

November Delegate Assembly Report

It has been a pleasure to serve as the Area Delegate. This position has brought me so much joy and happiness. I heard early on, if you look around the room, there are future delegates in the room. I thought that surely wasn't me. I am not going to be there that long. Well as it turns out, I am still here. AA gave me so many opportunities to grow and change. The program has enriched my life and allowed me to be myself and figure out what I want to do when I grow up.

After our last assembly, I attended the elections for Area 09. I went up the night before and rest before the long day. The elections were a great event and I got to wish Mitchel a great job during his panel.

I attended the San Diego AA Anniversary Pancake Breakfast. I got to speak about AA history. I think that I missed the mark on what I was asked to say but my talk did make an impact. I was confronted at an ACYPAA event later that night. The person was really pleased at what I had to say. They haven't participated in service and are now looking at changing that. That was awesome to hear. The event was wonderful and well attended.

My conference committee met online to discuss some of the proposed agenda items that have been forwarded to the conference. Some of the items made sense but some did not. There were 171 submitted items. They will be narrowed down, and a final list will be sent out after the January Boad meeting.

I also attended an online presentation from GSO about our new dashboard. I got to see how to use and receive some documents via the new dashboard. It's easy to navigate and much more user friendly.

I missed the Pacific Region Delegates Meeting this month. The Pacific Regional Trustee gave a report from the last board weekend Some highlights:

1. A preliminary list of items that are being forwarded to the conference was discussed.
2. At the October GSC Board Weekend, Trustees Nominating Committee chose Scott H to put his name forward on the 74th Conference slate as our Nominee for Board Chair. Scott has served as Trustee-at-Large, Canada, as a Class B Trustee.
3. Grapevine app is growing by leaps and bounds. Currently there is an estimated 50,000 in revenue. The total number of subscribers are over 20,000. In September 2023 we added 1,119 new app subscribers. Fun Fact: The AA Grapevine App currently sits at number 32 on the Apple Top 200 Newspaper and Magazine App Charts. • We are receiving request to facilitate a gift certificate for the apps, it is on the works. Since the launch of the app, 1647 people have purchased annual *Grapevine* subscriptions, 680 monthly *Grapevine* subscriptions, 64 annual *La Viña* subscriptions, 2 monthly *La Viña* subscriptions, and 4 bi-monthly *La Viña* subscriptions. Revenue is slightly more than \$52,000 so far.
4. The committee received a request from the TABB subcommittee chair, to explore ways to accommodate more time for Conference Members to review the Plain Language Big Book during the Conference week. The committee agreed to forward this request to the

Conference Improvements Subcommittee who has developed a draft of the Conference week.

5. Military Outreach Project: The committee listened to an edited audio interview with a member serving in the military. The committee expressed support for three newly edited interviews and the need for this project in our communities. The Appointed Committee Members (ACM) noted they were overwhelmed with gratitude for leading the project. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the January 2024 meeting.
6. GSO Financial Results: The committee reviewed the GSO unaudited financial results for Sept 30, 2023. For the nine months ended September 30, 2023, revenue from all sources is slightly below budget (97%). Expenses were reforecasted in July 2023 and year-to-date expenses are slightly below that reforecast (98%). Full-year operating surplus before depreciation is reforecasted to be \$1.0 million versus \$1.7 million included in the original budget. Reserves are just over 7 months of operating expenses versus a target range of 9 to 12 months.
7. Reserve Fund report: As of September 30, 2023, the Reserve Fund Assets total \$13.2 million consisting of cash and certificates of deposit. Less the liability for unfulfilled Grapevine subscriptions of \$573k, the Reserve Fund Balance is \$12.6 million. Based on the reforecast expense budgets for GSO, Grapevine and La Vina (total \$22 million) the Reserve Fund balance is equal to 7.27 months of operating expenses versus 7.67 months as of September 30, 2022. The goal range is coverage of 9 to 12 months. Note that the calculation is influenced equally by (1) the size of the Reserve Fund Balance and (2) the level of GSO, Grapevine and La Vina expenses. It would require an addition of \$2,992,033 to rebuild the Reserve Fund to 9 months.
8. Staff report: The staff report was accepted. The staff secretary also provided an update on The A.A. Service Manual revisions. Currently, the Publishing Department is awaiting suggested revisions from the General Service Board (having received revisions from the AAWS and AA Grapevine boards). It was requested that the staff secretary send a correspondence from AAWS to the GSB Chair requesting that suggested revisions be submitted on or before November 13, 2023, and that revisions submitted after that date cannot be implemented given the fact that we are well past the August 2023 deadline date that was previously communicated.
9. "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic": The committee reviewed the updated draft pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic" (retitled "Black in A.A.: Experience, Strength and Hope"). It was requested that the back page be updated to reflect current information on how to contact A.A. The committee agreed to forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature the draft pamphlet with the requested revision.
10. "A.A. for the Native North American": The committee received a progress report on the update of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American" noting that the deadline for story submissions was expanded from October 31, 2023, to December 31, 2023, to allow greater participation. It was also noted that the current working group composition includes four Canadian and six U.S. members. The committee agreed to forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature the progress report.
11. Fourth Edition, Alcoholicos Anonimos: The committee reviewed a progress report regarding the development of a Fourth Edition Alcoholicos Anonimos. It was shared that additional members will be added to the working group. The committee agreed to forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature the progress report.

12. Fifth Edition, Alcoholics Anonymous: The committee reviewed a progress report regarding the development of a Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous. It was shared that while the administrative process and procedure has improved, the story review is still moving much slower than anticipated. In order to speed up the process, given the breadth of stories remaining to be reviewed, the committee agreed to: a) drop those readers who have not yet completed their first packet of stories, replace those readers, and return those stories to the pool; and b) increase the number of additional readers to a total of 15 readers, with the option of adding another five readers if warranted. The subcommittee chair will contact the readers who will be replaced, thanking them for their service. Committee members were invited to submit the names of potential readers. Committee members also agreed to accelerate their review of the stories. The committee agreed to forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report, understanding that the report will be updated by or before November 15, 2023.
13. Plain and simple language Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition): The committee reviewed a progress report regarding the development of a plain and simple language Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition). The subcommittee is currently making final revisions to the full text, including discussing titles. The subcommittee is also discussing options to allow the full Conference an opportunity to review the full manuscript, considering confidentiality concerns, time constraints, and adherence to the Conference structure and process; the subcommittee chair welcomes all suggestions towards this end. The subcommittee chair will update the committee as plans are developed.
14. "Do You Think You're Different?": The committee reviewed a progress report regarding the update to the pamphlet "Do You Think You're Different?" A call for stories has been distributed to the Fellowship with a deadline for submissions being April 30, 2024. The working group is discussing additional ways to get the word out, including, but not limited to, regional forums, workshops, and member-member conversations. The committee agreed to forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report, which will be updated by or before November 15 to reflect the working group's scheduled meeting on November 13, 2023.
15. "Too Young?": The committee reviewed a progress report on the development of an animated version of the pamphlet "Too Young?" submitted by the Publishing Department. The committee agreed to forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature the progress report.
16. PAI #74: The committee considered a request to develop a pamphlet for Asian and Asian-American alcoholics with stories of experience, strength and hope from other Asians and Asian-Americans and agreed to forward to the 2024 General Service Conference.

Registration for PRAASA opened last week. If you are thinking about going, please register now. www.praasa.org. The rooms will fill up quickly. If something comes up and you are not going, there is time to cancel or you can trade with someone who is going that just registered. Parking at the hotel is limited and expensive. Plan on taking one of the many alternate routes to the hotel. I got pins from Area 06 for PRAASA. There will be several of them up on the tables for you.

ROOTS will be coming up later this month. I hope that I will see many of you. It will be at the War Memorial Building in Balboa Park. Please come out and enjoy in the fellowship of hearing different speakers talk about sobriety in San Diego.

I flew up to Area 06 for their fall assembly to help conduct their area inventory last weekend. Many of their members drove to Monterey and met the night before with an AA meeting. I got to be the speaker and attend a show. It was so much fun hanging out and getting to know some of the people prior to the assembly. I made a few new friends. It was a wonderful experience and helped with the inventory. It was something I had never done before.

Today, we gather to talk about our spending plan for 2024. I hope that you have gotten to discuss with your groups about the expenses and future workshops and events to attend. I hope that you will enjoy this process as much as I will. I understand that talking about money is not always the best topic for us. I would encourage you to take a deep breath and think about our area as a hold. I have no doubt that you will make the right decision.

I have learned so much and continue to pick up on new ideas and solutions every day. I would like to thank each and every one of you for giving me this opportunity to enrich my life and have a better understanding of AA.

Our area still needs help. Please pass along to the members in your group and ask them to join you. It will feel scary and overwhelming at times. It all works out in the end. You get to learn something new and pick up on a few new numbers. What more could you ask for.

The area committee wrapped its arms around me many years ago. They haven't let go. I continue to feel that love each and every day as I go about my life. I love you all. I love AA and it loves me.

Monty Cavalier

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