Hello Everyone, Lyle Alcoholic Area 42 Panel 75 Delegate,

I'm so honored to serve Area 42 beyond my wildest dreams. The 76th Conference felt very united and comfortable among the 136 members. Even though we disagreed on many things. Disagreeing with respect sets up more unity even when we want to make our points over and over sometimes. The co-chairs seemed a little concerned to cut the conversion off to quickly and give all a change to have a voice. So, our work went on from 8am to 9pm with an hour to hour and half lunch and dinner which included a working lunch and dinner for those of us on two committees. We were busy but one of the highlights of my life especially sharing it with my wife Julie what an honor.

I started the trip with a Friday 11am AA meeting at GSO and tour of the new retrofit of the office. I'll have a PowerPoint presentation at the Assembly with lots of pictures of GSO and other things.

The Conference started Sunday morning with some instructions and roll call very exciting, Bob W. makes it fun, and this year Julie's name was before me then me wow what an honor I was holding back tears. How the Conference Operates was much better this time. We the Conference sharing on virtual a couple weeks before the conference and went over HTCO and the committee that works on it heard suggestions and applied them. So, just a few minutes "13" we were through HTCOs.

Scott H., Chair of the GSB, gave his report and it was different than the one we had in our manual. In part he said about the success of the International Convention. Thousands upon thousands of members had the opportunity to hear many speakers on many topics. The local community provided feedback on the positive experience of our presence. That the energy of the members of AA brought a profoundly positive feeling to the entire community. They were thankful to have had us there. Congratulations Alcoholics Anonymous! The International Convention made about $8,600, which is breakeven.

Scott next talked about needed some of the focus we see the fellowship asking for is better PI work. We plan on utilizing our Nonalcoholic Trustees - Class As for this work. We are experimenting with producing short videos of the Class As for this PI work. This will help reduce the costs of the productions.

Communication is another focus for the GSB. Communication within the Trustees committees, communication to the Delegates and to the Fellowship as a whole.

We discussed the Inventory and the recommended direction it should go. There are actionable items we need to act on, or the inventory is not helpful. We treated the ad hoc inventory implementation committee like the other normal conference committees during the conference.

Trustees:

Sunday 5:10pm to 5:40pm I had a joint Trustee and Conference committee meeting. With 9 Trustees and committee secretary, and the 9 Delegates. Asked if we the delegates had any questions, I asked some details about the new incoming Treasurer. Since Terry B. our current treasurer was not coming to the conference. His wife was ill and he was helping with her. The Hon. Kerry Meyer (A) Trustee (2022) is going to be the new Treasurer. She is a chief judge responsible for a 78-million-dollar budget. Normally nonalcoholic trustees serve 2 three-year terms, one year at a time.
Note: the Treasurer of the GSB is different than my home group, district, and Area. They are not the ones writing out checks, making deposits and so on. The Treasurer is more like the Finance Chair. There is a CFO, Paul and others in place to do the accounting business.

Monday and Tuesday morning are my Trustee Committee meetings 4 hour each day and we went a little long on Tuesday.

Trustees CCT: Monday
Conference Committee on Trustees

We all read the resumes, felt confident that the nominees were all qualified and recommended 4 slates which passed with substantial unanimity.

The Pamphlet "Do you Think You are Different" is still in process by the Trustee's Literature Committee, we briefly discussed the progress report.

Our committee discussed an item from last year, where we recommended that future trustee censure requests come directly to this committee for our eyes only.
I disagreed with this Item especially with your eyes only. We invited two TNC Trustees in to talk with us, one at a time. To quote one of the trustees, "well I wouldn't want to be on that committee". And you could feel the room shift. The CCT worked the rest of our time on Monday on this Agenda Item having a robust discussion, and agreed to come back to it the next day.

> 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.
> The entire Conference later voted on our recommendation which Passed 122 to 10
>
> Then we discussed the two videos which were included in our agenda due to the EDW (which is an attempt to balance the committees workload regardless of topics). We

were concerned about finances, but recommended both videos so that the full conference could have a voice.

E. 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.

After an hour of discussion I mentioned to the body how little the cost would be and others talked about a service piece. Many have concerns over cost. It also took 4 years for the Concept video to be made after it was approved. Passed 104 to 27

The recommendation was broadly discussed from the floor. The first vote passed it with substantial unanimity. Minority voice was heard, and a motion to reconsider was made and seconded, the motion to reconsider failed, so the motion passes with substantial unanimity

The 12 Traditions video was a journey through "how the conference operates"
First, we had a motion to send it back to next year's committee, which failed
Then we had an amended recommendation, which failed
Then another amendment, which we agreed to vote on, but before we could vote, someone asked to reconsider and go back to the original, which failed.
Ultimately, someone called the question (which brings the vote) and it passed 110 to 21
One hour 20 minutes to 10pm

Here is the advisory action:
The conference: recommended that the trustees Literature Committee explore producing 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.

Most of the concern was about cost.

IC/RF:
For my secondary committee, we have a joint Trustees/Conference dinner meeting to start. At the joint meeting Julie and I got to sit next to each other at dinner, how cool is that?
After dinner, we began the conference only committee. We discussed the flag ceremony, but came to no conclusion so back to the Trustees it went. We also had a good discussion on Regional Forums. Remember ours is in December in San Diego, I hope you can all make it.
We had no recommendations for the conference to vote on.

The following are highlights from Conference actions:

Conference Committee on Agenda
The theme for the 2027 General Service Conference is: "Honoring Our Past, Embracing Our Future"

Archives

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. San Diego first week in Dec.
- Continue area-wide discussions around the possibility of future linguistic and virtual areas in the United States/Canada structure.

Conference Committee on Corrections

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.
Passed Yes 129 to 5 about an hour

Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities

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.

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,

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

Conference Committee on Public Information

The committee reviewed and accepted the PSA Development and Review plan.

The committee requested the trustees' Public Information Committee explore the feasibility of utilizing the Communication Services Department (CSD) at GSO to create a short public service announcement (PSA) intended for Spanish-speaking A.A. members, and subsequently adapting it into French and English.

Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community

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.

Conference Committee on the AA Grapevine and La Viña

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.

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. A $552,008 difference.

- 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.

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- 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 202

Conference Committee on Report and Charter

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.

A. 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."

yes 123 to 5

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

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*. Yes 130 to 1.

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.

> 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.

Conference Committee on Finance

A. Review the Self-Support Packet.

The committee recommended that “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” (Item F-3) be updated as follows:
“Q. How much does it cost, per group, to operate GSO?

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.” Passed yes 121 to 10

Finance Report: Scott H.,

The audit vendor gave a 2025 report first.

A. Key take aways:

B. BDO USA is an independent audit firm. They pleased to share the highlights from our recent audit conducted by BDO USA. The auditors provided us with the highest-level rating statement possible. Notably, there were no required adjustments to our journal entries, and no issues rose to a level requiring a report to the GSB, which reflects a high standard of financial reporting. Furthermore, BDO confirmed that revenue was neither overstated nor improperly categorized.

C. Regarding our financials, there was a $5.2 million decrease in asset value due to the timing of 2024 pre-registration income for the international convention. However, we saw a $1.2 million increase in net value, which is a very healthy indicator for a non-profit of our size.

D.

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 AAWS/GSB (GSO) FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS - Our GSB Chairperson, Scott H., gave the financial report in Terry B's. absence.

- 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

2026 ANTICIPATED RESERVE FUND ACTIVITY

DATE	ACTIVITY	AMOUNT
	Beginning Balance	11,022,418
January	Drawdown for Retrofit	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
	Anticipated Ending Balance	8,969,287
	Anticipated Months on Hand 12/31/26	4.79

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Conference Committee on Literature

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.
The discussion from the floor was very moving and emotional. Most were in favor of all of the content. Some were not in favor of all of the stories. Some called out specific stories. Some talked about stories being removed. The 5th Edition should be out end of this year. Passed yes 125 to 9

The next order of business that added to the very spiritual experience of this moment. Bob, our GSO manager announced that as of 12:01 am this morning, we, AA, our fellowship, are now the owners of the app, Everything AA. We paid for the app, but we consider this a cost neutral purchase. Due to contractual restraints the details of the purchase are not being disclosed. The costs are supposed to recouped within a year. The number of followers is approximately 1 million active users. All content that is Non-GSC approved or not in line with the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous will

be removed soon. More information to come. He asked for our patience as we thoughtfully transition ownership.

C. 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 slur words is not appropriate for our basic text.

Most of the remarks, and there were many remarks, were in favor of this change, with the same and maybe even deeper emotion that was shared to approve the 5th Edition. I had to search within my own heart, if this change will be the correct thing to do, If, when we had the chance, we were able do something that would make an entire population feel included instead of excluded. Passed yes 112 to 23

Review the Conference Committee on Literature Composition, Scope and Procedure Passed yes 116 to 10

The committee discussed the progress report on the development of the Fourth Edition of the book Alcohólicos Anónimos (Spanish). The committee recognized the work that has gone into developing the revised draft and requested that a manuscript or progress report be brought back to the 2027 Conference Committee on Literature. The committee offered the following suggestions:
Committee discussed what a huge project this is. Not like the 5th Edition English Big Book. The Spanish book needed to be completely retranslated.

Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions

A. Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW)

The committee recommended that following the 78th General Service Conference that the Equitable Distribution Workload (EDW) process be discontinued. 2 hour discussion Passed yes 93 no 39. Reconsider yes 54 no 75

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.

B. 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. Failed yes 49 no 68

This is one that ad amendments then back to original then recommended but failed

2025 Conference Committee on Inventory Implementation

• 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.

FLOOR ACTIONS

- The suggested area contribution for delegate expense to attend the Conference be increased from $2,200 to $3,000.
- 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.
- 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.