

## **Committee A**

Consider a request to define eligibility for Area-level service for members residing outside of the geographic area they want to serve. (PAI 46) (Archives - 12b)

Consider a request to discuss the location of the General Service Conference (GSC) (PAI-22). (Finance – 4d)

Discuss the General Service Conference Final Report. (Report and Charter – 9b)

Review the five-year plans for both Grapevine and La Viña. (Grapevine - 5c)

\*\*\*Note this item will not be talked about during committee discussion, but all together on Panel 4 \*\*\*

Review draft of the Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous. (Literature – 6d)

## 2026 Conference Committee on Archives

**ITEM B:** Consider a request to define eligibility for area-level service for members residing outside of the geographic area they want to serve. (PAI-46)

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### Background notes:

*From the November 2, 2025, trustees' General Service Conference Committee report:*

The committee considered a proposal to “discuss who can serve as an area trusted servant if they live outside the area they are serving” and agreed to forward to the 2026 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions.

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### Background:

1. PAI-46
2. *The A.A. Service Manual* (See sharing on the area delegate role.):  
<https://www.aa.org/aa-service-manualtwelve-concepts-world-services>

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**(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.**

"That the Policy and Administration Committee of the GSC discuss issues of who can serve as an area trusted servant if they live outside the area they are serving. Does geography limit the ability to carry a group conscience? On the other side, please clarify where past delegates can stand for trustee if they have relocated."

**(2) What problem does this proposed item address?**

"The pandemic has shed light on this question, which has always bubbled below the surface - both when a past delegate has relocated and when someone in a Zoom group in one area is from another, sometimes very far away, and has then become an area or district trusted servant. A related problem is wider representation of Hispanic groups with a linguistic area in each region, possibly with a national Hispanic trustee. The perception would then arise whether this closes the pathway for Hispanic trusted servants to "earn a spot" as delegates or area officers."

**(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).**

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

"This item was discussed by Area 13 policy and procedures committee including the Area Chair. It was withdrawn at the Area assembly to specify that the discussions occur in the Policy and Procedures Committee of the GSC."

**(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:**

In Area 13, a debate over linguistic areas invited comments from a Hispanic trusted servant about earning a spot rather than having one set aside (although in a Hispanic area, there will be as much of a need to do so to become delegate. In Area 13, we had a DCM representing northern Montgomery County who lived in Rhode Island - and whose internet skills were not up to par. That district is now part of a combined county district - where the county has over one million people. Concept XI implies that the fellowship seeks the best possible staff. Is this true for delegate selection, and does this stop the fellowship from considering important issues or having views represented from linguistic minorities that need to be heard. This debate also arises within an area, where some hold the belief that someone who lives within the suburbs or the city, but who is a member of a home group in another area or district, can represent their home group in area

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service. In Area 13, we have had a chair who was also chair of Area 71 and had been active in both. This engendered resentment among some other trusted servants.

**(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?**

"The purpose of this PAI is to engender a fellowship wide discussion of representation in AA, including its relationship to the concepts. At this time, no advisory action would be required."

**(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.**

Michael B.

**(7) Final comments:**

"This agenda item is necessary to clarify future agenda items relating to possible regional linguistic and online areas and an online or linguistic trustee(s) to make sure that members of each community can contribute as needed to the conscience of the fellowship while not excluding participation of trusted servants from these communities in local area affairs and leadership."

## 2026 Conference Committee on Finance

**ITEM D:** Consider a request to discuss the location of the General Service Conference (GSC) (PAI-22).

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### Background notes:

*From the November 2, 2025, trustees' General Service Conference Committee report:*

The committee considered a proposal to “initiate a study to identify a less costly location for the General Service Conference” and agreed to forward to the 2026 Conference Committee on Policy & Admissions. The committee noted that estimated costs, both for financial and human capital, would be beneficial information to share. The consideration and review of a similar topic at the 73rd General Service Conference and as estimate on the timeframe to recoup expenses would be important elements of informing a group conscience.

### *2025 Policy/Admissions Committee Consideration:*

In keeping with a request from the 74th General Service Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions, the committee noted the February 11, 2025, memo update from the general manager to all Conference members on site selection and dates. The 77th and 78th General Service Conferences will be held at the New York Marriott Marquis hotel in New York City. The 77th General Service Conference will take place April 11-17, 2027. The 78th General Service Conference will take place April 23-29, 2028.

The committee reviewed the dates for the 2029 General Service Conference. In order to provide additional flexibility to the General Service Office management in contracting the most cost-effective and appropriate venues for the General Service Conference, the committee agreed to select these proposed dates for the 79th General Service Conference, as follows (in order of preference): April 29 – May 5, 2029; April 15–21, 2029 and May 6–12, 2029. The committee noted that these proposed Conference dates are the best choices available for avoiding conflicts with significant holidays. The committee asked that all Conference members be notified of the final dates for the 79th General Service Conference as soon as they are finalized by GSO management.

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*From the December 17, 2025, GM memo to Conference members:*

“As requested by the 75th General Service Conference Committee on Policy/Admission, I am notifying the committee and all Conference members that the site selection and dates for the 79th General Service Conference are finalized.

It is with great enthusiasm that I’d like to inform you that the 79th General Service Conference will take place April 15–21, 2029 at the New York Marriot Marquis hotel located in the heart of Times Square in New York City.”

### *2024 Policy/Admissions Committee Consideration:*

The committee reviewed the dates for the 2029 General Service Conference. In order to provide additional flexibility to the General Service Office management in contracting the most cost-effective and appropriate venues for the General Service Conference, the committee agreed to select these proposed dates for the 79th General Service Conference, as follows (in order of preference): April 29 – May 5, 2029; April 15–21, 2029 and May 6–12, 2029; The committee noted that these proposed Conference dates are the best choices available for avoiding conflicts with significant holidays. The committee asked that all Conference members be notified of the final dates for the 79th General Service Conference as soon as they are finalized by GSO management.

### *2023 Policy/Admissions Committee Consideration:*

The committee reviewed the GSO general manager’s report regarding General Service Conference site selection. The committee appreciated the detailed analysis of the costs and logistics of holding the Conference at sample facilities in four of the eight regions. The committee is not requesting a site selection report from the general manager in 2024, recognizing that contracts have been executed with hotels in the New York area for 2024, 2025 and 2026, and that site selection for the 2027 General Service Conference could be impacted by the results of the Location Plus Committee and possible relocation of the General Service Office. The committee is requesting that the trustees’ General Service Conference Committee conduct a survey of current General Service Conference members regarding the spiritual implications of holding the Conference outside the New York area. An additional option to explore in the survey could be alternating between holding the Conference in the New York area and the Akron/Cleveland area. The committee looks forward to reviewing the survey results or a progress report at the 74th General Service Conference.

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### *2022 Policy/Admissions Committee Consideration:*

The committee reviewed the GSO general manager's report regarding General Service Conference site selection, noting with appreciation the level of detail regarding specific sites considered. The committee requested that the next site selection report provide detail on the financial, logistical and spiritual implications of holding the General Service Conference at other locations throughout the eight regions of the U.S./Canada service structure, perhaps in rotation with the New York City metropolitan area.

### *Conference Advisory Actions Regarding General Service Conference Site Selection:*

- 2017** - General Service Office management submit a report on the process, implementation and status on the site selection of the General Service Conference for review by the 2018 Policy/Admissions Committee.
- 2008** - The responsibility for General Service Conference site selection be delegated to General Service Office management, subject to approval of the General Service Board; and that a report be forwarded to the 2009 General Service Conference.
- 1991** - The 1992 General Service Conference annual meeting be held in the city of New York. (Floor Action)
- 1970** - The General Service Office have the right to choose the hotel for the 1971 General Service Conference without conferring further with the delegates to the Conference. (delegates-only meeting)
- 1969** - In as much as GSO is now giving consideration to relocation of the office in New York, consideration might also be given to the relocation of the site of this annual meeting, with a view to returning to single-room accommodations, so that the advantages of private meditation, study, thought and rest might be restored. It was further suggested that the rising costs of the annual meeting might be controlled, or at least reduced, by a study of possible alternative hotel accommodations. (delegates-only meeting)
- 1956** - The proposal that meetings of the General Service Conference be "rotated" from New York City in even years to a different geographical section in odd years be tabled for consideration at some future date.

*Current Conference Charter excerpt:*

9. The General Service Conference Meetings: The Conference will meet yearly in the City of New York, unless otherwise agreed upon. Special meetings may be called should there be a grave emergency. The Conference may also render advisory opinions at any time by a mail or telephone poll in aid of the General Service Board or its related services.

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**Background:**

1. PAI-22
2. 2023 GSC Site Selection Report
3. Link to 2023 Conference *Final Report* (See Location Plus presentation)  
<https://www.aa.org/2023-general-service-conference-final-report>
4. Link to 2024 Conference *Final Report* (see Location Plus presentation)  
<https://www.aa.org/2024-general-service-conference-final-report>

<p><b>(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.</b></p> <p>This motion is to initiate a study to identify a less costly location for the General Service Conference. This study should be of the depth and thoroughness of the Location+ study performed to determine the location of the General Service Office. An outside firm should be engaged for this purpose.</p>
<p><b>(2) What problem does this proposed item address?</b></p> <p>The ever-rising cost of the GSC. The rising cost is unsustainable and hard earned Seventh Tradition funds are being used to cover these costs. The resulting savings would free up Seventh Tradition funds for groups to better carry our life saving message.</p>
<p><b>(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).</b></p> <p><u>Note:</u> While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.</p> <p>The Beginners Group of District 82/Area 67 discussed and approved this item unanimously. The District 82 Committee of Area 67 and the District 40 Committee of Area 67 discussed and unanimously approved this motion. The Area 67 Assembly thoroughly discussed and approved this PAI unanimously.</p>
<p><b>(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:</b></p> <p>The estimated cost of the 75th General Service Conference is \$10,250/Area. The cost of the 74th GSC was \$9250. Note that the price for the 75th GSC is only an estimate. It is likely to be higher. Even if the forecast is accurate, it represents a 10.8% increase. This rate of increase year over year would result in a cost of more than \$17,000/Area for the 80th GSC.</p> <p>The cost of transportation to and from New York City airports is very high. The cost of hotel rooms and hotel services in New York City is very high. A hotel near a major airport hub would reduce airfare for many attendees Transportation costs to and from the airport would be negligible due to the availability of airport shuttles. Alcoholics Anonymous would also realize significant cost reductions for hotel rooms and services.</p>
<p><b>(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?</b></p> <p>Curtailing the rapidly rising cost for the GSC would allow more of the fellowship's hard earned Seventh Tradition contributions to be used for carrying our lifesaving message.</p>
<p><b>(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.</b></p>

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Rick. M.

**(7) Final comments:**

Thank you for your consideration of this PAI. It is my sincere hope that the rapidly rising costs for the General Service Conference can be mitigated.

**2026 Staff Note:** This document contains minor edits to note corrected/outdated information.

**2023 General Service Conference Site Selection Report**  
(Presented to the Policy and Admissions Committee)

The 2022 Policy and Admissions Conference Committee requested that the next site selection report provide detail on the **financial, logistical, and spiritual** implications of holding the General Service Conference (GSC) at other locations throughout the eight regions of the U.S./Canada service structure, perhaps in rotation every other year with the New York City metropolitan area.

GSO's Meeting, Events and Travel (METs) team randomly chose two locations within each of the eight regions. When possible, one was chosen in a more metropolitan area and the other in a more rural area to get a sense of cost comparison and balance with logistics.

Several facilities have either not responded or do not have the capacity to accommodate our specifications. However, we received data from facilities in four of the eight regions: West Central, East Central, Eastern Canada and the Northeast. Although the GSC is not particularly large, the number of breakout rooms necessary is a challenge for many venues to accommodate. Also challenging is that the hotel industry is experiencing severe staffing issues, making it difficult to obtain pricing and proposals. The data gathered within these four regions still provides a strong sample of financial and logistical details to draw conclusions as to the feasibility of hosting a GSC outside the New York City (NYC) metropolitan area.

**Financial**

Appendix A illustrates a comparison of actual expenses from the 2022 GSC to projected costs derived from proposals received. GSO's CFO, in collaboration with the MET's team, developed this comparison. Some points and assumptions worthy of mention are as follows:

- **Travel**

Conference members – Included in this line are 12 GSO Staff, director of Staff services, general manager, GV publisher and the Grapevine Committee secretary.

**Commented [RJ1]:** I change this from 11 to 12 from the original 2023 background

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GSO support staff to Conference – 40 other support staff are included in this line, ranging from the full METs team, technology support, directors and department heads, and other logistical support from Office Services. This is the average number that have attended and supported the last three in-person Conferences.

GSO support staff site visits – Three site visits throughout the year: Two would include two members from the METs team and the Conference coordinator, the 3<sup>rd</sup> visit would include the general manager.

The trip to GSO/Stepping Stones was removed in the regional columns.

- **Meals**  
Meals for site visits and early arrival during Conference week for support staff to set up. At least eight staff (METs, Technology & Office Services).
- **Lodging**  
Additional lodging costs are added for site visits and the early arrival of support staff (8). You will also notice an increased amount in the regional columns for “Support Staff During Conference” (40).
- **Other**  
Equipment rental would be necessary, as these locations are too far to ship our copier and printers. Postage and shipping also reflect increases due to the distance to ship items as well as shipping technical support equipment otherwise carried to hotels within NYC.

This comparison and summary represent our best estimates and assumptions that hosting a GSC within the eight regions would entail. Hosting an actual Conference would be the only way to understand and know the actual needs, so it is likely every assumption has not been considered.

### Logistical

Planning the GSC is a yearlong process. Planning a Conference outside NYC from the GSO would present challenges due to unfamiliarity of the area and the need be on-site for set-up, planning and workflow. This would require multiple site visits; the financial projections estimate a need for at least three site visits but more may be necessary, particularly without experience to draw from. The METs team and several other staff support from Office Services would have to arrive early to set up the workroom and other areas of the facility.

Shipping from a distance would require more detailed arrangements compared to the services we use to transport our equipment and supplies to local hotels in NYC.

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Although the properties used in this report are for illustration purposes, it is plausible that an actual hotel could be situated on an airport property and would be easily accessible with little or no transportation needed. Transportation between the airport and hotel may be complimentary through shuttle service.

Many locations throughout our structure are not in proximity to major train routes which some participants annually choose as a means of transportation. This would exclude certain areas from the possibility of hosting. Bus service may pose a similar challenge.

Hosting outside NYC would demand all supporting office employees are onsite throughout the duration of the Conference. When held in NYC, many employees go back and forth from their homes and the office.

IT set up and support would lose the benefits of the close proximity of the office if certain supplies were needed for special circumstances, e.g., extra cables, equipment swaps, etc.

### Spiritual

To address spiritual implications of holding a GSC outside NYC, I arranged a dedicated GSO Staff sharing session. The following is a summary of points from the sharing session:

- Planning is more nimble when it's close to the office, e.g., site visits, supplies, etc. Collaboration between Staff assignments and departments would likely be compromised.
- Concerns of the principle of participation being compromised, i.e. non-Conference member staff support from various departments not being allowed to travel to participate.
- If we found a less expensive location in our structure, we would have money to spend on other spiritual services.
- The decision to move shouldn't be related to a desire to move the office.
- If part of the motivation is for a better location than NYC, unity on alternate locations is unlikely. Rye, NY is a good example of this. Some liked it and some didn't.
- The Conference would miss out on Stepping Stones and GSO visits during Conference week. Visiting the office during Conference weeks was one of the reasons the early members chose to meet in NYC. **2026 Staff Note: Any attendee visiting Stepping Stones will do so at their own expense.**
- International observers would miss out on the Fellowships history tied to NYC.
- Similar to international observers, some area delegates would feel left out of the NYC experience and history of the Fellowship.

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- The history of the Conference being held in NYC has been a central part of a long history of unity and comradery among area delegates, trustees and Staff. I'm concerned that would be difficult to duplicate in other locations.
- Where money and spirituality mix melds financial, logistical and spiritual matters. If there are logistical or financial challenges due to hosting within the regions, it will create spiritual difficulties.
- Many past and present delegates share a sentiment that their Conference experience was enhanced by being in NYC and a move away from that would potentially bear a spiritual cost.
- Would the principle of inclusion be challenged? The idea of hosting the GSC within our regional structure in a rotation with NYC would not allow wide area involvement as the GSC specifications limit hotel availability to a limited number of geographic locations.

### Archives Research

The Archives Department provided a sample of historical references to this topic:

*"We are now trying to develop some fair method of regional representatives which could bring delegates to New York once a year to sit down in a joint session with our Headquarters people, following which, the Service Conference would make a report to the Groups on the state of the Headquarters and A.A. in general."*

Letter from Bill W. to Fred C., December 1, 1947

*"After a lot of thought, I am beginning to think we have an answer – at least a partial one. The conference can't be too big, it can't be too small. It can't ever be a political or governing body. Just a bunch of sane A.A.s who will sit down and see whether things are going all right in New York and make a report on it. I think that's all we shall ever need."*

Letter from Bill W. to Jimmy B., December 11, 1947:

*"Each Delegate will serve two-year term, will always be available for mail or phone consultation with A.A. Headquarters, and will twice attend the General Service Conference which will be held in New York City to coincide with the regular April meeting of the Foundation."*

"Your Third Legacy" pamphlet, pages 7-8:

*"They [Delegates] will become closely acquainted with each other and with our Headquarters people. They will visit the premises of the Foundation, Grapevine, and Service Headquarters. This should engender mutual confidence. Guesswork and rumor are to be replaced by first-hand knowledge."*

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“Your Third Legacy” pamphlet, page 8:

### Conference Discussions:

In October 1955, the former GSB Policy Committee discussed a suggestion from two delegates, to pursue the “possibility of having alternating sessions of the General Service Conference in cities other than New York.” Further, “this would be done in odd years, thereby giving each delegate a chance to visit Headquarters in even years.”

Some of the “cons” expressed by the board were:

- “Bringing the necessary staff and personnel from Headquarters to these different cities.”
- “Delegates would lose the benefit of going through the office.”
- “This would mean changing the Charter of the Third Legacy.”

The proposal was discussed at the 1956 General Service Conference but was tabled for consideration at “some future date.”

In 1962 the GSC “rejected a proposal that the 1965 General Service Conference be held in Toronto, Canada.” It was the sense of the meeting that the “proposal, in addition to placing a serious burden on GSO manpower and facilities, would deprive 1965 Conference delegates (particularly those of Panel 15) of the opportunity to become more familiar with GSO’s world service operations.”

### **Conference Booking (Catching Up)**

In the 2022 report, I explained we would begin catching up on securing dates and venues for the Conference after the necessary pause due to the pandemic. With a pandemic no longer posing a risk to contracting hotels for the Conference, I have brought us up to date and alignment with the Advisory Actions pertaining to Conference booking and have executed contracts with the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge (Brooklyn Marriott) through 2026. RFPs were sent to several hotels in the NYC area. Similar to the challenges outlined in the regional RFP’s, we experienced difficulty locally obtaining accommodation for our specs and receipt of proposals. The dates and locations are as follows:

April 14-20, 2024

April 27-May 3, 2025

April 26-May 2, 2026

**2026 Staff Note:** The GSC was held at the Brooklyn Marriot through 2024. The 2025 and 2026 GSC location: Midtown N.Y. Hilton. The 2027, 2028 & 2029 will be held at the Marriot Marquis, Manhattan

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**Suitability of sleeping and meeting rooms**

The Brooklyn Marriott meets our standards and needs to host the Conference in a manner that supports past practice, meeting formats and schedules. It has been assessed for safety, quality, and service.

**Summary**

The financial data gathered clearly shows it's possible to find venues within our structure that are more cost effective than NYC. That said, if there was a rotational schedule included with hosting a Conference outside NYC, a question to consider may be "would all areas have the option to be included and participate?" Also of note would be consideration of Bill's and others spiritual thoughts on this question to host a GSC outside NYC; "*Just a bunch of sane A.A.s who will sit down and see whether things are going all right in New York.*" Or this thought from "Your Third Legacy" pamphlet: "*They will visit the premises of the Foundation, Grapevine, and Service Headquarters. This should engender mutual confidence.*" Logistics certainly have pros and cons also. The pros of venues outside NYC offering the possibility of ease access from airports to hotels and the cons of planning from a distance, no access to office tools during Conference week, unfamiliarity of the area, considerable number of staff traveling and site visits throughout the year taking staff away from other work.

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FINANCE  
Item D  
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[2026 Staff Note: Below reflects the expenses at the time of the 2022 site study and is being kept in the report for historical background and not a reflection of current costs.](#)

Appendix A - GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE EXPENSES - GENERAL MANAGER SITE SELECTION REPORT

<u>TYPE OF EXPENSE</u>	<u>2022 BROOKLYN</u>	<u>WEST CENTRAL</u>	<u>EAST CENTRAL</u>	<u>EASTERN CANADA</u>	<u>NORTHEAST</u>
<b><u>EXPENSES WHICH VARY BY SITE</u></b>					
<b><u>Travel</u></b>					
<u>Conference Members</u>	<u>80,000</u>	<u>91,440</u>	<u>88,860</u>	<u>86,461</u>	<u>87,956</u>
<u>GSO support staff to Conference</u>	<u>9,200</u>	<u>35,200</u>	<u>27,260</u>	<u>19,880</u>	<u>24,480</u>
<u>GSO support staff site visits</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,500</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>5,500</u>	<u>6,500</u>
<u>Interpreters</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>
<u>Appointed Committee Members</u>	<u>2,900</u>	<u>2,900</u>	<u>2,900</u>	<u>2,900</u>	<u>2,900</u>
<u>Trustees Emeriti</u>	<u>1,100</u>	<u>1,100</u>	<u>1,100</u>	<u>1,100</u>	<u>1,100</u>
<u>Trip to GSO</u>	<u>2,100</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Subtotal Travel</u>	<u>102,800</u>	<u>146,640</u>	<u>134,620</u>	<u>123,341</u>	<u>130,436</u>
<b><u>Meals</u></b>					
<u>GSO support staff site visits</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>750</u>
<u>GSO support staff setup</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,536</u>	<u>1,536</u>	<u>1,536</u>	<u>1,536</u>
<u>Opening Dinner</u>	<u>54,900</u>	<u>19,500</u>	<u>19,500</u>	<u>25,400</u>	<u>21,500</u>
<u>Coffee and Beverage Service</u>	<u>36,000</u>	<u>36,000</u>	<u>36,000</u>	<u>36,000</u>	<u>36,000</u>
<u>Continental Breakfasts</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>

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<u>All Other Lunches, Dinners, and Breaks</u>	<u>310,900</u>	<u>244,800</u>	<u>190,100</u>	<u>282,200</u>	<u>241,900</u>
<u>Subtotal Meals</u>	<u>405,800</u>	<u>306,586</u>	<u>251,886</u>	<u>349,886</u>	<u>305,686</u>
 <b><u>Lodging</u></b>					
<u>GSO support staff site visits</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,590</u>	<u>1,750</u>	<u>2,670</u>	<u>1,890</u>
<u>GSO support staff setup</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,816</u>	<u>4,200</u>	<u>6,408</u>	<u>4,536</u>
<u>Conference Members</u>	<u>291,000</u>	<u>171,720</u>	<u>189,000</u>	<u>288,360</u>	<u>204,120</u>
<u>GSO support staff during Conference</u>	<u>15,300</u>	<u>50,880</u>	<u>56,000</u>	<u>85,440</u>	<u>60,480</u>
<u>Interpreters</u>	<u>10,200</u>	<u>7,632</u>	<u>8,400</u>	<u>12,816</u>	<u>9,072</u>
<u>Appointed Committee Members</u>	<u>1,600</u>	<u>3,816</u>	<u>4,200</u>	<u>6,408</u>	<u>4,536</u>
<u>Observer</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>1,272</u>	<u>1,400</u>	<u>2,136</u>	<u>1,512</u>
<u>Trustees Emeriti</u>	<u>3,800</u>	<u>2,544</u>	<u>2,800</u>	<u>4,272</u>	<u>3,024</u>
<u>Subtotal Lodging</u>	<u>324,900</u>	<u>243,270</u>	<u>267,750</u>	<u>408,510</u>	<u>289,170</u>
 <u>Other</u>					
<u>Audio Visual</u>	<u>150,700</u>	<u>150,700</u>	<u>150,700</u>	<u>150,700</u>	<u>150,700</u>
<u>Equipment Rental</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>
<u>Postage and Shipping</u>	<u>15,300</u>	<u>17,800</u>	<u>18,300</u>	<u>27,300</u>	<u>17,800</u>
<u>Subtotal Other</u>	<u>166,000</u>	<u>172,500</u>	<u>173,000</u>	<u>182,000</u>	<u>172,500</u>
 <b><u>SUBTOTAL VARIABLE EXPENSE</u></b>	 <b><u>999,500</u></b>	 <b><u>868,996</u></b>	 <b><u>827,256</u></b>	 <b><u>1,063,737</u></b>	 <b><u>897,792</u></b>
 <b><u>CONSTANT REGARDLESS OF SITE</u></b>					
 <b><u>Professional Fees</u></b>					
<u>Editorial Services</u>	<u>6,900</u>	<u>6,900</u>	<u>6,900</u>	<u>6,900</u>	<u>6,900</u>
<u>Committee Assignment Software Support</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
<u>Photography</u>	<u>4,300</u>	<u>4,300</u>	<u>4,300</u>	<u>4,300</u>	<u>4,300</u>

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CONFIDENTIAL: 76<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Background

<u>Two Past Staff to support Conference Assignment</u>	<u>9,800</u>	<u>9,800</u>	<u>9,800</u>	<u>9,800</u>	<u>9,800</u>
<b><u>Document Translation</u></b>	<b><u>100,000</u></b>	<b><u>100,000</u></b>	<b><u>100,000</u></b>	<b><u>100,000</u></b>	<b><u>100,000</u></b>
<u>Interpretation</u>	<u>20,700</u>	<u>20,700</u>	<u>20,700</u>	<u>20,700</u>	<u>20,700</u>
<b><u>Subtotal Professional Fees</u></b>	<b><u>142,200</u></b>	<b><u>142,200</u></b>	<b><u>142,200</u></b>	<b><u>142,200</u></b>	<b><u>142,200</u></b>
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b><u>Printing, Postage, and Supplies</u></b>					
<u>Supplies</u>	<u>19,200</u>	<u>19,200</u>	<u>19,200</u>	<u>19,200</u>	<u>19,200</u>
<u>Equipment</u>	<u>1,700</u>	<u>1,700</u>	<u>1,700</u>	<u>1,700</u>	<u>1,700</u>
<u>Printing Final Conference Report</u>	<u>36,300</u>	<u>36,300</u>	<u>36,300</u>	<u>36,300</u>	<u>36,300</u>
<u>Other Printing</u>	<u>5,800</u>	<u>5,800</u>	<u>5,800</u>	<u>5,800</u>	<u>5,800</u>
<b><u>Subtotal Printing and Supplies</u></b>	<b><u>63,000</u></b>	<b><u>63,000</u></b>	<b><u>63,000</u></b>	<b><u>63,000</u></b>	<b><u>63,000</u></b>
<b><u>SUBTOTAL CONSTANT EXPENSE</u></b>	<b><u>205,200</u></b>	<b><u>205,200</u></b>	<b><u>205,200</u></b>	<b><u>205,200</u></b>	<b><u>205,200</u></b>
<b><u>GRAND TOTAL EXPENSE</u></b>	<b><u>1,204,700</u></b>	<b><u>1,074,196</u></b>	<b><u>1,032,456</u></b>	<b><u>1,268,937</u></b>	<b><u>1,102,992</u></b>
<u>Variance to 2022 Actuals</u>		<u>(130,504)</u>	<u>(172,244)</u>	<u>64,237</u>	<u>(101,708)</u>
<u>Conference Members</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>135</u>
<u>Cost Per Conference Member</u>	<u>9,058</u>	<u>7,957</u>	<u>7,648</u>	<u>9,400</u>	<u>8,170</u>
<u>Change from 2022 cost per member</u>		<u>(1,101)</u>	<u>(1,410)</u>	<u>342</u>	<u>(888)</u>

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**2026 Conference Committee on Committee on Report and Charter**

**ITEM B:** Discuss the General Service Conference *Final Report*.

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**Background notes:**

*Excerpt from the Report and Charter Conference Committee Composition, Scope and Procedure:*

The conference committee is responsible for proposing any change considered desirable for changing and improving the format, method of reporting, style or content of the Conference *Final Report*.

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**Background:**

1. [2025 General Service Conference \*Final Report\*](#)

**Note:** The electronic anonymity-protected version that is available on the aa.org website is linked above.

**2026 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña**

**ITEM C:** Review the five-year plan for both Grapevine and La Viña.

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**Background notes:**

From 2025 Advisory Actions:

*The five-year plans for both Grapevine and La Viña be reviewed annually by the Conference Committee on the AA Grapevine and La Viña. The background materials for both plans should include at least five years of financial history and any relevant historical and/or strategic narrative that supports their projections.*

From 2024 Advisory Actions:

*The AA Grapevine Board develop a five-year financial plan for La Viña with the goal to reduce shortfalls and increase revenue to be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.*

---

**Background:**

1. Grapevine and La Viña plan progress report

# AA Grapevine Draft Five-Year Plan: 2026–2030

## Purpose and Strategy

Our plan focuses on cross-attraction, digital growth, improved subscription and book sales campaigns, broader engagement with the Fellowship, and increased face-to-face and digital connections — so Grapevine can help more alcoholics. All Grapevine channels will reinforce one another through integrated campaigns and shared calls to service.

New initiatives such as local office sales of subscriptions, better incentives for offices and committees to purchase books in bulk, the global expansion of the Grapevine apps, creative targeted campaigns to increase circulation, an international Grapevine online meeting, an additional podcast, more efficient fulfillment with the new Darwin system, and Grapevine presence on new outreach tools and apps, will all help more alcoholics and attract more members to subscribe and purchase books — and increase revenue.

**Goal:** By 2030, Grapevine, Inc. will help roughly 20% more alcoholics by expanding reach and engagement across all Grapevine channels. As reach grows, subscription and book sales will increase, moving Grapevine toward self-support. Subscriptions will grow by 14% over the next five years. Book sales will increase by 10%.

This plan should be considered a living document to be revisited annually and adapted to market conditions, new products and services, new opportunities and feedback from the Fellowship. Some of our projects from strategic planning are included in this plan. A tremendous amount of work is still underway from strategic planning and new projects will be added as they are approved.

## Current Baseline and 2030 Goal

Channel	Current Reach	2030 Goal
Grapevine total subscriptions	59,000	67,000
Grapevine Instagram	15,300	19,125
YouTube Grapevine Subscribers	16,400	20,500
Podcast (weekly listeners)	6,300	7,875
Book Sales	30,000/yr	33,200/yr
Grapevine Daily Quote	54,000/day	67,500/day

## Subscription Baseline 2025

Category	Total	Price	Notes
Print Subscriptions	41,000	\$36	Trending down 5%/yr
Digital Subscriptions	17,500	\$30	Growing 22%/yr

## Strategic Objectives by 2030

Objective	Metric	Goal
Grow total subscriptions	58,000 → 67,000	37,000 digital / 30,000 print
Achieve self-support	-\$300K → \$0	Or a modest profit
Expand CTM subscriptions	+40%	Strengthen digital gifting, increase awareness
Grow book sales	+2% annually	Bulk + local offices

## Strategic Pillars & Key Actions

### 1. Digital Expansion & App Growth

**Goal:** Increase digital subscriptions from current 17,500 → 37,000 by 2030.

#### Actions

- Continually upgrade Grapevine app and website with games, themed archives, audio submissions and other interactive engagement features to increase participation and retention.
- Develop and implement an AI-powered assistant within the apps and website to help members easily locate stories, submit content, and navigate Grapevine and La Viña resources.
- Increase cooperation and exposure through other digital properties, such as the AAWS website, the Meeting Guide app, and new apps.
- Expand international subscriptions. Apps now available worldwide.
- Offer “Complete” subscription twice a year at a discounted rate (\$50/year).
- Expand to digital with gift subscriptions with easier sharing.
- QR codes at meetings, events, books, and on print materials.
- Attract through podcasts and online meetings.
- Actively upsell “Complete” subscription with eye toward members converting to digital.

App store subscriptions (through Apple or Google) grew by 35% in 2025, from 5,571 to 7,532. All digital subs grew by 22%, from 14,141 to 17,315. With international availability and new attraction opportunities we expect trends to continue.

**Projected Outcome:** By adding over 15,000 digital subs; related revenue will grow over \$500K annually by 2030.

## 2. Print Retention & Managed Decline

**Goal:** Gradual print decline **41,000** → **33,000**, while increasing yield per subscriber.

### Actions

- Focus print on long-time members, groups, hospitals, and corrections.
- Modest price increases over time (\$36 → \$40 by 2029).
- Quarterly attraction emails highlighting app and digital benefits.
- Weekly Grapevine online meeting and new podcast will increase awareness of the benefits of app subscriptions and print as a Twelve-Step tool.
- While print subscriptions are declining, print revenues stay relatively consistent due to ongoing modest price increases.

**Projected Outcome:** 8,000 fewer print subs, with emphasis on converting to digital.

## 3. Carry the Message (CTM) Program

**Goal:** Increase CTM subscriptions by 12% per year.

### Actions

- Encourage digital gift subscriptions for military members.
- Expand knowledge of CTM helping those in corrections and treatment centers.
- Launch optional monthly CTM contributions (\$10–\$20).
- Anonymous donor recognition in print on podcasts and online.
- Tie CTM giving to events and online meetings.

**Projected Outcome:** \$10K net annual support by 2030. Current income is \$5,958.

CTM subscriptions have grown 6% over the past year. With new attraction tools we expect that growth to continue.

#### 4. Area, Central Office & Intergroup Partnerships

**Goal:** Generate subscriptions and book sales through local AA offices.

##### Actions

- Enable Area, Central Office, and Intergroup sales of subscriptions (print & digital). With a 10% commission on all first-year subscription sales.
- Launch a simple online portal to track sales and commissions.
- Provide optional GV/LV branded outreach merchandise aligned with AA Traditions to support visibility and engagement at local events.
- Encourage use of swag and digital tools together at Assemblies, Roundups, and Intergroup events.
- Provide display kits (sample issues, posters, QR codes) to offices.
- Feature high-service offices in Grapevine stories and podcasts.

**Projected Outcome:** +3,000 new subscriptions; +\$90K subscription revenue.

#### 5. Books: Bulk Discounts, Local Sales, Online Store Expansion

**Goal:** Increase book sales 2% per year.

##### New Bulk Discount Structure

- 5+ books: \$0.50 off each
- 10+ books: \$1.00 off each
- 20+ books: \$2.00 off each
- 30+ books: \$3.00 off each

##### Actions

- Attract local offices, H&I and corrections committees to bulk discounts.
- Encourage local offices to sell books at meetings and events.
- Attract members to books through weekly A.A. meeting and podcasts.
- Discontinue trade sales through Ingram, open Grapevine shop on Amazon.

**Projected Outcome:** Book sales grow from 30,000 → 33,000 annually by 2030.

## 6. Email & Direct Engagement Campaigns

**Goal:** Increase open rates, conversions, and cross-sales.

### Actions

- Improve email campaigns with short videos, quotes, affirmations, short jokes, and spiritual humor to increase opens.
- Clear, simple calls-to-action for subscriptions, books, CTM, and gifts.

**Projected Outcome:** Higher conversion rates across subscriptions and books.

## 7. Fellowship Ambassadors & Local Presence

**Goal:** Greater participation at local events to attract members to Grapevine as an everyday AA tool.

### Actions

- Grapevine Staff, Board members, Area Grapevine Chairs, and Editorial Advisory Board members act as ambassadors.
- Utilize GV/LV outreach swag and digital engagement tools as supportive resources for ambassadors.
- Demonstrate digital features—including the AI Assistant and interactive tools.
- Attend more local events to reach a typical AA-member audience.
- Focus on sharing experience (“How Grapevine helps me”) not sales pitches.

**Projected Outcome:** Sustained organic growth through attraction. Greater awareness of benefits of Grapevine products and services. Greater subscriptions and book sales.

## 8. Online Grapevine Open Meeting

**Goal:** Provide a new recovery-based meeting. Build Grapevine awareness and community engagement.

### Structure

- Weekly 1-hour meeting.
- Available internationally
- Readings from Grapevine, Big Book, 12 & 12.
- Host + two speakers.

- Brief attraction announcements. (Subscribe to magazines or apps, books, podcast, YouTube, Instagram, get the Daily Quote, etc.)
- Integrate demonstrations of new digital engagement features and the AI Assistant during meetings.

**Projected Outcome:** 200 new subscriptions annually using special offers to attendees, 1,000 by 2030.

## 9. Pricing Strategy

Product	2026	2027	2029	2030
Print Subscription	\$36	\$38	\$40	\$40
Digital Subscription	\$30	\$32	\$34	\$34
Avg. Book Price	\$15	\$17	\$19	\$19

**Impact:** +\$150K additional annual revenue by 2030.

## 10. Cost-Saving Actions (annual)

- Maintain minimal staff. We've reduced staff 28% since January 2025. Saving \$420K annually.
- Convert international subscriptions to digital with savings greater than \$10K.
- Expand digital subscribers and reduce print subscribers overall saving \$2K on mailing costs.
- Maintain rent reduction, down 75%, saving \$45K.
- Reduced renewal-mailings, increased email campaigns, saving \$25K per year.
- Controls on book and magazine warehouse inventories, saving \$8K per year
- Reduced print runs save approximately \$20K per year.

## Financial Projection Summary (operating income before interest)

Note: In 2024, net operating loss was 867K

Year	Revenue	Expenses	Net
2025*	3,225	3,518	-293
2026	3,217	3,425	-208

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2027	3,511	3,589	-78
2028	3,729	3,760	-31
2029	4,018	3,939	+79
2030	4,366	4,188	+178

\*2025 financials subject to audit.

## Outcome by 2030

- Expanded reach helps more alcoholics in and out of the rooms
- Subscriptions up 12% (60,000 → 67,000)
- Digital share grows from 28% → 55%
- Book sales grow steadily via bulk sales to local offices and committees
- Maintain cost-saving measures
- Grapevine becomes financially self-supporting
- Stronger connection with AA members

**Grapevine 5-Year Financial Model — Draft**

<b>Mags &amp; App</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>
<b>Circulation (Avg Subscribers)</b>					
Print	40,875	38,927	36,981	35,132	33,376
Complete	5,621	5,921	6,221	6,521	6,821
Online	4,615	5,565	6,515	7,465	8,415
App	8,825	11,325	13,825	16,325	18,825
<b>Total Circulation</b>	<b>59,936</b>	<b>61,738</b>	<b>63,542</b>	<b>65,443</b>	<b>67,437</b>
<b>Revenue per Sub</b>					
Print	\$2.61	\$2.72	\$2.86	\$3.00	\$3.14
Complete	\$3.98	\$4.45	\$4.52	\$4.69	\$4.69
Online	\$2.33	\$2.69	\$2.69	\$2.89	\$2.89
App	\$2.57	\$2.97	\$2.97	\$3.19	\$3.19
<b>Circulation Revs</b>					
Print	1,280,175	1,270,577	1,269,188	1,264,752	1,257,608
Complete	268,471	316,181	337,427	367,002	383,886
Online	128,863	179,812	210,507	259,074	292,044
App	271,652	403,623	492,723	624,921	720,621
Back Issues/Prison/Hospital	146,000	154,391	163,265	172,649	182,572
<b>Total Circulation Revenues</b>	<b>\$2,095,161</b>	<b>\$2,324,585</b>	<b>\$2,473,110</b>	<b>\$2,688,398</b>	<b>\$2,836,731</b>
<b>Direct Cost</b>					
Magazine Production	340,000	334,503	338,504	332,000	326,000
Audio Production	26,520	27,846	29,238	30,700	32,235
Warehousing	54,000	52,015	49,697	47,017	43,944
Postage	378,000	372,000	366,000	360,000	354,000
GV App	40,748	49,983	59,217	68,452	77,687
<b>Total Direct Cost</b>	<b>\$839,268</b>	<b>\$821,453</b>	<b>\$798,936</b>	<b>\$771,316</b>	<b>\$738,161</b>
<b>Magazine &amp; App GM</b>	<b>\$1,255,893</b>	<b>\$1,503,132</b>	<b>\$1,674,174</b>	<b>\$1,917,082</b>	<b>\$2,098,570</b>
<b>Content Related Income</b>					
Books	1,046,700	1,109,502	1,176,072	1,246,636	1,321,435
Audio	37,200	37,800	39,690	41,675	43,758
Greeting Cards and other Special	38,400	39,100	39,690	41,675	43,758
International Convention	0	0	0	0	120,000
<b>Total Content related Income</b>	<b>1,122,300</b>	<b>1,186,402</b>	<b>1,255,452</b>	<b>1,329,986</b>	<b>1,528,951</b>
<b>Content Related Direct Cost</b>	<b>373,409</b>	<b>399,548</b>	<b>427,516</b>	<b>457,442</b>	<b>549,463</b>
<b>Content Related Gross Margin</b>	<b>748,891</b>	<b>786,854</b>	<b>827,936</b>	<b>872,544</b>	<b>979,488</b>
<b>Total GM</b>	<b>\$2,004,784</b>	<b>\$2,289,986</b>	<b>\$2,502,110</b>	<b>\$2,789,626</b>	<b>\$3,078,058</b>
<b>Overhead</b>	<b>2,212,700</b>	<b>2,367,589</b>	<b>2,533,320</b>	<b>2,710,653</b>	<b>2,900,398</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>-207,916</b>	<b>-77,603</b>	<b>-31,210</b>	<b>78,973</b>	<b>177,659</b>

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**2026 Conference Committee on Literature**

**ITEM D:** Review draft of the Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

---

**Background notes:**

*Excerpt from the February 1, 2026, trustees' Literature Committee meeting:*

The committee reviewed the final report of the Fifth Edition Big Book subcommittee along with a complete draft of the Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The committee **agreed to forward** the final report along with the draft manuscript of the Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* to the 2026 Conference Committee on Literature.

*2025 Conference Committee on Literature Additional Committee Consideration:*

The committee had a thoughtful discussion about the progress report and project timeline for the development of a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The committee requested that a manuscript or progress report be brought back to the 2026 Conference Committee on Literature.

*2021 Conference Advisory Actions:*

A Fifth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action that: "The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, 'The Doctor's Opinion,' 'Dr. Bob's Nightmare,' and the Appendices remain as is," and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

Pending its development, the draft of the Fifth Edition of the Big Book would include a new foreword, an updated preface and updates to expand on existing ideas in Appendices III and V.

*Secretary's note:* *Previous history and actions on this item are located in the History and Actions for the Conference Committee on Literature and trustees' Committee on Literature.*

**CONFIDENTIAL: 76th General Service Conference Background**

**Background:**

1. Fifth Edition *Alcoholics Anonymous* Final Report
2. Draft of the Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* (*Confidential, "For Committee Eyes Only"*)
  - Front matter: Foreword to the Fifth Edition and revised Preface
  - New Personal Stories: Part II, Experience, Strength and Hope
  - Revised Appendices III, V and VI.
3. Memo to Committee regarding confidential background

**2025-2026 trustees' Literature Committee  
Fifth Edition Big Book Subcommittee Final Report**

---

The subcommittee was charged with implementing the following Advisory Actions of the 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference:

- That a Fifth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action that: “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion,’ ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,’ and the Appendices remain as is,”
- Pending its development, the draft Fifth Edition of the Big Book would include a new Foreword, an updated Preface and updates to expand on existing ideas in Appendices III and V.

Members of the Fifth Edition subcommittees from 2021-2026, as well as those who have served on the trustees' Literature Committee in this time have expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the process of developing the draft Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

The subcommittee is especially grateful to the 2,393 members of the Fellowship who submitted their personal stories for consideration.

**Updated stories to better reflect the current membership:**

The Advisory Action stated that the new edition should include “an update of stories to better reflect current membership.”

To gather those stories, the trustees' Literature Committee created a subcommittee in 2021. They began their work by reviewing the processes that had led to the creation of the first four editions of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The subcommittee was careful to craft a process grounded in A.A. principles and history. Mindful of A.A. cofounder Bill W.'s observation that “the audience for the book is people who are coming to Alcoholics Anonymous now. Those who are here have already heard our stories.”

The “Call for Stories” was opened in April 2022 and closed October 31, 2022. Stories were accepted in English, Spanish and French. Members were able to submit stories electronically, as well as in hard copy through postal mail.

As the stories were coming in, the subcommittee began work on developing a process for evaluating stories.

Each story was first anonymized and given a number. Members were thanked for their submissions and the General Service Office (GSO) Staff followed up to make sure that each

member who submitted their story had also provided permission for their story to be edited and used (Assignment of Copyright).

Stories received in Spanish and French were translated into English so they could be read and reviewed by subcommittee members.

The subcommittee reviewed past practices and discussed the approach for the Fifth Edition. The subcommittee developed a grid where characteristics of each story and any comments could be noted, with emphasis on varied personal and A.A. experience.

For the Fourth Edition there were more than 1,200 stories submitted, and for the Fifth Edition there were 2,393 story submissions from grateful and enthusiastic A.A. members. It was awe inspiring and brought some challenges into the process regarding the ability of a subcommittee to effectively and carefully review every submission. In 2023-2024, members of the Fifth Edition Big Book subcommittee engaged additional volunteer readers who, along with the subcommittee, reviewed stories, noting unique elements of each story in the grid. This facilitated the subcommittee's selection of 159 stories for further consideration.

Additional volunteer readers proved to be an effective method to engage additional help to deal with a high volume of content. As a result, the subcommittee requested that the trustees' Literature Committee formalize a process for engagement of additional volunteers where needed for future projects.

By early 2025, the subcommittee was able to reduce the number of stories being considered down to 48. These were shared with the full trustees' Literature Committee and Conference Committee on Literature who were both provided the opportunity to provide input on which stories would be selected and express any concerns they had about any of the stories.

Throughout 2025, the subcommittee continued to meet and discuss the stories, frequently referring back to the Advisory Action. Emphasis was placed on selecting stories with depth and weight that would help a newcomer identify and find hope. In the end, a final set of 26 new stories were selected. These stories reflect A.A.'s geographic diversity and include stories of those who got sober as young people and those who got sober later in life. The stories also reflect different kinds of lived experiences, including those who identify as being part of remote communities, those who came to the U.S. or Canada as immigrants, members who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community and those who have served in the military. These new stories also include members who got sober during periods of incarceration and some who struggled with the notion of a Higher Power. All found sobriety, hope and a new way of life through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**Personal Stories from the Fourth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*:**

The subcommittee invited members of the trustees' Literature Committee and the Conference Committee on Literature to help determine which stories from the Fourth Edition Big Book should be retained.

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After reviewing that feedback, the subcommittee recommended that of the 42 personal stories in the Fourth Edition *Alcoholics Anonymous*, twelve should be included in the Fifth Edition, including:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Bob’s Nightmare</li> <li>• Alcoholics Anonymous Number Three</li> <li>• Gratitude in Action</li> <li>• Women Suffer Too</li> <li>• The Vicious Cycle</li> <li>• Jim's Story</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Keys of The Kingdom</li> <li>• Crossing the River of Denial</li> <li>• Winner Takes All</li> <li>• Acceptance Was The Answer</li> <li>• Listening To The Wind</li> <li>• Freedom From Bondage</li> </ul>
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Those that were not retained include the following 30 stories:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our Southern Friend</li> <li>• The Man Who Mastered Fear</li> <li>• He Sold Himself Short</li> <li>• The Missing Link</li> <li>• Fear of Fear</li> <li>• The Housewife Who Drank at Home</li> <li>• Physician, Heal Thyself!</li> <li>• My Chance to Live</li> <li>• Student of Life</li> <li>• Because I'm an Alcoholic</li> <li>• It Might Have Been Worse</li> <li>• Tighrope</li> <li>• Flooded with Feeling</li> <li>• Me an Alcoholic?</li> <li>• The Perpetual Quest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Drunk, Like You</li> <li>• Window of Opportunity</li> <li>• My Bottle, My Resentments, and Me</li> <li>• He Lived Only to Drink</li> <li>• Safe Haven</li> <li>• Twice Gifted</li> <li>• Building a New Life</li> <li>• On The Move</li> <li>• A Vision of Recovery</li> <li>• Gutter Bravado</li> <li>• Empty On the Inside</li> <li>• Grounded</li> <li>• Another Chance</li> <li>• A Late Start</li> <li>• A.A. Taught Him to Handle Sobriety</li> </ul>
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The subcommittee noted that there is no plan in place to continue to publish the 30 stories that have been removed, and that should the Conference wish for these to be published in a volume like *Experience, Strength, and Hope* or otherwise made available, an Advisory Action from the General Service Conference would be in order.

**Updates to expand on existing ideas in Appendices III and V:**

The subcommittee consulted with the trustees’ Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Committee in review of “The Medical View on A.A.” (III) and “The Religious View on A.A.” (V) appendices. Past and present Class A trustees were very helpful. The GSO Publishing Department incorporated the feedback and suggestions into drafts of each Appendix. Multiple drafts of each Appendix were reviewed by the subcommittee before they were finalized.

**Updates to Appendix VI: How to Get in Touch with A.A.:**

The subcommittee also requested that the Publishing Department review and make recommendations to Appendix VI, keeping in mind the diverse ways that people seek help and information, and to reflect current practices. In December 2025, a revised draft of Appendix VI was approved by the subcommittee.

**Updated Preface and Foreword to the Fifth Edition:**

The Foreword to the Fifth Edition and Preface are in the purview of the Publishing Department and were written after the stories had been selected and other content finalized. The Fifth Edition Subcommittee provided input and these were then shared with the trustees' Literature Committee.

**General Service Office (GSO):**

Both the GSO Staff on the literature assignment and the Publishing Department have gathered experience through this process that is being retained and applied to other projects where applicable. The subcommittee wishes to thank the Staff and employees for their tireless support throughout this process.

**Proposed Agenda Items (PAIs):**

The subcommittee received three PAIs from AAWS that pertained to the format and the cover of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The subcommittee noted that there have been also previous requests for a more anonymity conscience jacketless cover. The subcommittee requested that Publishing Department and AAWS consider this expressed need when formatting the Fifth Edition.

The subcommittee also received four PAIs from the trustees' Literature Committee, these were not forwarded to the Conference but pertained to the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and were provided to the subcommittee for review. These were carefully considered and the subcommittee took no further action.

**Conclusion:**

The development of this draft of the Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* has been a real labor of love, and could not have been completed without the incredible work of hundreds of A.A. members, including the area delegates (especially those serving on the Conference Committee on Literature), dozens of board members (trustees, nontrustee directors and appointed committee members), GSO Staff, Staff associates, the Publishing Department and the many, many members who submitted their stories.

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April 2026

To: Members of the 2026 General Service Conference

From: Misha Q., Secretary, trustees' Literature Committee and Conference Committee on Literature

Subject: **Confidential** draft literature

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As a Conference committee reviews a new, or extensively revised literature item it is general practice that drafts are reviewed by **committee members only**. This means that the rest of the Conference members will not be getting copies of the pamphlet or book in their background materials for the Conference.

The Conference Committee on Literature will be reviewing the draft manuscript of the Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, primarily to determine whether or not the scope of changes presented meets the intended goals of the 2021 Advisory Action to develop a new edition.

Also, as with all Conference-approved A.A. literature, the Conference committee will be looking at the draft manuscript to see “that everything in such literature is in accord with A.A. principles” and that “Conference-approved material always deals with the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous or with information about the A.A. Fellowship.” (Concerns about routine grammar, punctuation, editing, etc., will be addressed by the Publishing Department.)

Once the Conference committee reviews the draft manuscript, several things may happen. Among them:

- The committee might approve the manuscript and recommend that the manuscript be approved by the Conference as a whole.
- The committee might send the manuscript back to the trustees' Literature Committee with any significant concerns about the proposed draft.

Until a book or pamphlet is “Conference-approved,” it is confidential and for committee eyes only. Prior to then, any number of changes might be made by the trustees' Literature Committee or the corresponding Conference committee. This confidential process ensures that the message that reaches the A.A. Fellowship is a reflection of A.A. as a whole, an assurance made by the Conference-approval process.

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