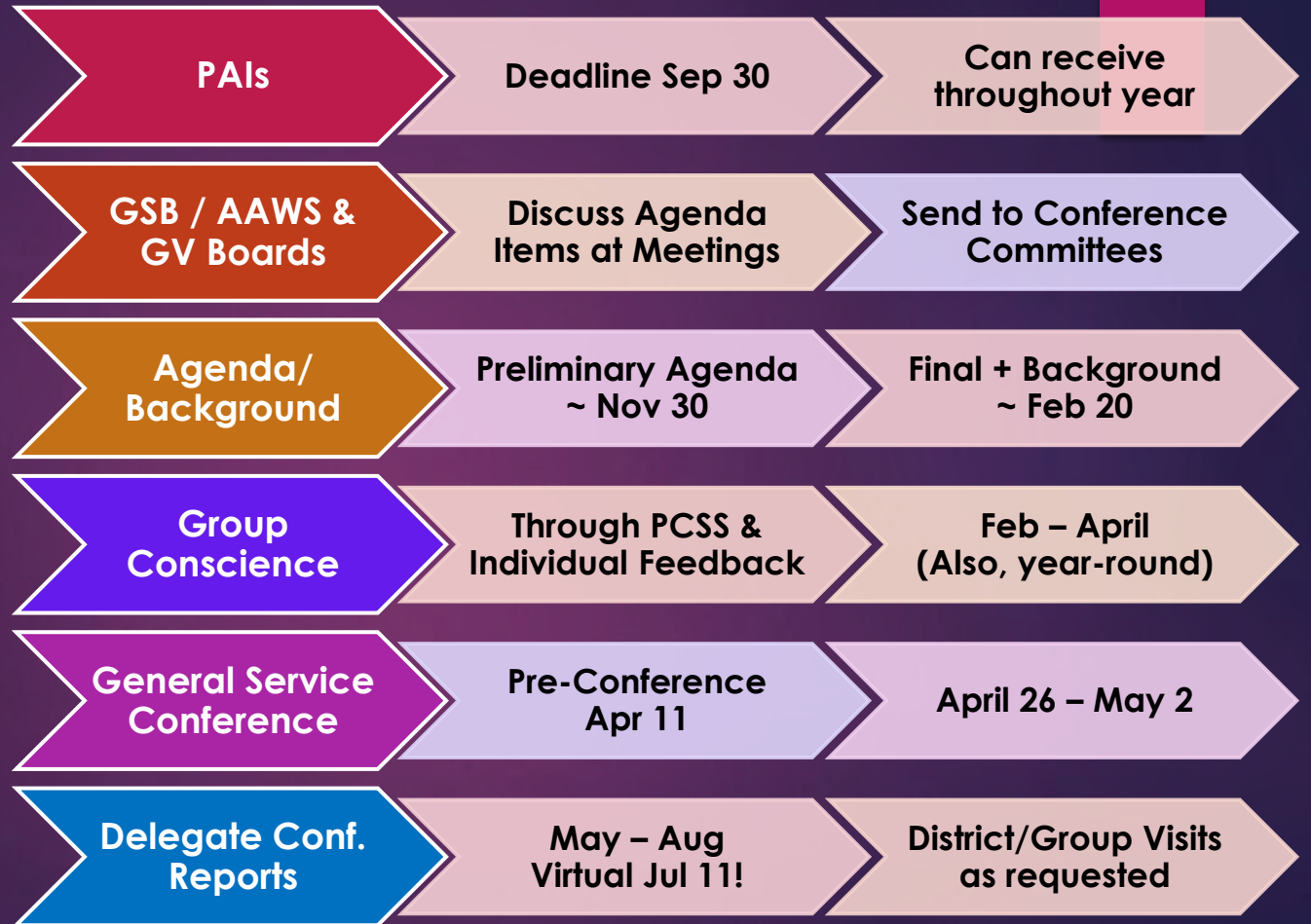
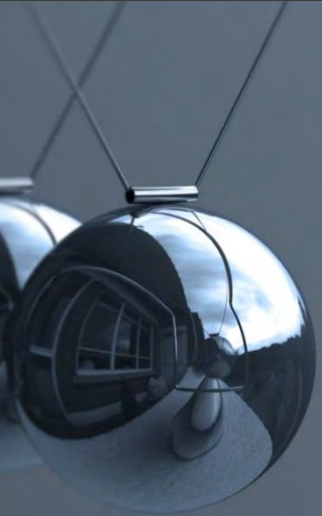


# 76th General Service Conference Report

Dan B., Delegate  
Area 59, Panel 75



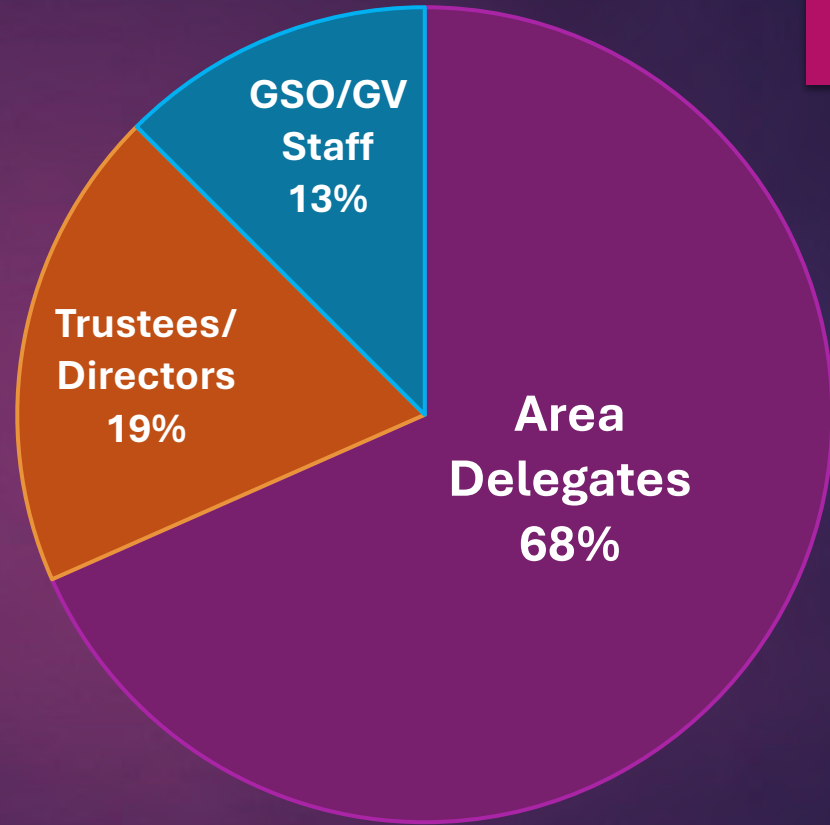
# Timeline Review



# Makeup of the 76<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference

- ▶ Area Delegates: 93
- ▶ Trustees & AAWS/GV Directors: 26
- ▶ Staff: 17

**Total: 136 Voting Members**



■ Area Delegates ■ Trustees/Directors ■ GSO/GV Staff

# Area Delegate Statistics

**Average Age:  
58 years old**

- Oldest: 80 years
- Youngest: 35 years
- **Area 59: 56 years**

**Average Length  
of Sobriety:  
22 years**

- Least: 7 years
- Most: 41 years
- **Area 59: 11.8 years**

**Average Time  
in Service:  
17 years**

- Least: 7 years
- Most: 41 years
- **Area 59: 11 years**

# Week Overview

- Opening Session
- Workshop, Presentations
- *GSB Report*
- *Joint Committee Meetings*

- **Committee Meetings**
- *AAWS Report*
- *Inventory Impl Report*
- *General Sharing Session*

- **Committee Reports, Discussion, and Voting**



- **Committee Meetings**
- *General Sharing Session*
- *Finance Reports*
- *Cross-Functional Communications Group*

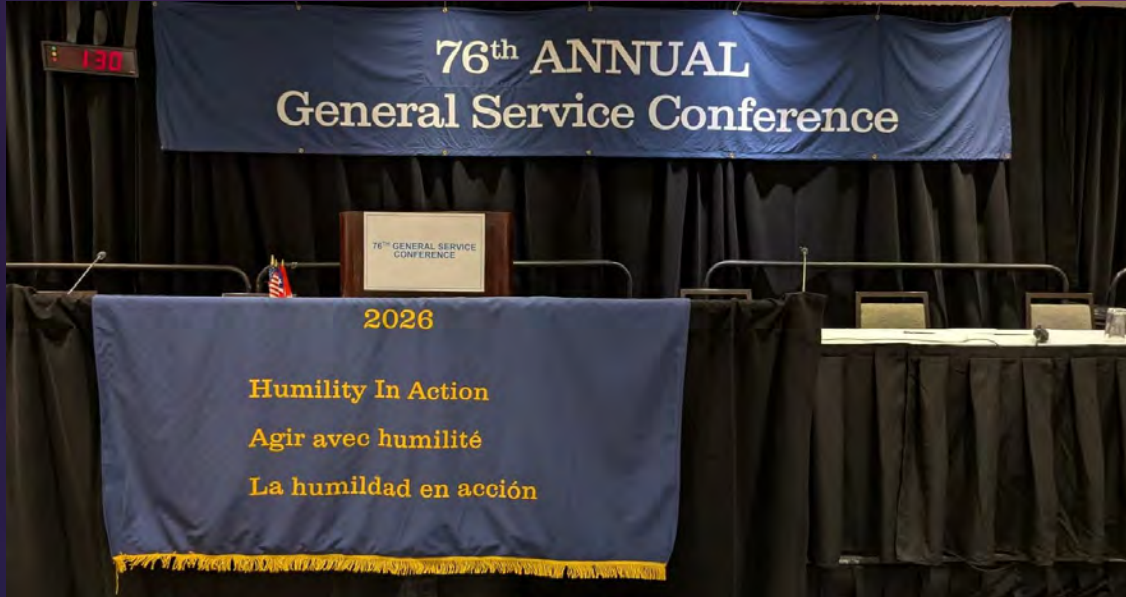
- *AA GV Report*
- *Inventory Recommendations*
- *Elections*
- **Committee Reports, Discussion, and Voting**

- **Committee Reports, Discussion, and Voting**
- **Floor Actions**
- **Rotating Delegate Farewells**

# Week Schedule Detail

	MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	FRI 1	SAT 2
8 AM	Coffee Available 7:30 – 9:30am Sutton Complex	Conference Committee Meetings 7:30 – 9:30am Sutton Complex	Coffee Available 7:45 – 9:45am Sutton Complex	AA Grapevine Board Report 8 – 9:30am Sutton Complex	Committee Re Discussion 8 – 10am Sutton Complex	Committee Re Discussion 8 – 10am Sutton Complex
9 AM	PowerPoint Presentation Rehearsal (Trustees) 9 – 11am Sutton Complex	Joint GV/A.A. Meeting 9 – 11am Gramercy West	AAWS Board Report 8 – 9:30am Sutton Complex	Committee Re Discussion 8 – 10am Sutton Complex	Committee Re Discussion 8 – 10am Sutton Complex	Announcement of New Delega 8:30am, Sutton Complex
10 AM	Break, 9:30am, Sutton Complex	Break, 9:30am, Sutton Complex	Inventory Imple ment 9:45am – 12pm Sutton Complex	GSO Finance Reimburse ment 10am – 6pm Nassau West	GSO Finance Reimburse ment 10am – 6pm Nassau West	AAWS Board Meeting 9:30 – 11:30am Murray Hill Suite
11 AM	Break, 10am, Sutton Complex	Break, 10am, Sutton Complex	GSO Finance Reimburse ment 10am – 6pm Nassau West	Committee Reports and Discussion 10:15am – 12pm Sutton	Committee Reports and Discussion 10:15am – 12pm Sutton Complex	GSB Meeting 9:30 – 11:30am Murray Hill Suite
12 PM	Lunch 12 – 1:30pm Rhinelanders Gallery South	Lunch on Your Own 12pm, On Your Own	Regional Lunch Delegates 12 – 1:30pm Gramercy West (Various - See Details)	Lunch on Your Own 12 – 1:15pm On Your Own	Lunch 12pm, Rhinelanders Gallery South	Stepping Stones - Second Bus
1 PM	General Sharing Session: "What's on Your Mind?" 1:30 – 3pm Sutton Complex	Area Highlights 1pm, Sutton Complex	Wednesday Af ternoon Session - Elect ed 1:30 – 5:30pm Sutton Complex	Committee Reports and Discussion 1:15 – 3:15pm Sutton Complex	Committee Reports and Discussion 1:15 – 3:15pm Sutton Complex	
2 PM	Area Highlights 3pm, Sutton Complex	AAWS Board Report Summary 1:45 – 3:15pm Sutton Complex	Break, 3:15pm, Sutton Complex	Break, 3:15pm, Sutton Complex	Break, 3:15pm, Sutton Complex	
3 PM	Break, 4pm, Sutton Complex	Inventory Implementation Report 3:30 – 5:15pm Sutton Complex	Inventory Implementation Report 3:30 – 5:15pm Sutton Complex	Committee Reports and Discussion 3:30 – 5:30pm Sutton Complex	Committee Re Discussion 3:30 – 6pm Sutton Complex	Coffee Available 3 – 5pm Sutton Complex
4 PM	A.A. International: Highlights a 4:15 – 5:30pm Sutton Complex	East Central Region Highlights 4:15 – 5:30pm Sutton Complex	East Central Region Highlights 4:15 – 5:30pm Sutton Complex	Dinner on Your Own 5:30 – 6:45pm On Your Own	Dinner 6 – 7:15pm Rhinelanders Gallery South	
5 PM	Dinner on Your Own 5:30 – 6:45pm On Your Own	Delegates Dinner and Delegates Only 5:30 – 7pm Gramercy Suite (Various - See Details)	Dinner / Joint Meetings 5:30 – 7:30pm Rhinelanders Gallery South (Various - See Details)	Committee Reports and Discussion 7 – 9pm Sutton Complex	Farewells by Rotating Delegates 7:15 – 8:45pm Sutton Complex	
6 PM	Finance Report 6:45 – 8pm Sutton Complex	Area Highlights 7:15pm, Sutton Complex	Committee Reports and Discussion 7:30 – 10pm Sutton Complex	Committee Reports and Discussion 7 – 9pm Sutton Complex	Closing Remarks, 8:45pm, Sutt on Complex	
7 PM	Cross-Functional Communicat ion 8pm, Sutton Complex	General Sharing Session: "What's on Your Mind?" 8pm, Sutton Complex	General Sharing Session: "What's on Your Mind?" 8pm, Sutton Complex	General Sharing Session: "What's on Your Mind?" 8pm, Sutton Complex	General Sharing Session: "What's on Your Mind?" 8pm, Sutton Complex	
8 PM						
9 PM						

# Opening Session



Keynote  
Address

Joyce S.,  
Class B  
Trustee



How the  
Conference  
Operates  
(No Drama)



Workshop &  
Presentations



GSB Report

# Workshop & Presentations

- ▶ Workshop: Keeping Our Own House in Order
  - ✓ Small breakout groups, 10:00 AM.
  - ✓ “AA moves at the speed of trust”
- ▶ Presentations:
  - ✓ Restoration and Discovering Grace, Unity and Fellowship
  - ✓ Gossip vs. Facts: Examining the Health of Our Own Communication
  - ✓ Finding Common Ground

# GSB Board Report

- ▶ Beginning of formation of strategic plan for GSB
- ▶ Conducted survey of Board and staff who regularly attend, to find commonality in what should be the focus of the board.
- ▶ Workload is an issue at all levels of service.
- ▶ Finite resources – primarily time and funds – all of which was taken into account when planning priorities. Made it a focused effort.
- ▶ Top priority is reaching the still suffering.
  - ✓ Greater use of Class As
  - ✓ Communicate with professionals.
  - ✓ Share within Fellowship matters of public information.
- ▶ Efforts to optimize role and effectiveness of GSB.

# GSB Board Report

## ▶ Improving Communications:

- ✓ Within the Board itself
- ✓ Between Boards
- ✓ Between Board and the Conference
- ✓ Between Board and our entire Fellowship.
- ✓ Cross Functional Communication Working Group
- ✓ Discussions are digital media and social media will be first.

## ✓ Financial Sustainability of AA

- ✓ Aware of issue of prudent reserve replenishment but working on it.
- ✓ Committed to communicating about it and planning; however, there are only so many “levers” that can be pulled to affect contributions.

## ▶ Strategic plan is still in the preliminary stages, and still much to refine and clarify details.

# GSB Board Report

## ► Inspirational Statement:

- ✓ Never want locks on the doors of AA
- ✓ What if we always made you feel welcome?
- ✓ What if we told them we are bound together by a common problem, and the differences don't matter.
- ✓ What if we didn't care about your politics? Where your passport was from?
- ✓ What if we put out a welcome mat that says you are welcome here, no matter what.
- ✓ What if the essay "why we need a conference" wasn't empty words.
- ✓ What if our singleness of purpose was a warm embrace with a cup of coffee, and a card that said: "we were waiting for you. We will help you and are here for you."
- ✓ It is a gift to be able to have hard conversations, without fear.
- ✓ One Board member recently received a hateful letter filled with invective. Attacked their identity, attacked their personhood. This is unacceptable. How can we be there for the next alcoholic, who is shivering and afraid, when we behave like this.
- ✓ We need a vision of not how we are, but how we could be!"

# AROUND THE PICNIC TABLE



**Terry Bedient**  
**General Service Board Interim Treasurer**

# PART I: 2025 AUDIT RESULTS



- Our third year with BDO – Per 5-year RFP/Rotation Policy Adopted by Trustees Finance and Implemented by Trustees Audit, GSB, AAWS and AAGV boards
- Introduce Matthew Becker, CPA, Lead Engagement Partner at BDO

# **PART II: GSB TREASURERS REPORT**

# 2025 AAWS/GSB (GSO) FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Seventh Tradition of Self-Support – \$10.579 million down 6.0% from \$11.249 million in 2024
- ❖ Operating Expense before Depreciation - \$18.528 million up 0.5% from \$18.444 million in 2024
  - ❖ Program Service Expense - \$ 8.778 million down 3.2% from \$9.072 million in 2024
  - ❖ Supporting Services Expense - \$ 9.750 million up 1.4% from \$9.612 million in 2024
- ❖ Self-Support - covered 57% of operating expense
- ❖ Cost of program services per individual – \$5.16 (Program Service Expense divided by 1.7M members)
- ❖ AAWS publishing gross profits – \$7.456 million down 2.4% from \$7.640 million in 2024
- ❖ Operating surplus before depreciation of \$325,068

# AAWS/GSB (GSO) Key Financial Indicators

**GREEN** – Favorable Variance

**YELLOW** – Unfavorable Variance, Informative

**RED** – Unfavorable, Trustees Finance/Board action and/or discussions ongoing

Indicator	2025 Actual Versus 2025 Budget	2025 Actual Versus 2024 Actual
Contributions	\$10.579M vs \$11.000M, 4% less than budget	\$10.579M vs \$11.249M, 6% less than prior year
Gross Literature Sales	\$15.264M vs \$16.000M, 5% less than budget	\$15.264M vs \$14.452M, 6% more than prior year
Net Literature Sales (Gross Margin)	\$7.456M vs \$8.510M, 12% less than budget	\$7.456M vs \$7.640M, 2% less than prior year
Operating Expenses before depreciation	\$18.528M vs \$18.967M, 2% less than budget	\$18.528M vs \$18.444, 1% more than prior year
Operating Surplus before depreciation	\$325K vs \$1.316M	\$325K vs \$1.276M
Reserve Coverage (# of months)	5.92	6.47

# 2025 GRAPEVINE FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ App launch on September 1, 2023 – Subscribers with access to the App averaged 17,315 in 2025 – a 22% increase compared to 2024.
- ❖ Grapevine print magazine income increased 5% in 2025, mainly due to a 2024 price increase-the first in 12 years-that continues to impact renewals. Subscription income for GV Online, GV Complete and the GV App increased 20% due to growth in the number of subscribers.
- ❖ 2025 Grapevine results were a gross margin on subscriptions of \$1,174,238 and a gross margin of \$751,851 on other published items. Operating expenses of \$2,243,113 resulted in an operating loss of \$299,727 compared to an operating loss of \$851,735 in 2024.
- ❖ General Fund support of La Viña service activity was \$480,315 in 2025 compared to \$571,939 in 2024 and \$755,749 in 2023. This is an improvement of \$275,434 (36%) in two years.
- ❖ La Viña circulation increased by 6% in 2025 and 17% in 2024.

# Grapevine Key Financial Indicators (“KFIs”)

**GREEN** – Favorable Variance

**YELLOW** – Unfavorable Variance, Informative

**RED** – Unfavorable, Trustees Finance/Board action and/or discussions ongoing

Indicator	2025 Actual Versus 2025 Budget	2025 Actual Versus 2024 Actual
Subscription Income	\$2.063M vs \$1.990M 4% higher than budget	\$2.063M vs \$1.957M 5% higher than prior year
Other Published Items Income	\$1.163M vs \$1.128M 3% higher than budget	\$1.163M vs \$1.080M 8% higher than prior year
Gross Margin-all income	\$1.926M vs \$1.809M 6% higher than budget	\$1.926M vs \$1.591M 21% higher than prior year
Operating Expenses before depreciation	\$2.087M vs \$2.064M 1% higher than budget	\$2.087M vs \$2.321M 11% lower than prior year
Operating Loss before depreciation	\$(186K) vs \$(255K) 27% higher than budget	\$(186K) vs \$(746K) 75% higher than prior year

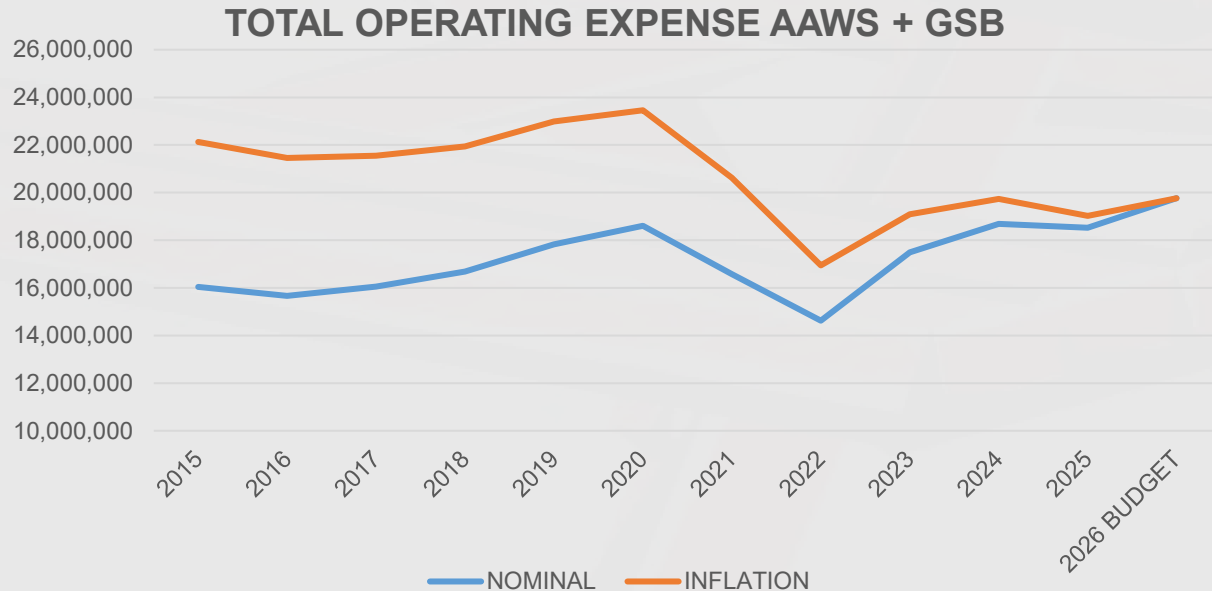
# GSO EXPENSES BY CATEGORY IN 2025

Difference column: Red = under budget; Black = over budget

EXPENSE	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Salary and Benefits	11,279,161	10,911,236	367,925
Payroll Taxes	747,864	808,898	(61,034)
Professional Fees	1,568,925	2,148,754	(579,829)
Printing, Postage, Supplies, and Subs	562,386	553,992	8,394
Data, Automation, & Website	718,367	731,757	(13,390)
Insurance	88,147	85,739	2,408
Facility & Equipment	1,368,120	1,322,773	45,347
Travel & Meetings	2,195,212	2,404,038	(208,826)
Total Operating Expense	18,528,182	18,967,187	(439,005)
Depreciation	751,325	947,623	(196,298)

# INFLATION ADJUSTED GSO EXPENSE HISTORY

- ❖ 2025 operating expense was lower than inflation adjusted operating expense in 9 of the past 10 years.



# 2026 GSO BUDGET

- ❖ Operating revenue \$21,118,201 compared to \$18,853,249 actual in 2025.
  - ❖ Contributions \$10,500,000 compared to \$10,578,707 actual in 2025.
  - ❖ Literature gross margin \$9,895,601 compared to \$7,456,109 actual in 2025.
- ❖ Total operating expense \$19,765,699 before \$950,000 depreciation compared to \$18,528,182 before \$751,325 depreciation actual in 2025.
- ❖ Operating surplus of \$1,352,503 before depreciation compared to \$325,068 surplus in 2025.
- ❖ Capital expenditures of \$2,091,788, including 2026 retrofit expenditures of \$1,850,000. (Total 2025-26 retrofit budget is \$2.1 million.) Without retrofit, \$241,788 compared to \$298,777 in 2025.

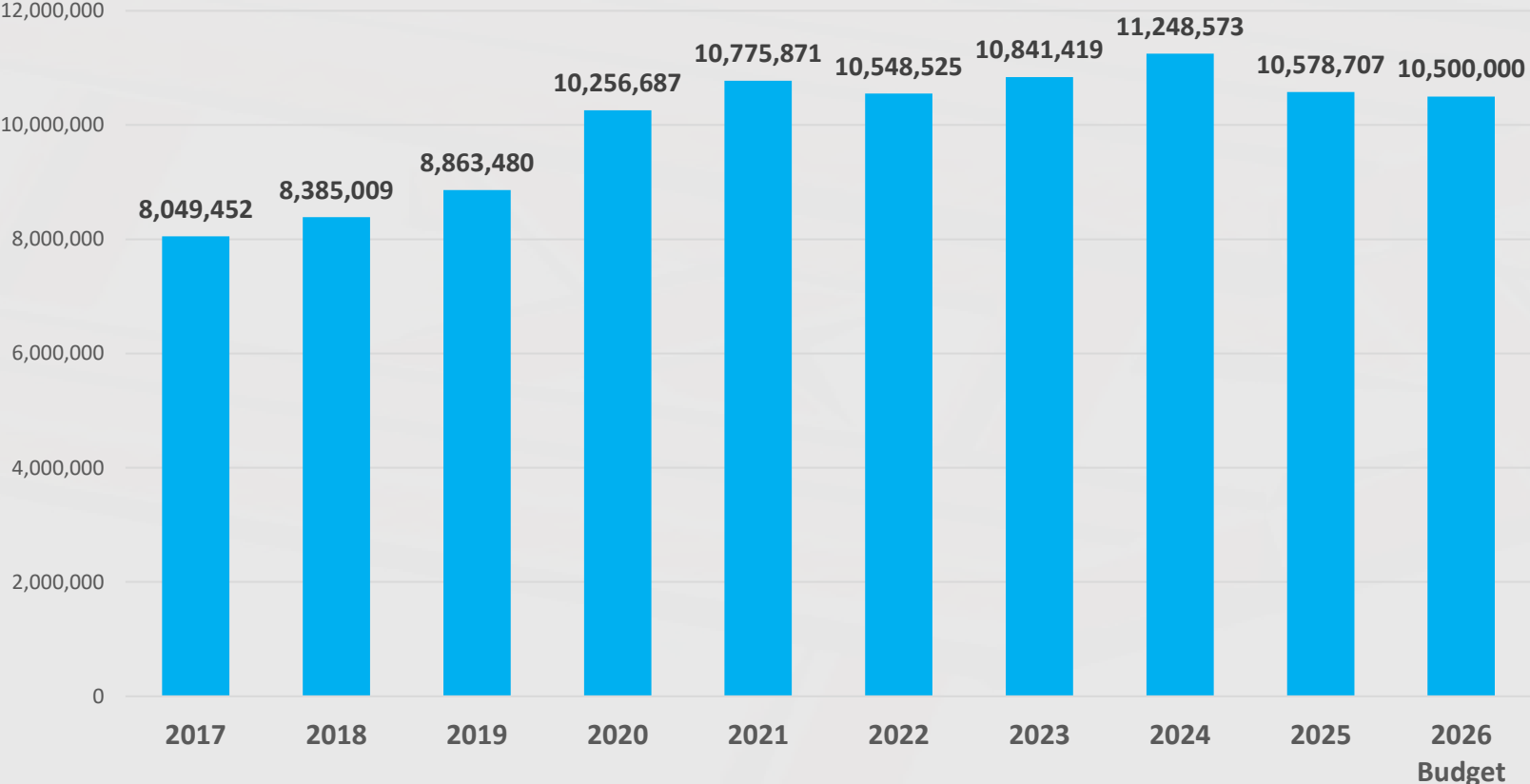
# 2026 GRAPEVINE BUDGET

- ❖ Print magazine circulation expected to decrease to 40,875 from 41,258 in 2025.
- ❖ Online and Complete circulation to increase to 10,236 from 9,784 in 2025.
- ❖ Average number of app subscribers to increase to 8,825 compared to 7,532 in 2025.
- ❖ Gross margin on subscriptions \$1,255,892 compared to \$1,174,238 in 2025.
- ❖ Grapevine operating deficit of \$198,917 compared to \$299,727 in 2025.
- ❖ La Viña magazine circulation to increase to 7,313 compared to 7,298 in 2025.
- ❖ General Fund La Viña support of \$434,049 compared to \$480,315 in 2025.

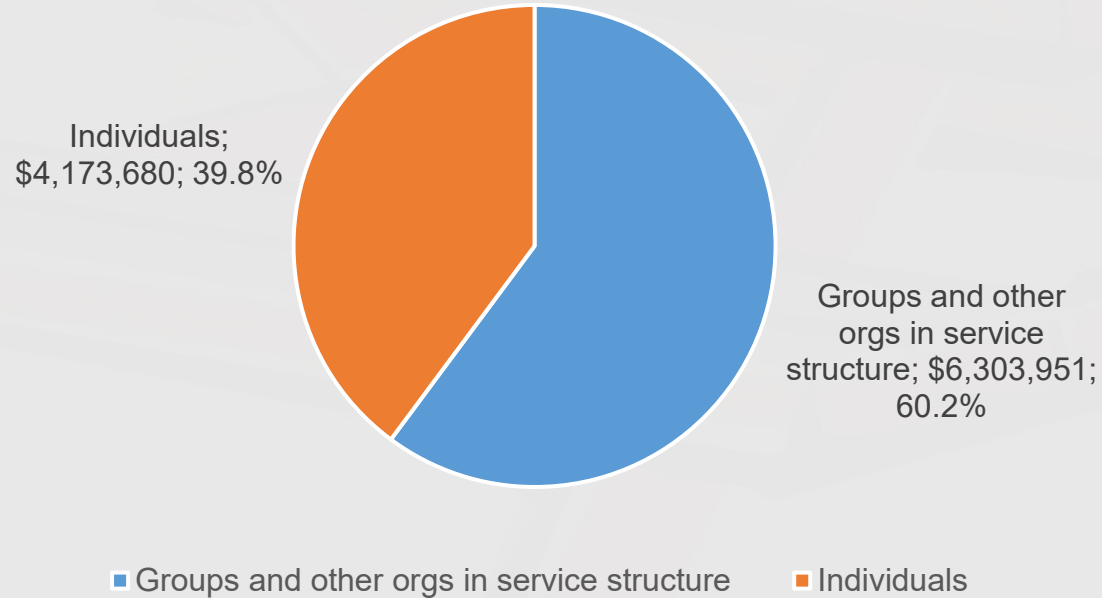
# THROUGH OUR OWN SELF-SUPPORT



# SEVENTH TRADITION SELF-SUPPORT – 2017 – 2026



# CONTRIBUTIONS BY TYPE OF CONTRIBUTOR 2025



# CONTRIBUTIONS STATISTICS 2025

## INDIVIDUALS

Seventh Tradition Self-Support Contributions	4,173,680
Average Contribution	138.06
Most Common Contribution	50.00
Number of Contributions	30,231

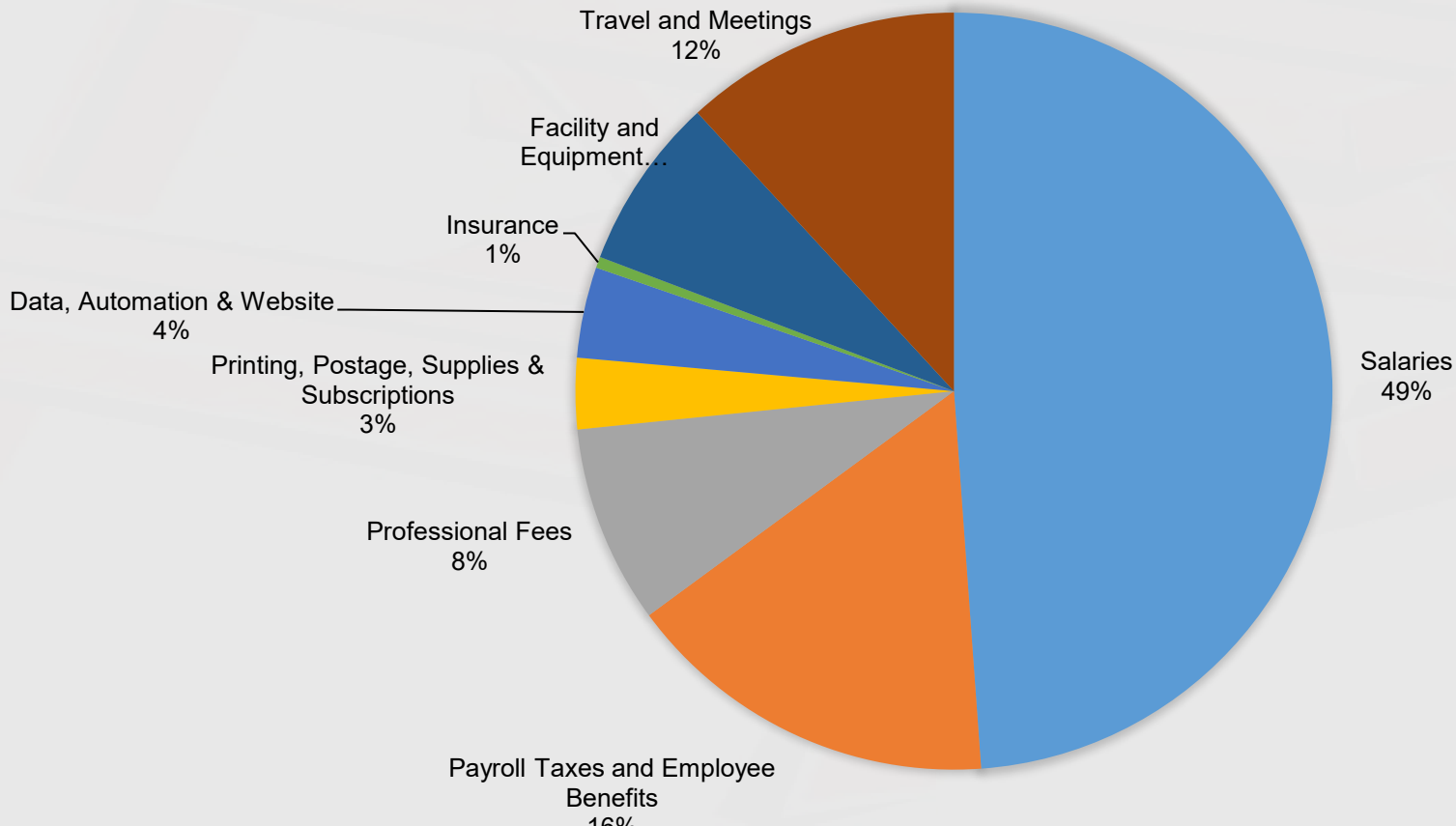
## GROUPS AND OTHER ORGS

Seventh Tradition Self-Support Contributions	6,303,951
Number of Active Groups	53,703
Number of Groups Contributing	18,312
Percentage of Groups Contributing	34.10%
Average Contributed by a Group During the Year	344.25

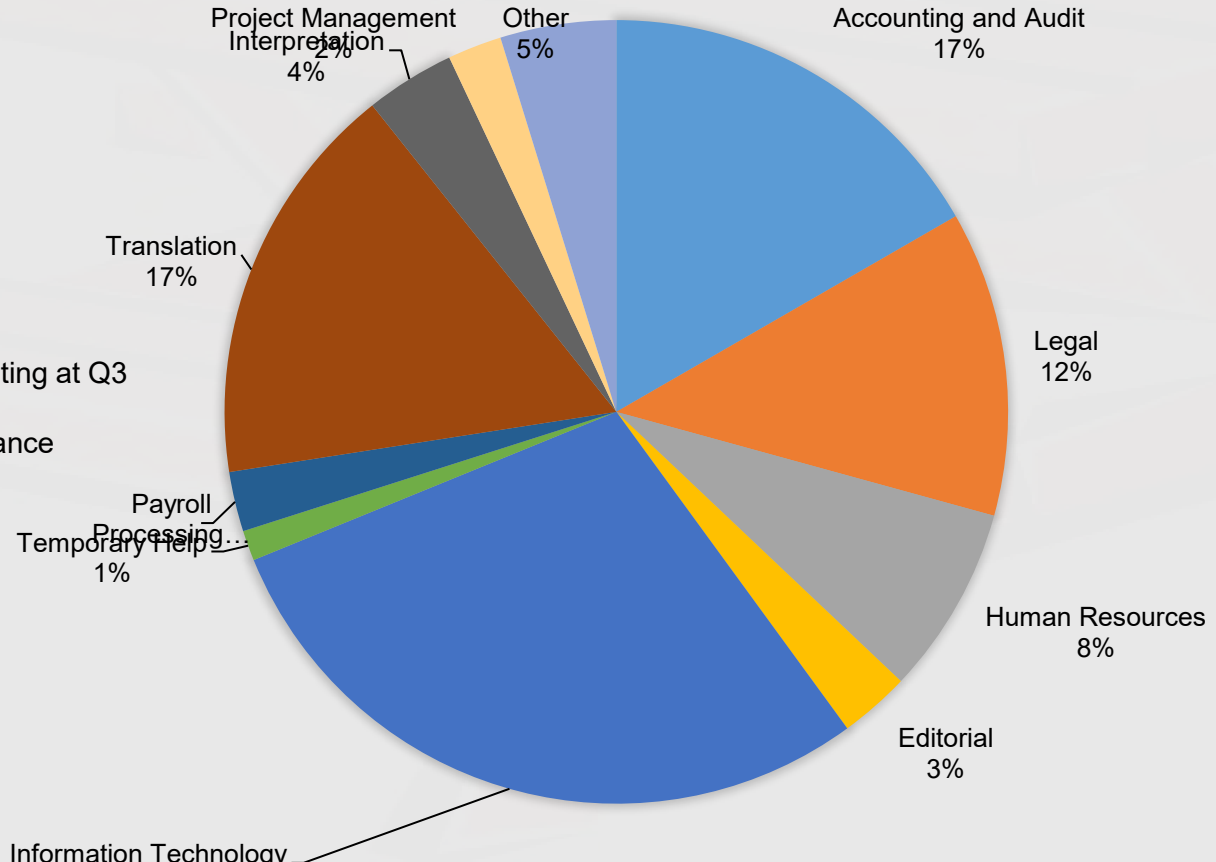
# AAWS – PUBLISHING – 2025 ACTUAL vs 2025 BUDGET

	2025 ACTUAL	2025 BUDGET	INCREASE (DECREASE)
Gross Sales – Literature	15,264,029	16,000,000	(735,971)
Discounts	(676,154)	(640,000)	(36,154)
Shipping Charges	352,813	350,000	2,813
Net Sales - Literature	14,940,688	15,710,000	(769,312)
Cost of Literature Sold	7,484,579	7,200,000	284,579
Gross Profit	7,456,109	8,510,000	(1,053,891)
Gross Profit Percentage	48.8%	53.2%	(4.4%)

# GSO OPERATING EXPENSES – 2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENT EXPENSE CATEGORIES PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN



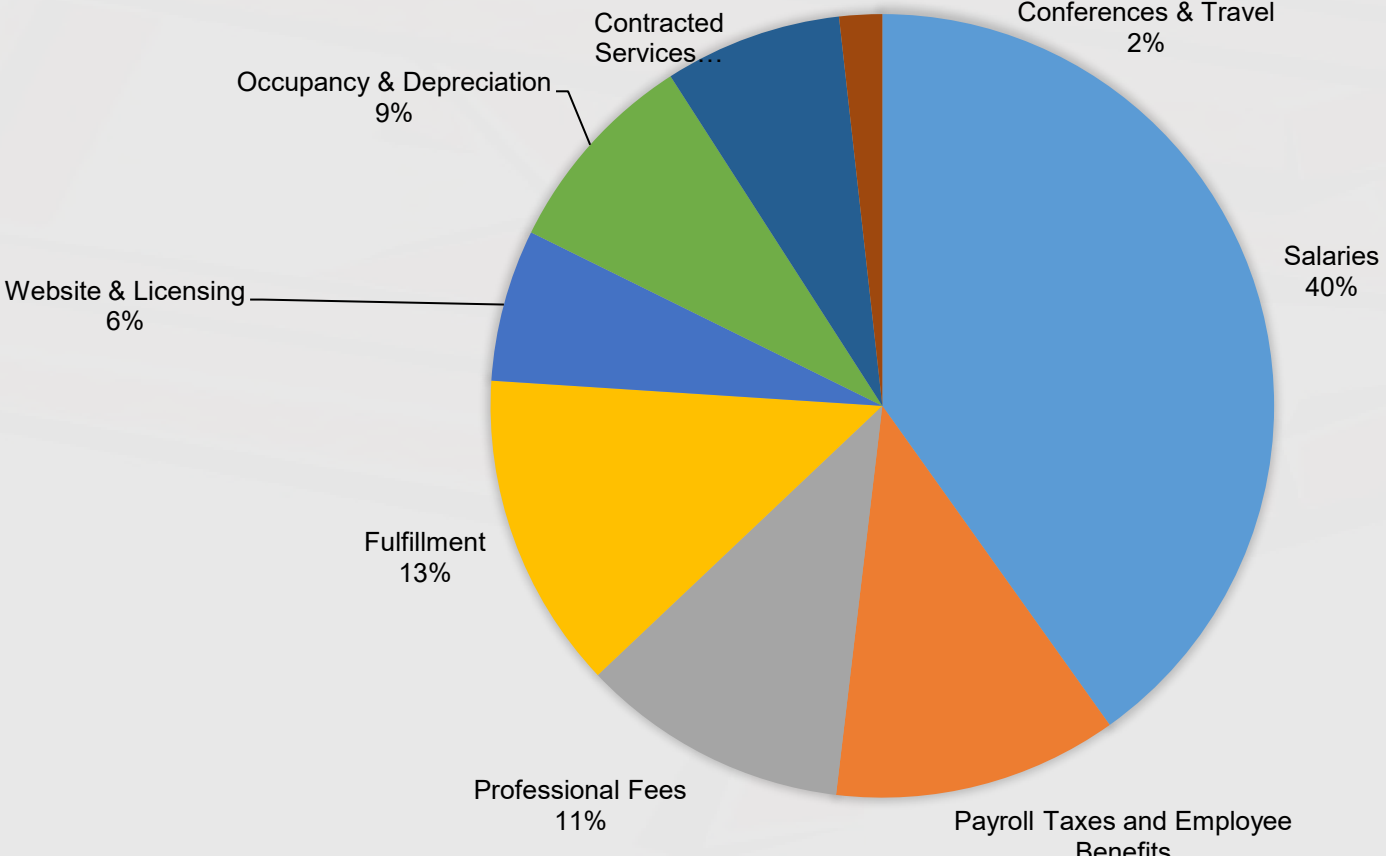
# GSO PROFESSIONAL FEES– 2025 PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN



## Other Includes:

- Podcast Production
- Facilitator for Town Hall meeting at Q3 GSB weekend
- Meeting Guide App maintenance

# GRAPEVINE OPERATING EXPENSES – 2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENT EXPENSE CATEGORIES PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN



# 2025 PRUDENT RESERVE

<b>Beginning Balance January 1, 2025</b>	<b>11,914,738</b>
Investment Earnings	354,549
Drawdowns	(1,246,869)
Additions	0
<b>Ending Balance December 31, 2025</b>	<b>11,022,418</b>

<b>Composition of Ending Balance</b>	
Cash	3,882,368
Certificates of Deposit (CDARs)	7,550,000
Accrued Interest	130,050
Less Grapevine subscription liability	(540,000)
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>11,022,418</b>

<b>Number of Months Expenses Held</b>	<b>Based on 2025 actual exp.</b>	<b>Based on 2026 budget exp.</b>
January 1, 2025	6.67	6.37
December 31, 2025	6.17	5.89

# 2026 ANTICIPATED RESERVE FUND ACTIVITY

DATE	ACTIVITY	AMOUNT
	Beginning Balance	11,022,418
January	Drawdown for Retrofit – Includes 246,869 spent in 2025 but not reimbursed by drawdown until 2026	544,478
February	Drawdown for Retrofit	469,339
February	Drawdown for Grapevine Operations	200,000
April	Drawdown for Retrofit	79,377
Anticipated	Drawdown for Retrofit	759,937
	<b>Anticipated Ending Balance</b>	<b>8,969,287</b>
	<b>Anticipated Months on Hand 12/31/26</b>	<b>4.79</b>

NOTE: Retrofit expenditures are paid from the general fund which is then reimbursed by a drawdown from the reserve fund.

# RESERVE FUND DRAWDOWNS BY USE 2025-26

YEAR	RETROFIT	AAWS	GV	TOTAL
2025	246,869	500,000	500,000	<b>1,246,869</b>
2026 anticipated	1,853,131	0	200,000	<b>2,053,131</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,100,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>700,000</b>	<b>3,300,000</b>

# USES OF GSB's RESERVE FUND

- ❖ Concept of GSB's Prudent Reserve – not same as in your Home Group's reserve
- ❖ GSB's Reserve Fund covers much more
- ❖ In 1967, the General Service Conference issued the Advisory Action that “The GSB make use of investment income from the Reserve Fund for whatever purpose the Board may authorize”.
- ❖ Broadly, this could include, whether planned or unplanned:
  - ❖ Operating Deficits of AAWS or Grapevine
  - ❖ Periodic expenditures such as an office renovation or major technical upgrade
  - ❖ Extraordinary expenses outside of “normal” operations
- ❖ A formal Reserve Fund policy was adopted by the General Service Board in 2022.

# INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

<b>REVENUE</b>	
Registration	5,,575,508
Other Revenue	228,924
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>5,804,432</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	
Event Planning	583,331
Event Production	2,776,024
Event Communication & Attraction	1,024,060
Staff, Volunteers, and Trustees	820,769
Administrative & General	591,884
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>5,796,068</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>8,364</b>

# 2025 GSO CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT

## ❖ **Communications \$133,017**

- ❖ Meeting Guide App \$41,763
- ❖ Website Development \$25,832
- ❖ Digital Publication Platform \$25,813
- ❖ Analytics Reporting Data Warehouse \$32,614
- ❖ Audio video equipment \$6,995

## ❖ **Technology Services \$106,673**

- ❖ Digital Asset Repository \$15,500
- ❖ Cisco Switches \$32,033
- ❖ ERP Enhancements \$27,050
- ❖ Computers and Peripherals \$32,090

## 2025 GSO CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT CONTINUED

### ❖ **Publishing \$59,088**

- ❖ Digital Publication Platform  
\$25,813
- ❖ Digital Video Distribution Phase  
One \$24,349
- ❖ Computers and Peripherals  
\$8,926

❖ **Office Retrofit \$492,775 –**  
includes \$246,869 not reimbursed  
by draw down until 2026.

❖ **Total Capital Expenditures  
\$791,553**

# THANK YOU

- ❖ Paul Konigstein, Chief Financial Officer
- ❖ Zenaida Medina, Controller
- ❖ Donna Chahal, Grapevine Controller
- ❖ Rainer L, Conference Coordinator and Nathalia, Conference Staff Associate
- ❖ All of the employees of both A.A.W.S. and Grapevine
- ❖ Members of Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee, along with members of the Finance Committees of A.A.W.S. and Grapevine and the Conference Finance Committee
- ❖ Our Independent Auditors – BDO USA
- ❖ Our outsourced accounting support – Your Part-time Controller

**Alcoholics  
Anonymous®**

## Sharing from the Cross Functional Communications Group



# Cross Functional Communications Group

- ❑ The Cross Functional Communications Group (Group) was initiated by the General Service Board (GSB) following the GSB Inventory that took place in January 2024, where the idea was initially proposed.
- ❑ The GSB completed a communications workshop in November 2024 which resulted in several questions and topics identified to forward to a cross functional group for input and suggestions.
- ❑ The Group met 11 times during 2025, and the report was provided to the General Service Board at the January 2026 meeting. The work of the Group was coordinated through the GSB Strategy/Leadership ad hoc committee.
- ❑ There has been, and will be more, ongoing discussion about the ideas proposed in the GSB Strategic Planning sessions.

# Cross Functional Communications Group

**The Cross Functional Communications Group consisted of:**

**Chosen “by lot”:**

André Daigle, Panel 74 Area 87

Paul Logan, Panel 74 Area 23

Rainer LeFebvre, GSO Staff

Dave Davis, Panel 74 Area 63

Allen Snowman, Panel 74 Area 28

Nikki Oliver, Non-Trustee Director (AAGV)

**Assigned as part of the GSB Strategy/Leadership Ad Hoc:**

Molly Oliver, Class A Trustee

Carolyn Walsh, Class B Trustee:

***Ex-officio:***

*Scott Huyghebaert, GSB Chair*

*Bob Wilcox, General Manager GSO*

# Cross Functional Communications Group

## Feedback from participants:

- ❑ *Area Delegates: happy to participate, nice to start seeing results, important to hear various perspectives, further results will be important, it was good seeing how decisions are made, gained insight to GSO and GSB, better prepared to share rationale, enjoyable experience, great learning, privileged to be part of this, hard to follow such a big topic, a lot to learn, shared evolution and challenges from area point of view, benefits to the areas by including area delegates.*
- ❑ *GSO Staff: Opportunity to listen to delegates and understand perspectives, this values roles and responsibilities. Tremendously positive, provided another perspective, and offered improvements and simplifications.*
- ❑ *Trustees/Directors: Very helpful, we don't know what we don't know, better understand issues and needs, pause to consider what the issues are and how to address them more effectively, critical to assess effectiveness, allows for a deep dive by a smaller group to make more discussion by a larger group possible.*

# Cross Functional Communications Group

## **The cross functional approach:**

- ❑ This approach was both new and familiar. Inventory groups and workshop groups at the General Service Conference have used this type of composition to gain input from varied perspectives and roles to good effect for many years.
- ❑ The GSB's implementation of a similar group to provide input to the GSB is an adaptation of this; care was taken to note where these discussions interact with delegated responsibilities of management, the service corporations (AAWS and AAGV) or the GSB. No matters of "movement-wide policy" were decided, and some topics were identified for broader discussion.

# Cross Functional Communications Group

The Group discussed the following topics, at length, and provided substantial feedback to the GSB. There have been some early results, discussion continues through strategic planning.

- ✓ Review Communications Abstract and provide feedback. *(has now been adopted for Board orientation, and is available to all of you on OnBoard)*
- ✓ Consider if any communications are no longer needed, and how to improve key communications such as the GSO Quarterly Report. *(this discussing resulted in Board Packages to Conference members, and a more in depth GSO Quarterly Report)*
- ✓ Discuss annual calendar and provide input on expectations, needs, priorities and timelines
- ✓ Discuss and provide input on methods of communications email, website, onboard, podcast. What is most effective for which communications.
- ✓ Consider the possibility of an AA Member/Service focused app vs Meeting Guide vs other tools available
- ✓ How best to engage the service structure to ensure timely, accurate, two-way communications with emphasis on dialogue.
- ✓ Seek additional ideas or suggestions from the cross functional communications group *(open ended topic from the GSB to allow space for any other topics or ideas the group wanted to raise)*.

# Cross Functional Communications Group

**Today we will discuss 3 topics that were identified by the Group for Conference discussion. There is about 15 min per topic in this session.**

1. Communications abstract
2. What tools are needed to facilitate better communications?
3. Streamlining communication within the Conference structure

*Other topics for future discussion at Conference or at Regional Forums if not otherwise addressed during inventory discussions.*

- ✓ *Consider ways to balance engagement in events and workshops, responses to individual communications with disparity in access to information among the areas.*
- ✓ *Establish a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities up and down the triangle for ensuring effective communications, with emphasis on how we can support one another*
- ✓ *Seek ways to keep those in the minority engaged and ensure that processes where minority voice is heard are understood and shared. Consider how to communicate timelines and processes behind decisions.*
- ✓ *Explore how sharing sessions can be better utilized at all service levels to draw out opinions and foster thoughtful discussion (not everything is best as a PAI)*

# Topic 1 - Communications abstract

*Available on OnBoard under “GSB Resources”*

- Who should this information be shared with?
- What additional purposes could it serve?

# Communications Abstract - Communications from the General Service Office & AA Grapevine

Source	What is the communication?	Brief description of its contents	Frequency	Primary audience		Distribution list	approx number of direct recipients	Methods of distribution										
								hard copy	email	Onboard	MG app	aa.org	LinkedIn	AAWS youtube	GV/LV apps	GV websites	GV Youtube	Insta gram
Administration	Qtrly Reports Packet	Post GSB Weekend Cmte & GSB meeting Reports Packet	Q1, Q3, Q4	All Conference Members			135			x								
	Report of the Independent Auditor, and audited financial statements for prior year, budget for current year (GSB, AAWS, AAGV)		Annually in September	Included in the Final Conference Report posted on aa.org			Recipients: 1000+		x			x						Final Conference Report
	Finance Presentation "Around the picnic table" (GSB, AAWS, AAGV)		Annually at the General Service Conference  4 times a year at Regional Forums	Full presentation is provided to Conference members, and many delegates share it with their areas when reporting.  A synopsis is included in the Final Conference Report.			Recipients: 1000+			x								
	Overview of financial information, self support material and related FAQs <a href="https://www.aa.org/aa-contributions-self-support">https://www.aa.org/aa-contributions-self-support</a>		Ongoing	Visitors to aa.org			too large to approximate *internet posting						x					
	Approved reforecast budgets AAGV and/or AAWS/GSB when applicable		Annually following the Q3 GSB Meeting	Summarized in F-14 Quarterly Report from GSO (3rd Quarter) and included in quarterly financials			Recipients: 3940  Sent in all three languages  Open rate for April 2024 - 84.62%		x		x		x					F-14 Quarterly Report
	Approved consolidated budget for AAWS/GSB (current year)		Annually at the General Service Conference	Summarized in F-14 Quarterly Report from GSO (1st Quarter) and Conference members - Background material for Conference Committee on Finance			Recipients: 135  Sent in all three languages		x		x							
	Summary level detail of AAWS finance and AAWS Self-support subcommittee work, status of AAWS projects and other matters of significance discussed by AAWS Board.		After each AAWS Board meeting		AAWS Highlights													
	Quarterly Financial Report (QFR)	Update from Trustees Finance Committees on overall AA Financial Status of all three corporations	Quarterly, immediately following the quarterly GSB meetings	All Conference Members			135 initial, with sharing within AA encouraged		x		x							
Human Resource	Job Postings	AAWS Employment postings	as needed	Postings on LinkedIn & Paylocity Site			too large to approximate *internet posting		Staff Members & Sobriety Required Roles Only		Staff Members & Sobriety Required Roles Only		x				Staff Members & Sobriety Required Roles Only	
Publishing	Box 4-5-9 Newsletter	News & Notes from GSO	Quarterly	The Fellowship Subscribers MG app & aa.org visitors	AAWS Board AAGV Board DCMs Delegates GSRs Box 4-5-9 Online Subscribers		Recipients: 81,726 (fall 2025 issue) - English: 77,788 - Spanish: 2,441 - French: 1,497  Open rate for Fall 2025 EN issue - 37.25%	x	x		x		x					
	About AA	Newsletter for professionals of all types who deal with alcoholics, including professionals in the fields of healthcare, law, corrections and clergy	Three times a year	Subscribers MG app & aa.org visitors			Recipients: 22,824 -20,866 English - 1,339 Spanish - 619 French  Open rate for Fall 2025 issue - 32.82%			x			x					

## Topic 2 - What tools are needed throughout the service structure?

- Communications on recurring or key topics may benefit from a tool kit approach where the tools/resources are provided to all conference members for local use and sharing to reduce duplications and shared workload while fostering greater consistency. Would you use something like this?
- Kits/workbooks/guidelines provide information but how can we better support people to share it?

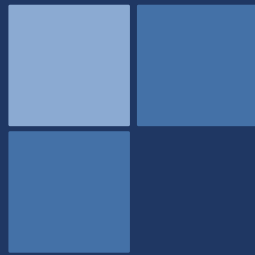
# Topic 3 - Streamlining communication within the Conference structure

- ❑ Explore the capabilities within OnBoard to improve communication, increase access to information, and decrease the need for multiple sources to access information.
- ❑ The Area Delegates have an existing process of a “mail admin” that may be modified to assist with moderation of the OnBoard Messenger to help with expanding the use of this tool.

*(It was shared that the General Service Board of Al-Anon strictly use a thread-based forum on a platform, like OnBoard, which aids in limiting the number of email exchanges between trustees and employees; and proposed that this may be another function that may prove beneficial in streamlining communication within the Conference structure.)*

# AAWS HIGHLIGHTS

*Board Report to the 76th General Service Conference*



April 2026

## **Ken T., AAWS Chair**

Activity Period: May 2025 – April 2026

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# Year in Review: Four Defining Themes



## 2025 International Convention

Vancouver, BC — 90 years of  
A.A.



## GSO Office Retrofit

On schedule & within  
budget



## Plain Language Big Book

Reaching members who  
need it most



## Strategic Planning

Including honest board self-  
inventory

# Board Composition

## New Directors

**Charlie H.**

West Central Regional Trustee

**Julie C.**

Non-Trustee Director

**Matt K.**

Non-Trustee Director

## Nominating Highlights

66

applicants

for non-trustee vacancy — a sign of healthy Fellowship engagement

- 3 interview rounds, August 25–28 Candidate advanced to Trustees Nominating Committee
- General Service Trustee candidate also forwarded after review

# Financial Overview — Year-End 2025

**\$18.85M**

Total Operating Revenue

*7% below budget*

**\$18.53M**

Total Operating Expenses

*2% below budget*

**\$325K**

Operating Surplus

*vs. budgeted \$1.32M*

**5.92 mo**

Reserve Fund (Dec 31)

*Target: 9–12 months*

## Early 2026 Bright Spot

- January 2026 operating surplus: \$624K (vs. \$163K budgeted)
- Revenue 1% above budget in January
- Feb 23 cash on hand: \$1.34M vs. \$1.25M in payables — short-term surplus of \$97,839

## Key Financial Decisions

- Literature price increase: \$3/book, 15% all other items — effective Feb 1, 2026
- 2026 budget approved unanimously
- Reserve Fund drawdown up to \$750K authorized; \$500K drawn as of late January
- International Literature Fund grants approved

# Publishing Highlights

## Plain Language Big Book

**215K+**

print copies distributed

**\$2M+**

in revenue through Jan 2026

7,500+ eBooks · 4.5★ Amazon  
Audiobook targeted June 2026

## Fifth Edition Big Book

- Story selection completed — a significant milestone
- Supporting sections underway
- Format & cover options under exploration

## Literature Access

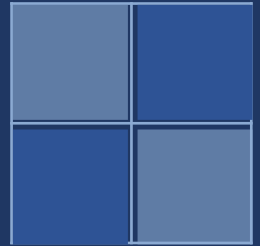
- 85,000 items accessed via tablets in corrections — 300% increase over prior year
- New pamphlets priced; Twelve Concepts animation released Feb 9, 2026

## Transition & Recognition

- Director of Publishing David R. retiring end of March 2026
- Grateful for years of exceptional, dedicated service

# 2025 International Convention

*Vancouver, BC · Celebrating 90 Years of Alcoholics Anonymous*



- 180+ sessions with hundreds of speakers
- Mobile app served as the primary program resource
- GSO managed all media relations in-house — a first
- Event met budget expectations; reconciliation forwarded to Finance Committee

**IC2030 — St. Louis, Missouri · Planning already underway · Greater attendance anticipated**

# GSO Office Retrofit



**Aug 2025**

Staff transitions  
to remote operations



**Sep 2025**

Construction  
begins



**Dec 2025**

Abatement nearing  
completion



**Apr 2026**

Cash disbursements  
complete

Budget Cap

**\$2.1M**

On schedule and within budget

Service Continuity

**Maintained**

Mail, shipping & phones uninterrupted throughout construction

# Governance & Committee Work

## Internal Audit Committee

- Updated Anti-Harassment & Whistleblower policies
- New BYOD policy for data security
- New Bereavement Policy & updated Employee Handbook
- Policy review — board vs. management clarity
- Corrected typographical error in AAWS Bylaws (Art. XII)

## Communications & Language Services

- Social Media Policy adopted
- 'Our Primary Purpose' podcast: 43,000+ cumulative downloads
- New Online Meetings view in Meeting Guide App launched

## Services & Technology

- Data integrity & group record cleanup
- Canadian-dollar transaction handling
- Online contribution platform evaluation underway

# Self-Support & Strategic Planning

## Self-Support

- New Self-Support service desk created; Nick S. began serving October 2025
- 'Contributions = Service' now available in English, French & Spanish
- Monthly self-support communications to Conference members initiated
- Online contribution platform evaluation underway
- Reserve fund below target — underscores direct connection between self-support and AAWS's ability to serve the Fellowship

## Strategic Planning

### Sep 2025 — 4 hours

Reviewed Fellowship communications; need for predictable release schedules identified

### Dec 2025 — 6 hours

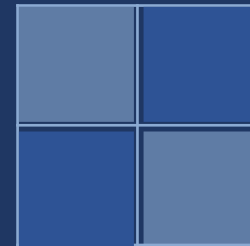
Board self-inventory: role clarity, workload, communications, Traditions & Concepts

### Mar 2026 — 7 hours

AA Grapevine & GSB officers joined — rich inter-board discussion on shared communication

*Commitments: Clearer roles · Consistent communication · Timely acknowledgments · Mutual respect*

# A Year of Significant Work — and Genuine Progress.



- The 90th anniversary was celebrated in a way worthy of the occasion.
- The office is being rebuilt for the next era of service.
- Literature is reaching members who could not be reached before.
- This board has looked honestly at itself and made commitments for improvement.

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*We carry these efforts forward with gratitude to the Fellowship that makes all of this work meaningful.*

# 2025 International Convention — Financial Stewardship

Vancouver, BC · A.A. World Services, Inc. · Executive Summary

**33,353**

**In-Person Attendees**

*vs. 47,500 budgeted (-30%)*

**2,198**

**Virtual-Only Attendees**

*New category — not in original budget*

**+\$8,363**

**Net Surplus**

*Despite \$1.6M revenue shortfall*

Metric	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual Result	Variance / Note
In-Person Attendees	47,500	33,700	33,353	-14,147 (-30%)
Virtual-Only Attendees	—	2,500	2,198	New category added
Total Revenue	\$7,447,592	\$5,764,106	\$5,804,432	-\$1,643,160
Total Expenses	\$7,293,197	\$5,846,851	\$5,796,069	-\$1,497,128
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$154,395</b>	<b>(-\$82,745)</b>	<b>\$8,363</b>	<b>Positive outcome achieved</b>

# 2025 International Convention — How the Gap Was Managed

## Expense Scaling

Total expenses reduced \$1.5M (-20.5%) vs. original budget. Stadium production \$352K below budget; Convention Center saved \$194K. City Offset of \$260,066 — not originally budgeted — secured through host-city partnership.

## Virtual Track Innovation

A Virtual Track not in the original budget generated \$76,939 from 2,198 participants at \$35/registration — extending A.A.'s reach to members unable to travel to Vancouver.

## Registration Rate Discipline

Pre-registration \$160 (budgeted \$155); on-site \$185 (budgeted \$180). On-site revenue of \$883,832 far exceeded the final forecast of \$446,745 — strong walk-up demand.

## Key Conclusions

- Vancouver stands as a model of adaptive stewardship
- 30% attendance shortfall absorbed without compromising event quality or purpose
- Virtual track should be considered a permanent feature
- Host-city offset arrangements should become standard practice
- Positive result achieved through disciplined, mission-centered planning

*Planning for IC2030 — St. Louis, Missouri — is already underway, with greater attendance anticipated.*

# Inventory Implementation Report

- ▶ One of last year's advisory actions was to form an Inventory Implementation Committee, to work on recommendations based on the Conference Inventory.
- ▶ Received Inventory Implementation Committee Recommendations.
- ▶ We could not agree on the process for voting on the recommendations.
- ▶ We ended up spending 45 minutes talking about potential process.
- ▶ As a stop-over, had a general sharing session at the end of the session.
- ▶ We will be devoting tonight's "What's On Your Mind" to the inventory recommendations.
- ▶ Results: 1 recommendation we chose not to hear. The rest will be part of the discussions when we do committee recommendations.

SEPTIEMBRE/OCTUBRE 2025

# LA VIÑA

LA REVISTA  
INTERNACIONAL  
DE ALCOHÓLICOS  
ANÓNIMOS  
aalavina.org

TRABAJAR AL SERVICIO



## AA Grapevine

David S., Board Chair

# GRAPEVINE

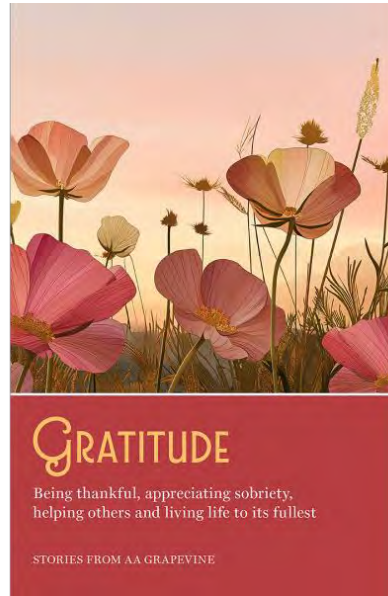
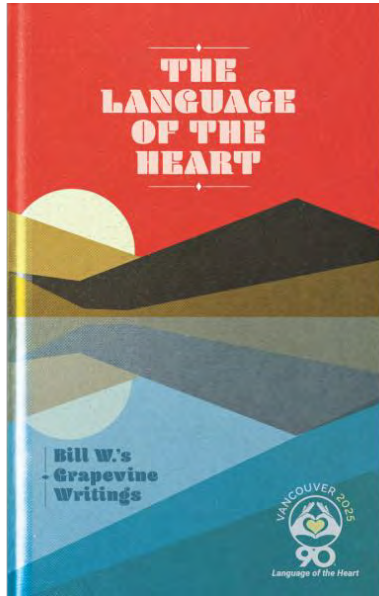
THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ALCOHOLICS  
ANONYMOUS AAGRAPEVINE.ORG OCTOBER 2025

SECTION  
TECHNOLOGY IN AA

## REACHING OUT IN NEW WAYS

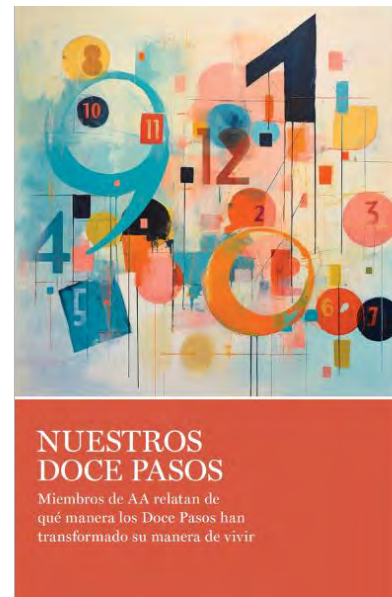
With smartphones, apps, podcasts, video and tablets, members share how Twelve Step tools keep advancing every day

ALSO THE BLOOMING TRUTH & 5 DRUNKS IN



# Grapevine Books

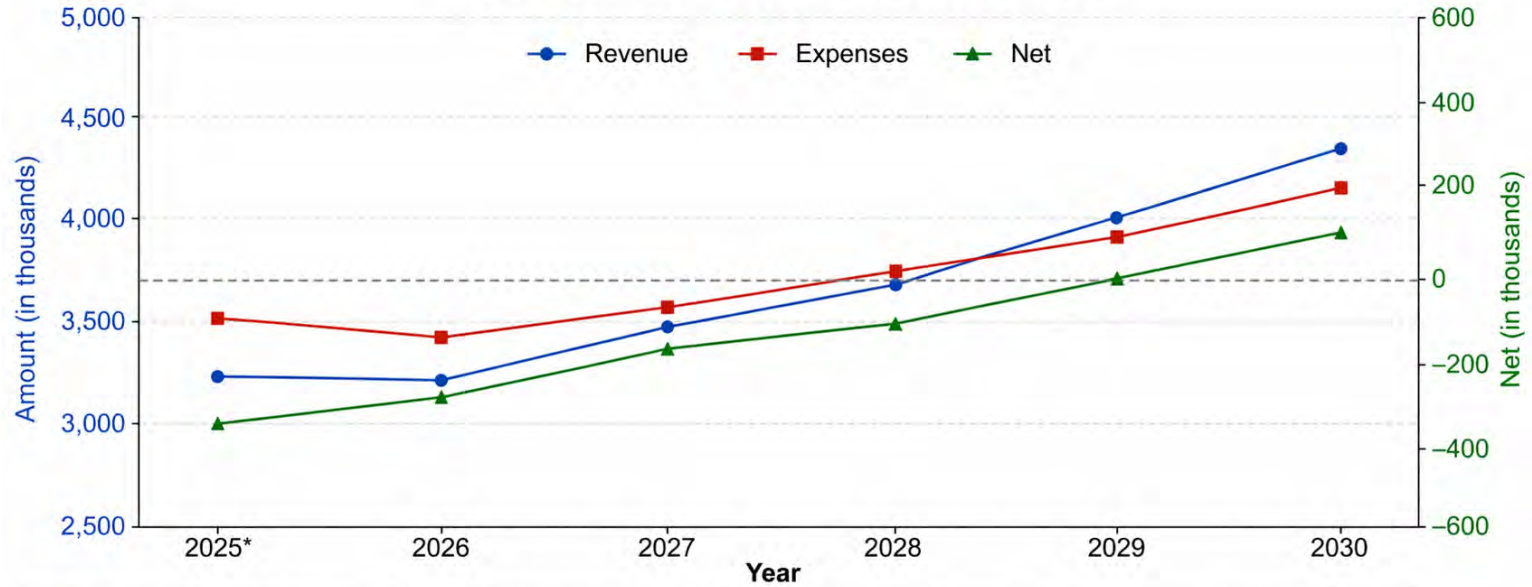
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# La Viña Books

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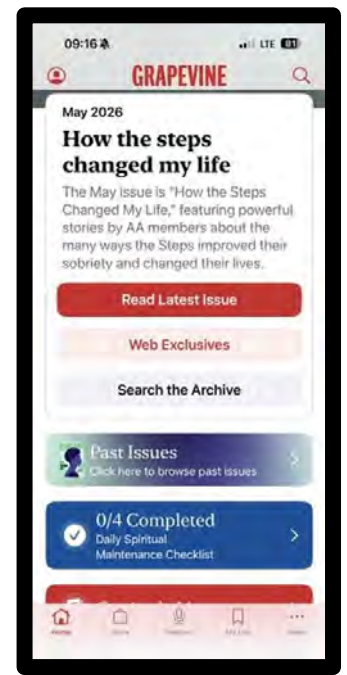
## Revenue, Expenses, and Net (2025–2030)



Year	2025*	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Revenue	3,225	3,217	3,511	3,729	4,018	4,366
Expenses	3,518	3,425	3,589	3,760	3,939	4,188
Net	-293	-208	-78	-31	+79	+178

\* 2025 is estimated.

# Five-Year Plan

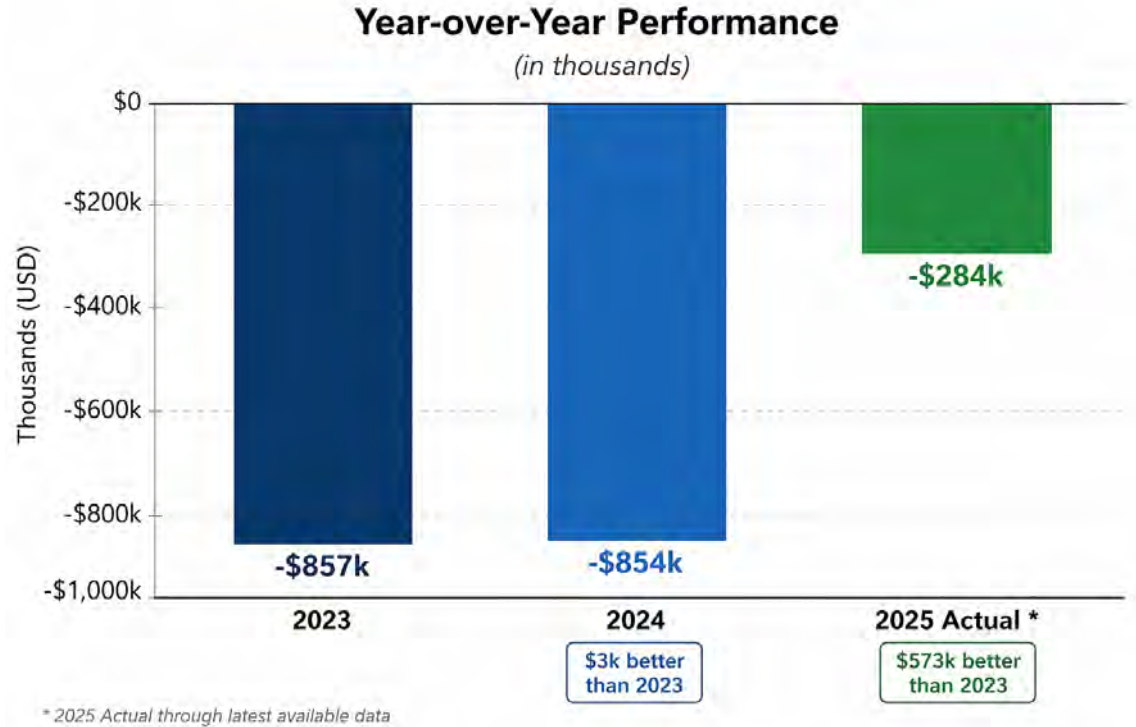


# New Products

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# Grapevine

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# Grapevine and La Viña apps global reach

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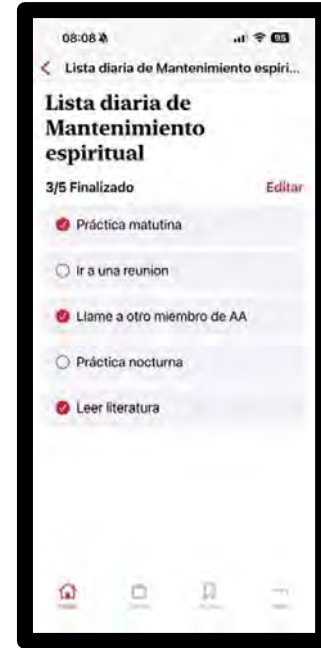
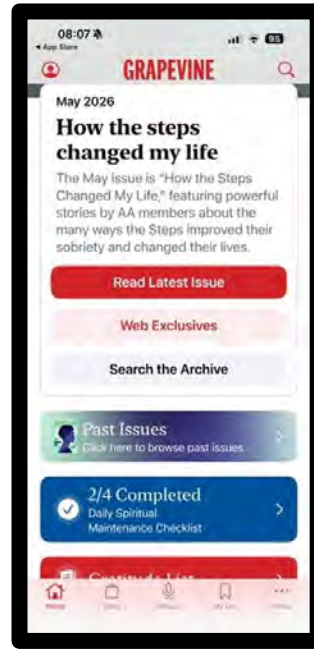


# European Union 2026

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# Milestone Reached!

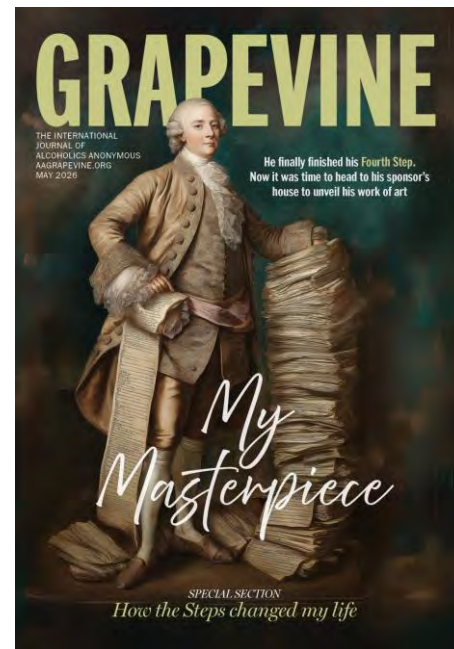


App Subscription Sales fully pay back  
GSB App Investment

# 12<sup>th</sup> Step

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<b>Outlet</b>	<b>Monthly contact</b>
Grapevine Magazine subscribers	60,000
La Viña Magazine subscribers	8,000
App GV non-magazine users	21,000
App LV non-magazine users	460
Podcast listens	24,000
Instagram GV views	97,000
Instagram LV views	34,000
YouTube Channel views	3,300
Book Sales GV units	6,000
Book Sales LV units	1,040
Website visits GV	120,000
Website visits LV	3,400
Prison Tablets GV and LV content	2,000
Daily Quote Grapevine	1,575,980
Daily Quote La Viña	126,420
WhatsApp La Viña	5,292
<b>Number of times we carry AA message each month</b>	<b>2,087,892</b>



# Help Us Help Others

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## AA Events



# 2025 Financial Results

## **Grapevine:**

- Total circulation and subscription income for 2025 was 58,574 and \$2,063k and both exceeded the reforecast, by 439 copies and \$72k respectively.
- Direct cost for subscriptions is an improvement over reforecast by \$24k.
- Gross margin on subscriptions is \$1,173k, an \$97k improvement over reforecast.

# Books, Margin, and Expenses, Improvement

- Books and other Published items revenue is \$1,163k and higher than the reforecast by \$35k. Gross Margin is \$778k which is a \$45k improvement compared to the reforecast.
- Total gross margin for Grapevine is \$1,951k which is an improvement of \$142k compared to the reforecast. Additionally, the total gross margin is \$309k (18%) higher than last year.
- Grapevine Expenses are higher than the reforecast by a total of \$49k but \$275k lower than last year. These costs will be monitored, and reductions are expected to continue in 2026.
- Overall, the net deficit is \$284k, which is **\$105k improvement compared to the reforecast and a \$567k improvement over last year.**

# La Viña - Circulation and Subscriptions

- Circulation numbers for La Viña continue to do well in 2025 compared to 2024. However, there were subscriptions that were not renewed in recent months. We associate that with the price increase. This is being monitored carefully and there will be continuous efforts to encourage renewals.
- Subscription income continues to improve and is \$8k higher than the Reforecast. Magazine COGS is \$1k lower than the Reforecast and Subscription Gross Margin is a \$9k improvement over the Reforecast.
- La Viña Other Published Items revenue continues to increase but is \$3k lower than the reforecast. However, this is a \$40k (26%) improvement compared to 2024.

# La Viña – Margin, Expenses, and Improvement

- La Viña total Gross Margin is \$178k -- an \$11k improvement over the reforecast and \$69k higher than 2024.
- La Viña operating expenses are \$630k, which is \$1k lower than the reforecast and a \$36k improvement compared to last year.
- Overall, La Viña's bottom line **improved by \$16k compared to the reforecast and a \$95k improvement compared to last year. Therefore, the support from the GSB decreased \$95k compared to 2024.**

# GV Total Subscriptions (print, digital, apps)

## GV Total Subscriptions (print, digital, apps)

- Print: 41,258
- Complete: 5,564
- Online: 4,219
- App: 7,532

**Total 58,574**

- Total subscriptions were 439 over reforecast with online and apps leading the way.
- 17,315 subscribers have app access (Complete, Online, App)

# LV Total Subscriptions (print, digital, apps)

• Print	7,298
• Complete	162
• Online	92
• App	399
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,951</b>

- Total subscriptions are 594 under reforecast. We did sell 500 gift subscriptions in one large order in December, but it will take time for these to be redeemed.
- 653 subscribers have app access (Complete, Online, App)

# Greeting Cards Sales

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- Grapevine 817 boxes
- La Viña 64 boxes
- Revenue approximately \$31,700
- Profit approximately \$17,700
- 56% Gross Margin



# Digital Media Services (as of 1/22/26)

- **Podcast:**

- 1,327,319 total downloads, averaging 872 per day, 6,102 per week and 24,400 per month.

- **Instagram:**

- Grapevine 15,765 followers. Views over last month 62,227, 94% followers, 6% non-followers
- La Viña 2,255 followers. Views over last month 16,254, 92% followers, 8% non-followers

- **YouTube:**

- 17,000 subscribers
- 436 videos
- 291k views

- **WhatsApp — La Viña:**

- Launched on 11/18/2025
- 371 Members



# Books - Grapevine & La Viña Online stores: Top Ten Titles in 2025

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2025 Trade Channel  
Sales = \$160k

Title	Number of Purchases	Quantity	Revenue
The Next Frontier: Emotional Sobriety I & II	1,460	4,729	\$79,427
Emotional Sobriety (Softcover)	935	3,884	\$56,502
Language of the Heart (Softcover)	478	2,121	\$35,238
El Lenguaje del Corazón	197	2,095	\$34,006
Emotional Sobriety II (Softcover)	435	2,062	\$30,012
Voices of Women in AA	528	1,945	\$28,442
Our 12 Steps	457	1,724	\$24,993
Prayer and Meditation	513	1,540	\$22,335
Spiritual Awakenings: Journeys of the Spirit	528	1,644	\$22,139
Sobriedad Emocional	193	1,456	\$21,121

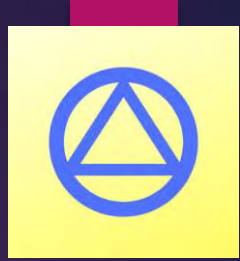


**With Gratitude**

# Regional Trustee Election

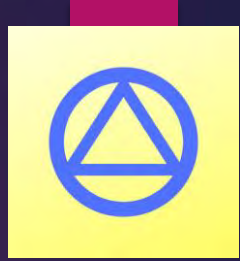
- ▶ Pacific Regional Trustee: Candice C., Area 18 (Idaho)
- ▶ Eastern Canada Regional Trustee: Jeff S. Area 86 (Western Ontario)

# Everything AA App



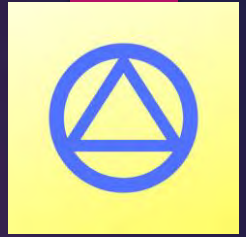
- ▶ The transfer of ownership was effective May 1, 2026. It is fortuitous that it occurred during the Conference week, as the final details with the prior owner and developer were only finalized the day prior.
- ▶ With upwards of 1 million downloads, the app offers a great opportunity to communicate on a broader basis than we currently do, reaching a segment of the Fellowship beyond our general service structure.
- ▶ The transfer creates an excellent opportunity to expand access to our A.A. literature, helping carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic, while also serving as a valuable public information and CPC tool.
- ▶ AAWS did pay for the app, however the transfer of ownership is considered cost-neutral as the app includes an established number of voluntary contributors who AAWS considers voluntary subscribers.

# Everything AA App



- ▶ Regarding the price and other details related to the contract, we generally do not disclose the content or details of contracts as there is a level of expectation of privacy for both parties. Further to this, price details relating to apps or similar matters may compromise our future position, particularly if we are in a similar position to acquire other assets. It may even encourage others to create them and attempt to sell them to us. In other words, a future seller of an asset may say, “AAWS paid them this much, so they will pay me this much.”
- ▶ We recognized that there are several areas within the app’s content and design that are not consistent with A.A. Traditions and the visual identity our members expect with aa.org, our logos, and other published material. The General Service Office and AAWS Board are working together to carefully identify the more urgent and immediate changes that are needed and expect to implement those updates in the next few months.

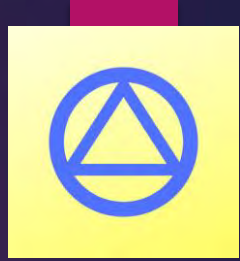
# Everything AA App



▶ Some examples include:

- ✓ Recognizing there is much appreciation by current app users for speaker recordings like the “Joe & Charlie Tapes” and other materials, including those not developed within our U.S./Canada structure, it will be necessary to remove these items as they are not conference-approved.
- ✓ Removal of references to the app developer and related messages from them.
- ✓ Updating the terms and conditions to align with our other digital platforms.
- ✓ Update and simplify the “Meetings” tab to refer primarily to the Meeting Guide App.
- ✓ The AAWS Board will also consider establishing a subscription-based model and updating the “Support Us” tab to “Subscribe.”

# Everything AA App



- ▶ The AAWS Board will determine future phases of changes during its next two meetings in June and July. Major changes to the app will likely be considered during the 2027 budget process and deferred until that time. These phases may include additions of the AAWS Podcast, the ability to make contributions to the General Service Board, and adding video content such as public service announcements (PSAs), to name a few.
- ▶ Both the AAWS and General Service Boards have clearly expressed the need to acquire the app and recognize the valuable service it provides to our membership, friends of A.A., and the still-suffering alcoholic. Therefore, we will continue operating the app during this transition process as disabling it would suspend these services and other benefits mentioned above.


# Advisory Actions / Results



What a committee can do regarding agenda items:

 No Action

 Additional Consideration

 Recommendation



Only recommendations are voted on, but questions can be asked about why a committee took no action, or its additional considerations.

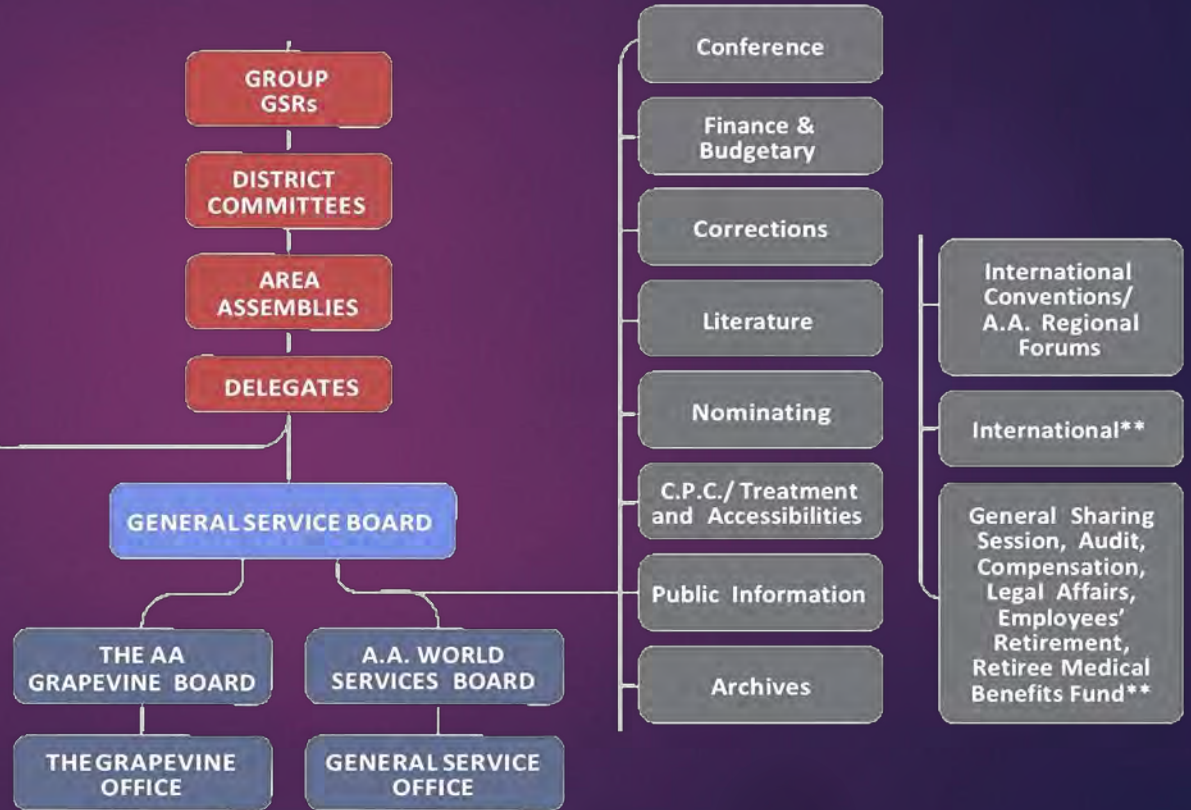


Only recommendations passed by substantial unanimity of 2/3 become advisory actions.

# Conference Committees



# Trustees Committees



# GSC Results for PCSS Agenda Items

- ▶ These are the Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations that came out of the Agenda Items we discussed in April at our Pre-Conference Sharing Session.



# Archives B.

- ▶ Define eligibility for Area-level service for members residing outside of the geographic area they want to serve.

**i** The committee discussed a request to define eligibility for area-level service for members residing outside of the geographic area they want to serve and *took no action*.

- The committee noted the autonomy of areas and districts in establishing local policies and procedures in accordance with their local group conscience. The committee also noted the following suggestions intended to further continue discussions on this topic:
  - ✓ Encourage discussion around this topic at local A.A. events and Regional Forums.
  - ✓ Continue area-wide discussions around the possibility of future linguistic and virtual areas in the United States/Canada structure.



**No Action**

# Corrections C.

- ▶ Consider a request to update the pamphlet "The A.A. Member — Medications and Other Drugs" (Item P-11).
- ▶ The committee *recommended* an update to the pamphlet "The A.A. Member — Medications and Other Drugs" (Item P-11) and that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2027 General Service Conference.

**i** The committee suggested the pamphlet "The A.A. Member — Medications and Other Drugs" (Item P-11) include updates to better reflect the current landscape of medications and other drugs and provide a more inclusive and representative cross-section of A.A. recovery stories, keeping in mind the intended audience is both alcoholics and the professionals with whom we cooperate.

The  
**A.A.** Member —  
Medications  
&  
Other Drugs



# Finance B.

## SELF-SUPPORT:

Where  
Money &  
Spirituality  
Mix



**PASSED**

- ▶ Discuss motion to add wording to Item F-3, "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix."
- ▶ The committee *recommended* that "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" (Item F-3) be updated with the following change:
  - ▶ The question and answer on a group making financial contributions to AA Grapevine on page 12, which reads:
    - "Q: Can our group make financial contributions to AA Grapevine?  
A: No. AA Grapevine, Inc. is not set up to take contributions from groups or individuals. Groups and individual members support the Grapevine by purchasing Grapevine and La Viña subscriptions and other Grapevine publications and using them in their Twelfth Step work."
    - ▶ Be replaced with :
      - Q: How can our group support AA Grapevine / La Viña?  
A: AA Grapevine, Inc. does not take contributions from groups or individuals. Groups and individual members support the Grapevine by purchasing Grapevine and La Viña subscriptions and other Grapevine publications and using them in their Twelfth Step work. When your group is discussing how your funds should be used, you may consider purchasing subscriptions, gift certificates, books and other materials, or supporting the Carry the Message project to ensure that Grapevine and La Viña continue to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. For further information, visit [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org).

No Action



## Finance C.

- ▶ Consider a request to create a Twelve Step study guide or workbook.
  - i The committee considered a request for a Twelve Step study guide or workbook and *took no action*. The committee noted these efforts currently exist locally. The committee expressed support of the efforts already taking place on the Corrections desk at the General Service Office to provide shared experience, literature and template language that specifically addresses how other members have utilized the book Alcoholics Anonymous for Step work.

# Finance D.



## Committee Consideration

- ▶ Consider a request to discuss the location of the General Service Conference (GSC).

**i** The committee considered a request to discuss the location of the General Service Conference. The committee *requested* that the general manager, trustees' General Service Conference Committee, and Meeting, Events and Travel Services (METS) team continue their work together to explore various cost-saving scenarios for the General Service Conference, including the incorporation of a hybrid online and in-person (NYC) format. The committee requested a progress report outlining various options and the estimated cost savings for each be brought back to the 2027 Conference Committee on Finance.



# Grapevine / La Viña F.

- ▶ Consider that the AA Grapevine, Inc., accept contributions.

**i** The committee reviewed the request that Grapevine, Inc. accept contributions and *took no action*. In their determination, the committee considered and recognized the broader implications for our shared spiritual principles, the Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Concepts for World Service and other A.A. entities.



**No Action**

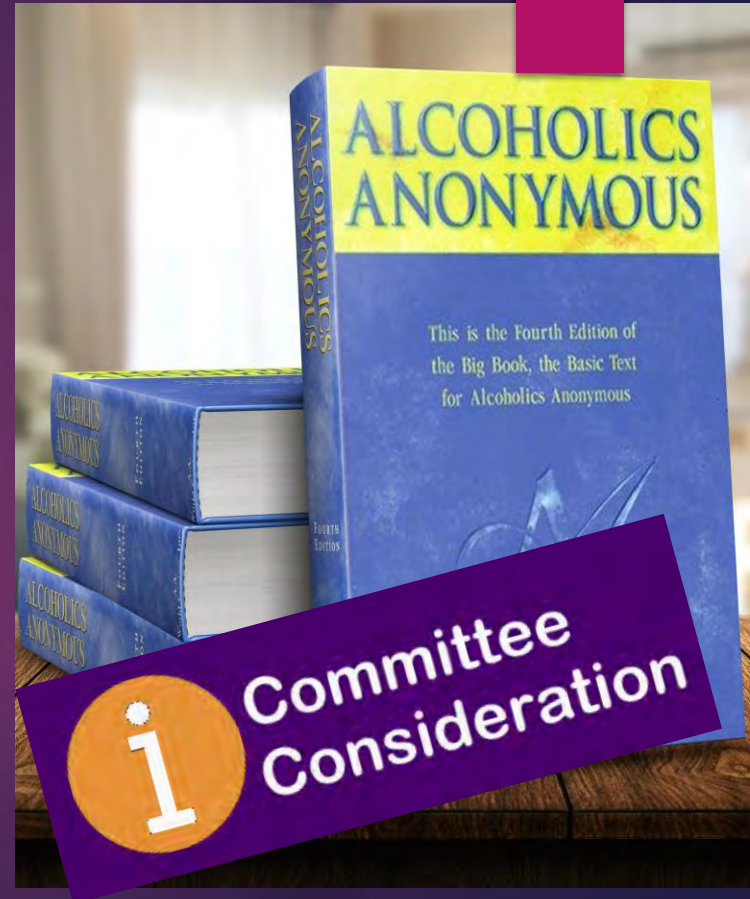
# Literature I.

- ▶ Consider publishing the personal stories from the Fourth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* not included in the draft Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

**i** The committee discussed the suggestion to publish the personal stories from the Fourth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* not included in the Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* and suggested that the trustees' Literature Committee:

- ✓ Provide more information on expected costs, potential sales and breakeven point.
- ✓ Provide more information about whether the proposed book would be more successful as a revised version of *Experience, Strength and Hope* or as a new standalone volume.
- ✓ Consider renaming the book to avoid confusion with the newly approved Part II section of the Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

The committee requested that a progress report be brought back to the 2028 Conference Committee on Literature.



# Report and Charter A.2.

- ▶ Discuss the A.A. Service Manual, 2026-2028 Edition - Consider request to remove a quote from Dr. Bob in The AA Service Manual.

**i** The committee discussed a request to remove a quote from co-founder Dr. Bob in The A.A. Service Manual and *took no action*. The committee noted that the quote was well placed in this section and effectively conveys a general appreciation for the love of service.



THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL  
combined with  
TWELVE CONCEPTS  
FOR WORLD SERVICE  
by Bill W.



**No Action**

2024-2026 Edition  
REVISED AND UPDATED

The image shows the cover of the A.A. Service Manual, 2024-2026 Edition. The cover is teal with a white triangle pointing down. A large, tilted, white stamp with a black border reads "No Action". The text on the cover includes "THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL", "combined with", "TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE", "by Bill W.", and "2024-2026 Edition REVISED AND UPDATED".

# Treatment/Accessibilities 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.

  
 The committee reviewed 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 and *took no action*. In addition to intellectual property (IP) concerns, the committee discussed that for broad use throughout the US and Canada a video with a format and content more closely aligned with current service material would be more effective. The committee expressed gratitude to the local service district for its work in producing the original videos, as it inspired a vital Fellowship-wide discussion on this important topic. However, the committee determined that the videos needed more than minor editorial adjustments and would require more substantive changes.

**No Action**

# Treatment/Accessibilities E.

**i** Rather than spending resources to adapt these videos, it was the conscience of the committee to request that AAWS create a new video based on existing content found in our safety service materials, and, as budget permits. The committee requests that AAWS consider all available cost-saving technologies, including AI, for content production and language services.

**i** The committee discussed additional ways to effectively produce this content and offered the following suggestions:

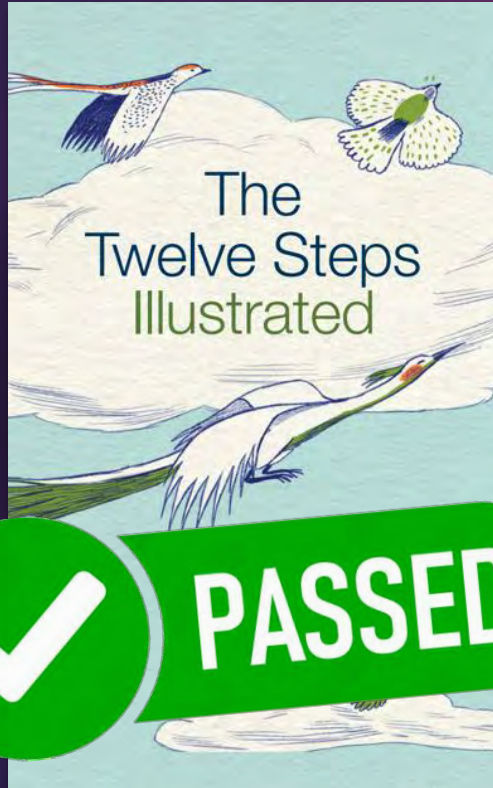
- ✓ That the video be medium in length, up to four to seven minutes, while still effectively conveying the message, and animation is considered as a format.
- ✓ That the video includes links to our safety materials.
- ✓ That the project remains open for future videos to be created.
- ✓ That the video format is mindful of visual content versus text, as well as easily translatable.
- ✓ That the video is mindful of accessibility for all alcoholics.
- ✓ That the video be completed and made available at the earliest opportunity, with consideration to available funds.



**Committee  
Consideration**

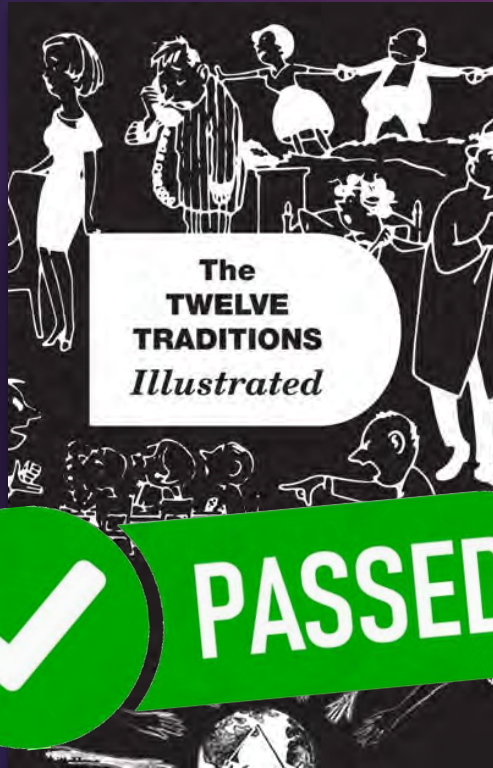


# Trustees G.



- ▶ Consider a request to produce an animated video based on the pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated."
- ▶ The committee *recommended* that the trustees Literature Committee produce an animated video based on the pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated" (Item P-55). The committee requested that a progress report or draft video be brought back to the 2027 General Service Conference.

# Trustees H.



- ▶ Consider a request to produce an animated video based on the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated."
- ▶ The committee *recommended* that the trustees Literature Committee **explore producing** an animated video based on the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" (Item P-43). The committee requested that a progress report be brought back to the 2027 General Service Conference.

# GSC Results by Committee Order

- ▶ These are the Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations in the Order we used at Conference.



# Finance

► Review the Self-Support Packet.

- The committee *recommended* that “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” (Item F-3) be updated as follows:

The question and answer regarding the cost per group for GSO to supply basic services on page 11 which reads:

- “Q. How much does it cost, per group, for GSO to supply basic services?  
A. At the end of 2023, the annual cost of services per group was \$162.72 USD, while the average contribution per group was \$140.09 USD. The shortfall between these two figures is made up from income from A.A. publications.”

Be replaced with:

- “Q. How much does it cost, per group, to operate GSO?  
A. In 2025, the estimated cost-per-group to operate GSO was \$356.37, the estimated average annual contribution per contributing group was \$344.25, and the estimated average annual contribution to meet GSO operating expenses — if only the contributing groups contributed — would be \$1,045.11. Any shortfall in group contributions is made up from individual contributions and income from A.A. publications.”



**Recommit**  
2027 Conference  
Finance



# Agenda



- ▶ A, B, C:  
Review suggestions for the theme, presentation/discussions topics, and workshop topic ideas for the 2027 General Service Conference.
- ▶ The committee *recommended* the following theme for the 2027 General Service Conference:  
“Honoring Our Past, Embracing Our Future.”
- ▶ The committee *recommended* the following presentation topics for the 2027 General Service Conference:
  - ✓ “The Spirit of Rotation: Cultivating Leadership.”
  - ✓ “Anonymity, Our Spiritual Compass.”
  - ✓ “Innovation Meets Tradition.”
- ▶ The committee *recommended* the following workshop topic for the 2027 General Service Conference:  
“Unexpected Spiritual Lessons.”

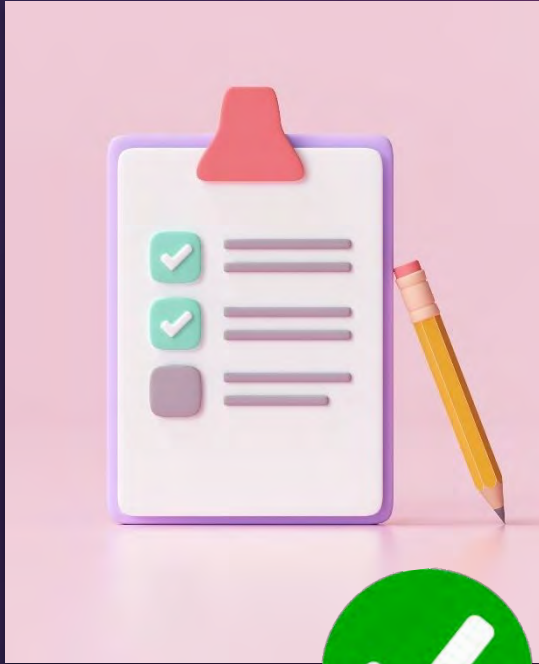
# Inventory Implementation Report



▶ The committee *recommended* that:

- ✓ Conference committees be made aware of all Proposed Agenda Items (PAIs) as they come in through the quarterly PAI Status Grid.
- ✓ The Conference members communicate more effectively to the Fellowship that the PAI submission cut-off deadline is only for the immediately upcoming General Service Conference and that year-round submissions are encouraged to promote ongoing discussion.
- ✓ The October feedback call be replaced with a Joint Committee meeting between trustees' and Conference committees, with all members to have a voice and vote on the disposition of Proposed Agenda Items for the next General Service Conference. Background to facilitate informed discussion should be shared with both committees.

# Inventory Implementation Report



▶ (continued): The committee *recommended* that:

- ✓ The PAI Status Grid be a living, curated list of items that will remain on the grid until dispositioned by policy or Joint Committee.
- ✓ Working committee agenda should be shared prior to the Joint Committee meeting for awareness of ongoing projects and annual review items.
- ✓ The General Service Conference acknowledge the authority of Conference committees to bring items forward which have not been placed on their agenda or to defer consideration of an item to a future Conference.



**Recommit**

General Service Board

# Inventory Implementation Report



- ▶ The committee *recommended* that a Conference inventory process be implemented at a regular five-year cadence, beginning in 2031; that the inventory process include an implementation committee to review and recommend actionable items following each Conference inventory.

# Inventory Implementation Report



- ▶ The committee *recommended* that a brief report from the trustees' Nominating Committee to the Conference Committee on Trustees be delivered in addition to the proposed slate summarizing the selection process of Class A trustees, general service trustees, and nontrustee directors in regard to current board needs.

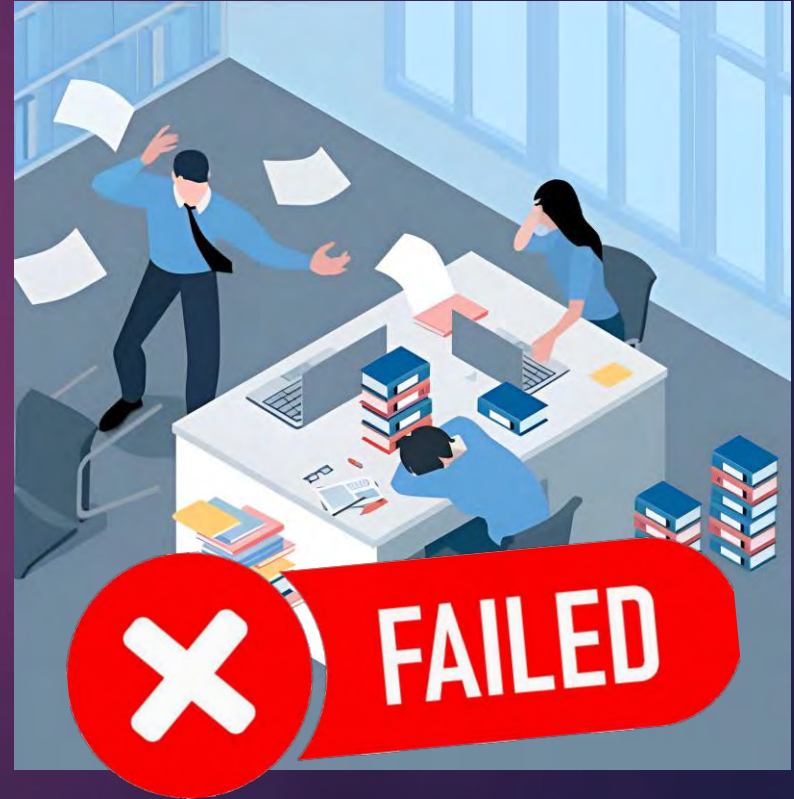
# Policy/Admissions

- ▶ Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW)
- ▶ The committee *recommended* that following the 78th General Service Conference that the Equitable Distribution Workload (EDW) process be discontinued.



# Policy/Admissions

- ▶ Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW)
- ▶ The committee *recommended* that the General Service Board develop a draft plan for the creation of a working group comprised of nine Conference members, with a composition reflective of the ratio of Conference members (i.e., six area delegates, two board members and one GSO Staff member) to improve the selection process of proposed agenda items (PAIs) forwarded to Conference committees, with attention to the topic of workload both at a Conference level and the impact on GSO and GV offices, and that a plan be brought back to the 77th Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.



# Policy/Admissions

- ❖ The committee *recommended* that any changes beyond editorial to the “How the Conference Operates” document be brought for discussion to the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions one year prior to implementation, to then be utilized at the following year’s General Service Conference.



# Public Information



- ▶ Review proposed plan for the 2026 Membership Survey.
- ▶ The committee *recommended* conducting a pilot 2026 Membership Survey, with a budgeted cost not to exceed \$10,000, to explore how to include groups not listed by the General Service Office in a future full membership survey. The committee requested a progress report or pilot survey results be brought back to the 2027 Conference Committee on Public Information.
- ✓ **i** The committee reviewed the proposed plan for the 2026 Membership Survey and requested the focus of the pilot be on surveying a selection of listed and unlisted A.A. groups along with locally listed meetings from 3–5 areas to determine if there are significant differences compared to past membership surveys. The committee requested the questionnaire from the 2022 Membership Survey be utilized for the pilot for the sake of comparison.

# Public Information

## Understanding Anonymity



- ▶ Review draft revision of the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity” (Item P-47).
- ▶ The committee *recommended* the revised pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity” (Item P-47) with the new title “Anonymity – Our Spiritual Foundation” be approved.



**PASSED**

...places before personalities.”

# Trustees



- ▶ A. Review slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. (2 separate votes)
- ▶ B. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
- ▶ C. Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.

# Trustees



- ▶ Review Censure Process Proposal
- ▶ The committee *recommended* that the General Service Board form an ad hoc committee with a composition similar to the makeup of the General Service Conference (e.g., delegates, trustees, nontrustee directors and Staff members) to review and document the processes by which motions to censure or reorganize may be received, considered and forwarded, and to develop proposals for workflow processes that would support the unity of the Fellowship. The committee requested that a report, including these processes and proposals, be brought back to the 2027 Conference Committee on Trustees.

# Report & Charter

▶ Discuss *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*, 2026-2028 Edition:

▶ The committee recommended that the question “What happens if a group decides not to hear a GSR report?” be added to Chapter 1 FAQs section in the 2026-2028 Edition of *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* and that the question and answer be included as follows:

- ✓ What Happens if Our Group Decides Not to Hear my GSR Report?
  - If a group decides not to hear a GSR report during a meeting, the information can still be shared in other ways. This may include a written report with printed copies, email, group messaging, a shared online document, or posting the report on a bulletin or noticeboard. When utilizing these methods, it is important to respect Tradition Eleven and protect anonymity; so that members’ names are not publicly available.
  - Hearing the GSR report is important because it helps keep the group connected to A.A. as a whole. As co-founder Bill W. explained, “A.A. groups hold the ultimate responsibility for A.A. world services. The GSR serves as the communication link between the group and the larger Fellowship by sharing the group conscience with the Conference and bringing Conference actions back to the group. This two-way communication allows the group to have a voice in A.A., strengthens unity, and provides spiritual benefits by helping members stay informed, involved, and connected to the Fellowship beyond the home group.”



# Report & Charter

- ▶ Discuss *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2026-2028 Edition*:
- ▶ The committee *recommended* that a draft of a new “Amendment” section be approved for inclusion at the end of the *Twelve Concepts for World Service Section of The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*.

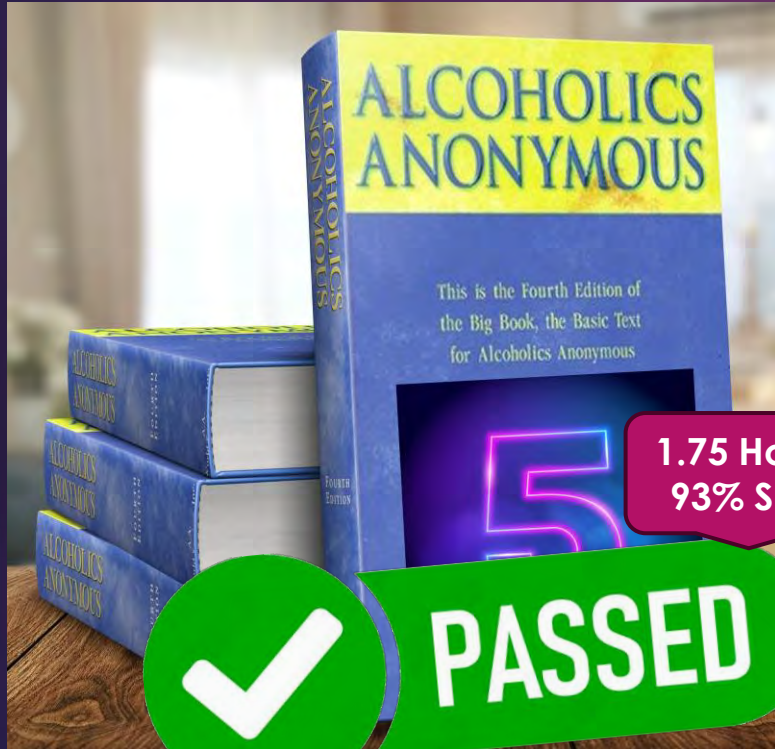


# Literature



- ▶ Review the Conference Committee on Literature Composition, Scope and Procedure.
- ▶ The committee *recommended* the following language be added to the Conference Committee on Literature Composition, Scope, and Procedure under the Procedure section:
  - ✓ “To have the Conference Committee chairperson maintain consistent contact with the chairperson of the trustees’ Literature Committee throughout the year.”

# Literature

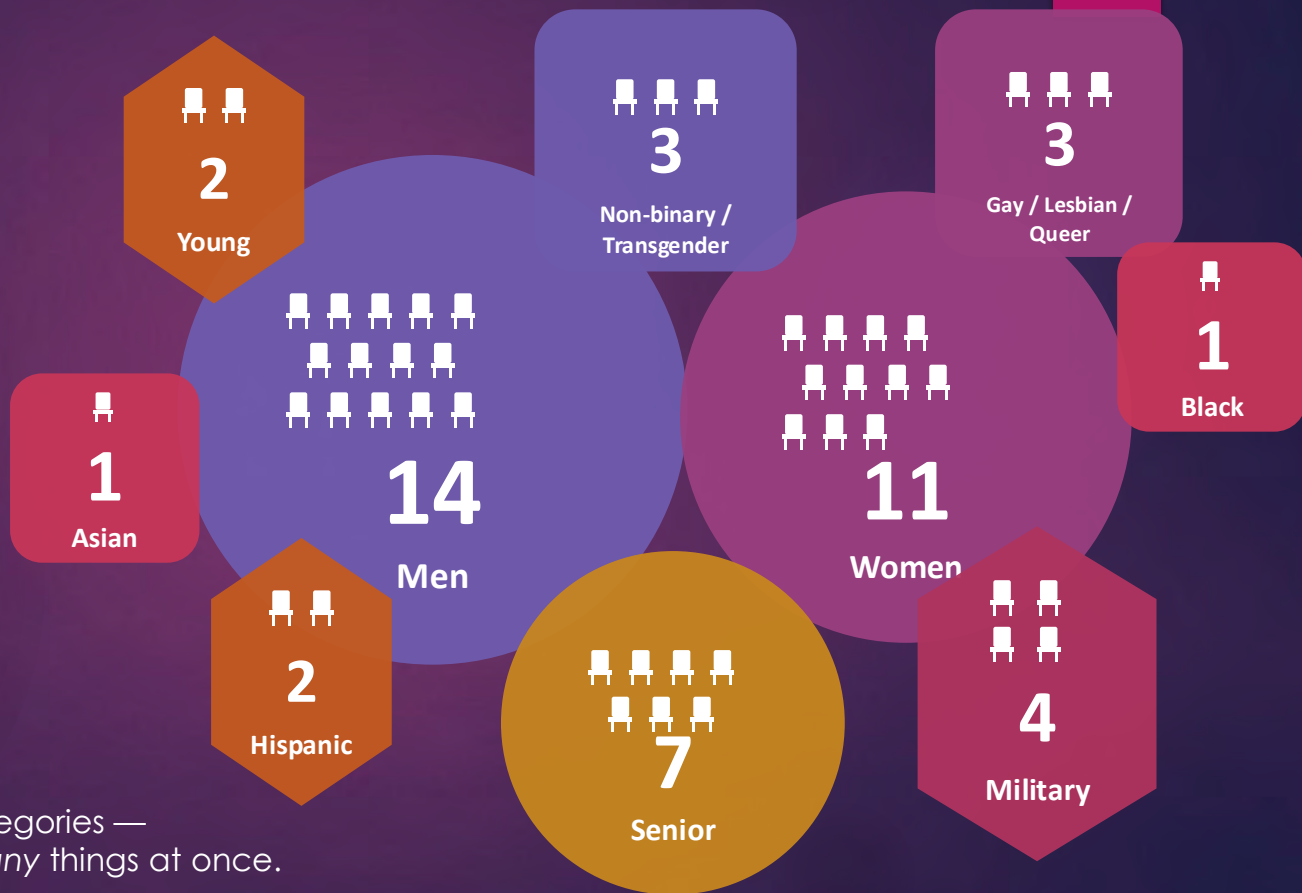


**1.75 Hour Discussion**  
**93% Supermajority**

- ▶ Review draft of the Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.
- ▶ The committee *recommended* that the Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, be approved with minor editorial changes.

# Who's in the new Big Book?

Representation  
across the 26 new  
personal stories in  
the 5th Edition...



One story can represent many categories —  
because one Alcoholic can be *many* things at once.

# Literature

❖ The committee *recommended* that the word “Eskimo” be removed from “Chapter 7: Working With Others” and replaced with a neutral, non-racial term.

- The committee acknowledged the 1995 Conference Advisory Action which recommended that the first 164 pages of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, The Doctor’s Opinion, Dr. Bob’s Nightmare and the Appendices remain as is. However, the committee agreed that use of pejorative words is not appropriate for our basic text.

**3 Hour Discussion**  
**84% Supermajority**

**PASSED**

# Floor Actions

- ▶ Can be made to Chair at start of sessions.
- ▶ Motion maker given 2 minutes to state the rationale behind.
- ▶ The chair will then ask if there is a motion to decline to consider the floor action:
  - Made without comment.
  - Only allowed after floor action motion maker states rationale.
  - Requires a 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Not debatable.
  - Requires 2/3 majority.
  - No minority opinion.
- ▶ Conference voted 129 to 4 to adopt these rules.



# Floor Action #1 – Reserve Fund

- ▶ No communication to the Fellowship or its representatives regarding the available funds or balance of the A.A. Reserve Fund be distributed without including currently approved draws in the distributed figures and communication.



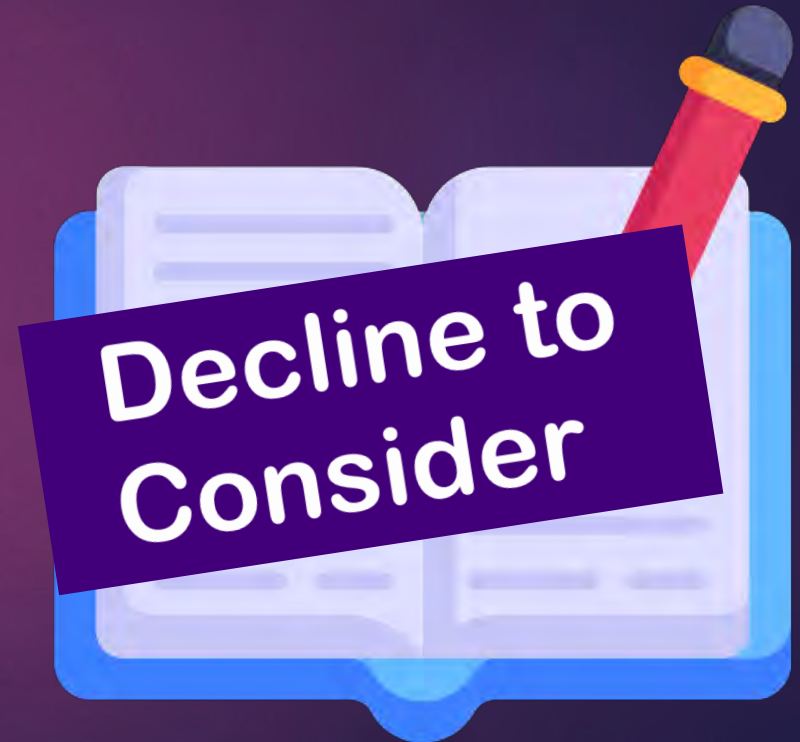
# Floor Action #2 – GSC Minimum Fee

- ▶ The suggested area contribution for delegate expense to attend the Conference be increased from \$2,200 to \$3000.

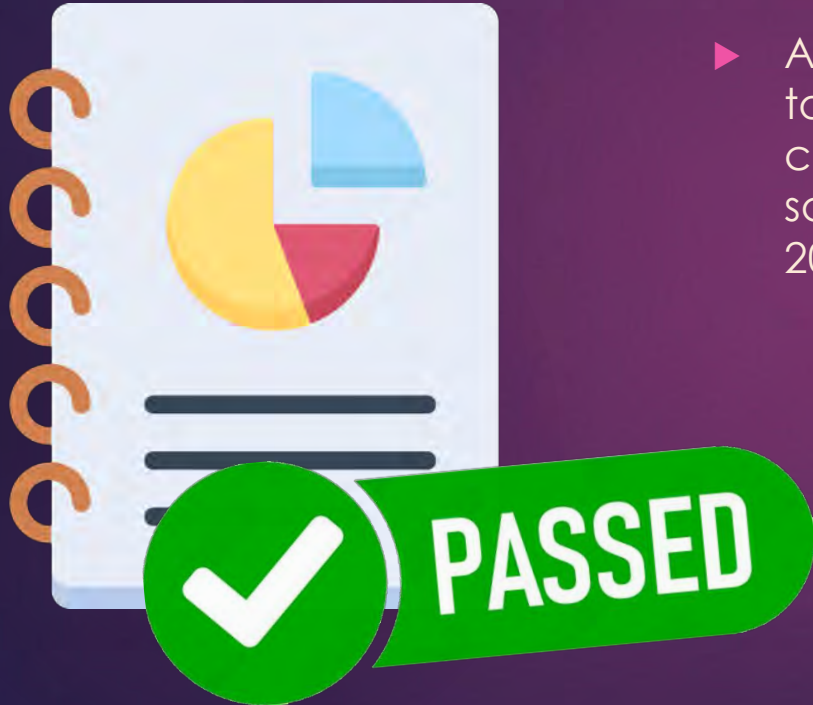


# Floor Action #3 – 12<sup>th</sup> Step Guide

- ▶ Consider a request to create a Twelve Step study guide or workbook.



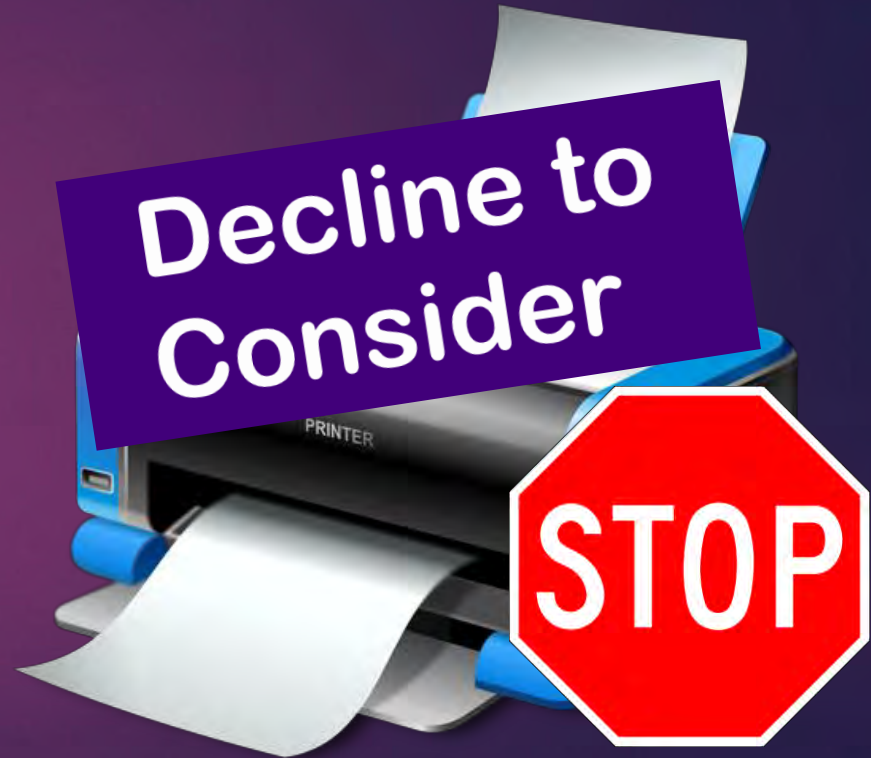
# Floor Action #4 – Printed Final Report



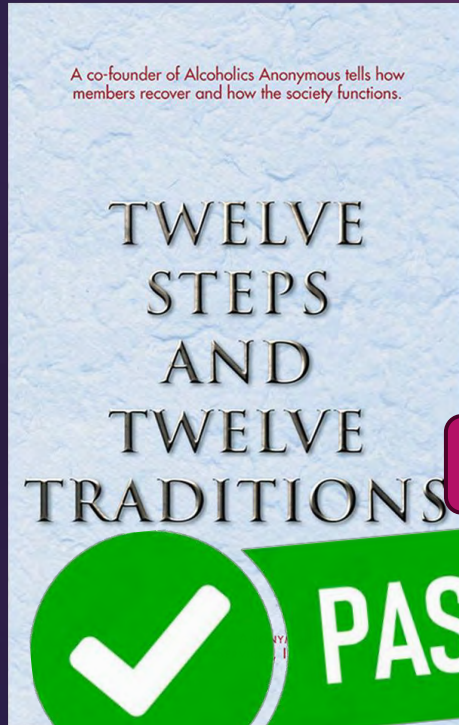
- ▶ AAWS offer a print version of the 2026 FCR to be available for purchase. If production costs of the project are not covered by sales, the FCR print version will end for the 2027 General Service Conference.

# Floor Action #5 – Halt 5<sup>th</sup> Edition BB

- ▶ I move to suspend printing of the Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* (The Big Book) until the Conference develops further consensus around our procedures and practices respecting changes to “Founders’ Writings.”



# Floor Action #6 – 12x12 Word Removal



A co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous tells how members recover and how the society functions.

## TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS

77% Supermajority



- ▶ The word “Eskimo” be removed from the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, chapter essay on “Tradition Eight” and replaced with a neutral, non-racial term.

# Additional Considerations

- ▶ These are suggestions made by committees.
- ▶ They are not discussed on the Conference floor, although limited questions about them can be asked.
- ▶ These are generally taken as suggestions by the Trustees Committees and GSO staff and are often worked on throughout the year.
- ▶ Considerations further clarify or provide additional direction in the work to be done.
- ▶ This report only shows some of the more noteworthy considerations; the full list will be posted on [area59aa.org](http://area59aa.org) and is also available in the Delegate shared documents folder.




# CPC - Considerations

-  The committee reviewed and accepted the report on the AAWS LinkedIn page. The committee recognized the thoughtful long-term plan that the office has put in place and appreciated the alignment of the project to the initial goals and standards for the development of content and awareness; as well as expanding outreach and reinforcing the continuing relevance and efficacy of A.A. to professionals. The committee provided the following suggestions:
  - ✓ Consider including trends in quarterly and yearly reporting.
  - ✓ Consider developing an article for *Box 4-5-9* highlighting the work of the office on the LinkedIn project.
-  The committee reviewed the outline of the pamphlet for mental health professionals along with the accompanying project plan. The committee expressed their enthusiasm for the overall project vision and felt that it aligns with the intended goals. The committee provided suggestions to the secretary (including a suggestion that a link to the Cochrane Study be included as an additional reference for professionals) and asked that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2027 Conference Committee on CPC.


# CPC - Considerations

- **i** The committee considered a request that standalone audio/visual clips be created when developing any new/revised videos for professionals and took no action. The committee recognized the need for short-form content and noted that the office is already working in this direction. The committee encourages the ongoing development of outreach material with short-form content.
- **i** The committee reviewed the content and format of the CPC Kit and Workbook and provided the following suggestions:
  - ✓ Consider including recent updates to the Grapevine podcast.
  - ✓ Clarify the item titles on the online store to better differentiate whether the service kit is in English, French or Spanish.


# CPC - Considerations

-  The committee reviewed the draft video series “Meet A.A.’s Nonalcoholic Trustees” and appreciated the willingness and dedication of our Class As to further the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee considers this work to align with the role of communication intended for professionals, similar to the About A.A. newsletter. The committee acknowledged the necessity of the office continuing to work closely with our Class A trustees in the development of a communications strategy to create outward-facing videos and diversify our library of resources. The committee provided the following additional suggestions:
  - ✓ That future topics and subjects be considered on a case-by-case basis.
  - ✓ That if the Class A is fluent in Spanish or French, to have the relevant language be used in the voice of the person rather than dubbed or captioned.

# Grapevine - Considerations

-  The committee reviewed the progress on the AA Grapevine survey regarding the relevance, usefulness and financial viability of Grapevine products and services:
  - ✓ The committee requested a revised approach more closely aligned with the original Advisory Action and accompanying memorandum produced in June 2025 by the 75th Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña. The revised proposal should include at least two survey methodologies and reflect exploration of low-cost deployment methods, such as the Meeting Guide app.
  - ✓ The committee will resend the memorandum to the Grapevine Board, including suggestions regarding survey content. The committee also requested that the project timeline be extended, with a progress report presented to the 77th General Service Conference and a final report presented to the 78th General Service Conference.

# Policy/Admissions - Considerations

-  The committee reviewed the trustees' General Service Conference Committee "Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) report" and discussed the following suggestions outlined in the report:
  - ✓ The committee discussed the suggestion in the EDW report to discontinue the annual review of service kits and workbooks and took no action. The committee noted that while a "standing item," the annual review of service kits and workbooks by Conference committees is a *practice* rather than a Conference *policy* and committees are not required to include this item on their agendas.
  - ✓ The committee discussed the suggestion from the EDW report that for a similar number of items be assigned to each Conference Committee agenda rather than assigned by topic and took no action. The approach of directing a similar number of agenda items to each committee lacks qualitative consideration.
  - ✓ The committee discussed the suggestion from the EDW report that a Conference digital committee be created and took no action. The committee expressed concern that creating a new committee, even as a secondary committee, might create more work and would require an additional GSO Staff member to support that committee.

# Report & Charter - Considerations


- **i** The committee reviewed the progress report on classifying literature published by A.A. World Services (AAWS) and AA Grapevine, Inc., submitted by the General Service Board Report and Charter Ad Hoc Committee. The committee noted the feedback received from the trustees' Archives Committee, particularly the shared understanding between the General Service Conference and the boards regarding the complexity and scope of this work.

The committee acknowledged the following concerns regarding the classification of literature:

- ✓ Classifying A.A. literature as *Recovery*, *Service* or *Historical* could lead to confusion due to content that might overlap into multiple categories.
- ✓ There is no formal definition of “founders.” The phrase “co-founders of A.A.” is commonly used to refer to Bill W. and Dr. Bob, with acknowledgement that many individuals played founding roles in various geographic areas.

The committee requested that this topic be forwarded to the trustees' Literature Committee for further input and guidance.

# Literature - Considerations

-  The committee reviewed the progress report on the development of a *Plain Language Big Book* amendment process and offered the following suggestions:
  - ✓ That the trustees' Literature Committee consider providing more detail on the specific changes to the *Plain Language Big Book* that have been suggested both within, and outside of, the PAI process, including the total number of substantive changes and editorial changes. The committee emphasized the PAI process as the avenue for suggestions from the Fellowship for changes to Conference-approved literature.
  - ✓ That consideration be given to providing reference points throughout the *Plain Language Big Book* to the corresponding pages in the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.
  - ✓ That consideration be given to resizing the *Plain Language Big Book* to match the size of the large print format Big Book.

The committee asked that a progress report be brought back to the 2027 Conference Committee on Literature.