

Committee C

Consider a request to produce an animated video based on the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.” (Trustees – 11h)

Consider publishing the personal stories from the Fourth Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous not included in the draft Fifth Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous. (Literature – 6i)

Consider that the AA Grapevine, Inc., accept contributions. (Grapevine – 5f)

Discuss ways to encourage interest and participation at Regional Forums. (ICRF – 13b)

***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 Trustees

ITEM H: Consider a request to produce an animated video based on the pamphlet *The Twelve Traditions Illustrated*

Background note:

Excerpt from the December 10, 2025, interim meeting of the trustees' Literature Committee:

The committee reviewed the proposed agenda item (PAI-104), "Area 73 approved a Proposed Agenda Item to present to the 2026 General Service Conference to produce an animated video of the pamphlet '12 Traditions Illustrated' (P-43)." The committee **agreed to forward** PAI-104 to the 76th General Service Conference.

Background:

1. PAI-104
2. "[The Twelve Traditions Illustrated](#)" (Item P-43)

<p>(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.</p> <p>Area 73 approved a Proposed Agenda Item to present to the 2026 General Service Conference to produce an animated video of the pamphlet “12 Traditions Illustrated” (P-43).</p>
<p>(2) What problem does this proposed item address?</p> <p>As some people are visual learners or cannot read this could help to convey the information in the pamphlet. In addition, today’s trends are toward people viewing short videos to obtain information.</p>
<p>(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.).</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>This item was voted on and approved at the Area 73 Fall Assembly on 9/25/2025 by the voting body of Area 73.</p>
<p>(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:</p> <p>The 72nd GSC approved an Advisory Action to create a comparable video for the pamphlet “The 12 Concepts Illustrated.”</p>
<p>(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?</p> <p>It offers another way to get the 12 Traditions out to more people who otherwise might not take the time to read about them. It could also be used by Sponsors or even Groups to initiate discussion about the Traditions.</p>
<p>(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.</p> <p>William A., Area 73 Delegate Panel 75</p>
<p>(7) Final comments:</p>

2026 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM I: Consider publishing the personal stories from the Fourth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* not included in the draft Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

Background notes:

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

The trustees' Literature Committee **agreed to forward** a committee suggestion to the 2026 Conference Committee on Literature that consideration be given to the publication of the 30 stories not retained from the Fourth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

2022 Conference Committee on Literature recommendation:

The committee recommended that a second volume of the book *Experience, Strength and Hope* be developed with the stories dropped from the Fourth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and that a progress report be brought to the Conference Committee on Literature once development of the publication is in progress.

Note: This item failed to receive the votes necessary to become an Advisory Action on the Conference Floor.

Background:

1. *Experience, Strength & Hope* [EN](#), [SP](#), [FR](#)

2026 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña

ITEM F: Consider that the AA Grapevine, Inc. accept contributions.

Background notes:

From 2025 committee discussion:

The AA Grapevine Board discussed the Grapevine and La Viña Conference Committee's expressed interest in exploring various funding models for AA Grapevine, Inc. and agreed to send to the General Service Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña a proposed agenda item that the AA Grapevine, Inc. accept contributions, which was seconded and passed.

Background:

1. AA Grapevine, Inc. Contributions Report
2. Memo

Draft Memorandum

January 29, 2026

To: Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña
From: AA Grapevine Board of Directors
Subject: Consideration of AA Grapevine, Inc. accepting contributions

Prepared for discussion by the Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña

AA Grapevine, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation under the umbrella of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. It publishes *Grapevine* and *La Viña* magazines and books and carries the AA message through print, digital, audio, and video formats.

Unlike any other AA entity, AA Grapevine, Inc. does not accept direct contributions from AA members, groups, or service bodies. Its operating income is derived from subscriptions, book sales, and other product-related revenue, as described in *The AA Grapevine Statement of Purpose*. For fiscal year 2025, AA Grapevine, Inc. is projected to end the year with an operating deficit of approximately \$300,000.

This memo presents relevant operational data and outlines considerations associated with whether AA Grapevine, Inc. might accept contributions from AA members and groups. It is intended to support informed discussion and evaluation by the Conference committee.

Current Reach and Usage

Grapevine and La Viña	
The number of times we carry the AA message each month	
Outlet	Monthly contact
Grapevine Magazine subscribers	60,000
La Viña Magazine subscribers	8,000
App GV non-subscriber users	21,000
App LV non-subscriber users	460
Podcast listens	24,000
Instagram GV views	97,000
Instagram LV views	34,000
YouTube Channel views	3,300
Book Sales GV units	6,000
Book Sales LV units	1,040
Website visits GV	120,000
Website visits LV	3,400
Prison Tablets GV and LV content	2,000
Daily Quote Grapevine	1,575,980
Daily Quote La Viña	126,420
WhatsApp La Viña	5,292
Number of times we carry AA message each month	2,087,892
Year	25,054,704

Current Financial Model

- Revenue sources: Subscriptions (print, online, and app), book sales, and other product revenue
- No acceptance of direct contributions from AA members, groups, or service bodies. Financial support from the General Service Board comes when Grapevine runs at a deficit.

Factors Impacting Viability of Current Financial Model:

- Increasing costs in areas such as paper, printing, mailing, shipping, and digital infrastructure
- Ongoing provision of services that generate no direct revenue, including prison tablet content, podcasts, video, social media, ASL videos, and complimentary or discounted materials

Considerations if Contributions Were Permitted

The following points describe potential operational and structural implications that have been identified for consideration:

1. **Relationship to Tradition Seven**
Acceptance of contributions would align Grapevine's funding sources more closely with other AA entities that rely on voluntary member and group support.
2. **Revenue Diversification**
Contributions would represent an additional revenue stream alongside product sales, reducing reliance on publishing and retail income alone.
3. **Financial Stability**
Contributions would improve the bottom line.
4. **Service Continuity**
Contribution revenue would provide an additional way for members to support services that have no income source associated with them, such as free or reduced-cost distribution, correctional facility access, and content such as podcasts, Instagram and YouTube.
5. **Administrative and Reporting Implications**
Acceptance of contributions would require policies, accounting processes, and reporting mechanisms comparable to those used by AAWS.
6. **Consistency Across AA Entities**
Allowing contributions would reduce the distinction between Grapevine and other AA entities regarding funding sources.

Considerations if Practice of Not Accepting Contributions Continues

The following points describe concerns and potential risks that have been identified:

1. **Departure from Longstanding Practice**

Grapevine has operated for more than seventy years without accepting contributions, relying instead on sales-based support.

2. **Conference Policy and Precedent**

In 1994, this Advisory Action came from the General Service Conference: *“All A.A. members be strongly urged to work toward the goal that the AA Grapevine magazine be self-supporting through the sale of magazine subscriptions.”*

3. **Financial Boundary Clarity**

Some may view contributions as complicating the financial and organizational distinctions between Grapevine and other AA entities.

4. **Impact on Other AA Contributions**

Contributions to Grapevine could affect giving patterns of individuals, groups, districts, areas, etc., to the General Service Board.

5. **Perception and Communication Risks**

Need to be clear that contributions to Grapevine, Inc. support Grapevine and La Viña efforts, and that contributions to other AA entities do not support Grapevine.

6. **Cultural and Administrative Shift**

Accepting contributions would require processes such as contribution management and contributor relations that are new to Grapevine operations and culture.

Policy and Governance Considerations

If the Fellowship were to consider allowing contributions, issues that may require definition include:

- Eligibility of contributors (e.g., AA members and AA entities only)
- Limits and safeguards consistent with AA Traditions/Conference Advisory Actions (e.g. contribution limits)
- Affirmation of Grapevine’s editorial independence
- Transparency and reporting requirements
- Measures to avoid unintended impact on other AA service entities

Closing

The question of whether AA Grapevine, Inc. should accept contributions involves financial, operational, and spiritual considerations. This memo is intended to present relevant information and identified considerations to assist the Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña in its evaluation and discussion.

February 9, 2026

Memorandum

To: The Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña
From: Chris Cavanaugh, Publisher, AA Grapevine, Inc.
Subject: AA Grapevine, Inc. contributions and our 5-Year Plan

For more than eight decades, AA Grapevine has strived to be self-supporting through the sale of subscriptions and books. In recent years, however, the way AA members access Grapevine has changed significantly. Grapevine now provides a growing range of services that directly support AA's primary purpose but do not generate revenue: daily quotes, weekly podcasts, video and social media content, Grapevine recovery stories on correctional-facility tablets, and accessible videos for Deaf members. These services extend the AA message to alcoholics who may never encounter a print magazine or be able to purchase books, yet they require ongoing financial investment to produce and maintain.

While Grapevine's five-year plan includes measured price increases for subscriptions and books, those increases are intended to sustain core publishing operations while retaining customers and may not cover the full cost of these expanding, Fellowship-wide services. AA Grapevine accepting contributions will give the AA Fellowship an opportunity to directly support these efforts, ensuring that Grapevine can continue to carry the AA message as access methods evolve. Such support would not replace Grapevine's self-support efforts through sales but would recognize that today's Grapevine serves the Fellowship in broader ways that sales alone cannot sustain, helping reach alcoholics wherever and however they seek recovery. Members who use or support today's Grapevine will be able to help sustain and grow these services, just as they support local offices, districts, areas, and the General Service Board services.

With Gratitude,

Chris C.

2026 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

ITEM B: Discuss ways to encourage interest and participation at Regional Forums.

Secretary's note:

There were two virtual Forum events in 2021. In 2022, the Regional Forums returned to on-site events. The summary of suggestions from 2021 to 2025 is provided as an overview for the committee's convenience. The 2025 Evaluation Summaries provide a summary of the feedback from attendees at the four 2025 Regional Forums for review.

Background:

1. Summary of Suggestions 2021 to 2025
2. 2025 East Central Regional Forum Evaluation Summary
3. 2025 West Central Regional Forum Evaluation Summary
4. 2025 Southwest Regional Forum Evaluation Summary
5. 2025 Northeast Regional Forum Evaluation Summary

**Summary of Suggestions on Ways to Encourage Interest in Forums from the
Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums
(2021-2025)**

The committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees, and suggested:

2025

- That the General Service Office record a GSO Podcast episode showcasing Regional Forums.
- Budget considerations, the live broadcast option pilot and the plan to better serve interpretation needs.

2024

- Continue to announce Regional Forums at all local A.A. events within the region.
- That the Staff coordinator on the Regional Forum assignment communicate with the area contact and volunteer committee earlier in the Regional Forum planning process.
- That the Staff coordinator on the Regional Forum assignment continues to disseminate Regional Forum information early and often using all modes of communication including email, aa.org, Meeting Guide app, *Box 4-5-9*, and *Grapevine* and *La Viña*.
- Consider creating short, current anonymity protected videos about Regional Forums that can be shared on our communication channels.
- That the General Service Board consider adding the use of current technology including streaming and virtual/hybrid components to the Regional Forum, and the possibility of using local A.A. resources.
- Consider adding an additional full virtual forum.

2023

- That the General Service Board add virtual elements to Regional Forums or even add a virtual fifth forum to the annual calendar.
- Disseminate advance information about events using flyers, posters, announcements in *Grapevine* and *La Viña*, podcasts, Instagram messages, invitations in ASL, QR codes, and *Box 4-5-9* articles.

2022

- Consider options to the title “Regional Forum” utilizing more current language.
- Continue utilizing digital communication options; however, also continue non-digital options to ensure full accessibility and participation by members who may not have access to technology.

2021

- Consider using the Meeting Guide app to further convey Regional Forum information.
- Continue using videoconferencing technology to broadcast portions of future in-person forum programs allowing members who may not have resources or time to travel to participate.
- Ensure future host regions are well informed about dates, locations, programs, and ways the local membership can participate.
- Extend outreach materials to invite the Spanish-speaking and LGBTQ communities to attend Regional Forums.
- Conduct at least one presentation or workshop in Spanish and/or French at each Regional Forum.

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2025 EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL FORUM – (August 22 - 24, 2025)

Feedback on On-Site Experiences

A total of 133 (132 English/1 Spanish) participants responded to the evaluation, from a total of 383 attendees. Below is a summary of the responses.

1. Please indicate whether this was your first Forum:

	English	Spanish
Yes	55 (41.7%)	1
No	77 (58.3%)	0

2. How did you hear about the Forum?

	English	Spanish
Area	60 (46.2%)	1
District	14 (10.8%)	0
GSO Flyer	15 (11.5%)	0
Local Intergroup/Central Office	7 (5.4%)	0
Homegroup	3 (2.3%)	0
www.aa.org	12 (9.2%)	0
Friend	9 (6.9%)	0
Other	10 (7.7%)	0

3. Did you pre-register online at: www.aa.org?

	English	Spanish
Yes	120 (90.2%)	0
No	13 (9.8%)	1

4. Suggestions to Improve Online Pre-Registration

Summary: Many found the registration process smooth and praised the Cvent platform’s usability and customer service. Key concerns included:

- Clarify livestream and in-person options such as registering with different emails so attendees have flexibility within their schedules.
- Many attendees who did not stay at the hotel were surprised by hidden costs (e.g., parking at \$59/night, paid Wi-Fi).
- Some had difficulty locating the registration page or pre-Forum information on the website.

Suggestions for improvement:

- Earlier notice of registration opening and a welcome email with practical tips (e.g., parking, meals, agenda).
- Frequent registration reminders.
- Distribute the page for specific region instead of the general information page.

5. Please indicate your current service position:

	English	Spanish
GSR	23 (17.4%)	0
DCM	10 (7.6%)	0
District Officer	6 (4.5%)	0
Area Officer	18 (13.6%)	0
Delegate	8 (6.1%)	1
Past Delegate	24 (18.2%)	0
Past Trustee	2 (1.5%)	0
Friend of A.A.	1 (0.8%)	0
A.A. Member	24 (18.2%)	0
Other	16 (12.1%)	0

Summary: Respondents represented a diverse range of service roles, with the largest groups being:

- A.A. Members and Past Delegates (18.2% each)
- GSRs (17.4%)
- Area Officers (13.6%)
- Delegates (6.1%)
- DCMs (7.6%).
- One Spanish-speaking respondent (Delegate)

6A. Improvements to Presentations

Summary: Attendees praised the presentations for their authenticity, clarity, and being informative. Improvements to address audience fatigue such as shorter sessions, more visual aids, and pre-session materials were suggested. They also emphasized the importance of enhancing connection and trust across all presenter roles. Seeing newer trusted servants navigate their roles was seen as relatable and encouraging.

- Delegates: Value heartfelt sharing over scripted reading; more insights into committee work and how delegates balance service with personal life; visuals were appreciated.
- AAWS Board & GSO: Providing slides or outlines in advance would help attendees absorb dense content. Clarity of Staff roles was especially helpful for

newcomers. Slower pacing and direct answers to questions were emphasized as trust-building practices.

- AA Grapevine Board & Office: The subscription challenge and summary video were well received. Showing how the app works on a phone could encourage adoption among less tech-savvy members. An interactive session with audience participation was valued; A video introducing Grapevine/La Viña staff would enhance connection to the magazine.
- Trustee-at-large/U.S.: Appreciated hearing about A.A.'s global reach, growth, and challenges, which helped contextualize local service efforts; and suggested trustees continue to contribute their reflections in *Box 4-5-9*.
- Treasurer: Attendees valued the process explanation and financial data. A consistent call for handouts or summaries — either printed or via QR codes — to bring back to home groups. Enhance presentation by inviting additional financial staff. Short breaks for questions would improve comprehension.
- Class A Trustee Presentation: Praised as meaningful and inspiring, with strong emotional resonance. Schedule this earlier to allow for deeper engagement. More stories on how their professional backgrounds inform board decisions.
- Past Trustees: Strong and inspiring. Include an Ask-It-Basket panel instead. A deeper dive into a typical day as a trustee. Limit personal stories and focus on service experience.
- First-Time Attendees: Occasionally misused for airing grievances; Give specific prompts or questions to guide sharing; and split the session across two days.

6B. Improvements to Workshops

Summary: Workshops overall were appreciated for the strong participation, but clearer format expectations would enhance the experience. Suggestions included:

- Tips on helping the discussions transition to solutions.
- Delegates to present on their committees, linking Conference work to local relevance.
- Acknowledge inconsistency in workshop structures due to broad cross section of service areas.
- Attendees wanted more panelist-led discussion, background context, and structured presentations.

6C. Improvements to Sharing Sessions

Summary: Sharing sessions were seen as valuable learning opportunities, especially for understanding trusted servants' humility and clarifying member concerns. Suggestions included:

- Attendees appreciated time limits and respectful facilitation.
- Add one more session on Saturday, limiting repetitive speakers, and providing guidance on session purpose.
- While many shares were uplifting, some were viewed as off-topic or in poor taste, reinforcing the need for light structure.

7. Suggested Future Presentation Topics

Summary: Attendees wanted to know more about practical topics.

- Service Understanding: Deep dives into A.A.'s structure, history of GSO/GSC/GSB, and financial transparency.
- Recovery in the Digital Age: Exploring social media's impact, virtual sobriety, and safety.
- Unity and Tradition: Topics like chairing meetings, balancing the Three Legacies, and generational and other dynamics ("Elder Statesman vs. Bleeding Deacon vs. YPAA vs. underrepresented newcomers").
- Practical Tools: How to use pamphlets, Grapevine, and technology in service work to support carrying A.A.'s message.

8. Suggested Future Workshop Topics

Summary: Attendees enjoyed workshops and wanted more variety and options to attend more throughout the weekend. There is a clear desire to address how A.A. adapts to the digital age. Attendees want workshops that reflect diversity and practical tools for communication — using history to preserve the core message and methods of the A.A. program. Key ideas included:

- Real-life examples of applying the Traditions in modern service work.
- Crash courses and deeper dives into A.A.'s Twelve Concepts.
- Service Sponsorship: Emphasizing guidance for newcomers.
- Plain Language Service: Making service roles more accessible to new members.
- A.A. and Technology: Navigating digital tools, Fellowship Connection, and aa.org resources.
- Anonymity in the Tech World: Preserving anonymity in social media and how A.A. principles coexist with AI.
- Mental Health and Minority Representation in A.A.: Carrying the message inclusively.
- Supporting spiritual diversity in A.A.
- Safety in A.A.: Covering all aspects of safety in meetings and online.
- Committee and Business Meetings: Using A.A.'s guiding principles or "Roberts Rules."

- Proposed Agenda Items: How to write and submit them effectively.
- Communication Across Service Levels: What works and what doesn't between areas, districts, and groups.
- Self-Support: Understanding financial responsibility at all levels.

9. Suggestions to Improve the Overall Forum Experience

Summary: Feedback focused on interactive opportunities, venue and cost considerations, programming, and the importance of open communication, especially when addressing difficult or controversial topics. Key suggestions included:

- Roundtables with GSO staff.
- A "How the Forum Operates" session for newcomers.
- Icebreakers encouraging mingling beyond familiar travel groups.
- Affordability: Strong concern over high hotel, parking, and meal costs.
Suggestions for future venues:
 - Choosing venues with free or lower-cost parking.
 - Providing water and coffee stations outside meeting rooms.
 - Offering more food in hospitality rooms to offset expenses.
 - Sharing local restaurant guides with dietary and accessibility info.
- Attendees preferred speakers using notes over scripted remarks.
- Shorter speaking limits (one-minute shares and responses)
- Start earlier or a day sooner to reduce late evening sessions.
- Handouts and printed materials would help attendees follow along and retain information.
- Add a GSO Support Session focused on how GSO can assist with specific service areas (e.g., Corrections, CPC).
- Provide clear details during pre-registration, not just at check-in.

10. Likelihood of Attending Another Regional Forum

Summary: 130 of English-speaking respondents and 1 of Spanish-speaking respondent indicated they would attend another Regional Forum.

Reasons for attending:

- The opportunity to receive direct updates from GSO and the boards.
- A way to stay current with A.A.'s national and international developments.
- A personal commitment to understanding A.A.'s structure and giving back.
- Bringing first-time attendees is a common goal among seasoned members.
- Q&A sessions are valued for ongoing learning and service development.

Reasons for not attending:

- One attendee expressed discomfort with how a sensitive question was handled during the forum, suggesting that lack of direct answers may impact trust in leadership.

Feedback on Livestream Pilot

A total of 15 respondent (14 English, 1 Spanish) participants responded to the evaluation, from a total of 73 Livestream attendees.

First-Time Attendees – Motivation to Join:

- A growing interest in service, curiosity about A.A.’s structure, and to explore the webinar format.
- A desire to learn the “language” of general service and become more involved.

Returning Attendees – Reasons for Coming Back

- Value of direct communication with GSO Staff and trustees.
- Stay informed about A.A.’s evolving structure.
- Accessibility online due to budget constraints.

How Attendees Heard About the Forum

- Equal amounts hear from their area, GSO flyers, intergroups, friends, and home groups.

Suggestions to Improve Online Pre-Registration

- The process was described as easy and clear.
- One suggestion was to integrate the GSO mobile app to streamline future registrations.

Current Service Positions

- 6 A.A. Members, 2 GSRs, 1 Delegate, and 6 DCMs

Presentation Feedback

- Attendees appreciated the diplomatic tone and responsiveness to questions.
- Highlight digital resources.
- Clarify multiple service offices.
- Praise for its strong emotional connection and relevance.
- Valuable experience and inspiration.

Workshop Feedback

- The session on Agnostics and Atheists in A.A. was highlighted as informative, especially the pamphlet “The ‘God’ Word.”

Suggested Future Presentation Topics

- Online meetings, digital tools, and safety differences between in-person and online meetings.
- Involving young people at the board and Grapevine levels.
- Promoting AA-Intergroup.org and Grapevine’s role in service.

Suggested Future Workshop Topics

- Safety and anonymity guidelines, privacy tools, and social media strategy.
- Effective group conscience practices.

Overall Feedback of the Livestream Experience

- Slides were essential for understanding presentations.
- Livestream format was simple and accessible.

Interpretation Tool Feedback

Rating Usefulness:

- 9 Satisfied, 4 Very Satisfied; No dissatisfaction was reported.

###

2025 WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL FORUM – (September 19-21, 2025)

Feedback on On-Site Experiences

A total of 87 (86 English/1 Spanish) participants responded to the evaluation, from a total of 241 on-site attendees. Below is a summary of the responses.

1. Please indicate whether this was your first Forum:

English Spanish

Yes	31 (36.0%)	1
No	55 (64.0%)	0

2. How did you hear about the Forum?

	English	Spanish
Area	34 (40.5%)	1
District	11 (13.1%)	0
GSO Flyer	4 (4.8%)	0
Local Intergroup/Central Office	0	0
Homegroup	9 (10.7%)	0
www.aa.org	4 (4.8%)	0
Friend	8 (9.5%)	0
Other	14 (16.7%)	0

3. Did you pre-register online at: www.aa.org?

	English	Spanish
Yes	70 (82.4%)	0
No	15 (17.6%)	1

4. Please list any suggestions to improve the online pre-registration process

- Open pre-registration sooner.
- Clarify when the online option is available.
- Having the actual program embedded as a link in the registration confirmation email would be splendid!
- My confirmation email stated an incorrect location for the Forum.
- Don't use a website that has ads.
- It is not always easy to find registration. Additionally, while I attended in person, I could not find the audio-only option.

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- It was easy but I was a little confused about when to scroll down and when I needed to go to the next page.

5. Please indicate your current service position:

	English	Spanish
G.S.R.	14 (16.3%)	0
D.C.M.	10 (11.6%)	0
District Officer	4 (4.7%)	0
Area Officer	14 (16.3%)	0
Delegate	6 (7.0%)	1
Past Delegate	6 (7.0%)	0
Past Trustee	0	0
Friend of A.A.	0	0
A.A. Member	15 (17.4%)	0
Other	17 (19.8%)	0

6. Suggestions to Improve Online Pre-Registration

Summary: Participants expressed a need for clearer communication and easier navigation during the online registration process. Key concerns included:

- Opening registration earlier.
- Clarifying when online registration is available.
- Including the program link in confirmation emails.
- Improving visibility of registration and livestream options.
- Simplifying navigation between pages.

Suggestions for improvement:

- Launch registration earlier and clarify when livestream option will be available
- Embed the program link in confirmation emails.

7. Current Service Positions of Respondents

Summary: Respondents represented a diverse range of service roles, with the largest groups being:

- A.A. members (17.4%)
- Other roles (19.8%)
- GSR and area officers (each 16.3%)
- DCM (11.6%) Spanish-speaking participation was minimal, with only one delegate responding.

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8A. Improvements to Presentations

Summary: Feedback emphasized the need for more engaging, transparent, and informative presentations across all categories:

- Delegates: Avoid reading scripts; focus on local service topics, background context, and allow more Q&A.
- AAWS Board & GSO: Provide detailed updates and address financial concerns openly.
- Grapevine Board: Reduce sales tone, focus on operational accomplishments, impacts, and challenges. Increase Q&A time.
- Trustee-at-large/U.S.: Share current challenges
- Treasurer: Present clear, easily readable financial data without viewpoint; offer printed reports and define terms clearly.
- Class A Trustee Presentation: Praised for authenticity and engagement.
- Past Trustees: Encourage their involvement in Q&A and emphasize their own experiences as a trustee and with rotation.
- First-Time Attendees: Sharing sessions were appreciated for their fresh perspectives.

8B. Improvements to Workshops

Summary: Workshops were generally well-received, with appreciation for interactive formats and shared experiences. Suggestions included:

- Offering multiple sessions per topic.
- Providing structured agendas and introductory information.
- Reducing simultaneous offerings to avoid choice overload.
- Clarifying expectations (e.g., discussion vs. lecture).
- Moderators include outlines or guidance for deeper learning or participation.

8C. Improvements to Sharing Sessions

Summary: Sharing sessions were valued but seen as insufficient in time and scope. Concerns included:

- Reduced time for sharing, especially after key presentations.
- Unequal treatment of speakers (e.g., unrestricted time for leadership).
- Frustration over unanswered questions and perceived avoidance.
- Desire for more sessions focused on specific topics like finances and Grapevine challenges.

9. Suggested Future Presentation Topics

Summary: Attendees proposed a wide range of topics that reflect a desire for deeper understanding, transparency, and relevance in presentations. Key themes include:

- Warranties and Service Structure: Concepts, traditions, and flexible leadership.

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- Financial Responsibility: Decision-making, financial future, self-support, and group conscience.
- Broad and Inclusive: Supporting linguistic districts and bridging cultural gaps.
- Safety and Trust: Addressing safety in A.A. to open dialogue to build trust.
- Attraction and Example: Making presentations more engaging by using storytelling and explaining how service events fit into A.A.'s primary purpose.
- Grapevine and Archives: Better utilization of Grapevine services locally and archival history locally.

10. Suggested Future Workshop Topics

Summary: Workshop suggestions emphasized practical guidance, inclusivity, and relevance to current challenges. Key ideas include:

- Anonymity at the Foundation: The significance of “principles before personalities.”
- Modern Challenges: Required attendance at A.A. meetings; integration of online meetings within our local service structure.
- Safety and Inclusion: “Working with Others” to ensure safety for all members and reaching younger generations.
- Archives and Service: Greater focus on local A.A. history can help with involvement in the service structure.
- Format Preferences: Creating clear, interactive, and informative workshops for local A.A. events.

11. Suggestions to Improve the Overall Forum Experience

Summary: Feedback highlighted both appreciation and areas for improvement in the Forum experience:

- Communication and Trust: Clear answers to questions with context are essential.
- Logistics and Accessibility: Clarify details for parking, meals, and hospitality room.
- Online Experience: Praise for livestreaming and translation services, but some missed out due to lack of knowledge of how to combine in-person with livestream into their schedules. Increase number of follow-up emails about the event.
- Forum Content: Greater focus on communicating that the benefits of reducing time spent on repetitive grievances increases time for questions and sharing.
- Authority and Responsibility: Encourage more involvement from areas to reduce financial strain on first-time attendees and foster greater involvement.
- Scheduling and Participation: Consider offering workshops on Friday to reduce overlap and improve attendees' accessibility to more topics.

12. Likelihood of Attending Another Regional Forum

Summary: 78 (94%) of English-speaking respondents and 1 (100%) of Spanish-speaking respondents indicated they would attend another Forum.

Reasons for attending:

- Staying informed and connected to A.A. as a whole.
- Learning from GSO Staff, trustees, and delegates.
- Enjoying the fellowship and service structure.
- Personal growth and continued engagement.

Reasons for not attending:

- Cost concerns.
- Location-dependent decisions.
- Stepping away from general service.

Feedback on Livestream Pilot

A total of 18 respondents (17 English, 1 Spanish) responded to the evaluation, from a total of 80 livestream attendees. Below is a summary of the responses.

First-Time Attendees – Motivation to Join

Summary: New attendees were drawn to the Forum by a growing interest in service, curiosity about A.A.'s structure, and the opportunity to deepen their involvement. Many appreciated the chance to learn, connect, and explore A.A.'s broader service language and operations.

Returning Attendees – Reasons for Coming Back

Summary: Returning participants cited a strong desire to stay informed, engage with A.A. leadership, and continue their personal growth in service. Forums were seen as essential to recovery, connection, and understanding A.A.'s evolving processes. Budget constraints and regional relevance also influenced attendance.

How Attendees Heard About the Livestream Option

Summary: Awareness came from a mix of sources, but area (4) was the most common.

- Other sources included GSO flyers, intergroups, friends, and home groups. This suggests a need for broader and more consistent promotion across all service levels.

Suggestions to Improve Online Pre-Registration

Summary: Feedback was minimal but constructive.

- Consider integrating the GSO mobile app for registration.

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- Overall, the process was described as easy and clear.

Current Service Positions

Summary: Respondents represented a mix of service roles: A.A. Members, GSRs, DCMs, delegates (1 Spanish, 6 English); and past delegates.

Presentation Feedback

Summary: Presentations were generally well-received, with appreciation for diplomacy, transparency, and digital resources. Suggestions included:

- Sharing more about the 2024 inventory and linking resources via QR codes.
- Highlighting multiple service offices and Grapevine materials.
- Praise for trustees, treasurer, and Class A presentations, with no major criticisms.

Workshop Feedback

Summary: Workshops were positively received, especially those addressing inclusivity:

- Agnostics and Atheists in A.A. was highlighted as informative.
- No major format suggestions were offered, indicating satisfaction with structure.

Suggested Future Presentation Topics

Summary: Attendees proposed topics that reflect current challenges and opportunities:

- Registration of meetings: Meeting Guide app, GSO, intergroup, and area.
- Final Conference Report
- Online groups and district participation.
- How each area attempts to get a consensus on agenda items from groups.

Suggested Future Workshop Topics

- Technology in A.A. and OIAA
- Developing local public service announcements.

Sharing Sessions Feedback

- Allow interaction from online attendees.
- More time for sharing sessions.

Overall Feedback of the Livestream Experience

Summary: Feedback was largely positive, with appreciation for:

- Clear audio, accurate scheduling, and slide presentations.
- Requests included:
 - Adding a video option with appropriate settings.
 - Continuing to offer live broadcast-only options for flexibility.

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Interpretation Tool Feedback

Rating Usefulness: 0 responses.

###

2025 Southwest Regional Forum Evaluation Summary

In-person Feedback

1. If this is your first Forum what attracted, you to attend? (Responses: 76)

Summary: First-time attendees were primarily motivated by a desire to learn and participate in the service structure, including understanding GSO/GSB functions, roles (e.g., GSR/DCM), and how A.A. service operates. A secondary set of motivations included curiosity about the Forum format, opportunities to meet/engage with trusted servants, and practical considerations like location/convenience. A smaller but notable thread referenced accessibility/interpretation tools as an attraction.

2. If this is NOT your first Forum, what brought you back? (Responses: 69)

Summary: Returning attendees most often described the Forum as a way to stay informed and engaged in A.A. service, fulfill service responsibilities (bringing concerns and returning with reports), and maintain connection with the wider Fellowship. Many specifically valued hearing directly from GSO/GSB/trustees and the Q&A opportunities, with a smaller cluster referencing accessibility/translation tools and participation constraints (e.g., budget).

3. Please list any suggestions to improve the online pre-registration process.

(Responses: 53)

Summary: Most comments indicated registration was easy/smooth, but improvement requests concentrated on logistics and clarity, including making the registration link easier to find, improving information about start/end times, strengthening visibility and instructions for virtual/streaming options, and simplifying steps (e.g., reducing “page jumping”). Several also asked for practical enhancements such as allowing preferred name on badges and reducing duplicate steps when attending in more than one mode.

4. Forum Presentations

Delegates (Responses: 66)

Summary: Delegate feedback leaned strongly positive — many appreciated the quality of talks, and autonomy in topic choice. The most repeated improvement themes were more time for Q&A, stronger topic alignment/cohesion (clearer connection to stated topics or a unifying theme), and better support materials (e.g., accompanying slides/handouts/recordings).

AAWS Board and Your General Service Office (Responses: 64)

Summary: Attendees valued the session’s informational role and cited elements like clear explanations and engaging components (e.g., Staff/office context). The strongest improvement signal was the desire for more Q&A time and more direct, concrete answers, especially on complex or uncomfortable topics. Several asked for more referenceable resources (links/QR codes/handouts), clearer updates about what leadership is focusing on, and more readable/usable materials (slides and takeaways) to help them report back accurately.

AA Grapevine Board and the Grapevine Office (Responses: 59)

Summary: Feedback was generally appreciative and engaged, with repeated praise for the presenters and the “freshness” of information. A consistent improvement theme was to acknowledge challenges candidly and pair updates with clearer problem/solution framing, particularly where respondents referenced Grapevine realities and sustainability. Additional recurring requests included more Q&A time, content that emphasizes “why/how it helps recovery” (practical application stories), and strengthened accessibility/communication features (e.g., ensuring translation support works smoothly for all audiences).

Trustee-at-large (Responses: 56)

Summary: This session’s feedback clustered heavily around language/translation experience. Many respondents highlighted the interpretation tool (Wordly) as a major enabler, while others found real-time phone-based translation distracting or felt that using a non-dominant language without a fully effective translation experience reduced engagement. Overall, attendees still expressed appreciation for learning about worldwide service impacts.

Treasurer (Responses: 59)

Summary: Treasurer feedback concentrated on three primary issues:

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1. Representation/availability: multiple respondents noted the absence of a treasurer and wanted that role present for credibility and questions.
2. Clarity and usability of financial content: requests for more current numbers, clearer explanations for non-financial audiences, and visuals that are readable (larger fonts, better charts).
3. Interaction: repeated asks for more Q&A time and more direct handling of financial questions. Several explicitly suggested printed or table-available materials to support accurate understanding and reporting back.

It's "A" Class Act (Responses: 60)

Summary: This presentation was overwhelmingly received as a highlight, described repeatedly as inspiring and emotionally resonant.

5. Sharing from Past Trustees (Responses: 60)

Summary: Many respondents found the past trustee sharing impactful, especially for framing the weekend around primary purpose, unity, and perspective. The most common improvement request was structural: more than one past trustee (e.g., a panel) to broaden viewpoints.

6. First-time Attendees (Responses: 48)

Summary: Feedback strongly supported this segment as affirming and future-facing — attendees valued hearing newcomers' enthusiasm and observations.

7. Workshop Topics (Responses: 54)

Summary: Workshop topics were broadly seen as relevant and helpful, with many noting difficulties choosing among simultaneous options. Improvement suggestions focused on making topic titles/descriptions less vague, clarifying whether a workshop is best for newcomers vs. experienced trusted servants, and ensuring the content aligns more clearly with service-structure learning when that is the expectation.

8. Sharing Sessions (Responses: 50)

Summary: Sharing sessions were repeatedly described as central to the Forum's purpose, with the strongest, most consistent request being more time for member questions and sharing. Several respondents also pointed to operational improvements: keeping presenters on time so Q&A isn't cut, ensuring fairness and order at microphones, and keeping shares more on topic. Overall sentiment suggests these

sessions are viewed as the primary channel for trust-building and clarity, provided adequate time is protected.

9. Suggested future presentation topics (Responses: 41)

Summary: Suggested topics emphasized service education and clarity, including deeper understanding of concepts/traditions/warranties, leadership and communication, and how decisions and processes work at higher levels. Several also requested content on trust/transparency, financial realities and planning, and more visibility for archives and outreach (including younger people and linguistic accessibility). Technology and anonymity in modern contexts also appeared as forward-looking areas of interest.

10. Suggested future workshop topics (Responses: 39)

Summary: Workshop topic suggestions leaned practical and skill-building: how to run group conscience effectively, “how-to” understanding of finances/7th Tradition stewardship at a basic level, and applied learning on concepts/traditions tied to current fellowship concerns. Engagement of young people/YPAA, improving communication up/down the service triangle, and creating accessible, targeted sessions for newer trusted servants were recurring priorities.

11. Will you likely return to another Forum? (Responses: Y=112; N=7)

“Yes” Summary: The dominant reasons for returning were to stay informed, deepen involvement in service, and remain connected to the broader AA fellowship. Many respondents highlighted the value of hearing directly from GSO/GSB/trustees, being able to ask questions, and bringing learning back to groups/districts/areas. A secondary reason was the community dimension — fellowship, connection, and service motivation.

“No” Summary: The reasons were primarily practical constraints, including travel-related difficulty/cost and personal capacity for continued participation.

12. Any additional feedback below. (Responses: 73)

Summary: Additional feedback most heavily reinforced the importance of accessibility and interpretation/translation tools, which many described as impactful and worth continuing. Beyond that, the most consistent operational improvement request was again more protected time for Q&A/sharing, along with practical enhancements that help attendees retain and relay information (e.g., clearer materials, scheduling clarity, workshop access). Many comments also expressed broad gratitude for the event and the opportunity to connect across the service structure.

Livestream Pilot Feedback

1. If this is your first Forum what attracted you to attend? (Responses: 15)

Summary: First-time livestream attendees were primarily motivated by access and practicality — being able to participate virtually when travel, cost, or scheduling made in-person attendance difficult. Many also cited a desire to learn more about A.A.'s service structure, stay informed, and bring accurate updates back to their groups (including online-only groups).

If this is NOT your first Forum, what brought you back? (Responses: 20)

Summary: Returning livestream participants most often came back to stay connected to General Service and hear direct updates from GSO/GSB/AAWS/Grapevine. Several emphasized that Forums help them “keep a pulse” on A.A. beyond local reporting and appreciate hearing questions and answers raised during the event. A secondary theme was access (choosing audio due to travel cost, health, or obligations).

2. Please list any suggestions to improve the online pre-registration process:

(Responses: 19)

Summary: Registration feedback focused less on form mechanics and more on communication clarity — especially knowing how and when livestream access details would be sent and ensuring the agenda/schedule and join instructions arrive earlier. Some also flagged that registration should be easier to find on the site and clearer when switching between in-person vs. live-audio registrations, including edge cases where attendees might need both (e.g., in person but listening online while traveling/resting).

3. Please list any suggestions to improve the live only broadcast option Forum experience. (Responses: 20)

Summary: This section delivered the strongest, most consistent feedback. The top improvement themes were:

- Audio reliability and clarity (cutting in/out, choppy feed, clicking noise, mic technique, hotel internet readiness).
- Adding video/visual presence (even podium-only, blurred, or anonymity-preserving options) to reduce disconnection — especially for first timers.

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- Improving interaction (chat monitoring during Q&A, ability to use chat, ways to follow schedule in real time).
- Keeping translation access visible and easy (e.g., QR link displayed consistently; extra time to switch tools).

4. Would you return to another Forum in the future? (Responses: Y=31; N=4)

“Yes” Summary: The primary driver for “yes” was practical accessibility: participants would return when travel is too costly, health limits attendance, schedules conflict, or distance is prohibitive (including international). Many also cited the ability to stay informed and bring learning back to their group/district. Several framed audio-only as “better than no Forum,” while still expressing a preference for in-person if feasible.

“No” Summary: Reasons for “no” centered on engagement challenges (difficulty maintaining attention in audio-only/Zoom formats), technical failures (audio not working), and a clear preference to attend in person when possible. One response also referenced schedule issues and cost constraints that affect in-person attendance.

5. Please provide any additional feedback below. (Responses: 18)

Summary: Additional feedback combined appreciation with actionable improvements. Many expressed gratitude that audio access made participation possible and encouraged continuing the option. Operationally, respondents reinforced the need for reliable audio, correct schedules, and simpler translation access. Some also raised broader service-structure reflections — emphasizing listening, trust, connection between boards/offices and the fellowship, and the value of better engagement tools (more slides, schedule cues, and potentially anonymity-safe visuals).

###

2025 Northeast Regional Forum Evaluation Summary

In-person Feedback

1. If this is your first Forum what attracted you to attend? (Responses: 54)

Summary: First-time attendees were mainly motivated by curiosity and service learning — wanting to understand how A.A. functions “beyond the group level,” how districts/areas connect to the broader structure, and to hear directly from trustees and GSO. Practical factors also mattered: local/close location, free registration, and service role expectations (GSR/DCM/area roles). A smaller but important thread reflected hybrid/streaming access as an enabler, along with at least one report of a technical barrier that prevented participation despite registration.

2. If this is NOT your first Forum, what brought you back? (Responses: 51)

Summary: Returning attendees most often cited Forums as a unique way to get direct status updates from trustees/Staff and stay current on AAWS/GSO/Grapevine. Many also emphasized responsibility to report back to their area/district, the value of real-time Q&A, and the fellowship/networking aspects. Several described Forums as inspirational and reinforcing commitment to service, while a few referenced accessibility (including internet/streaming) as a practical reason for returning.

3. Please list any suggestions to improve the online pre-registration process.

(Responses: 42)

Summary: Most respondents said registration was smooth/easy, but improvement suggestions clustered around:

- **Findability & navigation:** Registration link/tab was difficult to locate; request for a direct QR code on the flyer and more prominent placement.
- **Clarity & communications:** Earlier availability of the presentations list, better distribution to Areas/groups, and clearer instructions — especially for Spanish-language access.

- **Mode-switching/virtual access:** Issues such as receiving confirmation for “voice only” but not receiving the link, or difficulty changing registration type without re-registering.
- **Logistics tied to booking:** One respondent described a problematic hotel booking experience and suggested better handling of contracted-rate links.
- **Accessibility & remote experience:** A strong note that ASL access stopped abruptly (impacting an attendee), and that an online option that includes screen-shared slides (audio/visuals without showing people) would improve the remote experience.

4. Presentations

Delegates (Responses: 32)

Summary: Delegate feedback was largely positive, but the most common improvement request was more time per delegate and/or fewer items so talks aren't so brief. Additional suggestions included: providing more context on delegate responsibilities/prior service, improving cohesion and breadth of perspectives, addressing rumors directly, giving presenters more advance notice, and increasing representation/participation (e.g., more seated delegates and/or alternates, and more Class A participation). A small subset expressed dissatisfaction with tone/content balance, particularly around who should be speaking and how.

AAWS Board and Your General Service Office (Responses: 37)

Summary: Feedback showed a mix of appreciation and pointed suggestions. Key themes included:

- **Timing & pacing:** Financial reporting late in the schedule felt hard to absorb (“burned out” timing).
- **Depth & specificity:** Some wanted more “real info,” clearer explanations of major operational decisions (e.g., office changes and related expenses), and future-looking planning (multi-year vision).
- **Representation & inclusion:** Multiple comments asked for more gender balance and minority representation at the head table/dais.
- **Tone & equity in participation:** Concerns about “folksy” time use, fairness at microphones, and how Q&A time is allocated.

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- **Content expectations:** Desire to hear about upcoming/anticipated topics (e.g., Big Book edition timing), and concerns about how some issues were characterized.

Overall, many respondents still described the session as informative, accessible, and well-delivered.

AA Grapevine Board and the Grapevine Office (Responses: 35)

Summary: Grapevine feedback ranged from enthusiastic praise (videos, props, energy) to calls for sharper strategy and transparency:

- Several preferred less marketing tone and more mission/work clarity. Multiple respondents wanted clearer numbers and specific guidance on what is needed to become self-supporting, including questions about how costs/income are accounted for across entities. Some urged a stronger move toward digital-first to reduce printing costs.

Trustee-at-large (Responses: 29)

Summary: The defining theme was interpretation reliability and readiness. Some attendees praised the use of Wordly and the value of hearing international perspectives; others found the session difficult to follow due to slow/inconsistent translation, lack of clear guidance (e.g., earbuds/devices), or tool interruptions. Several comments effectively point to the need for clearer instructions and more stable interpretation support throughout the session to avoid audience drop-off.

Finance Talk (Responses: 27)

Summary: Treasurer feedback emphasized clarity, readability, and credibility:

- **Readability:** Repeated requests for larger fonts and more legible graphs.
- **Clarity for non-finance audiences:** Suggestions for a glossary and “lay terms,” plus more direct presentation of numbers.
- **Presence & accountability:** Multiple respondents noted the treasurer didn’t appear to be present and wanted the designated treasurer to deliver the report.
- **Content depth:** Requests for more detail on major expenses (including international convention), reserve/self-support framing, and a list of deferred projects due to budget constraints.

- **Timing:** Like the AAWS/GSO feedback, some felt the financial segment should not occur when attendees are exhausted.

It's "A" Class Act (Responses: 24)

Summary: This segment was consistently described as a highlight — impactful, inspiring, and helpful for service newcomers to understand the value and role of Class A trustees. A small number of comments focused on accessibility/flow when interpretation was involved (e.g., making it smoother for the presenter to follow Spanish via Wordly), but overall sentiment was strongly positive.

5. Sharing from Past Trustees (Responses: 27)

Summary: Many appreciated the message and tone, but the biggest improvement request was structural: more than one past trustee (panel-style) to broaden perspective. Several comments noted the downside of having only one person, including suggestions to either expand the panel or reconsider the segment if it can't be adequately staffed. A few responses also indicated preference for a less "meeting-share" feel and more time or more varied perspectives.

6. First-time Attendees (Responses: 23)

Summary: Attendees generally valued the enthusiasm and reflection from first-timers and called it a strong closing element. Improvement suggestions included time management (enforcing short limits so more people can share) and ensuring the session is positioned when most attendees can still be present (some noted many had already left by Sunday). One comment expressed concern that first-timers seemed uneasy and needed more overt support or reassurance.

7. General Sharing Sessions (Responses: 21)

Summary: Sharing sessions were seen as important but with competing views on execution. Key improvement themes included:

- **Time and inclusion:** Concern that the same few voices dominate microphones; suggestions to better enable broader participation and enforce time limits.
- **Equity of agenda protection:** Frustration when presenter overtime reduces member sharing time.
- **Closing the loop:** Requests for more visible workshop report-backs and capturing notable themes for discussion, not only in the final report.

- A specific suggestion asked to allow virtual attendees to comment.

8. Please provide suggested future topics.

Presentations (Responses: 27)

Summary: Suggested future presentation topics emphasized modern relevance and service clarity, including:

- **Outreach & public information**, including misinformation and A.A. accessibility/safety/secular questions.
- **Technology, AI, anonymity, online groups**, and digital communication across service.
- **Youth/YPAA and membership trends**, plus gender and racial experience topics.
- **Finance transparency (“follow the dollar”)** and practical process topics (printing process, office tours).
- **Unity, singleness of purpose, media relations**, and what unites/fractures A.A.

Workshops (Responses: 54)

Summary: Workshop suggestions leaned heavily toward practical skill-building and service fundamentals:

- **Home group basics, GSR/DCM roles, reporting back**, and service effectiveness/trust repair.
- **PI/misinformation and accessibility/safety**, plus diversity topics (women/children, “diversity attraction”).
- **Understanding finances and self-support**, and how 12th-step work functions across service levels.
- **Online groups’ place in service**, navigating information access, and “how-to find” key resources.
- **Writing workshops and local engagement** ideas also appeared.

9. Return to another Forum? If yes, why? (Responses: 77)

Summary: The “yes” reasons strongly emphasized: staying informed, continued learning, fellowship and connection, and gaining direct understanding of the service structure. Many valued the event’s ability to humanize trustees/staff, strengthen unity, and provide actionable information to take back to groups and service bodies. Several

explicitly mentioned the value of live streaming/hybrid options as a reason they would attend again.

If no, why? (Responses: 10)

Summary: Reasons for “no” included perceptions of redundancy after attending once, the event feeling **too long** or **boring**, difficulty understanding content due to health reasons, preference for in-person formats only, and practical barriers such as travel distance/age. One response explicitly cited too little time for member input relative to cost/time invested.

10. Please provide any additional feedback below. Responses: (Responses: 56)

Summary: Additional feedback concentrated on **accessibility + logistics**, along with overall appreciation:

- **Interpretation/Wordly:** widely viewed as helpful, but users reported intermittent failures, difficulty navigating the app, and desire to project transcription/interpretation more consistently on screens so phones aren't required.
- **ASL accommodation:** strong concern that ASL ended early and calls for uninterrupted coverage and contingency planning.
- **Cost/friction:** multiple comments about hotel/parking costs and lack of hospitality/coffee; also requests for better online access timing (late Zoom info delivery) and the ability to save/scroll back or access recordings.
- **Event operations:** suggestions for better host committee displays/booths and more proactive engagement, plus gratitude for presenters and perceived professionalism/humility.

Livestream Pilot

1. If this is your first Forum, what attracted you to attend? (Responses: 15)

Summary: First-time livestream attendees were primarily motivated by **access and practicality** — being able to participate **virtually when travel, cost, or scheduling made in-person attendance difficult**. Many also cited a desire to **learn more about**

AA's service structure, stay informed, and bring accurate updates back to their groups (including online-only groups).

2. If this is NOT your first Forum, what brought you back? (Responses: 20)

Summary: Returning livestream participants most often came back to **stay connected to General Service** and hear **direct updates** from GSO/GSB/AAWS/Grapevine. Several emphasized that Forums help them “keep a pulse” on AA beyond local reporting and appreciate **hearing questions and answers** raised during the event. A secondary theme was **access** (choosing audio due to travel cost, health, or obligations).

3. Please list any suggestions to improve the online pre-registration process.

(Responses: 19)

Summary: Registration feedback focused less on form mechanics and more on **communication clarity**, especially knowing **how and when livestream access details would be sent**, and ensuring the **agenda/schedule and join instructions** arrive earlier. Some also flagged that registration should be **easier to find** on the site and clearer when switching between **in-person vs. live-audio registrations**, including edge cases where attendees might need both (e.g., in person but listening online while traveling/resting).

4. Please list any suggestions to improve the live only broadcast option Forum experience. (Responses: 20)

Summary: This section delivered the strongest, most consistent feedback. The top improvement themes were:

- **Audio reliability and clarity** (cutting in/out, choppy feed, clicking noise, mic technique, hotel internet readiness).
- Adding **video/visual presence** (even podium-only, blurred, or anonymity-preserving options) to reduce disconnection — especially for first-timers.
- Improving **interaction** (chat monitoring during Q&A, ability to use chat, ways to follow schedule in real time).
- Keeping **translation access visible and easy** (e.g., QR link displayed consistently; extra time to switch tools).

5. Return to another Forum? If yes, why? (Responses: 31)

Summary: The primary driver for “yes” was **practical accessibility**: participants would return when **travel is too costly, health limits attendance, schedules conflict, or distance is prohibitive** (including international). Many also cited the ability to **stay informed** and bring learning back to their group/district. Several framed audio-only as “better than no Forum,” while still expressing a preference for in-person if feasible.

If no, why? (Responses: 4)

Summary: Reasons for “no” centered on **engagement challenges** (difficulty maintaining attention in audio-only/Zoom formats), **technical failures** (audio not working), and a clear preference to attend **in person** when possible. One response also referenced schedule issues and cost constraints that affect in-person attendance.

6. Please provide any additional feedback below. (Responses: 18)

Summary: Additional feedback combined appreciation with actionable improvements. Many expressed gratitude that audio access made participation possible and encouraged continuing the option. Operationally, respondents reinforced the need for **reliable audio, correct schedules, and simpler translation access**. Some also raised broader service-structure reflections — emphasizing listening, trust, connection between boards/offices and the fellowship, and the value of better engagement tools (more slides, schedule cues, and potentially anonymity-safe visuals).

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.*

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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 71st 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.

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Southern Friend • The Man Who Mastered Fear • He Sold Himself Short • The Missing Link • Fear of Fear • The Housewife Who Drank at Home • Physician, Heal Thyself! • My Chance to Live • Student of Life • Because I'm an Alcoholic • It Might Have Been Worse • Tighrope • Flooded with Feeling • Me an Alcoholic? • The Perpetual Quest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Drunk, Like You • Window of Opportunity • My Bottle, My Resentments, and Me • He Lived Only to Drink • Safe Haven • Twice Gifted • Building a New Life • On The Move • A Vision of Recovery • Gutter Bravado • Empty On the Inside • Grounded • Another Chance • A Late Start • A.A. Taught Him to Handle Sobriety
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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

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.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.