

■ The 73rd General Service Conference: 'A.A.'s Three Legacies — Our Common Solution'

The 73rd General Service Conference was held from April 23-29, 2023, in New York City at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge. Near to some of A.A.'s cherished historical locations — notably 182 Clinton Street, the early home of Bill W. and his wife Lois — the proximity of the hotel to this landmark bridge also offered an enduring and appropriate symbol for this year's General Service Conference. Providing linkage from A.A.'s past to its future, "A.A.'s Three Legacies — Our Common Solution," was the overall theme and foundation for the many hours of sharing, discussion, reflection, and insight by the 133 Conference members who served, as noted in Concept II, as "the active voice and effective conscience" of the Fellowship in the United States and Canada.

Spanning many issues of trust, vision, and direction, the Conference addressed more than 86 agenda items, engaged in multiple sharing sessions, and heard presentations on topics of critical importance to the Fellowship. Presentations focused on the participation of online groups and how they fit into the A.A. service structure, the World Service Meeting and international A.A., the ongoing development of the plain language Big Book, the location study of the General Service Office (GSO), and "General Service — Our Mighty Purpose and Rhythm."

Welcoming all Conference members, Tami L., Panel

72 delegate from Alberta/Northwest Territories and delegate chair for the 73rd Conference, said: "Over the next few days, we will look at the services, programs and products offered by AAWS and Grapevine/La Viña. We will discuss literature, PSAs, the *Service Manual*, structure, policies, our history, and all platforms for an online presence in the ever-evolving communications world, while following Traditions. We will work diligently to make A.A. more attractive, understood, inclusive, relatable, and accessible."

"Many times, we will have consensus," she noted, adding, however, "Sometimes, we may need to agree to disagree."

Conference members met virtually with General Service Board (GSB) trustees in the run-up to Conference to discuss matters related to the January 2023 resignation of the GSB chair and subsequent resignation of a General Service trustee and how this was communicated to the Fellowship. Throughout Conference week, much discussion focused on healing and how trust, which for some had eroded because of the resignations, could be rebuilt.

One delegate from the Pacific region related a Hawaiian saying often heard in service meetings in his area to capture this moment: "Ho'o Pono Pono," meaning, "To come together and heal."



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Note on anonymity: From time to time in this publication full names and/or pictures of GSO employees, Class A trustees and other nonalcoholics are used. The anonymity of A.A. members is maintained, as they are identified throughout by first name and last initial only.

In the keynote address, Northeast regional trustee Francis G., who rotated out of that position at the end of the Conference, cited the Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service as the basis for the work to be done by the Conference in the coming week. Noting that “it has been said that our entire A.A. program rests squarely upon the principle of mutual trust. We trust God, we trust A.A., and we trust each other ... But what do we do when that sense of trust has been shaken?”

Quoting from Tradition Two, Francis highlighted one of the fundamental aspects of service in the Fellowship: “Our leaders do not drive by mandate; they lead by example.”

He continued: “During this Conference, as in all the Conferences before, we are called to exemplify to the highest possible degree the ideals in our Steps, Traditions and Concepts. My hope for all of us is that we find our way back to trust, together.”

Conference work moves forward

While the General Service Conference is a year-round activity, this one week in April gives Conference members the opportunity to meet in person to put into action the common solution found in the Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service.

Comprising 93 delegates, 25 trustees and corporate directors from AAWS and the Grapevine, along with 15 General Service Office, Grapevine and La Viña staff members, the Conference works based on substantial unanimity (defined as a two-thirds majority). Recommendations generated by individual committees or specific floor actions are voted on by all Conference members and must meet or exceed the two-thirds majority threshold to become Advisory Actions.

Much of the activity of the Conference revolves around the deliberations of the 13 Conference Committees

and full discussion of the reports they provide to the Conference body. Reports from the General Service Board and its affiliate boards, AAWS and AA Grapevine, are presented for review and discussion, along with a detailed finance report provided by the treasurer of the General Service Board. In addition to the presentations, there are “What’s on Your Mind” sessions for Conference members to ask questions on a range of topics. A workshop titled “Practicing Our Twelve Traditions Across All Group Settings” was held, with Conference members sharing experience, strength, and hope on the Traditions and the Legacy of Service. Conference members also traveled to the GSO office on Tuesday afternoon to tour the office and to meet GSO and Grapevine staff.

The Conference closed on Friday evening with a heartfelt round of goodbyes from Panel 72 delegates followed by talks from rotating trustees on Saturday morning. With three new trustees having been elected earlier in the week, Jimmy D., Southwest regional trustee, Francis G., Northeast regional trustee, and Trish L., trustee-at-large Canada, spoke graciously and gratefully of their time in service to the Fellowship. “I listen to the heartbeat of A.A.,” said Jimmy. “It’s my barometer for health and growth.” Citing some of the challenging times faced by GSO and the Fellowship in the early days of Covid — with the Conference moving temporarily to a digital platform, meetings closing or no longer in person, the cancellation of the 2020 International Convention — Francis asked, “Is there ever a *non-challenging* time in A.A.?” Noting how his home group had gone hybrid during the pandemic, Trish shared that in her capacity as trustee-at-large the virtual meeting option had allowed her to pop in digitally from all over the world in her travels for A.A. “They don’t really know what I do,” she said, “but they love me. ... I’m so not important. ... The job is.”

As Conference members reflected on their experiences through the week, prepared to return home to families, friends, home groups, and A.A. meetings across the U.S. and Canada, many turned their thoughts to the 74th General Service Conference in 2024 and its theme “Connecting with Love, Unity and Service.”



2023 Conference Advisory Actions

Conference Advisory Actions represent recommendations put forward by the standing committees of the General Service Conference or Floor Actions that have been discussed, voted on and approved by the Conference body as a whole. A sampling of Advisory Actions from the 2023 General Service Conference appears below in abbreviated form. A complete list, along with the full report of additional items considered by each Conference committee, will be published in the 2023 Conference *Final Report* (available from GSO in late summer).

Floor Action — In an effort to improve communication, ensure Board policies are reflective of our principles, and reestablish a relationship of trust between the General Service Conference, the General Service Board and the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, the General Service Board is asked to undertake an inventory prior to the 74th General Service Conference. To assist the Board in this endeavor, the 73rd General Service Conference will establish a working group to aid the General Service Board in formulating possible inventory questions.

Agenda — The General Service Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself during the 2025 General Service Conference and that a Conference Inventory

Planning Committee be established by the General Service Board to develop a comprehensive inventory plan, timeline and cost estimate, to bring forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on Agenda for consideration.

Literature — The print version of the pamphlet “Too Young” be retired and the content be repurposed as an animation video.

Public Information — The Membership Survey pamphlet be updated to reflect the findings from the 2022 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey.

Report and Charter — *The A.A. Service Manual* not be printed in 2023 and that a new edition be published biennially (i.e., every two years), beginning in 2024; a full rewrite be conducted of chapters 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 to better clarify the roles, responsibilities and relationships between the General Service Office, AA Grapevine, and A.A. World Services, Inc; anonymity-protected Conference *Final Reports* be posted annually on aa.org beginning with the 2023 General Service Conference.

Treatment and Accessibilities — The revised pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic—Never too Late” be approved with minor edits in a format that does not require folding; the 22 interviews recorded to date as part of the Military Audio project be approved, with distribution in various formats and on various platforms.

■ ‘Unfinished Business’: Bringing Virtual Meetings to Correctional Settings

Matt S. is a correctional recovery services supervisor at Allen Oakwood Correctional Institution, a medium security prison in Lima, Ohio. He’s worked there almost 26 years, most of that time in the recovery services program, which offers a wide range of treatment alternatives for individuals diagnosed with substance use disorders, including medication-assisted treatment, cognitive behavioral therapy, recovery maintenance programs, and 12-step programs.

“We engage people when they first come in,” Matt says, “and then keep them engaged over the term of their incarceration. We also have a recovery dorm that is peer-led and peer-facilitated. And we provide support as they leave, linking them up with community agencies who can continue their care.”

The high level of support for people suffering from substance use disorders within Allen Oakwood is augmented by weekly virtual A.A. meetings that Matt, who is a member of A.A., has been able to start with the help of A.A. members from the International Corrections Committee. Such virtual meetings are relatively uncom-

mon at correctional facilities in the U.S. and Canada for several reasons including shortage of staff to monitor meetings or fear that people in custody may gain unauthorized access to the internet. But at Allen Oakwood, Matt says, the virtual meetings are a success story that can help others. “I think we have a strong resource here that is really underutilized and has incredible potential,” he says.

Part of the reason behind Matt’s push for virtual meetings is geographic, since Allen Oakwood, in the northwest corner of Ohio, is located at least an hour away from the nearest city of any size. “We’re kind of out here in no man’s land,” he says. “As the years have gone by, we’ve lost [A.A. corrections] volunteers little by little, in part because we don’t have a large metropolitan area for the corrections committee chairs to draw on to bring in volunteers. Before the pandemic and virtual meetings, we had one A.A. meeting and one N.A. meeting on a Tuesday night. But if you’re having urges on Friday, you were just going to have to wait until Tuesday for a meeting. I thought, If I get the chance to change this, I’m going to.”

The turning point for Matt came in 2021 when he attended the weekly virtual International Corrections Committee meeting on Sunday afternoon and typed in the chat: “Hey, we’d like to start a virtual meeting.”

John L., of Elmira, New York, also attended that meeting. Sober since May 8, 1982, he started work as an alcohol rehabilitation assistant at the nearby Elmira Correctional Facility in 1984. Once there, he became acquainted with the Hill Group, the well-known in-facility A.A. group that has been in existence since the early 1960s. “If anyone was going to get sober in that crazy place,” he says, “I knew it was going to be through Alcoholics Anonymous.” John left Elmira and pursued a career as a senior parole officer, but he returned to the facility in 2008 as an A.A. member, volunteering his services as an “inside sponsor” at the Hill Group.

‘A regular, spirited Alcoholics Anonymous meeting’

In February 2021, John and Tommy O., who got sober while incarcerated in New York State prisons, started a virtual meeting they called Unfinished Business, using the District 500, Area 47, virtual platform account. The attendees were people who had formerly been incarcerated and A.A.’s, many on the International Corrections Committee, who carry the message “behind the walls.”

“Matt came onto the [International Corrections Committee] meeting and said in a private chat, ‘Do you mind if we join you?’” John says. “And he explained what he meant — hooking up the guys on the inside. I trusted Matt and I could tell he was the guy who was going the extra mile. So, the next thing you know, Unfinished Business had a room full of guys from the inside [Allen Oakwood]. Those numbers kept growing, and by April we decided to turn the meeting over to them to chair, although we continue to host it from District 500.”

Today, there are three weekly virtual meetings at Allen Oakwood — a Big Book study group provided by Josh A. of Oklahoma, another meeting where inside members are connected to (but cannot share at) a meeting in Ukraine — part of Matt’s idea to “find ways that are creative and bring some added dimensions” to virtual meetings at Allen Oakwood — and the Unfinished Business meeting. Virtual A.A. meetings at Allen Oakwood are held in a dedicated mental health building in one of four classrooms with television screens mounted on the wall. Each room holds 25 to 30 people. The meetings arrive via a laptop hooked up to the television monitors with an HDMI cable. On a recent Tuesday evening when the Unfinished Business meeting began at 6:30 p.m., there were about 15 inside members and 20 “outside” A.A.’s from all over North America: New York, New Jersey, Florida, Washington State, Vancouver, Canada,

California, Texas, and Ohio — most of them doing service as members of the International Corrections Committee. After a reading of the Preamble and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and the “Detroit prayer,” the meeting was led by inside member Rex, who chose the topic: “How important are the Twelve Steps to your sobriety?” He called on members whose names he picked out of a hat, who can either share or pass.

“It’s pretty much a regular, spirited Alcoholics Anonymous meeting,” says John. “We stick to the primary purpose. We don’t overcomplicate it.” John sees the meeting as “a powerful two-way street. Most of the outside guys we bring did serious time. Ten guys with 250 years of incarceration between them. They’re seeing the guys [inside Allen Oakwood] all wearing the same color and sitting there in a prison program room. And they know they don’t want to go back there. And the guys on the inside, they look and listen to these guys who they know have done serious time, and they realize, if they can do it, we can, too.”

A growing kinship

Scott M. is an inside member at Allen Oakwood who has been sober 19 years and attends the Unfinished Business meeting. “Here in Allen,” he says, “we’re pretty lucky. You can get a schedule from recovery services of all the meetings throughout the week — virtual and physical meetings, some of them run by inmates. While [Unfinished Business] is going on, there’s an N.A. meeting and another A.A. meeting [both in person], so there’s a lot of recovery going on. Our recovery services staff realize that addiction is a disease and there’s no cure for it. You just have to maintain your sobriety and work hard at it.”

Scott agrees with John about the value of the virtual meetings. “More and more people open up,” he says, “because the people we see on the screen have led familiar lives. Some of them have been incarcerated before.” Virtual meetings, Scott points out, “connect you to the real world. It’s virtual, but those people are real, and they have real problems, just the same as we do. So, you feel that kinship with them. It makes you feel like they haven’t forgotten about you. And you haven’t forgotten about them, either.”

The promise of virtual meetings

Virtual meetings may help inside members, but they are also a boon to many A.A.s outside, as well. Lyla M., of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, got sober in 1987 and began doing corrections service, taking meetings (often as the only volunteer) into a Victorian-era women’s correctional facility, “with locks that snapped shut like rifle shots.” She also has written to prisoners via the Corrections Correspondence Service and for a time

wrote the corrections column for the BC/Yukon Area 79 Grassroots Forum.

Lyla has done a great deal of other A.A. service, including as a Cooperation with the Professional Community chair, but after she became disabled it was impossible for her to enter correctional facilities to do the work she loved. She attends the Unfinished Business meeting on a regular basis and enjoys the “warmth and connectedness” of the meeting. “It’s very focused and Rex on the inside does a fantastic job of making the volunteers feel very welcome. When this opportunity with [Allen Oakwood] came up, I was really happy to get involved and I’m looking for other opportunities, as well. Real recovery is about taking it out to the world at large, doing more service for our communities and bringing love and unity and all those good principles to alcoholics no matter where they or we are. This is how I can do that.”

Another benefit of virtual meetings is that they expand opportunities for women who want to do service in correctional institutions but are limited by the fact that there are far more men than women in custody in the U.S. “It’s not advisable for women to enter men’s prisons,” Tommy O. says, “but the virtual platform removes that problem — a woman can sponsor a meeting on the outside from her living room and be of service that way.”

Virtual meetings do have their challenges. They can have an isolating effect on people in custody, especially newcomers, who would be better served by an in-person meeting or a one-on-one talk with a sponsor. Correctional facilities also can shift their attitudes towards virtual meetings, depending on who is in charge. Bob L., of St. Louis, has been sober since 1996 and has done extensive service bringing meetings into prisons in the Midwest. Near the end of 2021, he says, he helped set up virtual meetings in two St. Louis city jails. “I had been a volunteer pre-Covid,” Bob says, “and I got a phone call from the caseworker saying, ‘Can you guys start back up again?’ I mentioned that I had seen what they were doing [at Allen Oakwood] and asked if virtual meetings were a possibility. And they said yes. So, we used my district’s meeting account. We had guest speakers from all over

the country — my first one was a woman from Toronto who brought her sponsees and her sponsor with her!” Bob, who was present at the facility during the meeting, helped encourage discussion among inside members. But the virtual meetings only lasted six months. The superintendent who had encouraged them — “our guardian angel,” Bob says — retired and the meetings were discontinued with no explanation.

Although most the meetings at Allen Oakwood are still in person, Matt has plans to continue and, if possible, expand the virtual meetings, including potentially logging into other correctional facilities in different states so that inside members can speak with other inside members in different facilities. He also shared some thoughts on how other professionals in the field and A.A. corrections committee members might bring virtual meetings to other facilities.

“Stress upon the facility that this is nothing new — already, this technology has been used inside of correction facilities for medicine, for distance-learning classes,” Matt says, adding that with the use of the virtual platform, “they don’t have to bring an A.A. member in and have to worry about their physical safety. They don’t have to worry about people bringing stuff into the facility that they shouldn’t or about inappropriate relationships. Everything is monitored online, on camera. Plus, A.A. volunteers don’t have to drive long distances each way. With virtual meetings, we can also bring in members who may have longer, more stable recovery — in general, the quality of the meetings is enriched. And virtual meetings can also work to get inside members connected to the A.A. communities outside the facility that they may be going to when they leave.”

The Corrections desk at GSO is collecting shared experience on this topic. “It’s important to get out the idea, both to the general population of Alcoholics Anonymous and to the people doing corrections service, as well as corrections professionals, that this new and trending change in corrections work is potentially available,” says Eileen A., who recently served as Corrections coordinator.

For more information...

Contact corrections@aa.org if you have any questions about virtual meetings in correctional settings. If you’re currently providing virtual meetings in correctional facilities, please share your experience with us. We’d love to hear from you.



Inside A.A. Finances

Part I: OVERSIGHT



Beginning with this issue, Box 4-5-9 will feature a series of columns from the chair of the General Service Board (GSB) Finance and Budgetary Committee (commonly known as “the Finance Committee”). The current chair is Kevin Prior, Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee.

The purpose of this series is to demystify the GSB finance and budget processes, provide information on planning and oversight, and respond to frequently asked questions. Kevin brings deep experience and expertise to this service role. He is senior director of finance at the St. Louis, Missouri-based Catholic Health Association of the United States, a nonprofit similar in size and scope to Alcoholics Anonymous. Like A.A., it is funded by its members, and has what Kevin describes as a “parallel financial structure.”

To kick off this series, *Box 4-5-9* sat down with Kevin to discuss his role and some recent areas of concern for the Fellowship.

Box 4-5-9: Why do you think discussion of this topic is both timely and important?

Kevin: In addition to being the chair of the Finance Committee and the treasurer of the board, I am also the chief steward of the precious Reserve Fund of the Fellowship. This money is *their* money, A.A. members’ money, and I’m always very aware of that. I think that it’s really crucial for people to realize how much time and care is spent on the way their dollars are utilized — essentially, the planning and oversight process.

Box 4-5-9: So how does budget oversight work?

Kevin: We can use the 2023 budget process as an example. Our budget year runs January to December, which means we started conversations about the budget back in September 2022. It’s important to remember that the General Service Board is the holding company for both Grapevine and AAWS/GSO. Each of those entities submits a budget. I figured out that A.A. finances, in some form, are discussed by a group of trusted servants 70 times a year. There are so many steps and all these intelligent people are looking at the budget at every stage.

I personally attended several of the Grapevine Board meetings in person and several online. The same with AAWS. What those corporate boards wanted to know was, ‘Is there anything that is a non-starter for you [as the budget was being developed]?’ and I said, ‘If there is a deficit there has to be a plan to get out of it.’

Box 4-5-9: Why is it important to discuss budget oversight?

Kevin: One of the reasons I’m talking about oversight is that there is an unfortunate narrative out there that the whole process is just kind of on autopilot. There are people who think that when the January Board Weekend comes along, and the Finance Committee and the board approve the budget, that we are rubber-stamping it. This is far from true. The budget goes through an exhaustive series of meetings of AAWS and Grapevine (as well as periodic touchpoints with the Finance Committee or whole GSB, as necessary) so that by the time it does come to the General Service Board and Finance Committee it is already a finished product that has been carefully and thoroughly reviewed. I’ve heard the idea that at the formal meeting where we approve the budget we should be still tinkering and questioning what’s in the budget. But, if after this long process, the board at its formal meeting says ‘no’ to the budget or feels the need to tinker, that means the process has failed in some way. Communication should be so open during the development of the budget that what lands on the GSB’s meeting for approval should not be a surprise to anyone — and I believe we have achieved that through our exhaustive budget oversight process.

Box 4-5-9: What are some other concerns you have heard?

Kevin: One is that since 2019, the Reserve Fund has been drawn down — mainly because of Covid. It’s only at seven months of expenses. Our own reserve policy that we put in last year, as well as common lore throughout A.A. history, is that it should be between nine and 12 months. So, the reservoir is low, relative to history, and that is concerning. People in A.A. are generally pretty conservative financially, so they say, ‘Shouldn’t Plan A be that we are replenishing the reservoir?’ In Concept XI, Bill talks about the problem of obsessing about rebuilding the reserve at the expense of services. He says you can cut the budget back to achieve this, but the Fellowship might not like what’s on the other side of it. In contemporary terms, no new Translation Department, no plain language Big Book. You have to watch out for what he calls ‘a false and unimaginative economy’ that is not even effective. Essentially, Bill says you should get the reserve back to nine months if we think that’s a safe level.

Box 4-5-9: But Bill is cautioning ‘don’t burn down the barn’ to get there.

Kevin: Exactly. Going back to oversight, here’s my point: You may not like the fact that we’re not going to

get the reserve back up to nine months this year, but it's important to keep in mind that there are a lot of people minding the store and doing it well. I get that people are worried. It's a challenging time for all organizations. Contributions have been healthy, but they're not going sky high. Literature sales have been impacted negatively by the pandemic and supply chain issues. When the pie is shrinking, people can get fearful. I understand that.

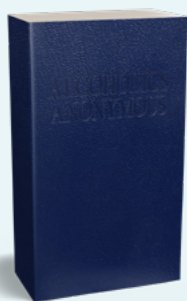
Box 4-5-9: And you're not afraid?

Kevin: No. We are at seven months' reserve. Both corporations [AA Grapevine and AAWS] have a plan that is reasonable. I have 30 years of managing nonprofit budgets. From my vantage point and experience, we are not in a crisis.

Box 4-5-9: What topics do you plan to cover in future columns?

Kevin: I want to speak to the Reserve Fund policy because that's important. Let's talk about A.A.'s investments. Why the new Grapevine app may be the financial story of 2023-24. The reason we've raised our literature prices. We can also discuss both revenue streams, literature vs. contributions, though I know there is a spiritual conversation to be had there. And more. There's a lot we can cover and discuss.

News from Publishing



New 'soft touch velvet' cover to be featured on softcover Big Books

A new "soft touch velvet" cover treatment is now being implemented on softcover Big Books.

This cover treatment makes use of the one of the most up-to-date and commonly used cover finishes available — eliminating the need for special orders of

high-cost materials that often have long lead times and result in backorders.

Often used on classic editions of books, the "soft touch velvet" has a high-quality look and greater durability.

Copies of these Big Book softcovers with this new cover treatment will be in circulation in the coming months, as current inventories of the previous editions are depleted, reprints are needed, and the new editions come off press.

As always, we encourage ordering the Big Book and all literature items from local distribution sources — groups, districts, areas, Intergroups and Central Offices — as they play a vital role in local Twelfth Step activities.

To order from the AAWS webstore, please visit <https://onlineliterature.aa.org>.

What's New in the Archives

The A.A. Archives at GSO recently acquired Dr. William Silkworth's college degree that he received from Princeton University in 1896. Silkworth played an important role in A.A. history for his treatment of Bill W. for alcoholism on four occasions at Charles B. Towns Hospital in New York City. Prior to Bill's first admission to Towns Hospital, Dr. Silkworth already had theorized that alcoholism was not a lack of willpower or moral defect, but a legitimate illness, a theory that was unique at the time.



In December 1934, Bill had his spiritual experience during what would be his last stay at Towns Hospital. As he wrote in *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, "this man of science had humbly sat by my bed following my own sudden and overwhelming spiritual experience, reassuring me. 'No, Bill,' he had said, 'you are not hallucinating. Whatever you have got, you had better hang on to; it is so much better than what you had only an hour ago.'"

During the first few months of 1935, Bill attempted to sober up fellow alcoholics in New York City. However, he was unsuccessful. It would be Dr. Silkworth who told Bill that "his preaching was driving his prospects away. Why not talk instead about the illness of alcoholism?" Bill would use this approach during his meeting with Dr. Bob in Akron, Ohio, in May 1935.

Dr. Silkworth would go on to write *The Doctor's Opinion* which has been in the Big Book since it was first published in 1939.

The degree is currently on display in the Archives.

To learn more about the Archives, please visit aa.org/gso-archives.



WHAT'S NEW

■ Updated Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet Now Available



The Seventh Tradition fact sheet (SMF-203) has been updated to reflect current services that are supported by members' Seventh Tradition contributions.

These updates include:

- In response to many **correctional facilities** going paperless, AA Grapevine and AAWS Publishing collaborated on a multi-year project to make A.A. literature available on more than 200,000 tablets in jails and prisons. Many prison libraries also can access our growing number of audio books to help those with literacy issues. Of note is the Daily Reflections audiobook now available in English, Spanish, and French. (Learn more at onlineliterature.aa.org/audiobooks.)
- One resourceful way the **Publishing Department** is responding to worldwide paper shortages and supply-chain disruptions is by printing directly to the book cover. The new “jacketless” Big Book and Twelve & Twelve will result in cost-savings and help ensure A.A. books are widely available to those who need them.
- The **Technology Department** at GSO is always looking for ways to streamline workflows. One recent success is the “Submit Your Story” portal, that was developed to make it easier for members to submit their stories for possible inclusion in the Fifth Edition Big Book and in A.A. pamphlets. The portal is also being used for the new young people’s video project submissions.

Visit aa.org/seventh-tradition-fact-sheet-your-seventh-tradition-contributions to view the updated fact sheet.

■ Resumes for Trustees Election Due January 1, 2024

Two new Class B (alcoholic) regional trustees, from the West Central and Western Canada regions, will be elected at the General Service Conference in April 2024. Resumes must be received at GSO no later than January 1, 2024. In seeking applications for vacancies in Alcoholics Anonymous, the Fellowship is committed to creating a large file of qualified applicants that reflect the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A. itself.

Please email submissions to the secretary, Trustees’ Committee on Nominating, GSO at nominating@aa.org or mail to:

Attn. Secretary, Trustees Nominating Committee
c/o The General Service Office
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

The new West Central regional trustee will fill the position currently held by Mike L. The next trustee from the Western Canada region will follow Irma V. A sound A.A. background is a basic qualification for Class B trustees. Ten years of continuous sobriety is desirable but not mandatory. Candidates should be active in both local and area A.A. affairs, and because trustees serve the entire Fellowship, they require the background and the willingness to make decisions on matters of broad policy that affect A.A. as a whole. Since much is asked of the trustees with respect to their time, it is important that candidates understand the commitment of time required. Trustees are expected to attend: three quarterly board weekends, with meetings running from Saturday morning through Monday noon; a quarterly meeting combined with the General Service Conference (seven days) in April; and any special meetings of the board. Regional trustees also serve in rotation for attendance at Regional Forums other than in their own regions. In addition, Regional Trustees are usually asked to serve two years on either the AAWS or Grapevine Corporate Boards, which meet more frequently than the General Service Board.

Trustees serve on committees of the General Service Board and may also serve on trustees’ subcommittees or corporate board subcommittees, whose work often involves conference calls. They are often invited to participate in regional or area activities, such as service conferences, area assemblies, etc. Trusteeship is for four years. Applicants are encouraged to discuss this time commitment with their family and employer. Trustees are reimbursed for travel, hotel, and meal expenses.

■ AA Grapevine Seeking New Non-Trustee Director

The AA Grapevine is accepting resumes for the position of Non-Trustee Director on its corporate board. The position takes effect following the General Service Conference in April 2024.

Some of the qualities most desirable for this position include:

- A sound business or professional background is preferable, but not limited to the following areas — management, legal, publishing, content production, or e-commerce.
- Familiarity with and ties to diverse A.A. communities and professional communities.
- The ability to work collaboratively with others to meet shared objectives.
- Prior service on a non-profit is helpful.
- A minimum of seven years sobriety in the A.A. program.

The position requires availability to attend the following meetings:

- All quarterly and planning committee meetings of the AA Grapevine (currently up to eight per year)
- Three weekend meetings of trustees' committees (to which corporate board directors are appointed)
- The General Service Conference for one week in April
- In addition, directors may be called upon to attend subcommittee or other meetings and to represent AA Grapevine at Regional Forums or other A.A. functions.

Resumes must be submitted by September 15, 2023. All interested A.A. members may apply. Please note that a General Service Conference Delegate is not eligible to apply until *one year after* their last Conference, i.e., only Panel 71 Delegates and prior panels will be considered for this opening.

Download the resume form at this link www.aagrapevine.org/Vacancy-NTD-AAGV and return the completed form to resumes@aagrapevine.org, or print and mail the completed form to:

Attention: Janet Bryan, Director of Operations
AAGV, Inc.
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1100
New York, NY 10115

■ GSO Job Announcement

The General Service Office is looking for new Staff Members including a French-speaking Canadian who resides in either the U.S. or Canada and is willing to relocate to New York to help us serve the A.A. Fellowship throughout the U.S. and Canada. This is a great opportunity for a member of A.A., with at least six years of continuous sobriety, who has strong writing and communication skills and has a good understanding of our service structure to be a “special worker” and join us in our mission to help the still suffering alcoholic.

For more information about the position, and to apply, please visit recruiting.paylocity.com/Recruiting/Jobs/Details/1781203

Or select the “Careers” link on the Contact the A.A. General Service Office page on our website, aa.org/contact-gso

■ New Audiobook of Daily Reflections Now Available

A new Audiobook edition of *Daily Reflections* is now available in English, French, and Spanish.

The audio edition will be accessible as follows:

Download Available for purchase from Apple, Audio Google Play, Audio Kobo, Audible, and other Audiobook vendors in English, French, and Spanish narration, at a list price of **\$11.99** (actual selling prices due to vendor special offers may be lower).

For information, please visit onlineliterature.aa.org/audiobooks.

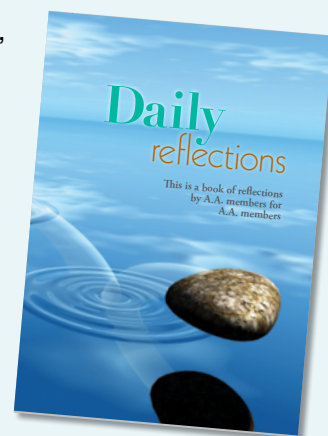
LISTEN

Coming soon: The audio version of each day's reflection will be available in English, French, and Spanish on aa.org in addition to the text.

For people in custody “behind the walls”

People in custody throughout the United States will be able to listen to the *Daily Reflections* audiobook at no charge on tablets supplied by Securus Jpay and Edovo/GTL, as available.

For questions or more information, please contact publishingnews@aa.org.



Visit the General Service Office this Summer!

Visitors are welcome to GSO, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tours are scheduled at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 2 p.m., and last about 45 minutes.

On Fridays, GSO hosts an open A.A. meeting at 11 a.m.
There is also a guided tour offered after the meeting at 12:15 p.m.



SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT TO GSO

All visitors must register in advance to gain access to the building in accordance with the building policy. Accordingly, we strongly recommend that individuals contact us prior to your visit so that we can enter you into the building's security system.

We're located at 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY
(building entrance at 61 Claremont Avenue).

Groups of 10 or more must contact us ahead of time to schedule their visit so that we can best prepare for your time at the General Service Office.

To schedule your visit, email gsotours@aa.org or call **212-870-3430**.

To learn more about visiting GSO, including location details, our health and safety policy, and information about purchasing literature, please visit <https://www.aa.org/visiting-the-gso>.

**Please note, the building will be closed to visitors
September 4 and October 9.**



Mark Your Calendars and Make Plans to Attend the 2025 A.A. International Convention

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

July 3-6, 2025

Vancouver will welcome A.A. members from around the world for the 2025 International Convention. This will mark the 90th anniversary of our Fellowship's founding.

Frequently visit the Convention webpage at aa.org/international-convention for more information, the latest news, and FAQs. As the Convention approaches, the page will be updated with registration information.

Taking place once every five years, the A.A. International Convention marks the anniversary of Bill W.'s first meeting with Dr. Bob and the birth of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935. At the Convention, members and their families and friends from around the world attend meetings, workshops, dances, and events. A highlight is the traditional flag ceremony to celebrate sobriety worldwide.

**Let's celebrate sobriety together in
Vancouver in 2025!**



NOTE: Events may be canceled or moved to online formats due to health and safety concerns. Please contact the event coordinators as listed before making your plans.

Calendar of Events

Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the General Service Office. Please note that we cannot attest to the accuracy, relevancy, timeliness, or completeness of information provided by any linked site. For any additional information, please use the event contact information provided.

August

- 4-6 — *Hunt Valley, Maryland.* 51st Annual Area 29 Maryland State Convention. Write: MGS Convention P.O. Box 9879, Towson, MD 21284; Info: Stateconvention@marylandaa.org
- 10-13 — *Tampa, Florida.* 66th Florida State Convention. Write: Ch., Box 422 Lutz, FL 33548; Info: <https://66.floridastateconvention.com>
- 11-12 — *Ripley, West Virginia.* Area 73 2023 Convention. Write: Ch., Box 34 Parkersburg, WV 26101; Info: www.aawv.org
- 11-13 — *Eugene, Oregon.* Summerfest 2023. Write: Ch., Box 11824, Eugene OR 97440; Info: <https://aa-summerfest.org>
- 11-13 — *Fairborn, Ohio.* 67th Annual Ohio State Convention. Write: Ch., Box 684 Dayton, OH 45401. Info: www.aaarea56.org
- 18-20 — *Green Lake, Wisconsin.* Green Lake Round Up. Write: Ch., Green Lake Round Up Conference Center, Box 684 Menomonee Falls, WI 53051. Email: teresa.omalley1@gmail.com
- 18-20 — *Summerville, South Carolina.* 27th Annual Southeast Woman to Woman Conference. Write: Ch., SEWTW 2023, Box 61, Ladson, SC 29456. Info: www.sewomantowoman.org
- 18-20 — *Woodstock, Ontario, Canada.* 40th Woodstock Marathon of Unity Convention. Info: www.oxfordaa.com; Email: woodstockmou@gmail.com
- 25-28 — *Missoula, Montana.* West Central Regional Forum. Write: Regional Forums Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. Info: regionalforums@aa.org

September

- 01-03 — *Boise, Idaho.* Gem State Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 828, Kuna, ID 83634. Info: gemstateroundup.org@gmail.com
- 01-03 — *Greeley, Colorado.* 2023 Colorado State Convention. Write: Ch., 2519 Shield St., Suite #1K#172, Greeley, CO 80526-3350. Info: www.convention.coloradoaa.org
- 01-03 — *Litchfield Park, Arizona.* 2023 Arizona State Convention. Write: Ch., Box 5629, Scottsdale, AZ 85261. Info: www.area03.org
- 01-03 — *Seattle, Washington.* La Convención Hispana de A.A. de Estados Unidos y Canadá. Write: Ch., Box 3001, Kirkland, WA

98033. Email: aaconvenciones@gmail.com; Info: www.convencioneshispanasdeestadosunidoscanada.org
- 01-04 — *Miramar, Florida.* Summer Serenity at the Beach XX. Write: Ch., Box 6176, Miramar Beach, FL 32550. Email: summerserenity2022@gmail.com
- 01-04 — *San Francisco, California.* The 63rd ICYPAA — International Conference of Young People In AA. Info: WWW.ICYPAA.ORG
- 01-04 — *Tampa, Florida.* 37th Annual Tampa Bay Fall Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 262545, Tampa, FL 33615. Info: www.Tampabayfallroundup.com
- 15-17 — *Houffalize, Belgium.* The Key to Sobriety. Write: Ch., Ol Fosse D'Outh 1, Houffalize, Armed Forces (Canada, Europe, Africa, or Middle East) 6660, Belgium; Info: www.aaconv.be
- 15-17 — *Quebec, Canada.* 23e Congres du District 90-22 Gatineau. Write: Ch., 85, rue du Barry Gatineau, Quebec, Canada J8T 3N5. Info: www.grandforksaa.org
- 15-17 — *Syracuse, New York.* ESCYPAA IX. Write: Ch., Box 263, Homer, NY 13077. Info: www.grandforksaa.org
- 16-18 — *Grand Forks, North Dakota.* Area 52 North Dakota State Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 13663, Grand Forks, North Dakota. 58208. Email: congres22@aa90.org
- 22-24 — *Richland, Washington.* Three Rivers BigBook Weekend IV. Write: Ch., 750 W Livernois Way, Chino Valley, AZ 86323. Info: <https://www.threeriversbigbookweekend.org>
- 22-24 — *Somerset, New Jersey.* NNJGS 67th Annual Area 44 Convention. Write: Ch., 2325 Plainfield Avenue #2J, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Info: <https://nnjaa.org/convention/2023/>
- 22-24 — *Wakefield, Virginia.* 29th Annual Wakefield Campfire Conference. Write: Ch., 752 Westminster Lane, Virginia Beach, VA 23454. Info: wakefieldcampfireconference.com
- 29-01 — *Manchester, Tennessee.* Tennessee State Convention 2023. Write: Ch., 111 Hospitality Blvd., Manchester, TN 37355; Info: <https://www.tnaaconvention2023.com>
- 29-30 — *El Paso, Texas.* Southwest Regional Forum. Write: Regional Forums Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. Info: regionalforums@aa.org

October

- 6-8 — *Louisville, Kentucky.* Falls City Conv. Write: Ch., Box 37137, Louisville, KY 40233; Info: www.FallsCityConvention.com
- 6-9 — *Okinawa, Japan.* Round Up. Info: <https://www.12stepokinawa.com>
- 11-15 — *Tossa Mar, Spain.* Costa Brava English Speaking Convention. Write: Ch., 6037 Cherrelyn Way, Carmichael, CA 95608; Info: www.convention-costabrava.com

- 13-15 — *Windsor Locks, Connecticut.* 64th Annual Area 11 Convention. Write: Ch., 581 Meriden Ave. Southington, CT 06489; Info: <https://ct-aa.org/event/64th-annual-area-11-convention/>
- 20-21 — *Saint Cloud, Minnesota.* 40th Annual St. Cloud Roundup. Write: Ch., PO Box 125 St. Cloud, MN 56302; Info: www.stcloud-roundup.org
- 20-22 — *Mackinac Island, Michigan.* Mackinac Island Fall Wknd. Write: Ch., 1915 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. D, Lansing, MI 48912; Email: lansingaa@gmail.com
- 20-23 — *Stillwater, New Jersey.* NAGLNJ's Weekend AA Conference "A Vision for You". Write: Ch., Box 404, West Orange, NJ 07052; Info: www.naglnj.com; Email: d34-gsr01@njarea44.org
- 20-23 — *Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin.* Southern Wisconsin Area 75 Conference. Write: Ch., First Presbyterian Church, Fond Du lac, WI 54902; Email: chair@area75.org
- 26-29 — *Waikiki, Hawaii.* 60th Annual Hawaii Convention. Write: Ch., PO Box 23434 Honolulu, HI 96823; Info: www.annualhawaiiiconvention.com
- 27-29 — *St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.* Promises in Paradise. Write: Ch., Box 307556, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00803-7556. promisesinparadise@gmail.com

November

- 10-11 — *Mossy Head, Florida.* Sunshine Convention. Write: Ch., Box 837, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32432; Email: SunshineConvention@aol.com
- 10-12 — *Lancaster, Pennsylvania.* 66th Annual Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Convention and Assembly. Write: Ch., 312 Hamel Ave., Glenside, PA 19038; Email: convention@area59aa.org
- 10-12 — *Milwaukee, Wisconsin.* 22 Convención Hispana de Alcohólicos Anónimos del Estado de Wisconsin. Write: Ch., 1663 S. 6th St., Milwaukee, WI 53204; Email: covencionhispanadewisconsin@gmail.com
- 10-12 — *Ocean Shores, Washington.* Serenity at the Shores. Write: Ch., Box 994, Ocean Shores, WA 98569; Info: www.oceanshoresjamboree.com
- 17-19 — *Maitland, Florida.* Southern States AA Service Assembly — SSAASA7. Write: Ch., 1800 Clover Circle, Melbourne, FL 32935. Email: chair.ssaasa7@gmail.com; Info: www.ssaasa7.org
- 17-19 — *Ardmore, Oklahoma.* 40th Red River Valley Rally. Write: 14192 Little Rd., Kingston, OK 73439; Info: www.redrivervalleyrally.com; Email: redrivervalleyrally@gmail.com
- 24-26 — *Pascagoula, Mississippi.* Gratitude Roundup. Write: Ch., 19021 Commission Rd., Long Beach, MS 39560; Info: www.MsCoastRoundups.org