the GSB discuss possible survey of past and current regional trustees regarding workload and ability to fulfill responsibilities.



# Archives Committee

*"We are trying to build up extensive records which will be of value to a future historian...It is highly important that the factual material be placed in our files in such a way that there can be no substantial distortion..." — Bill W., 1957*

## Advisory Actions

- The new publication, *Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Talks, 1951-1970*," was approved with minor editorial changes.

## Committee Consideration Key Takeaways:

- The Committee considered a request to develop a policy on the distribution of audio recordings of the GSC presentations but took no action.
- After reviewing the workbook, the committee suggested that text, clarifying that archivists do not appraise items for value nor do they purchase items, be added.

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## International Forums / Regional Conventions

### Advisory Actions

- Possible sites for International 2030: Indianapolis, Indiana and St. Louis, Missouri.

### Committee Consideration Key Takeaways:

- Discussed ways to encourage attendance at Regional and Local Forums such as highlighting free registration, reaching out to local YPAA groups or committees for communicating interest and sending out text blasts to members.

# Floor Actions

*When you want to bend the rules...*

## Advisory Actions

#1: It was recommended that: The pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” be revised to be more inclusive, to apply to both Treatment and Corrections or possibly any alcoholic leaving any institution into the real world. (Passed)

#2: It was recommended that: The text on page 18 of the pamphlet “Members of the Clergy Ask about Alcoholics Anonymous” that currently reads: Please check your local telephone directory or newspaper for the number of Alcoholics Anonymous. Be revised to read: Alcoholics Anonymous can be found on the Internet at aa.org and in most telephone directories by looking for “Alcoholics Anonymous.” Additionally, online meetings are available, which members of the military and others often use when they are in places where there is no meeting nearby. (Passed)

#3: It was recommended that: The General Service Board be censured. (Declined)

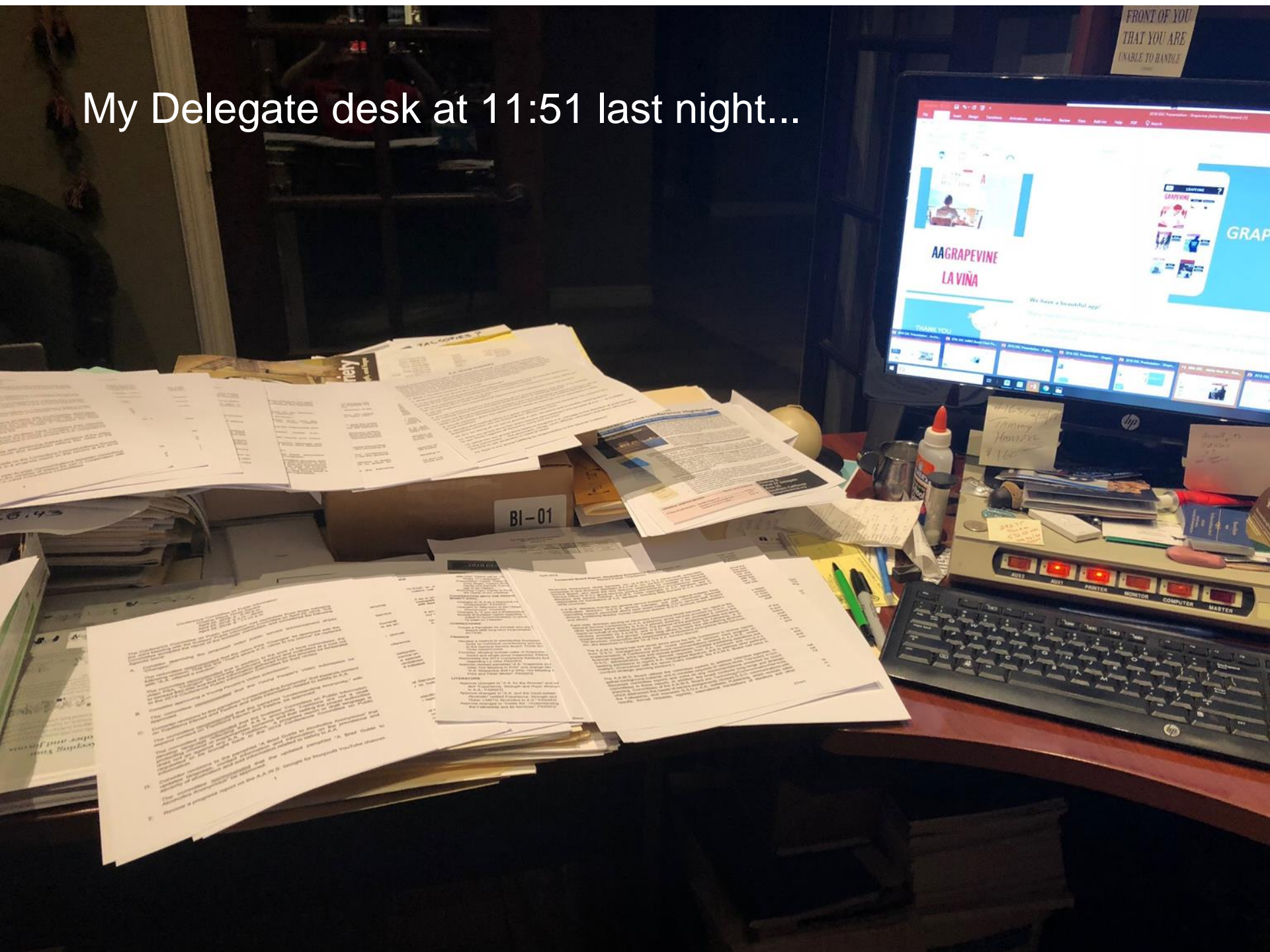
#4: It was recommended that: Area Service Highlights be published in their entirety in both the printed Conference Final Report and the anonymity-protected digital version. (Passed)

#5: It was recommended that: The 68th General Service Conference lovingly advises the A.A.W.S. Board, Grapevine Board and General Service Board to refrain from the practice of litigation for the purpose of acquiring property not previously under the direct control of A.A. (Declined)

#6: It was recommended that: The General Service Conference affirms the delegated authority of the General Service Board and operating corporations to protect the intellectual property of Alcoholics Anonymous. (Failed)

#7: It was recommended that: The informational piece being created by the trustees’ Committee on the Conference pertaining to the Conference dashboard include excerpts on How a Group Conscience is Obtained to reflect the integrity and collective conscience of the registered A.A. groups, including registered online groups. (Declined)

My Delegate desk at 11:51 last night...



# What Comes Next?



Connect with  
GSO by attending  
the Pacific  
Regional Forum  
Sept 6-8 in San  
Jose, CA.

Review GSC  
summary  
materials with  
your Group and  
Districts

Invite me to your  
Group and  
Districts to give a  
report;  
presentations can  
be amended to  
fit the time  
allotted.



# Our Responsibility

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!

