

Good evening family, my name is Jo Ann McCants and I am an alcoholic. I am privileged to serve as your Delegate.

To start out, We won the NERAASA Bid for 2027! I want to thank Matt F, our Service Sponsorship Chair for putting the presentation together. We had the best presentation as the other three areas (Rhode Island, Delaware and Connecticut) couldn't provide numbers,

At the start of the conference there was a motion made that required if the plain language big book is recommended to be published that the requirement to pass be $\frac{3}{4}$ of all voting conference members. There was discussion and then a motion to table which passed 105-29. The argument was that if the book wasn't put forward as a recommendation, then the vote for $\frac{3}{4}$ to pass would be mute.

There was also another motion this year to change the agenda and to suspend oral area highlights to allow more time for sharing on important items.

FLOOR ACTIONS

It was recommended that:

- A pamphlet on the Asian and Asian-American alcoholic in A.A. be developed.¹

Recommendations that passed by substantial unanimity:

- A pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in A.A. be developed. The committee requested that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Corrections.
- The maximum annual contribution from an individual A.A. member to the General Service Board be increased from \$5,000 to \$7,500. (275 individuals contributed between \$1000 and \$5000 in 2023) (11,499 individuals contributed between \$0 and \$50 in 2023)
- Providing six options for closing the Big Meetings at an International Convention: The Serenity Prayer, Responsibility Statement, Declaration of Unity, the Third Step Prayer, the Seventh Step Prayer, or a Moment of Silence.
- The pamphlets "It Happened to Alice" (P-39) and "What Happened to Joe" (P-38) be retired.
- The draft of the revised pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic" (retitled "Black in A.A.: Experience, Strength and Hope") be approved with the following minor editorial changes:
 - Generalize terminology surrounding drug and addiction references.
 - Removal of one story.
 - The removal of the political commentary within two stories.
- The draft manuscript *Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous* be approved with minor editorial changes to include:
 - Relocation of the "A.A. Steps Table" to constitute an Appendix (on the Twelve Steps) at the back of the new publication.
 - Replace the references to "addiction" and "addicted" with language related to alcoholism.
- The "Too Young?" video adaptation project be permanently suspended.
- The word "donation" be utilized to state that A.A. does not accept donations from outside entities; and that the word "contributions" be utilized when referring to Seventh Tradition contributions from A.A. members, in AAWS literature as it comes up for reprint.

¹ That a draft or progress report be brought to the 2025 General Service Conference.

- The Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) process be adopted and implemented.
- The Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) submission date deadline for the 2025 General Service Conference be moved to a date no earlier than September 30, 2024. (We have adjusted to be able to allow proposed agenda items to be brought to the area for support, but some areas are unable to make changes at this point. The hope is delegates will remind their areas that agenda items can be submitted at any time)

Floor Actions Not Resulting in Conference Advisory Actions

- A pamphlet for the unhoused person that specifically addresses alcoholism, what A.A. is and is not, who is welcome at A.A. meetings, and includes stories from AA members who have experienced homelessness be developed and a draft or progress report be brought back to the appropriate 2025 Conference committee. ***(Conference declined to consider)***
- PAIs requesting censure and reorganization have no submission deadline and be forwarded directly to Conference Committee on Trustees. ***(Not Approved)***
- All memorandums between Conference Committee and Trustees Committees or Boards be made available to all members of the Conference. ***(Conference declined to consider)***
- We made it through 4 of the 15 floor actions by 11:57pm We had already decided to stop at 11:59pm so...

A Motion was made and passed to recommit Floor Actions #5-#15 to the appropriate trustees' Committee or Corporate Board

Financials:

- Unmodified or “clean” audit opinion on the Consolidated Financial Statements
 - The financial statements are fairly stated in all material respects.
- All records and information requested were freely available for inspection.
- BDO noted that they received full access to all information requested while performing the audit, and acknowledged the excellent cooperation extended by all levels of GSO and GV personnel throughout the course of the work.
- Recognition of Value of Donated PSA airtime-- \$33 million in 2022, \$17 million in 2023. To be recognized annually going forward. Not recognizing the value was considered a significant deficiency.
- 1 control deficiency (100 contributions occurring in 2024 were recorded in 2023)
- 6 recommendations (1 HR, 3 GV, 1 Intercompany, 1 GSB) compared to 5 in 2022

Self Support

- 7th Tradition of Self-Support – \$10.84 million up 2.8% from \$10.55 million in 2022
- Operating Expense before Depreciation- \$17.47 million up 9.9% from \$15.90 million in 2022
 - Program Service Expense- \$9.00 million up 46.5% from \$6.14 million in 2022
 - Supporting Services Expense- \$8.47 million down 13.1% from \$9.76 million in 2022
- Self-Support- covered 62% of operating expense
- Cost of program services per individual – \$6.43

- AAWS publishing gross profits – \$6.76 million up 38.2% from \$4.89 million in 2022
- Operating surplus before depreciation of \$581,907; operating cash increase of \$358,588
- Over Budget Categories represent 10% of total operating expense

EXPENSE	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Payroll Taxes	692,343	659,745	32,598
Facility and Equipment	1,223,760	1,166,861	56,899

2024 GSO Budget

- ❖ Operating revenue \$19,642,359 compared to \$18,056,782 in 2023.
 - ❖ Contributions \$10,500,000 compared to \$10,841,419 in 2023.
 - ❖ Literature gross margin \$8,492,759 compared to \$6,763,226 in 2023.
- ❖ Total operating expense \$19,024,414 before \$1.02M depreciation compared to \$17,474,874 before \$1.06M depreciation in 2023.
- ❖ Operating surplus of \$617,945 before depreciation compared to \$581,907 surplus in 2023.

2024 Grapevine Budget

- ❖ Print magazine circulation expected to decrease to 46,969 from 49,296 in 2023.
- ❖ Online and Complete circulation to increase to 4,625 from 3,002 in 2023.
- ❖ 10,069 new app subscribers compared to 3,400 in 2023.
- ❖ Gross margin on subscriptions \$1,147,021 compared to \$601,088 in 2023.
- ❖ Grapevine net deficit of \$582,572 compared to a net deficit of \$888,465 in 2023.
- ❖ La Viña magazine circulation to increase to 6,782 compared to 6,484 in 2023.
- ❖ General Fund La Viña support of \$569,512 compared to \$753,376 in 2023.

	2023 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET	INCREASE (DECREASE)
Gross Sales – Literature	14,641,118	15,900,000	(1,258,882)
Discounts	(453,706)	(715,500)	(261,794)
Shipping Charges	302,805	397,500	(94,695)
Net Sales - Literature	14,490,217	15,582,000	(1,091,783)
Cost of Literature Sold - Printing	7,726,991	7,632,000	94,991
Gross Profit	6,763,226	7,950,000	(1,186,774)
Gross Profit Percentage	46.2%	50.0%	(3.8%)

Prudent Reserve - Beginning Balance January 1, 2023	12,924,561	
Investment Earnings	206,301	
Drawdowns	(500,000)	
Additions	0	
Ending Balance December 31, 2023	12,630,862	
Composition of Ending Balance		
Cash	2,706,106	
Certificates of Deposit (CDARs)	10,449,356	
Accrued Interest	48,413	
Less Grapevine subscription liability	(573,012)	
Ending Balance	12,630,862	
Composition of Ending Balance		
Cash	2,706,106	
Certificates of Deposit (CDARs)	10,449,356	
Accrued Interest	48,413	
Less Grapevine subscription liability	(573,012)	
Ending Balance	12,630,862	
Number of Months Expenses Held	Based on 2023 expenses	Based on 2024 expenses
January 1, 2023	7.35	6.98
December 31, 2023	7.18	6.82

The board completed their inventory and there is an apology in the report. In summary this is what was said; Following the resignation of the board chair, the communication from the General Service Board to the Fellowship was ineffective. This was made worse because we failed to anticipate

the nature and volume of communications from those not on the General Service Board. Together this caused harm to our staff members, Non-Trustee Directors, and Delegates. On behalf of the General Service Board I (Mike Intern-Chair) offer my sincerest apologies for the damage our poor communication has caused. The General Service Board is committed to changing how we communicate, but we are going to need the help of the General Service Conference for this to be effective.

As you have heard the international convention will be in Vancouver Canada from July 3-6, 2025. I will be posting fliers with QR codes that provide some information. Registration will open sometime in September 2024, and you will not be able to book your room unless you register first.

The Pre-registration fee will be \$160 and onsite at the convention will be \$185. There will be a virtual option for at least parts of the convention.

My full report-back will be at our post conference assembly on June 9, 2024.

I will conduct another lottery at the assembly since I receive more books at this year's conference.

I want to thank District 701 BxUM for inviting me to speak on service this past Saturday.

I want to thank all of you for allowing me to serve as your delegate.