



Unity Recovery Service

AREA 12 - DELAWARE GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY  
DELEGATE'S REPORT  
AREA COMMITTEE - January 11, 2025

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1. NERAASA Registration ([linked here](#)). February 21-23, 2025. Online. \$35 registration fee. Please register as soon as you can, they are getting a little antsy because they have not seen many registrations so far (less than 200) and they need 800 to break even.
  - a. We will need at least all our DCM's to attend as we will be meeting during the term of the conference to discuss FAI (Final Agenda Items) assignments. All Area 12 attendees are welcome to this meeting. Day, time, and online location TBA.
  - b. The fly in the ointment just materialized yesterday – GSB announced the schedule for releasing conference committee backgrounds between Feb 17-21<sup>st</sup>, and the final agenda list between Feb 17-25<sup>th</sup>. This runs right up against NERAASA. A number of us NER delegates will be requesting that our trustee provide us with the English version by Feb 10<sup>th</sup> so we can have at least a little bit of time to review them. NERAASA guidelines require that the final agenda topics be included in the registration packets.
2. Recent announcements:
  - a. [PLBB back in stock](#). Just announced yesterday.
  - b. AAWS Podcast – See [NEW STUFF](#) page on our website, entitled “Our Primary Purpose.” Starts January 14<sup>th</sup>. It is the work of PI at GSO. Learn more about GSO and listen to people who work there, visitors and recorded talks from the archives. [Listen](#) to the podcast trailer on



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their webpage.

- c. 2024-2026 Edition of the AA Service Manual is now available. Here is a [direct link](#). You can also go to our [NEW STUFF](#) page or to AA.org [online bookstore](#). Scroll down the page to see the AASM. It's \$4 per copy and \$5 shipping for individual orders. Better to order a bunch for your Districts, Groups, Intergroups, Committees, etc.
- d. Pamphlet packages price increase as of January 22<sup>nd</sup>. They linked the packages and the new prices but you will have to go to the AAWS store, which is also linked on the announcement, to see the description of the packages.
- e. Grapevine [books](#) increase by \$1 effective February 1, 2025.
- f. A call from GSO PI to the Fellowship for AA members who are military veterans to be interviewed. Looking for these individuals to share their ES&H in recovery that began either during or after military service. This is another PI outreach project as was done for active military personnel. Posted in [NEW STUFF](#) on our website.
- g. International Convention news – 173 days as of today. Hot off the press is a one pager on “Tips for sharing about the 2025 International Convention” just released last night. See [IC- Vancouver tab](#) on our website.
- h. Grapevine Non-Trustee Director (NDT) announcement sent out earlier this week. Resumes are due by January 15<sup>th</sup>. Messaging regarding the announcement through the OnBoard message system from our board chair stated that the GV board “took the time it needed” to nominate a General Service Trustee (GST) who is its current NDT which will have to be filled by the end of the 75<sup>th</sup> Conference this May. Meanwhile, in the AAWS Highlights (dated November 1, 2024 – just released), the



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AAWS board also nominated its NTD for a GST position and had already interviewed 10 of the 97 applicants and recommended two to the nominating committee. Trustees of the board are on a rotation and the rotations are determined up to a decade in advance. At least that is how it is done with the Regional Trustees. Information is in the AASM pp. 52-55 (Chapter 8).

- i. Speaking of AAWS, the [Highlights publication](#) of their board meeting is out. Did all the DCM's get the distribution from GSO? This newsletter will give you an appreciation of all the things AAWS is involved in and does not include reports from the GSO desk assignments that help answer questions for groups from all of the US & Canada for everything from corrections to public information. Here are some highlights of the "Highlights."
  - i. AAWS provides the reasons they decided to sell the PLBB for \$11 and not less since it is a soft cover, less in volume and cheaper to print. Their intent was to not incentivize people's decision to buy it instead of the Big Book. The PLBB, as it is titled, is a tool, not a replacement. This is a good read. It provides information regarding the profit margin as well as how quickly the first printing sold.
  - ii. Same financial report I covered last month - Contributions of \$8.1 million through September are 7% ahead of budget and 11% above last year's figures. Gross literature sales are 4% under budget. Lower-than-expected cost of goods sold has minimized this gap. Generous profit margin from PLBB helped. Operating expenses coming in 3% below budget at \$13.4 million, contributing to a \$1.2 million operating surplus compared to a \$314K budgeted surplus. More info in the newsletter.



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3. Speaking of finances, last month I reported on the GM's letter requesting contributions since the prudent reserve stood at 6.41 months. The GSB policy is to have a minimum of 9-month operating expense reserve even though the conference decided there should be no minimum (max of 12 months per Bill W.). I raised the question as to why contributions coming as a result of this request can't be earmarked for the Prudent reserve. I reported that I would communicate with the Treasurer and GM. I'm attaching the email for your perusal. I've had no response from my last salvo. Interesting reading if you're so inclined. (See Attachment 1.)
4. Next NERD online meeting is scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup>. At the last one, on December 15<sup>th</sup>, we discussed:
  - a. Timing of the minutes from the GSB weekends. Other Areas get them sooner than we do. This is important to the Area Delegates as they contain information on the PAI's that were accepted or rejected by each of the Trustee committees and the GV Board. A review of the minutes indicated that there was a number of last year's floor actions that were not addressed. (AA preamble PAI consolidation by the GV board, the sticking points to the PLBB among them.)
  - b. U.S. Trustee-At-Large nominees will be voted on using 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy Procedure at the Regional meetings at Conference. Then, they will be voted on at the conference by all US Area delegates and members of the nominating committee.
  - c. [NERAASA program](#) approved and is posted on its website.
  - d. The preliminary agenda items previously distributed (Attachment 2) will be approved by the Board at their meeting the end of January. It is highly unlikely that any of them would be disapproved. If any are, there has to be a very good reason. Also, it will be likely that the Board will decide to add agenda items to the preliminary list since the



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EDW (Equitable Distribution of Work) still has to weigh in.

- e. One delegate pointed out that one PAI on the preliminary agenda is incorrectly listed. She referenced Report and Charter Item B, which displayed a PAI regarding the rescission of the PLBB instead of the founders writings; they listed PAI 25 instead of 26 on pages 5, 7-8 of the preliminary agenda.

5. Speaking of the Board's Q4 report (131 pages):

- a. Fifth Edition Big Book – Publishing is looking to see if they can deliver a draft to the 75<sup>th</sup> GSC. Publishing met with class A trustees regarding the expansion of Appendices III & V (medical and religious views on AA).
- b. Literature committee received the most PAI's – 47. Among them were: 5 on 12x12 (not forwarded to the GSC); 15 on the PLBB (not forwarded to the GSC – need to give time to Fellowship to read); 7 on the Living Sober book. There were several requests for updates and making it easier to read (forwarded to the GSC).
- c. Regarding the 11 Floor Actions from the 74<sup>th</sup> GSC that were recommitted to the Trustees committees, 6 not cited or discussed; 2 forwarded to the 75<sup>th</sup> GSC as the duplicated PAI's but not identified to have been floor actions; 1 was duplicated in a PAI but not forwarded to the GSC nor identified to have been a floor action; 1 nowhere to be found.

6. The next GSC sharing session with the new Panel 75 delegates will be on February 26, 2025. Topic TBA.

7. Did anyone else get an email through our Area email addresses from a comedian advertising his availability to perform recovery comedy at



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conventions, etc.? I received one last month but would like to know whether he used all our email addresses or just mine. If sent to all, I would like to respond and let him know that we discourage the use of our emails for such activities.

8. NERD (March 14-16, Freeport ME). Registrations still open, the sooner the better. Like Yogi Berra said, it gets late early. 😊 Hotel reservations require one night payment up front. Also, NERD dues is due.
9. AA Service Structure Road Show – I leave that to Pamela.
10. District 46. I visited the District on Thursday at their invitation. Earlier last month I was notified that District 46, Area 29, Maryland, made a motion at their assembly for them to move to Area 12 based on reasons of proximity. Their motion was approved by the Assembly floor.

Subsequently, the Area 29 Board of Directors, declared the assembly's decision to be unactionable pending further discussion and review by the Area Committee. I'm sure there is a lot more to this which is Maryland's business not ours.

However, Terry P., Area 29's delegate asked for my input on the issue and I provided him with a response since I polled Panel 73 and 74 delegates on what experience they may have had on similar issues. I provided Terry with those responses which were mixed. Two areas felt this was a conference issue (one instance resulted in no action) and the others made similar changes as there was no conference precedent (or authority). Attached to my report is both the Area 29 board's letter as well as my requested input to Maryland's delegate. All of it is instructive. (See Attachment 3.)

Terry and I agreed during our discussion that I would accept District 46's invitation and hear what they have to say. Each GSR was asked to make



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comments and present their group's perspective. They were also encouraged to ask questions.

- a. 6 Group GSR's of the District were present (one connected by phone) as well as the DCM, and two member guests from the groups represented at this meeting. One of the GSR's represented an online group. All introductions were made.
- b. The DCM advised that there were another ten meetings within the District who were registered with GSO but do not have a GSR. She has visited them and had discussions, encouraging them to elect GSR's. They were "very small" groups. The one unregistered meeting was visited as well.
- c. GSR's were unified in their sharing about their need and desire to move their District to Area 12:
  - i. The district has been inactive for a long time like other Districts in the Eastern Shore bordering Delaware;
  - ii. The DCM has been instrumental in in reviving it and encouraging groups to elect GSR's;
  - iii. Groups began to get involved again based on the incentive of the possibility of belonging to an Area in better proximity – the distance to Maryland Assembly in excess of 60 miles and traversing the bridge in traffic and weather is an issue for them;
  - iv. Each of the groups were enthused over the idea and were unanimously in consent with the need and desire to move;
  - v. The adjoining Delaware area is part of people's culture in the Chestertown and surrounding area. Some people actually live in Delaware and others who live in Maryland work in Delaware – it's part of their "daily life;"



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- vi. The enthusiasm over getting involved in General Service is very much related to the proximity to Area 12 – the idea seems to be stimulating service activity.
- vii. They did mention that Maryland has hybrid assemblies and they seemed to favor in-person attendance for themselves.

A discussion followed where I presented some issues and answered questions. Here are the highlights:

1. I stated that I was not there to “buy” or “sell” anything. 😊
2. Area 12 will not interfere with Area 29 business though we recognize the state of the matter and the District’s need to make the change. The DCM felt that the Area 29 board has no right to overturn an assembly vote that garnered 80% in the District’s favor.
3. I will neither encourage or discourage the District’s desire to move – Traditions Two and Four are of specific importance in this matter and are controlling.
4. There is no precedent one way or another regarding District moves to adjoining Areas; some Areas felt they need conference approval (there are none on record) and others made the move which was agreeable to all parties.
5. That I did have a discussion with Terry P. who asked for my input which I provided in an email (that email was not shared with District 46 DCM or its members).
6. It is important to get the agreement of the meetings who are not represented - who have no GSR’s - at the District. The DCM stated she has visited them and they were in agreement – that is how they got to making the motion at the Area 29 Assembly.
7. Area 12’s challenge is in its bylaws which clearly state that the Area is comprised of groups in the state of Delaware; that, if the move would take place, we would need to update our bylaws (which we are in the process of doing). In addition, Area 12 is a 501c3 (tax-exempt)





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organization recognized by the IRS and a registered corporation in the state of Delaware.

8. We discussed the option of single groups moving to Delaware districts. Some of the issues involved in that scenario is that the Area 12 bylaws would still need to be updated to include groups in adjoining states, the move of numerous groups to a Delaware District (e.g. Districts 4 or 5), and the loss of its serviceable identity.
9. Though people seemed to like the idea of going to Dover for the Assembly, there is no guarantee that our assemblies will stay there; past practice (pre-pandemic) included moving assemblies north and south for convenience though that subsided with the advent of hybrid meetings. (GSR's noted that north and south Delaware was still favorable.)
10. That I would report my meeting to the Area Committee and the final vote would have to occur at our Assembly.
11. We all must remember that the most important issue at stake is the ability of the Groups in District 46 to be involved in General Service, and to have their voices heard.

Gratefully,  
Ilir T.  
Delegate, Panel 74

# ATTACHMENT 1

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Message from the General Manager at GSO  
**Date:** Thursday, January 2, 2025 5:12:39 PM

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Thank you, Paul and Kevin. I appreciate your responses and references.

My first impression was that the relevant language pertained only to outside donations. So, I needed to review the language of both the long form as well as the texts of the Seventh Tradition essays in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, and the Language of the Heart. I couldn't come to a different conclusion. Bill had a penchant for using different words to mean the same thing (i.e. donations and contributions). Clearly, his focus in the first part of the long form of the Seventh Tradition was the message to become, of necessity, and for the credibility of the movement, self-supporting. His reference to "whoever pays the piper is apt to call the tune" is clearly related to that focus. And his essay on the Seventh Tradition published in the Grapevine in 1948 made clear what obligations meant. He said it is when others are tempted to use "the valuable name of Alcoholics Anonymous for other than AA purposes." I believe this is a convincing application of the cited language given the backdrop of Rockefeller's intuitive reluctance to subsidize the movement, his outlays to found the movement. and the early conference actions to pay back the thousands of dollars to the Alcoholic Foundation.

In light of the conference actions to clarify the meaning of donations and contributions, I can see how one could apply the text of the long form of the Tradition to apply in this discourse. Here again, I beg to differ. I don't see how earmarking funds for a specific purpose is the kind of obligation contemplated by Bill back then when he was trying to achieve self-support. I would like to remain open-minded on this aspect if I'm given an example of how "obligating" earmarked contribution (especially pursuant to a specific solicitation) to the reserve is harmful to the inclination of self-support. I do realize that Warranty Two does denote the primary source of reserve funds to be from book sales, but it is not an exclusive funding stream. Had it been intended, literally or historically, the GM's letter asking for contributions to supplant the reserve would be entirely out of order.

I found that there is history to earmarking funds. So, it appears that the question I raised is not entirely without precedent in principle or practice. 1955, the Conference suggested delegates earmark certain meetings' contributions for "headquarters." Beginning in 1954 and continuing through 1977, book discounts waived by groups were specifically earmarked and used for retirement funds. In 1965, other funds from the Grapevine were added specifically for the retirement fund. In 1972, there was a Bill W. memorial fund, however short lived it was. In 1964, a portion of certain literature was earmarked for Bill's royalties. Beginning in 1967 interest income from the reserve fund was specifically earmarked for the GSB's general fund and in 1981 that portion of interest attributed to the Grapevine deferred subscription part of the reserve fund would be earmarked for Grapevine operations. Again, given the request made by GSO for increased contributions in order to supplant the reserve, it is not outside the Traditions, the prudent financial practices, or inconsistent with conference history, to allow (or even call for) the designation of contributions directly the reserve fund.

In addition, and abandoning the contrary assertion that the subject letter is out of order given the 1987 advisory action that there be no lower limit to the reserve fund, but respecting the board's approach to the "soft" 9 month lower limit which was not approved by the conference, it would be neither deleterious nor in conflict with the board's reserve fund policy to earmark certain sought after contributions for the reserve fund – so long as it does not interfere with the funding of GSO services (Concept XI, p. C38, AASM/ Reserve Policy Version 2022-11-B&C p.3). The board has discretion to rebuild the reserve. It is arguably the intent of the board to do so from additional contributions given the GM's letter, which, at face value, cannot be interpreted to be anything but the expression of the board; any request the letter makes, is a request of the board. To say otherwise would be unorthodoxy.

Absent this interpretation or application, if you will, the GM's letter, I fear, would be viewed with consternation.

Respectfully,

-Ilir T [REDACTED]

Delegate, Panel 74 – Area 12 Delaware

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**From:** k [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, December 30, 2024 8:09 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Message from the General Manager at GSO

Agree 100%. In addition, according to Warranty 2 the primary source of reserve fund replenishment has historically been literature sales rather than contributions. I do expect robust reserve discussions with the Trustees Finance Committee as we prepare for the 2025 budget and the January 2025 Board meeting.

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**From:** [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, December 27, 2024 8:45 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]>; General Manager [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Message from the General Manager at GSO

Greetings Ilir,

Thank you for the question.

My understanding is that the portion of the Seventh Tradition highlighted below tells us that contributions cannot be earmarked. However, since I am not an alcoholic and do not understand the

Traditions as deeply as an alcoholic, I would welcome the opinion of Trustees Finance Committee on this question. I have copied Kevin in case he wishes to discuss this with the TFC.

*“ The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.”*

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

[Redacted]  
["One can reign over hearts only by keeping one's composure" – Winston Churchill](#)

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**From:** [Redacted] >  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 26, 2024 11:01 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] General Manager [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted] <[Redacted]>; [Redacted], [Redacted] >  
**Subject:** FW: Message from the General Manager at GSO

Greetings [Redacted] and [Redacted],

I posed a question to my Trustee at one of our NERD meetings regarding this letter and I was encouraged to contact you for further explanation.

I understand the basic concept (which was reiterated by Ken) that the board receives contributions, makes some money on literature and few other sources like interest income, that generally all goes into a pile from which we pay our bills and projects. What’s left over, goes to prudent reserve. Forgive the oversimplification.

Bob’s letter below encourages groups and individuals to contribute specifically to help raise the prudent reserve to 9-12 month levels. The letter states that approximately \$4.8M is needed since the reserve stands at 6.41 months. My understanding is that is the budgeted amount (before and/or after the reforecast).

My question:

- A. Can groups or individuals earmark their contributions to go specifically to the prudent reserve (which is not mentioned or provided for in the letter).
- B. If not, why not? (Apart from the current and/or usual accounting procedures.)
- C. What would it take to institute such a process? A conference action? If so, why? (Vis-a-vis Concept VII legal rights of the Board & Conference Charter Item 10.)

Since the letter was that specific and AA's are told that contributions otherwise have been good, and because the reserve stands in a separate fund (\$10.45M in a CD account; and \$2.75M in a cash or cash equivalent account per the 2024 Conference report), it appears to be more prudent to allow directed contributions to the reserve for the following reasons:

1. We can show and capture an increase in the prudent reserve by directing such funds as groups or individuals may desire to do.
2. It would show the AA groups that additional contributions requested for the prudent reserve are, in fact, going to the reserve fund.
3. By and large, AA members are not familiar with the ordinary process of AA finances.
4. Raises the credibility of AA finances among AA groups and individuals.
5. If numerous AA groups increase their funds and you report that contribution income has increased as a result of the November letter (much like what was done last year) and the groups don't see a commensurate increase in the prudent reserve, they would be disappointed if not suspicious.

Wishing all a Happy Christmas/Hanukah/holiday season and good health in the new year.

Gratefully,

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Delegate, Panel 74 – Area 12 Delaware

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**From:** General Service Office ■■■■■  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2024 2:29 PM  
**To:** ■■■■■  
**Subject:** Message from the General Manager at GSO

No images? [Click here](#)

November 14, 2024

To: GSRs, Alt GSRs, DCMs and Chairs, Area Officers and Committee Chairs, Delegates, Alt Delegates, Appointed Committee Members, Non-trustee Directors, Trustees, GSO Employees, Intergroups and Central Offices, Group Contacts

Dear A.A. Friends:

As a Fellowship, we celebrate and recognize November as Gratitude Month. This is a time when we A.A.s reflect on the many gifts and blessings sobriety has given us. The program of Alcoholics Anonymous encompasses many facets: our home groups, sponsorship, the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Fellowship among each other, service on many levels, and much more. As the General Manager of the General Service Office (GSO), I'm grateful to see firsthand the many services GSO provides that support the spiritual purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous – carrying the message of sobriety to the alcoholic who

still suffers. These services assist the many facets of the A.A. program.

Last year I shared with you the challenges of the financial health of Alcoholics Anonymous and the potential of continued challenges ahead. As I've shared in subsequent communications throughout this year, the response from the Fellowship has been very generous and heartfelt. Our groups and members truly heard and understood that the long-term solution to the financial challenges we face as a Fellowship lie with "more frequent and incremental contributions."

Year to date through October, contributions exceeded the same period last year by more than \$760,000, which is about a 9% increase. Also significant is the number of contributions, which increased about 5%. In addition, with the exception of August and October, contributions each month have exceeded those for the same month in the previous year.

The office, along with the A.A. World Services Board and General Service Board, have continued to work hard to manage our finances through prudent budgeting and making every effort to deliver the services to our groups and members that help them to meet our primary purpose. Please take a moment to review the attached snapshot of "[Services Provided By GSO](#)." As you review this document, you will likely realize as I do how many of these areas have helped you and your fellow A.A.s to not only find your way to A.A. but also to stay in A.A. I know each of us shares a strong desire to do all we can to provide assurance that our Fellowship continues and is here for future generations of alcoholics in need of A.A.'s solution to freedom from alcohol and a full and useful life.

Your contributions are vital to providing this assurance and keeping our services in place. Together, we have made great progress over the last year, but there is still more work to do--for example, the replenishment of the Reserve Fund. The Reserve Fund is intended for extraordinary expenses and circumstances and thankfully carried us through the financial challenges we faced due to the pandemic. Now it's time to begin replenishing the fund. The general expectation within our Fellowship is that its balance be sufficient to cover 9-12 months expenses. The current balance stands at 6.41 months. To reach the 9-month mark would require an additional \$4.8 million.

Your participation and generosity have helped us immensely over this last year and has sustained us through very difficult times. As members we often say that when A.A. needs money, the Fellowship will respond. The financial need and challenges continue, so if your group is able, in the spirit of gratitude month, please consider a special contribution to the General Service Board. You can make an online contribution [here](#). If you're interested, you can also set up a recurring contribution.

When contributing by check, please make your check payable to the General Service Board and use the applicable mailing address below.



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Thank you so much for everything each of you do for Alcoholics Anonymous.

With gratitude for all the sacrifices you make for A.A.,

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General Manager, G.S.O.

14 novembre 2024

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# ATTACHMENT 2

## 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Committees

Below are the preliminary agenda items for the 75th General Service Conference (GSC) committees as of November 2024, and includes standing items for each committee, ongoing items from the prior Conference, and new items that are being forwarded to the Conference.

The final list of agenda items, that includes new items that are being forwarded to the Conference, and the committee distribution by the Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) plan, will be available following the February 2025 GSB meeting as soon as translation are completed.

### Agenda Items

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#### i. Agenda

- A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2026 General Service Conference.
- B. Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2026 General Service Conference.
- C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2026 General Service Conference.
- D. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, distribution process and 2024 Evaluation Summary.
- E. Discuss progress report on Conference improvement.
- F. Review feedback from Delegate Chairs on quarterly communications.
- G. Discuss plan to print and distribute the comprehensive summary of the 2025 General Service Conference Inventory.
- H. Discuss progress report on Conference Inventory.
- I. Consider the request to suspend oral presentations of all Area Service Highlights and continue printing highlights in the final report. (PAIs 20 and 32)

#### ii. Cooperation with the Professional Community

- A. Review progress report on AAWS LinkedIn page.
- B. Review progress report on the development of outward facing pamphlet for mental health professionals.
- C. Review content and format of CPC Kit and Workbook.
- D. Review progress report on the effective use of CPC videos on aa.org.
- E. Discuss shared experience in informing professionals how A.A. can serve as a resource for unhoused and neurodivergent alcoholics.

### iii. Corrections

- A. Review content and format of Corrections Kit and Workbook.
- B. Review progress report on development of a pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in A.A.†

### iv. Finance

- A. Review initial draft of the supplemental financial reporting of the actual and evolving costs of various services provided by the GSB.
- B. Review Self-Support Packet.
- C. Consider a request to reaffirm the 1975 Advisory Action that delegates emphasize to the groups the effect that inflation has had on the contribution dollar and the necessity for adjusting contributions accordingly, to support services provided by the General Service Board. (New Item)
- D. Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.
- E. Review the Conference-approved level of \$10,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members.
- F. Review the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$7,500 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member.

### v. Grapevine/La Viña

- A. Review AA Grapevine Workbook.
- B. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2026 or after.
- C. Review the 5-year financial plan for La Viña.
- D. Review the progress report on a plan for a more effective La Viña subscription procedure, fulfillment process and customer service experience.
- E. Review the financial reporting system for the Grapevine and La Viña.
- F. Consider request to revise the pamphlet "Grapevine and La Vina: Our meetings in print." (PAI 79)

## vi. Literature

- A. Annual review of recovery literature matrix.
- B. Review draft of the revised pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated."
- C. Review progress report or draft on the revised pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American."
- D. Review progress report on the development of the Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos* - Spanish.
- E. Review progress report or draft manuscript on the Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.
- F. Review draft of the developed video animation of the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated."
- G. Review progress report or partial draft on revisions to the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship."
- H. Review progress report on the development of a pamphlet for the Asian and Asian American Alcoholic.
- I. Consider request that the terms "Indian and Eskimo" be removed from the February 19<sup>th</sup> entry in *Daily Reflections*. (PAI 11)
- J. Consider request that the Twelve Concepts for World Service and essays on the Twelve Concepts for World Service be included in the current publication, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. (PAI 23)
- K. Consider the request to include the version of *A.A. Comes of Age*, Lasker Award text in the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*. (PAI 24 and 63)

- L. Consider request to update Appendix IV in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* to include other awards and commendations received by AA since 1951. (PAI 65)
- M. Consider request to update the book *Living Sober*. PAI PAIs 34, 64, 106, 90, 92, 121,122)

## vii. Policy/Admissions

- A. Review GSO general manager's report regarding General Service Conference site selection.
- B. Review dates for the 2029 General Service Conference.
- C. Discuss Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) progress report and draft plan
- D. Discuss the process of Simple Majority Items.
- E. Consider request that a Super Majority of voting members be required to change or amend Founders Literature. (PAI 36, 93, 96)

## viii. Public Information

- A. Review the 2025 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.
- B. Public Service Announcements (PSAs):
  - 1. Review the 2025 report on the "Relevance and Usefulness of Audio and Video PSAs."
  - 2. Review plan for evaluating Spanish and French language PSAs.
  - 3. Review progress report on the Mesmerize Point PSA distribution channel.
  - 4. Consider suggestion to develop new video PSA. (New Item)
  - 5. Review report and tracking of distribution of PSAs.
- C. Review report on the GSO Podcast, "Our Primary Purpose."
- D. Review report on AAWS YouTube Channel."
- E. Review report on "Google Ads."
- F. Review report on "Meeting Guide app."

- G. Review report on GSO's A.A. website.
- H. Review report on "AAGV/La Viña media platforms."
- I. Review report for "AAWS Online Business Profiles."
- J. Review progress report on developing communications to address anonymity and social media.
- K. Review progress report on analytics reporting.
- L. Review progress report on communicating with young people.
- M. Discuss Public Information pamphlets/materials.
- N. Review report from the A.A. Membership Survey working group.
- O. Review progress report on Young People 's video project.
- P. Review content and format of P.I. Kit and Workbook.

## ix. Report and Charter

A. Discuss the A.A. Service Manual, 2026-2028 Edition:

1. Review list of editorial updates.
2. Review progress report on the development of a new section.  
"Amendments" to be added to the Twelve Concepts for World Service.
3. Consider a request to remove the phrase, "A group may also decline to hear reports from a GSR at all" from page 10 in the A.A. Service Manual. (PAI 72)
4. Consider a request to remove the word "woman" from the Concept IV essay. (PAI 75,124)

B. Consider a request to expand Article Three in the Conference Charter to protect the co-Founders' writings. (PAIs 81,15, 26 and 109)

C. Review progress report on exploring the creation of a corresponding Trustees' committee for Report and Charter.

D. Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*.

## x. Treatment and Accessibilities

- A. Review progress report on Military Outreach Project.
- B. Review progress report on shared experience from Fellowship on outreach efforts to A.A. members in the military and veterans.
- C. Review progress report on the Accessibilities Resources flyer made available on aa.org.
- D. Review progress report on the update of service material with shared experience from neurodivergent alcoholics.
- E. Review revision of the conference-approved flyer “Where do I go from here” (F-4).
- F. Review contents and format of Treatment Kit and Workbook.
- G. Review contents and format of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.
- H. Review resource lists for Remote Communities and Cooperation with Elder Community.

## xi. Trustees

- A. Review resumes of candidates for:
  - 1. Southeast Regional Trustee
  - 2. East Central Regional Trustee
  - 3. Trustee-at-Large/U.S.
- B. Review slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
- C. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
- D. Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.
- E. Review progress report or draft of the revised pamphlet “Do You Think You’re



Different?"+

## xii. Archives

- A. Review content and format of Archives Workbook.

## xiii. International Conventions/Regional Forums

- A. Discuss the upcoming 2025 International Convention.
- B. Review final report on the development of new declaration to be adopted at the 2030 International Convention.
- C. Consider that all Sovereign States flags be a part of the Flag Ceremony at an International Convention. (PAI 10)
- D. Discuss ways to encourage interest and participation at Regional Forums.

+Carryover from a previous EDW plan

Proposed Agenda Items (PAI) forwarded to Conference

Committee	PAI Numbers	Agenda Item
ICRF	10	10 -International conference on, all Sovereign States should be able to Bear their Flags at our International conference.
Report and Charter	81 (15, 26 and 109 as background)	81 - Area 35, Northern Minnesota, would like to add to AA's Current Conference Charter under article #3, that A.A.W.S. and Grapevine publications of pre-1972 "Founders Writings" have no contextual changes to their writings without a supermajority of ¾ approval from the full General Service Conference. This includes but is not limited to AAWS publications of the books:Alcoholics Anonymous (Big Book) specifically the The Doctor's Opinion, the first 164 pages two stories Dr. Bobs Nightmare along with AA Number Three and Appendix II Spiritual Experience, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, As Bill Sees It, Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age, Our Great Responsibility, and the Twelve Concepts essays currently in the Service Manual. AAWS pamphlets:

		<p>Problems other than Alcohol and Let's be Friendly with Our Friends etc. Including Grapevine publications, Language of the Heart and Best of Bill along with any archival articles pre-1972 written by our Founders both Alcoholic: Bill W., Dr. Bob S., Hank P., Bobbie B., etc., and non-alcoholic: Dr. Silkworth, Father Dowling, Dr. Harry Tiebout, Bernard Smith, Frank Amos, etc. These writings should be left intact.</p> <p>15 - Whenever any changes are brought to the Conference floor to the Founders' writings, considered by this motion to be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The book Alcoholics Anonymous — specifically, the first 164 pages, the chapter "The Doctor's Opinion," Forewords to the first and second editions, the Appendices on Spiritual Awakening and the Traditions, and Dr. Bob's Nightmare</li> <li>2. The book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions the Conference must achieve a super-majority of 75% in order for the General Service Board to act upon it. However, the General Service Board shall not immediately act upon the Conference's directions, and instead, shall request all Area Delegates to conduct further discussions in their respective Areas. Area delegates' report backs will be conducted the second following General Service Conference at which the Conference may amend or change the previously approved change to the Founders' writings described above. For final action by the General Service Board, the Conference must achieve substantial unanimity (67%).</li> </ol> <p>25 - I motion that you consider rescinding the 74th Conference Advisory Action which approved the publication of the Plain Language Big Book-Tool for Assessing AA</p> <p>109 -In accordance with Appendix L: Resolution authorizing the general service conference, our motion would include all registered A.A. worldwide groups. Our request is that the explanations of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts from the Appendices in the book; Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous, be sent to all the registered A.A. groups worldwide so they are suitably notified of modifications and would have the right to vote on them.</p>
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<p>Report and Charter</p>	<p>75 (124 as background)</p>	<p>75 - Remove the word “woman” from the following sentence of the Concept IV, Right of Participation, essay in the Twelve Concepts for World Service portion of the Service Manual: New volunteer corporate directors will ask why any paid woman staff member should also be a corporate director and thereby have a vote as good as their own.</p> <hr/> <p>124 - A change is being proposed to a sentence in the Concept IV (Right of Participation) essay on pg. C13 in the second full paragraph which currently reads:</p> <p>New corporate directors will ask why any paid woman staff workers should also be a director and thereby have a vote as good as their own...</p> <p>The change would be to eliminate the word “woman” in this sentence.</p>
<p>Report and Charter</p>	<p>72</p>	<p>72 - Delete or erase the last sentence on page 10 of our Service Manual in English and Spanish regarding RSG Reports. "A group may also decline to hear reports from a GSR at all."</p>
<p>Policy and Admissions</p>	<p>36 (93 and 96 as background)</p>	<p>36 - We propose that an Advisory Action be issued that requires that any future motion voted on by the General Service Conference that would change or amend the Founders Literature (as described in Section 4 below) would require a Super Majority (three-quarters of the voting members) to pass..</p> <hr/> <p>93- Move to create a policy where the world wide membership of Alcoholics Anonymous reaches substantial unanimity on any changes to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and portions of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous including, but not limited to: the first 164 pages, the Preface, the Forwards, “The Doctor’s Opinion,” “Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,” and the Appendix “Spiritual Experience.”</p>

		<p>96 - In consideration of the intent of recent Advisory Actions to protect from change the Founders Literature (described below), and the Fellowship's feelings that Founders Literature be retained as originally published, it is resolved that in the future, the English language versions of the Founders Literature shall not be changed or amended by the GSC except by first asking the consent of the AA groups of the US and Canada. Those groups shall be suitably notified of any proposal for change and shall be allowed no less than six months for consideration thereof. And before any Conference action be taken to change or amend the English language versions of the Founders Literature, there must first be received in writing within the time allotted, the consent of at least three-quarters of those known groups in the US and Canada who respond to such proposal.</p>
Agenda	20 (32 as background)	<p>20 - Consider suspending oral presentations of all Area Service Highlights and print highlights in the final report to allow for additional time on the agenda.</p>
		<p>32 - To end the practice of oral Area Highlights at the yearly General Service Conference. Instead, Area Highlights should be documented in the Conference Manual and Final Conference Report. The time saved from this change shall be reallocated to committee work, sharing sessions, or report backs.</p>
Literature	11	<p>11 – I Garry S. make the motion that the terms "Indian and Eskimo" be removed from February 19th in AA Daily Reflections,</p>
Literature	23	<p>23 - Area 73, West Virginia, requests that the General Service Conference include the twelve concepts for world service and essays on the twelve concepts for world service in the current publication, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, thereby changing it to Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts.</p>
Literature	24 and 63 as background	<p>24 - We move that the text of Appendix D page 301 of Alcoholics Anonymous Comes Of Age "Text of The Lasker Award" replaces the existing abbreviated version of the same Lasker award located in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous on page 571.</p>

		<p>63 - That the text of Appendix D page 301 of Alcoholics Anonymous Comes Of Age "Text of The Lasker Award" replaces the existing abbreviated version of the same Lasker award located in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous on page 571.</p>
Literature	65	<p>65- Update Appendix IV in the book "Alcoholics Anonymous" to include other awards and commendations received by AA since 1951. For instance, add the Library of Congress adding this book to one of the ten most influential books of the 20th Century and any other awards and commendations I do not know about.</p>
Literature	34,64,106, 90,92,121, 122	<p>34 - Begin the process to create a second edition of the book Living Sober and report results to the 2026 General Service Conference.</p> <p>64 - That the Living Sober booklet be updated to reflect the new tips available for staying sober in the post pandemic world.</p> <p>106 - The Trustees and the Literature Committee create a Second Edition of the booklet Living Sober.</p> <p>The Second Edition would update the existing chapters and add additional chapters to reflect the Digital Revolution and other changes in society, which have occurred since the booklet was first published in 1975.</p> <p>90 - Celebrating 50 years of Living Sober (1975 – 2025) we ask that the trustees' Literature Committee explore the idea of a substantial overall/upgrade to this vital book that has sold over 7 million copies and made AA understandable and accessible to many of us. The two overall ideas we are proposing for Living Sober in the 21st Century are:</p> <p>A) Update the language of the existing 31 chapters (contemporary use of pronouns and examples, capturing online as well as in-person AA connections (Zoom, podcasts, social media) and,</p> <p>B) Expand with more that has been revealed about living sober since 1975, aiming this 50th anniversary project towards maybe a 50 chapter booklet (purely suggestive).</p> <p>92 - Celebrating 50 years of Living Sober (1975 – 2025) we ask that the trustees' Literature Committee explore the idea of a substantial overall/upgrade to this vital book that</p>

has sold over 7 million copies and downloaded countless more times and made AA understandable and accessible to many of us. The two overall ideas we are proposing are:

A) Update the language of the existing 31 chapters (contemporary use of pronouns and examples, capturing online as well as in-person AA connections (Zoom, podcasts, social media) and,

B) Expand with more that has been revealed about living sober since 1975, aiming this 50th anniversary project towards maybe a 50 chapter booklet (purely suggestive).

121 - Celebrating 50 years of Living Sober (1975 – 2025) we ask that the 75th General Service Conference ask the trustees' Literature Committee to explore the idea of a substantial overhaul/upgrade to Living Sober, which has made AA understandable and accessible to many. The two overall ideas we are proposing are:

A) Update the existing 31 chapters to reflect our 21st century AA life: on-line as well as in-person AA gatherings, meeting apps, podcasts (Grapevine, AAWS etc), and social media, etc. and,

B) Expand with more chapters (More has been revealed) about living sober experiences since 1975, aiming this 50th anniversary project towards maybe a 50 chapter booklet (purely suggestive, not directive).

122 - Celebrating 50 years of Living Sober (1975 – 2025) we ask that the trustees' Literature Committee explore the idea of a substantial overall/upgrade to this vital book that has sold over 7 million copies and made AA understandable and accessible to many of us. The two overall ideas we are proposing for Living Sober in the 21st Century are:

A) Update the language of the existing 31 chapters (contemporary use of pronouns and examples, capturing online as well as in-person AA connections (Zoom, podcasts, social media) and,

B) Expand with more that has been revealed about living sober since 1975, aiming this 50th anniversary project towards maybe a 50 chapter booklet (purely suggestive).

**New topic from Trustees' Committee**

Committee	From Trustees' Committee	Agenda Item
Public Information	Trustees' Public Information	The committee agreed to forward a suggestion to the 2025 Conference Committee on Public Information that a new video PSA be developed.
Finance	Trustees' Finance	The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2025 Conference Committee on Finance the request to reaffirm the 1975 Advisory Action that delegate, in reports to their areas, place more emphasis on group support. Delegates should emphasize to the groups the effect that inflation has had on the contribution dollar and the necessity for adjusting contributions accordingly to support services provided by the General Service Board.
Policy and Admissions	Trustees' GSC	Discuss the process of Simple Majority Items.
Grapevine	PAI 79	Revision of Pamphlet P-52 - Grapevine and La Vina our meetings in print and other media.

# ATTACHMENT 3



# Maryland General Service, Inc.

## Board of Directors

Dec. 20, 2024

District 46, Area 29  
C/O [REDACTED], DCM

Area 29 MGS Panel Members

Hello All,

Following the vote at the Area 29 Assembly on Saturday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, regarding movement of District 46 to Area 12 Delaware, a member in our Area asked the MGS Board of Directors to review the action approved, suggesting it is “unactionable”. The MGS bylaws do specify as a Board responsibility to advise and guide the Area Assembly through their past experience, service and wisdom. Therefore, the MGS Board of Directors agreed to a review, to determine whether the motion is indeed unactionable.

After prayerful consideration the Board did not find the motion to be fully unactionable. There is a path forward to fulfill what would be best for the groups in District 46, as determined by them, while keeping in mind past precedent regarding such moves and our Fourth Tradition regarding taking actions that would affect other groups or AA as a whole. As a board we did agree that additional actions are necessary, and perhaps clarity regarding the motion would be helpful. Thus, we agreed that the motion is “unactionable at this time”. To fulfill our role in advising and guiding we recommend this matter be brought to the next Area Committee meeting for further discussion, keeping in mind the following points:

- An Area serves its members, and if it would be best for our members for this change to happen, we should endeavor to facilitate that as smoothly as possible;
- There is much precedent for moving individual groups from one Area to another;
- Movement of Districts from one Area to another has been exceedingly rare. Thus, we should keep in mind the potential effect on groups in the district that have not expressed a desire to move, neighboring districts, and AA as a whole. We are aware of one such move in our history (1985 moving the Virgin Islands from Area 77 Puerto Rico to Area 15 South Florida). That was brought before the General Service Conference as it involved changing geographical boundaries. We should be wary of establishing a new precedent, as that could affect AA as a whole;
- The Area 12 Assembly would need to also approve the change. Perhaps the motion should reflect Area 29’s support if also approved by the Area 12 Assembly;
- Perhaps the change in Area boundaries will indeed increase service participation amongst the groups in District 46

# Maryland General Service, Inc.


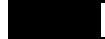
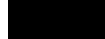
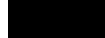
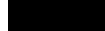
## Board of Directors

The MGS Board has no opinion regarding the specifics of this change in Area boundaries, believing that a fully informed group conscience generally reflects God's will. And we will support whatever is eventually decided to be best for our fellowship and our members. However, after discussion we are united in our opinion that Area 29 should further discuss the points above, particularly those surrounding past and future precedents and the need to obtain the approval of the Area 12, Delaware Assembly.

Yours in Love and Service,

Maryland General Service Board of Directors

Members:

 Chair, Immediate Past Delegate  
 Board Member, Past Delegate  
 Board Member, Past Delegate  
 Board Member, Panel 74 Delegate  
 ., Board Member, Panel 74 Area Chair

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re Dist 46  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 24, 2024 1:44:06 AM  
**Attachments:** [Re Request for info from Area 12 Delaware \(12.1 KB\).msg](#)  
[District relocation \(3.18 KB\).msg](#)  
[Adjoining District Move..... \(4.54 KB\).msg](#)  
[Districts moving to another Area \(3.49 KB\).msg](#)  
[Forwarding response from Area 77 \(8.52 KB\).msg](#)  
[Re Request for info from Area 12 Delaware \(18.3 KB\).msg](#)  
[District \(2.69 KB\).msg](#)  
[Can't tell groups anything \) \(2.87 KB\).msg](#)  
[Response to District joining your Area \(7.81 KB\).msg](#)

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Terry,

Here are the responses I received I told you about. They include Florida. Some believe they have to go to conference but most do it on their own. Based on the varied experiences and practices, there is no precedent. It comes down to Tradition Four principles. It's what the groups want and what the highest part of the inverted triangle deems appropriate or necessary.

I don't know what the outcome in A12 is going to be but here are things that I consider:

1. Areas are defined geographically and maybe part of a state or province or all of it. See FAQ 2 AASM Ch. 3. A number of areas include more than one state.
2. In principle, Bill W. said we wish to be inclusive never exclusive even when it comes to members attending other Area Assemblies especially considering Concept IV regarding right of participation. FAQ 4 of same chapter. Concept IV can be applied to an individual's, Group's, District's, etc. right to participate.
3. Appendix F of the AASM places no restriction on Districts' belonging.
4. The Conference charter does not confer any right to determine the Areas' boundaries or any action or purview over Areas. Its main function is to be a service body, not a governing one, and the guardian of the 12 Steps, Traditions and Concepts. See Articles 1, 3 and 12 of the Charter as well as the Resolution (Appendices K & L).
5. The upside down triangle and the fact that no level of the triangle can tell a higher level what to do. Its always the other way around. I know of no instance or experience, for example, that the GSB has reviewed the decision of the conference (especially one made with substantial unanimity) and overturned it or returned it to the conference or any other level for reconsideration. That has to come from the Groups or the conference itself.

A review of the Advisory actions uncovered no instances where the conference determined what an Area's geographical boundaries are and where Districts should belong. But there were some interesting actions indicating the autonomy of the Areas. Here are the ones I found: (you can do your own word search and see what else you can find)

1986 P/A: At this time there is no need to establish a procedure to include into the service structure, as part of an existing area assembly, new states or provinces,

U.S./Canada territories and islands. It was suggested that past experiences be considered. When the General Service Office receives an inquiry about joining the service structure, the staff should encourage local members to develop a district structure and contact an area assembly for inclusion as part of that service structure. (Shows conference leaves districts to their own discretion to contact an area to belong to.)

1956 P/A: After reviewing the request from a California delegate for an additional delegate from that state (tabled from the 1956 Conference) the committee recommended: That the Conference recognize the need for a fifth delegate on the basis of A.A. population. That California district assemblies determine the five area divisions. That after such determinations, California make a specific request to the next Conference, accompanied by a map showing groups represented in each area, and assurances that an attempt has been made to cover the state with present delegates and additional area committeemen. (Shows the conference recognizes that Area determine their own boundaries.)

Finally, while it is isn't my business to involve myself in another Area's affairs, and not knowing your bylaws, and in consideration of our discussion where you wanted to know what I thought of the letter, I looked to Robert's Rules. It appears that once a motion is made, seconded and passed, it can't be considered by any body that it is "unactionable." It's a done deal. If the matter is out of order, it has to be declared at the time the motion is brought or discussed. (That's pretty much the way it was at conference.) However, an assembly can rescind or amend an adopted motion. See this [link](#), for example. Additionally, the question after having been passed, can be [reconsidered \(RR #36\)](#) or rescinded ([RR # 37 – same page](#)) (linked for your perusal) but each has its criteria or restrictions. Neither are delegated to a different authority than the assembly. Read about Boards in RR (#50) [linked here](#) (subject to your bylaws, of course).

Anyway, all the best wishes to you and yours this Christmas holiday season and in the new year.

Best also to you Committee, Board and Assembly.

With gratitude,  
-llir