

74th General Service Conference

of Alcoholics Anonymous

April 14 – 20, 2024

Brooklyn, NY



Make-Up of the Conference

AASM p. 40*

135
Voting
Members

93
Area
Delegates

19
Trustees

7
Non-Trustee
Directors

16
Staff

*some numbers vary due to attendees

Statistics - Area Delegates

58 Years of Age

Average Delegate

76 Years Young

Oldest

28 Years Old

Youngest

23 Years

Average Sobriety

49 Years

Longest Sobriety

9 Years

Shortest Sobriety

18 Years

Average Service

46 Years
7 Years

Longest/Shortest
Service

Heard at Conference

“ Sobriety Enhancement
=
Service Work ”

Work Schedule

Sunday April 14: 6:30 AM – 9:30 PM - Reading Session; Registration; Openings: Conference Procedures; Presentations/Discussions; Founders Writings; Joint Committee Meetings; GSB Report (inventory); Dinner & AA Meeting

Monday April 15: 9 AM – 8:45 PM - Committee meetings; Sharing Sessions (Founders Writings, Board Report); Workshops; Finance Report

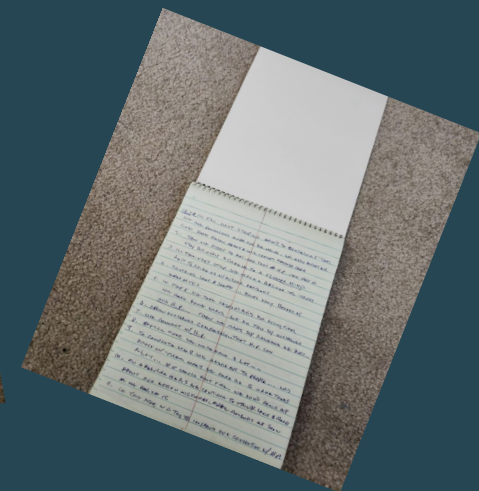
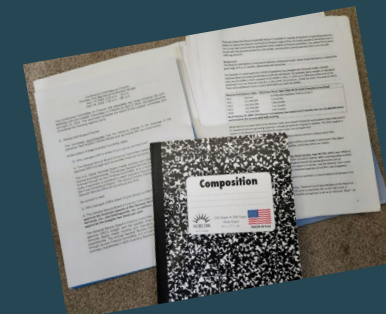
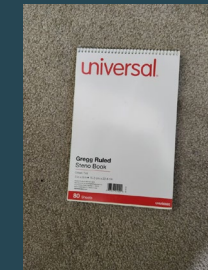
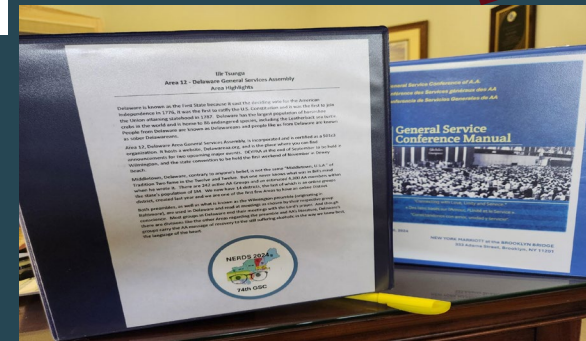
Tuesday April 16: 7:30 AM – 9:15 PM - Committee meetings; Presentation/Discussion International; AAWS Report; Sharing Session; IC Report & Skit

Wednesday April 17: 9 AM – 10 PM - GV Report; Sharing Session; Regional Lunches; Location Plus: Committee Reports

Thursday April 18: 9 AM – 12 Midnight - Committee Reports

Friday April 19: 9 AM – 12 Midnight - Committee Reports & Floor Actions

Saturday April 20: 9:45 AM – 11 AM - Closings & Farewells



Conference Rules Agreements

Electronic
devices volume
will be turned
off

No recordings
of Conference
sessions

One Audio for
archival
purposes

Do not communicate
with others outside the
conference as to votes
and actions of
conference

Line up at mike
– Speak in
order lined up

2 minute time limit –
sometimes less time 1
minute – key flexibility –
second language –
may need additional
time up to 3 minutes for

No photos
while in session

No outside
sharing of
conference
documents

Identify self
before speaking
and address the
chair

Full name, area
number and
geographical
location when
identifying selves

Address dias
not other
conference
members



Do you know your General Service Conference lingo?

- **Committee Recommendation:**

Considered to be automatic motions that have been made and seconded. They are discussed and voted on by the Conference. (AASM p.166)

- **Conference Advisory Actions:**

Recommendations of Conference Committees, or floor actions, that have been approved by the whole Conference body with substantial unanimity ($\frac{2}{3}$ vote). Goes to GSB for implementation. (AASM pp. 41-42)

- **Additional Committee**

Consideration: An item was discussed by a Conference Committee, but no action was taken or made by the conference body as a whole. Becomes a suggestion to the corresponding Trustees committee. (AASM p. 85)

- **Floor Action:** An individual decides to make a motion during business which must be seconded by another delegate. (See AASM pp. 41 & 167)

Voting



Substantial Unanimity

- 2/3 of voting members; calculations made for each vote
- Not all members vote on every matter: ranging from 122 – 134 total votes
- Anything less than 2/3 fails
- Minority is the minority unless the majority is the minority (Minority opinion in How The Conference Works – Appendix W, AASM)

Exceptions to Substantial Unanimity & Minority Opinion

- Tabling a motion (no debate, simple majority)
- Calling a question (no debate, substantial unanimity)
- Reconsidering a vote (no debate, simple majority)
- Declining to consider a floor action (no debate, substantial unanimity)

Advance Statistics

49

Number of
Committee
recommendations
presented to the
Floor

102

Number of
Committee
Considerations
subject to Q&A
on the Floor

15

Number of
Floor Actions 11
of which were
unheard and
recommitted
by motion

46

Number of
Advisory
Actions from
Recommendations and Floor
Actions

98

Total votes including
amendments,
calling the question,
etc. and 8 for
reconsiderations

How It Started

- At The Opening Session -

Vote to Accept the two visitors from Great Britain

- Point of Order – covered by a 2022 advisory action P&A Committee approval sufficient
- Chairperson calls for vote anyway
- Passed 132-2

(Lengthy, painful but interesting)

Motion to suspend Area Highlights

- Devote more time for Conference business - voting & floor actions
- Motion made to recommit to Agenda Committee passed 114-18; CCA Recommended suspension then failed on floor
- Opinions in favor - new delegates' opportunity to speak at the head of the Conference

Motion to achieve 75% supermajority for PLBB approval if book is recommended by Literature Committee

- Motion from SD seconded by DE
- Chair questioned whether it was appropriate for consideration then accepted motion
- Motion to table until the matter came to the floor – passed 114-18

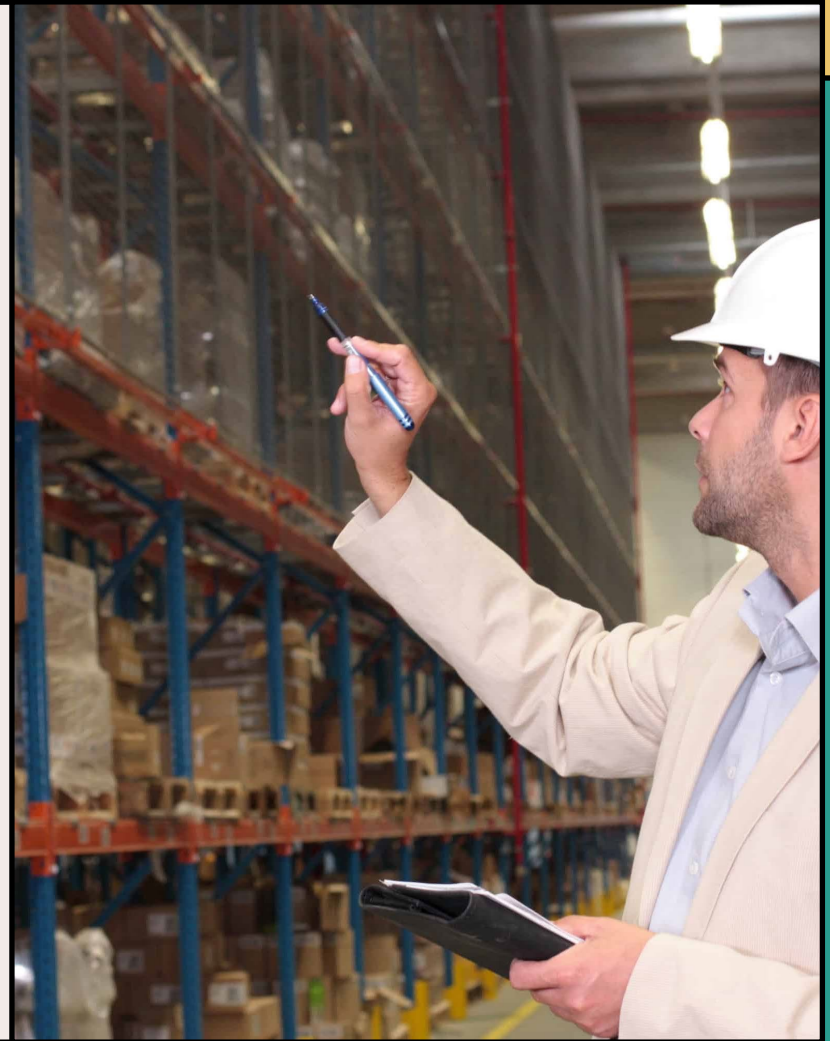


Delaware is known as the First State because it cast the deciding vote for the American Independence in 1776, it was the first to ratify the U.S. Constitution and it was the first to join the Union attaining statehood in 1787. Delaware has the largest population of horseshoe crabs in the world and is home to 86 endangered species, including the Leatherback sea turtle. People from Delaware are known as Delawareans and people like us from Delaware are known as sober Delawareans.

Area Highlights

- Area 12, also known as DAGSA, Delaware Area General Services Assembly, is incorporated and is certified as a 501c3 organization. We hold four to five assemblies annually which includes a pre-conference assembly as well as a delegate report back Assembly, an election assembly during odd years and an inventory assembly during even years. DAGSA hosts a website, Delawareaa.org, to provide information and is the place where you can find announcements for two upcoming major events, DEYPAA at the end of September to be held in Wilmington, and the state convention to be held the first weekend of November in Dewey Beach.
- Middletown, Delaware, contrary to anyone's belief, is not the same "Middletown, U.S.A." of Tradition Two fame in the Twelve and Twelve. But one never knows what was in Bill's mind when he wrote it. Within the state's 1,954 square miles of land there lies 242 active AA Groups – among the registered are five (5) Spanish, twelve (12) virtual, nine (9) women, two (2) LGBTQ, and one (1) YP. There are an estimated 4,300 AA members within the state's population of 1M. We now have 14 districts, the last of which is an online groups district, created last year and we are one of the first few Areas to have an online District. Unfortunately, five Districts are presently inactive though there is a voluntary effort by groups to attend adjoining district meetings.
- Each of Delaware's three counties are also served by their respective intergroups, each having website with a meeting search mechanism for both in-person and online meetings.
- Both preambles are used in Delaware and read at meetings as chosen by their respective group conscience. Many, if not most, Groups in Delaware end their meetings with the Lord's prayer. And though there are divisions like the other areas regarding the preamble and AA's literature, Delaware's groups carry the AA message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic in the way we know best, the language of the heart.

General Service
Board Inventory
&
Trustee Slate
Vote



General Service Board Inventory Advisory Actions 2023

1

To reestablish trust between the General Service Conference, the GSB and the Fellowship of AA, the GSB undertake an inventory prior to the 74th GSC. A 73rd GSC working group to aid in formulating inventory questions.

2

The Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee to report quarterly the fiscal performance of the AAWS, GSB and GV Boards throughout the year to the members of the GSC for transparency and reporting to the A.A. Fellowship.

3

The General Service Conference meet outside of the annual meeting for general sharing sessions at least two times per year utilizing virtual meeting technology. The GSB Chair and Delegate Chair will set the date and time and determine topics.

General Service Board Inventory Process

A

Board utilized a facilitator to help conduct inventory sessions.

The three Boards split into five groups, discussed questions and provided thoughts and some solutions.

Twenty- three questions which were divided into the five groups

B

Held Board huddles at Board weekends focused on alignment of the Traditions and Concepts they use to guide their actions.

Policy ad hoc Committee of the GSB. The committee reviewed policies to ensure that they are in alignment with Traditions and Concepts, while meeting the legal requirements for nonprofit organizations in the State of New York.

C

Engaging with the Fellowship wherever and whenever possible, in person or on virtual platforms. This includes forums and other regional events, Area events, District events, and Group events. GSB also engaged in phone calls, email and text exchanges with individuals throughout the Fellowship.

General Service Board Inventory

Some Questions

3

In an effort to appear unified, does the board have a tendency to circle the wagons?

6

Does the GSB consider primary purpose when determining the budget?

8

It was evident that a toxic relationship had developed for some time between the GSB Chair and some Trustees/GSO staff. What actions should Trustees take to address this conduct at an early stage?

15

How will we fully utilize the spiritual principles of AA to address leadership problems? How do we incorporate all 36 principles in Board discussions and decisions?

20

Without focusing on personalities, what factors contributed to creating an environment that resulted in a change in leadership being necessary?

GSB Inventory – Some Responses

- Board supports its members during controversy; some were pressured by those outside the conference; Board unable to defend itself.
- Budgets reflect services and influenced by Conference actions.
- Process for bringing issues forward insufficient; “toxicity” wasn’t evident to everyone at the time; previous efforts to address matters in 2022; issues such as not adhering to bylaws in the forming of committees, not adhering to Concept III when special meetings were held with only a portion of the board and no reporting was provided, and disregard for minority voice are not matters of interpersonal relationships.
- Respect and trust each other.
- Develop a new code of conduct; need a better method of raising concerns.
- “See something, say something.”
- Draw new policies from Concepts and Traditions.
- All communications to reflect group conscience.
- Lack of formal feedback structures; double headed management; authoritarian leadership; unenforced code of conduct; more than one trustee harmful (bullying, marginalizing) silently accepted by board.
- Selection process does not identify deficiencies.
- Workload, workload, workload.

General Service Board Inventory - Top Three Solutions

I

Board development including board huddles, training, orientation, strategic planning away from board weekends

II

Develop cross functional group of conference members to determine communication needs and establish a plan (cadence, rules, timing).

III

Board zero tolerance for misconduct. Address it early. Some situations are serious and require immediate action.

General Service Board Inventory Conclusion

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 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're going to need the help of General Service Conference for this to be effective.

-Mike L., Class B Trustee, Interim GSB Chair

PAI 80 - Suspend the search and election of a new General Service Board Chair until the Board's inventory is completed and amends made. Further, that the inventory be shared with all Conference Delegates and approved by the General Service Conference and that the Board solicit recommendations for the amends from the Conference Delegates.

- Inventory shared with everyone – copy is available upon request.
- Board requesting help from conference to create a cross functional group to identify improvements in communication and reporting with no details provided yet.
- No amends made to chair for unprecedented acts; no responsibility taken regarding manner of “resignation.”

Concept V Appeal

- Citing the Board's code of conduct requiring openness and transparency among board members and the Board's bylaws, I posited that
 - There was no vote to request a resignation or to remove the chair
 - The resignation was imperfect
 - There was no due process - no transparency or openness about issues that took place which would have been compelled had there been a more formal removal process
 - Therefore, there was no genuine chair vacancy; that the selection of a new chair was premature
- Prior discussions with three past trustees, one current Trustee & a past delegate of the Conference Trustees Committee
- Provided for a solution to move forward through the application of the Steps which was not undertaken by the Board
- Appeal passed on to new chair per discussion with Interim Chair

Trustee Committee Recommendations

I rose in disapproval of the slate of Trustees and Officers for the reasons cited in my Concept V appeal, stating:

- A. With due respect to the interim and new chairs, and other trustees, I believe a vote for the slate is a vote condoning the board's conduct on January 29, 2023 regarding the chair's resignation;
- B. I cannot in good conscience, and for the good of AA approve the slate because:
 - 1. The board's inventory resulted in only an amend for its post incident communications and it is not willing to acknowledge any error on its part in the incident;
 - 2. When asked about an amend to the chair, the board said it would invite more controversy which reveals internal disagreement and inability to practice certain spiritual principles;
 - 3. When there is a need for an amend, God will provide for the right avenue when earnestly sought;
 - 4. All parties involved have a role that needs to be cleaned up;
 - 5. It is in the interest of AA as a whole that the board show leadership in the practice of the spiritual principle of amends so it cleans its side of the street - that is what we are taught in AA;
 - 6. The board is required by Tradition, Charter and bylaws to follow the spiritual principles of the Twelve Steps.
- C. Therefore, I beg the conscience of the Conference, by vote, to compel the Board to make an amend to the chair and trust God so that history will laud the board's courage and power to forgive.

What Happened Next...

Another delegate from NER moved to amend - trustees be voted on individually.

Chair rejected to address disapproval

Delegate from West Central moved to split motion re individual vote.

Motion rejected by chair

Chair explained process - disapproval returns slate to Nominating committee for decision or reorganization.

Board selects its successors

Delegate from West Central then moved to reject chair's decision.

Seconded – discussion followed

NER Delegate cites bylaws referencing voting for trustees individually

Chair: For vacancies only

SER delegate cites bylaws referencing Conference's power to disapprove new trustees.

Motion Fails 32Y-93N

Slates Trustees & officers include new chair and 3 new Trustees 2B & 1A

Approved 102Y-23N & 114Y-11N

Slates for AAWS & GV Directors – Both approved

110Y – 12N & 116Y- 6N

“As we go through the day, we...”

PAUSE



For just a few minutes to ask a question or two -

Then we move on...

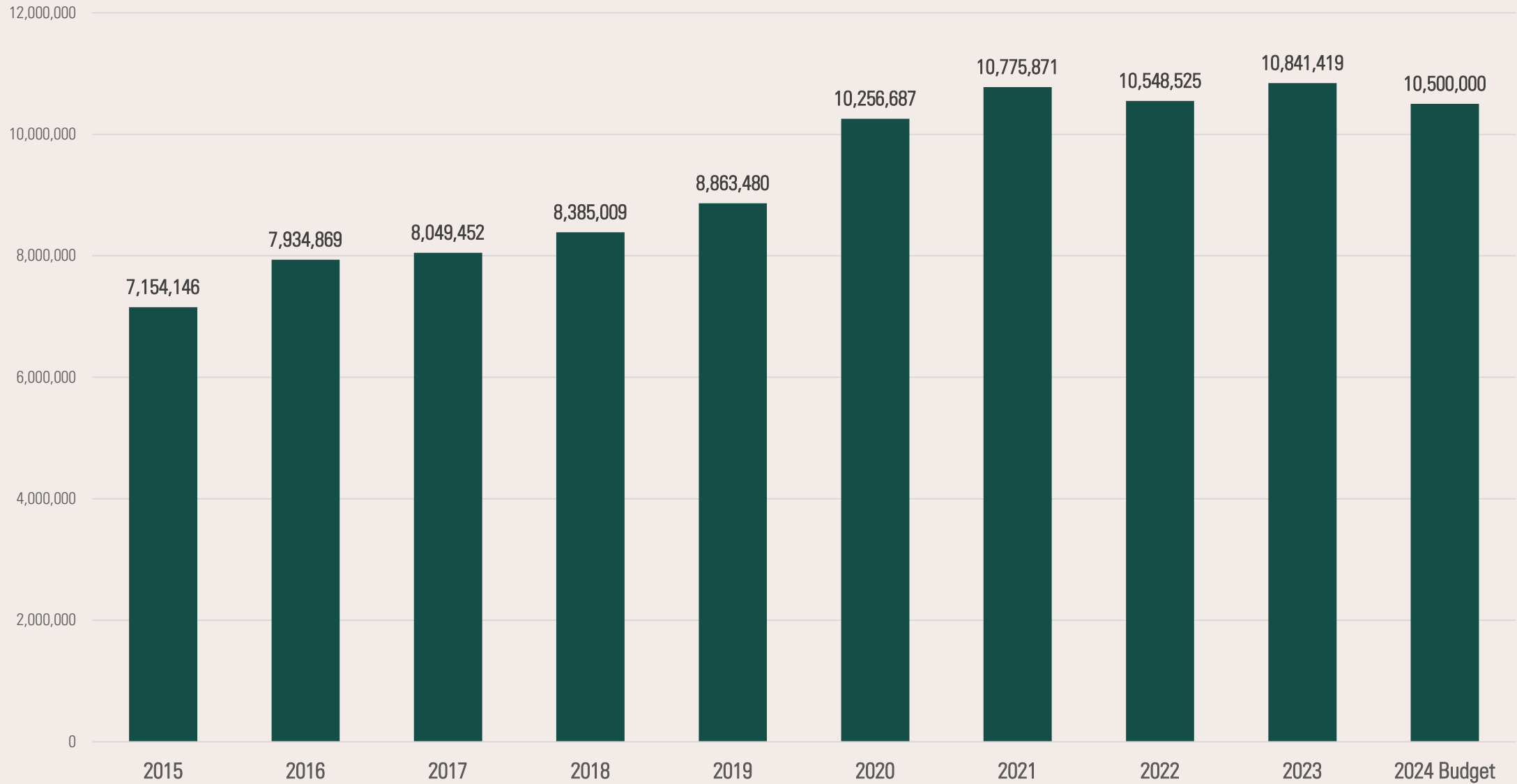
Finances



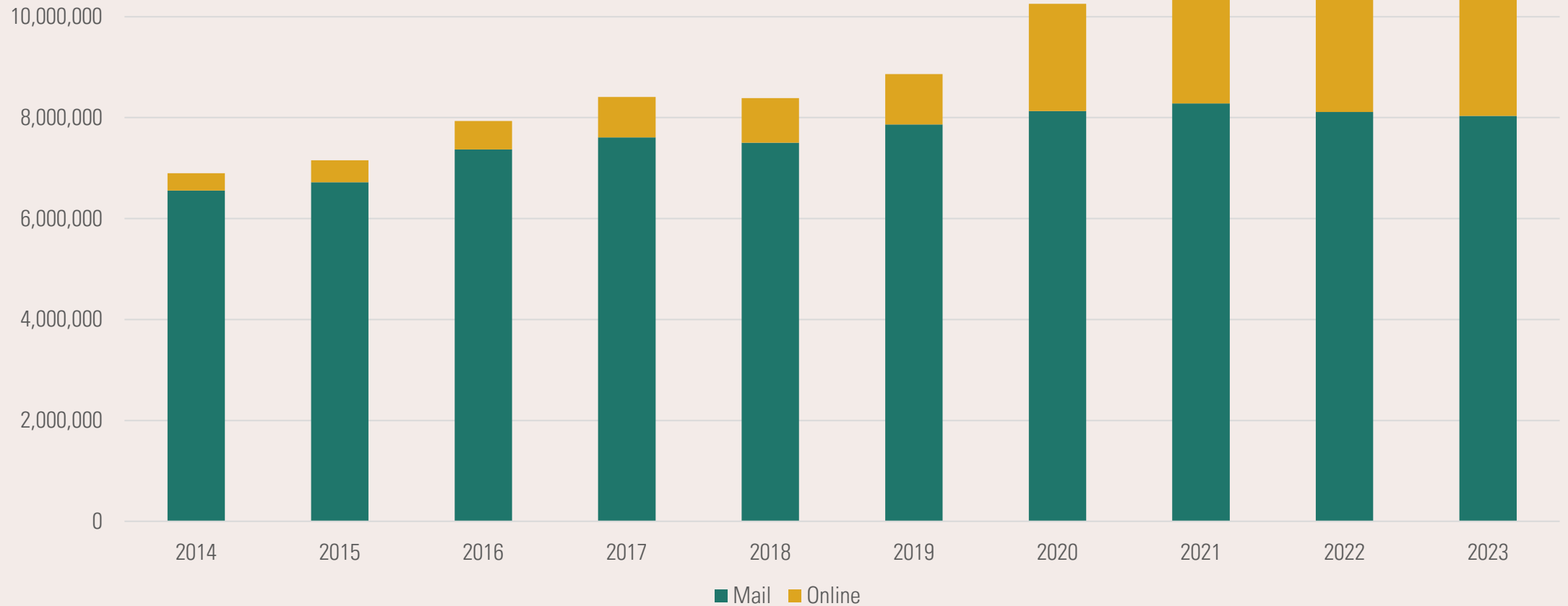
Financial Audit

- Cause for delay in Reporting EOY financials to Area Delegates: new auditors and numerous consultations
- “Clean audit”
- GSO must report Value of PSA’s as income and expense
 - Bookkeeping matter, not IRS requirement
- Some bookkeeping errors:
 - 100 2024 contributions counted in 2023 (weekend contributions)
 - Post retirement accounting errors
 - GV accounts receivables not updated regularly
 - Payroll changes not properly documented (internal controls)
 - No intercompany agreement for transactions (internal controls)

7th Tradition Self-Support 2015-2023

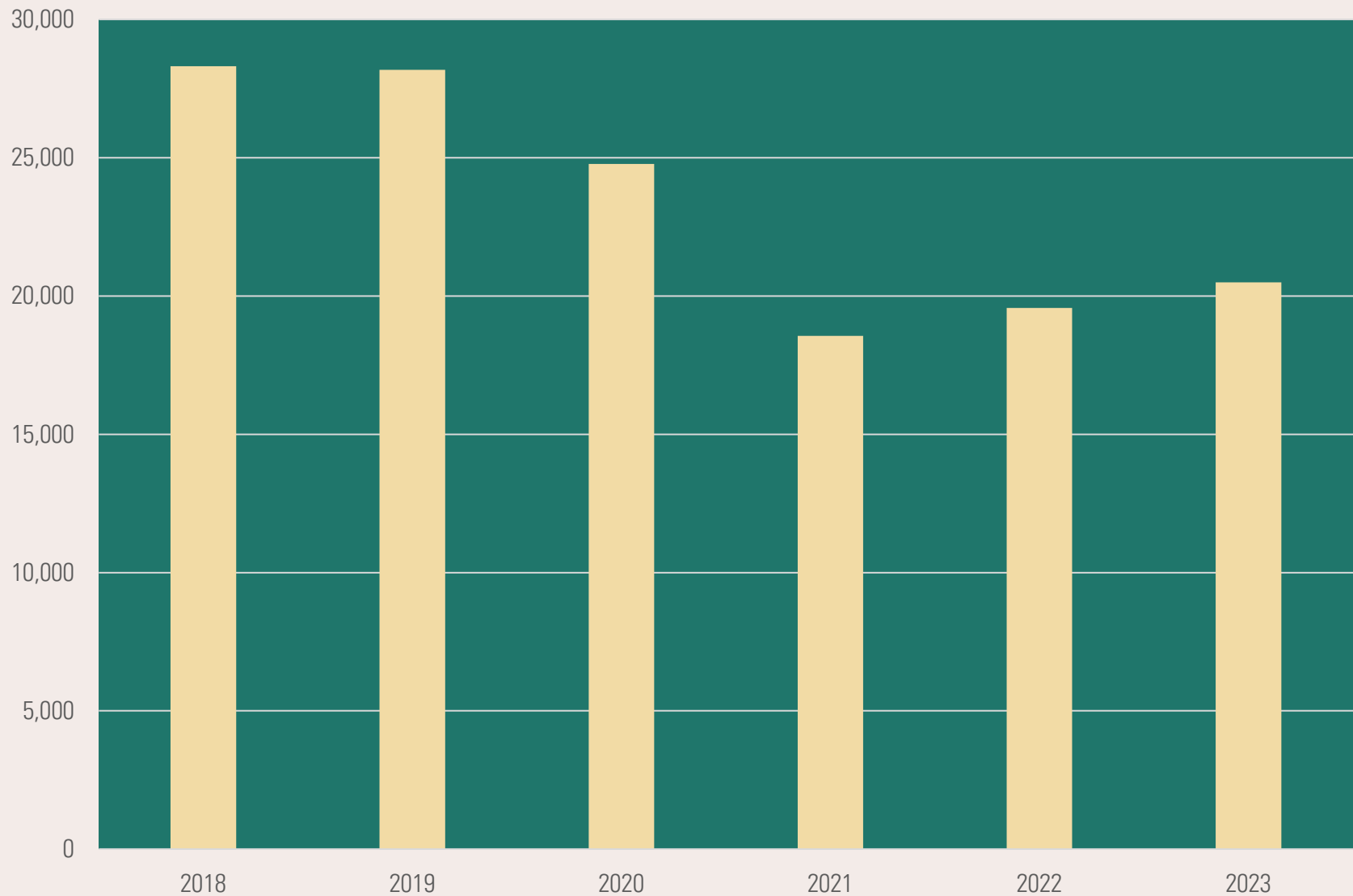


Growth of Online Contributions 2014-2023

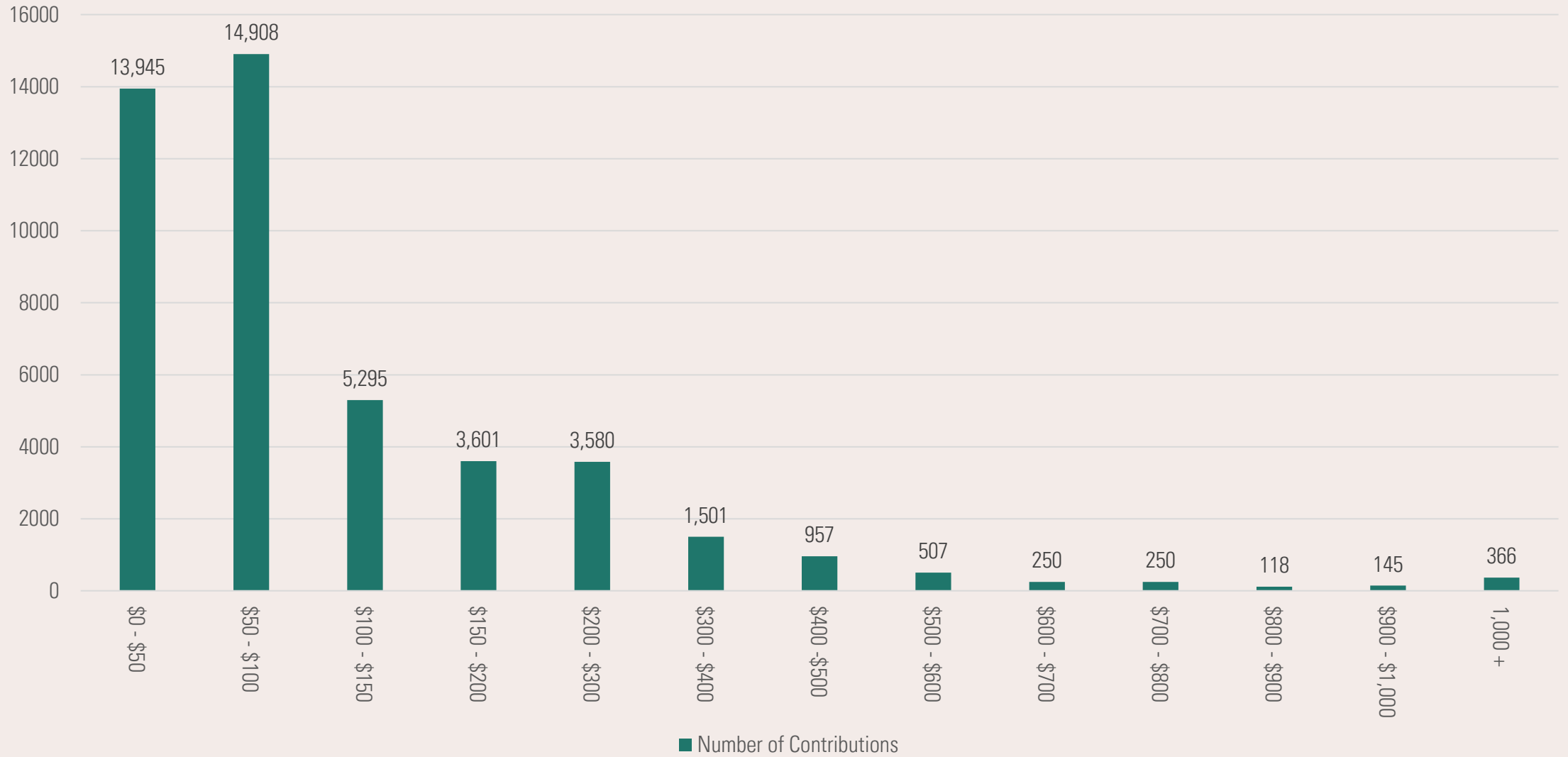


A mail contribution costs \$5.60 to process. An online contribution costs \$2.93 to process, a \$2.67 savings.

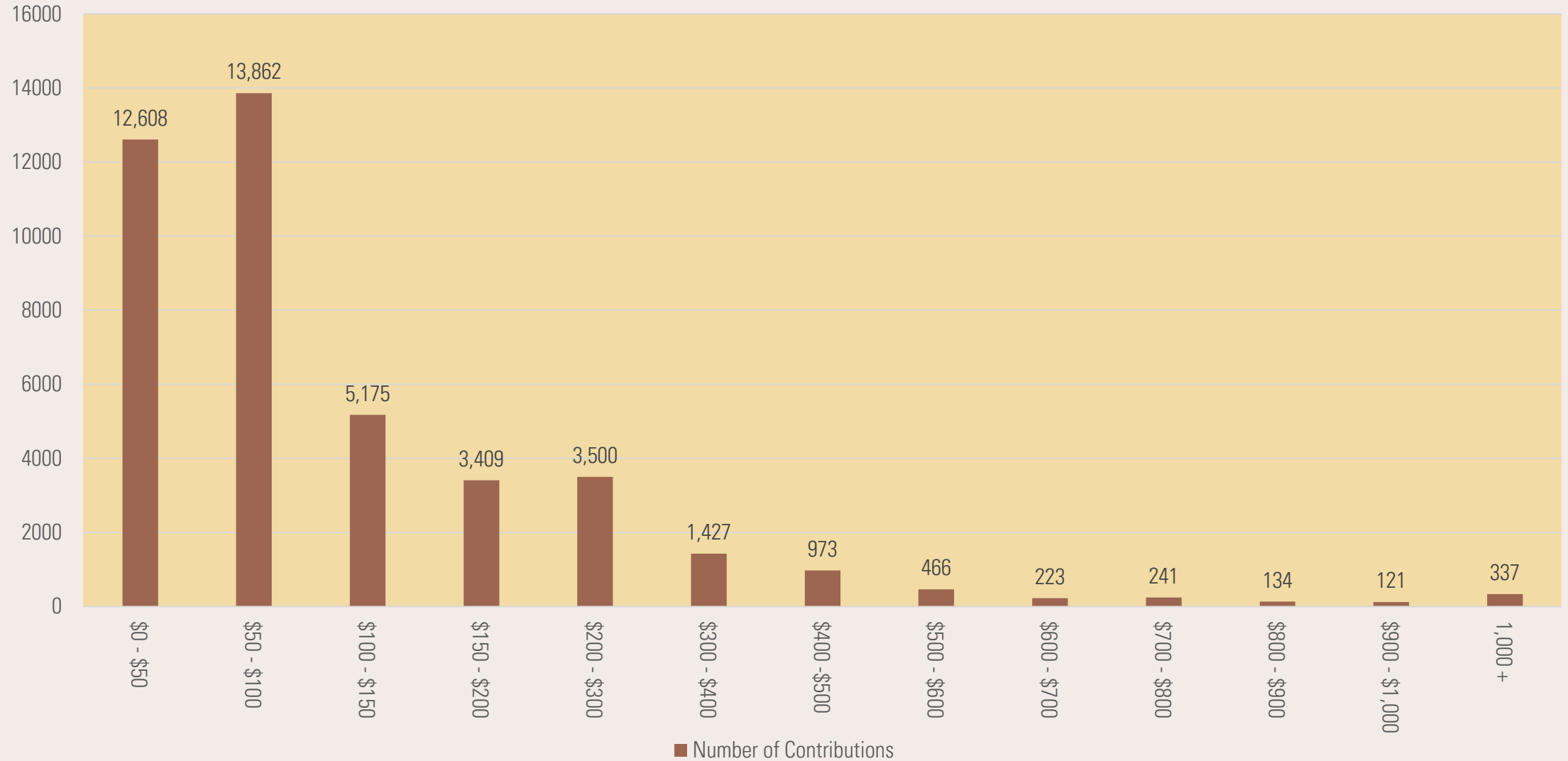
Number of Groups Contributing 2018-2023



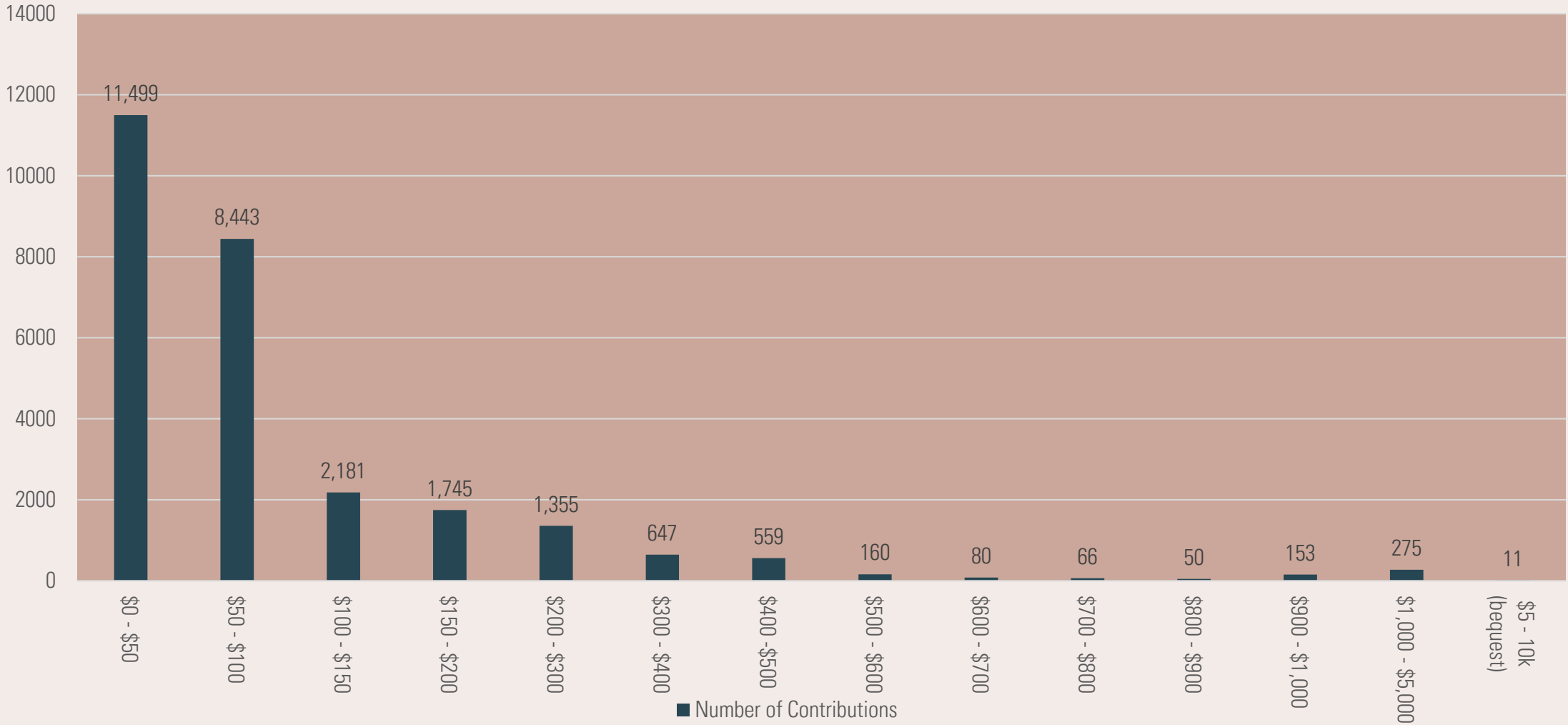
Group Contributions by Dollar Value - 2022



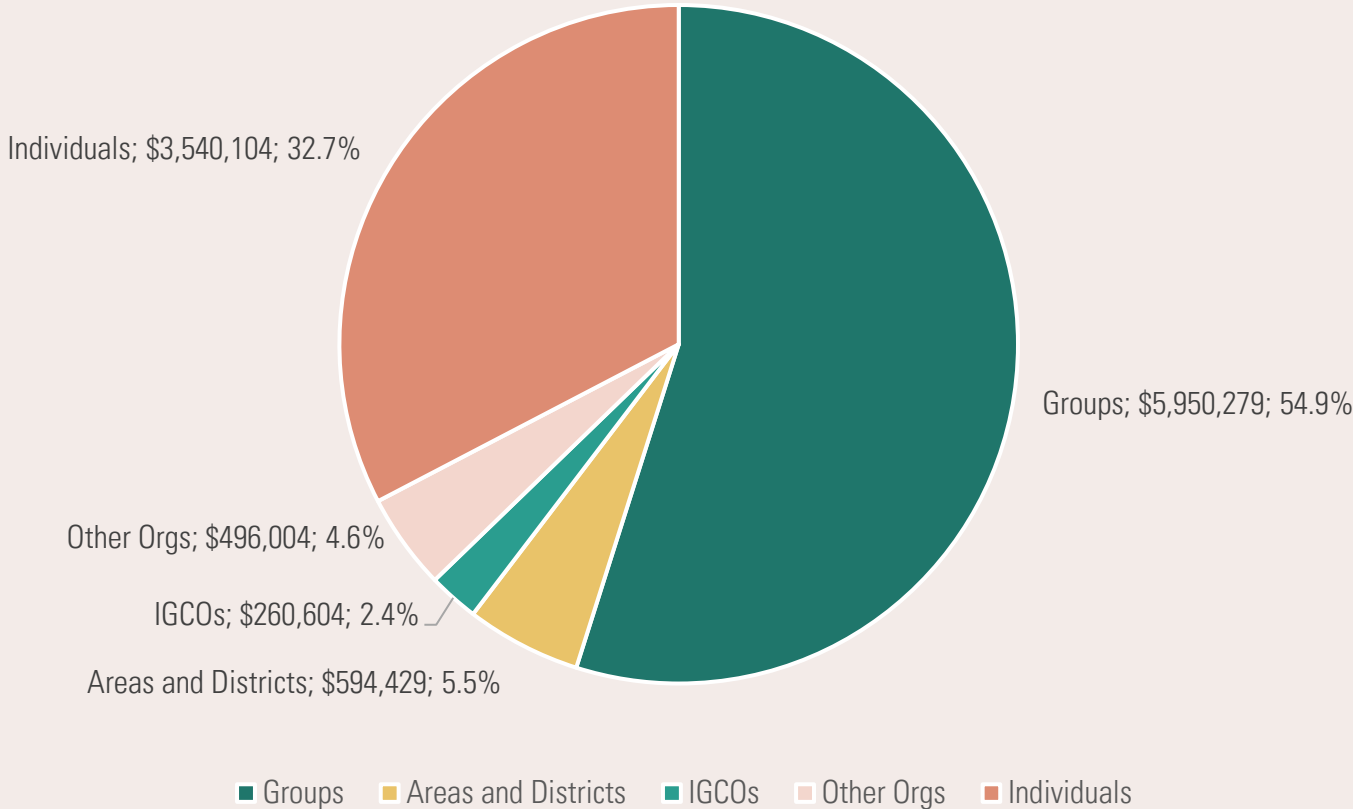
Group Contributions by Dollar Value - 2023



Individual Contributions by Dollar Value - 2023



Contributions By Type Of Contributor 2023



2023 GSO Expenses v. 2022 & 2023 Budget

EXPENSE	2023	2022	DIFFERENCE	2023 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Payroll, Benefits & Taxes	11,041,355	9,900,597	+1,140,758	11,221,433	-180,078
Facility & Equipment	1,223,760	1,258,295	-34,535	1,166,681	+56,889
Professional Fees	1,841,628	1,756,363	+85,265	1,860,409	-18,781
Printing, Postage, Supplies, and Subs	575,949	451,413	+124,536	613,676	-37,727
Data, Automation, & Website	573,591	611,490	-37,899	642,844	-69,253
Insurance	70,884	69,575	+1,309	78,015	-7,131
Travel & Meetings	2,147,709	1,854,281	+293,428	2,170,916	-23,207
Total Operating Expense	17,474,874	<u>15,902,114</u>	+1,572,760	17,754,154	-279,280

Financial Overview

	2023	2022	Difference	2024 Budget
Self-Support	\$10.84M	\$10.55	+2.8%*	\$10.5M
Net Literature Income	\$6.76M	\$4.89M	+38.2%**	\$8.5M~
Total Expenses	\$17.47M	\$15.9M	+\$1.57M***	\$19.0M
Net^	\$581,907	(\$1.6M)^^^	-	\$617,945

*November Gratitude Letter

**Increase in literature sales due to increase literature prices April 2023

***Filling vacant positions and creation of language services and legal licensing dept. ~Based on full year impact of price increase assuming same sales volume

^Before depreciation

^^Decrease in literature sales profit margin due to inflation and paper, supplies & printing

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.

2023 Grapevine Financial Highlights

- App launch – September 1, 2023
- Grapevine paid print subscription income decreased 12% in 2023. Subscription income for the online, complete and mobile app magazine increased 72% due to the mobile app and increased Complete subscriptions.
- 2023 Grapevine results were a gross margin on subscriptions of \$601,088 and a gross margin of \$562,746 on other published items. Operating expenses of \$2,059,058 resulted in an operating loss of \$888,465 compared to a loss of \$404,940 in 2022.
- General Fund support of La Viña service activity was \$753,376 in 2023, compared to \$636,604 in 2022.
- La Viña magazine circulation decreased by 3.0% in 2023 compared to a 4.3% increase in 2022.

AA Grapevine 2024 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.

AA Grapevine 5-Year Plan

A

Society shift from print to technology

- GV Podcast top 5% at 750K+ downloads
- Meeting app 768,500 total users
- Instagram 13K followers

B

GV App funded from

- GV subscription liability fund
- GSB investments from reserve fund

C

Anticipated increase in App income generates highest gross margin (91% v. <50% AAWS)

- Planned \$566K loss in 2024
- 2025 to be cash flow positive

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

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

Let's Talk About Depreciation

- Remember the November 2023 Gratitude Letter From GSO General Manager?
- It went out directly to the World, not just US/Canada
- It indicated that AA was going to experience a shortfall:
 - “Because of the significant decline in literature sales and revenue and the large cash outlay needed to continue printing and distributing our literature, we have also experienced a very tight cash position. Our reforecast budget for this year estimates a loss of \$997,000, after depreciation and the GSB support of La Viña”
- Depreciation, a non-cash expense, was re-forecasted (midyear) at \$1.2M and ended as \$1.06M in 2023; literature sales increased before April 2023 price increase
- Numerous questions on this arose at 2024 NERAASA

Let's talk about Depreciation

What's On Your Mind Session

The sentiment from Area 12 on this matter is in regards to the Gratitude letter and its follow-up. I ask for caution [from the Board & GSO General Manager] and I do so with gratitude to service rendered at GSO.

1. Restraint from including depreciation unless there is a planned expense directly related to depreciated capital that requires replacement
2. Restraint from language that can be perceived as instructive. i.e. in the January letter advising groups to make regular contributions – Alcoholics don't like to be told what to do especially in light of Tradition Four

While, understandably, there was an immediate benefit [to GSB], alcoholics don't have a short memory and the unintended consequences may prove damaging financially and spiritually in the long term.

Actions Related To Finance

- Last year – Quarterly financials to be shared with all areas
- Financials shared but 4th quarter delayed until Conference due to pending annual audit

CCF Recommendation 1

Change in language to self-support pamphlet:

- Reports available for review at GSO at anytime instead of books available for scrutiny
- GSB Finance committee reviews all financials – GSB, AAWS & GV/LV 2x annually (115/4 - Passed)

CCF Recommendation 2

Maximum annual contributions for individuals be raised from \$5,000 to \$7,500 (See Slide 36: 11 contributors \$5-10K) (95/28 - Passed)

Actions Related To Finance

CCF Recommendation 3

GSB hold 1 annual meeting virtually when possible vis-à-vis Board chairs right of decision* (\$200K savings) (18/106 - Failed)

*Modified from original CCF after discussion with Treas re conflict with bylaws, p. 136 AASM.

CCF Recommendation 4

Trustee Emeriti be invited to the GSC & to GSB weekends at their own expense. (23/101 Failed)

Discussion re detailed reporting PAI - need for review of item by item costs report

Committee Considerations

Supplemental financial reporting (PAI) to 2025

- Cost of new literature
- Capital projects (software , apps , website (cost & maintenance)
- International services
- Quarterly reporting
- Actual cost details – short & long term & draws
- Relevant report included in any agenda item being considered

“As we go through the day, we...”

PAUSE



For just a few minutes to ask a question or two -

Then we move on...

Founders Writings



Founders Writings: Area Sharing Sessions**

**Non-statistical, based on my notes;
number hits exceed number of Areas
due to multiple responses in Areas

66

No changes; BB adequate; change back
Changes divisive or political; footnotes

14

Make change small or large; no policy
As is process

25

Supermajority &/or Lengthy, slow process
Local groups can change to suit themselves

31

Lack of trust; PAI's ignored
Questions unclear or inadequate

17

PLBB adequate to address change in society
Literature addresses particular needs

Founders Writings

Other Comments:

- Half and half or no consensus: 7
- Unable to obtain Area feedback: 2
- Love is in the action not in the books: 1

Other Comments:

- Withdrawing contributions: 2
- No PLBB: 1
- Writings belong to the Fellowship: 1

Founders Writings – Area 12 Report To The Conference

Our Districts considered both sets of questions from Trustees and Conference committees. Most felt the founders would embrace change but a few noted that the decision lies with the Fellowship; that the founders respected the wider conscience. Most felt the BB/12&12 are effective with newcomers because they help in getting people together (sponsorship, BB studies, BB Meetings, 12x12 meetings, etc.) yet, at the same time, they were highly sensitive to those in need for plainer text which they encouraged. The BB is to be studied rather than read. Others mentioned that AA recovery does not depend solely on the BB.

Changes to language in the BB and founders writings brought out strong feelings on both sides. However, most understood reasons to update language and many agreed footnotes would have a positive impact. Preserving the language through the tools we have today was dominant; PLBB, new texts, numerous publications are helpful ancillary texts. These can address the needs of the changing culture in our society.

Founders Writings – Area 12 Report To The Conference

Complete rewrites and replacements were in a small minority. As the desire increases for change, the predominant thought was to have a slow process such as multi-year reviews of decisions made, careful consideration by wider inclusivity of the Fellowship, and the use of super-majority. Many in the fellowship on both sides felt a need to review actual changes before final actions are taken. The issue of codifying the preservation of this literature in the same manner the Steps and Traditions are protected came up.

Other interesting comments were made such as AA was never meant to be instructive; that the sharing of experience, strength and hope was the primary method for introduction and sustenance of recovery. And, as you may well guess, the discussion of finances were not ignored by some of our Districts. As for the changes to the 12 & 12, footnotes were the way to go. However, those responses were presented by both sides of the fence as the feelings were pretty much equal about the change.

Founders Writings - Background



Trustee Literature Chair remarked that the Area sharing on Founder's writing to be considered by Finance Committee for Item C (EDW) – Review shared experience



Finance committee discussed the item focusing on whether there should be a policy. All eight members agreed that a policy would not be prudent – ambiguity, formulation & trust.



Committee voted 7-1 to take no action - Existing process sufficient. I voted against. 1 Other delegate moved to reconsider after minority opinion – no second.

Founders Writings – Counter-point

I don't see why the Big Book and the 12x12 cannot be preserved in the Conference Charter.

It will not be a detriment now or to posterity 20 or 50 years hence. It wisely protects the historical text from edition to edition, frees it from the ever-expanding footnote dilemma for time immemorial while, at the same time, does not interfere with the Fellowship's desire to publish additional ancillary texts, of its choosing, to serve our ever-evolving society and culture as we march on through history.

Founders Writings – Follow-ons

Committee Considerations

The committee reviewed the progress report reflecting shared experience from the Fellowship on possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s founders and took no action. After thorough consideration and mindful reflection of the comments received from Founders' Writings sharing sessions, as well as the valuable input received from the Fellowship via Area Delegates, the committee agreed that current Conference procedures provide a process wherein future proposals for changes can be considered by the group conscience of each Conference, negating the need for a mandated policy.

What Happened Next

- Questions by the floor
- No significant debate or disagreements
- One delegate expressed feelings about Trustee Literature Committee rejecting 73rd Conference Finance Committee's proposed question
- I prepared a Floor Action – Submitted next day after deliberation and consultation & PLBB vote

Founders Writings – Floor Action

Whenever any changes are brought to the Conference floor to the Founders' writings, considered by this motion to be:

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
2. The book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*

The Conference must achieve a supermajority of 75% 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.

(Floor Action recommitted)

“As we go through the day, we...”

PAUSE



For just a few minutes to ask a question or two -

Then we move on...

Heard at Conference

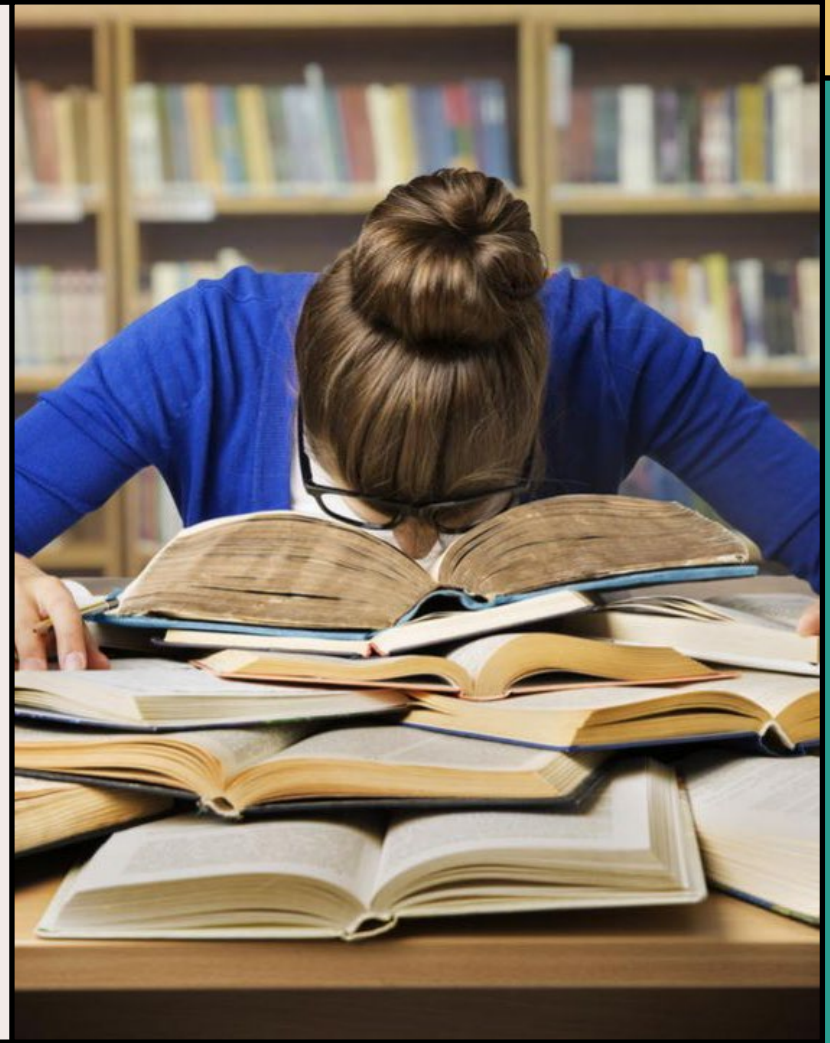
“

I hope I never step over a drunk to argue a Tradition, and never step over a Tradition to argue with a drunk.

”

Area 12's District Reviews of FAI's

What Happened And What Is The Status



District 1 – Agenda & Finance

Agenda

Topic Ideas for 2025 Conference

- District focused on Communications to improve group conscience
- Conference Committee on Agenda Recommended (AA - :
 - Delegating: It's OK To Ask For Help
 - Bridging The Gap: How Do We Make The Voice Of Every Group Count
 - Our Financial Responsibility In Carrying The Message

Finance (EDW)

Review the Video "Hope"

- District felt it was effective but needs updating
- Conference Committee on Finance took no action
 - Consensus determined information still relevant and useful
 - Not prudent to update video at this time

Districts 2/3
International
Convention &
Regional
Forums (ICRF)

B

Recommended an encrypted anonymity protected video of opening flag ceremony – 122Y/1N Passed (AA)

C

Recommended a two day 8-track virtual programming for \$35 prudent & accessible for those unable to attend – Committee Consideration

D

Closing big meeting: Recommended Serenity Prayer, Responsibility Statement, Declaration of Unity. 3/7 Step prayers. Motion to add Lord's Prayer failed 41Y/83N; motion to add Moment of Silence Passed 106Y/19N – Recommendation 115Y/11N Passed (AA)

F

Recommended production of anonymity protected video footage of other IC highlights to share spirit and enthusiasm – 121/4 Passed (AA)

G

Recommended a delayed anonymity protected digital access to the three big meetings – 117/5 Passed (AA)

District 4 - CPC

Item D. Three videos – Conference Committee on CPC requested that the Trustees committee “explore options of repurposing the videos, including updating the scripts with new voiceovers while also using stock footage and images to replace outdated video images.” – Committee Consideration.

Along the lines of District recommendations. **Commentary about short hair.**

Item E – Unhoused Alcoholic:

- Committee took no action – felt a pamphlet would not be an effective tool – Trustees should explore other means to serve this population
- NE Delegate proposed it as a floor action (No. 1)
- Declined to consider (90Y/39N)

District 5 – Grapevine/LaVina

Item B. Grapevine Book Topics –
Committee suggested GV Board
produce in 2025 or later:

- Sober Holiday Stories
- Dating & Relationships
- Lo Mejor de La Viña III (Best of LV III)
- En las prisiones (Jails and institutions)
- La derrota (Surrender)

Item E – Asian and Asian-American Pamphlet (EDW): -District approved-

- Committee took no action – Cost
- Proposed it as a floor action (No. 3)
 - Motion to decline Failed 69Y/60N
 - Original motion Failed 79Y/50N
 - Motion to reconsider passed 84Y/40N sm
 - Motion to amend Failed 42Y/84N
 - Motion to recommit Failed 51Y/79N
 - Original motion Passed 99/27 (AA)

District 6/7 – Corrections

Item A – Singleness of Purpose Text change

Committee recommended deletion of “substance abuse” & “chemical dependency” language; stating that closed meetings for those with a desire to stop drinking. 123Y/26N Passed (AA)

Item C – Video: Carrying The Message Behind The Walls

Committee recommended the video be discontinued (old preamble, 3rd Ed, BB) & go into archives; newer videos available. 121Y/10N Passed (AA)

Item D – Transgender Pamphlet (EDW)

Affirmed by District

- Discussed at length
- Called the question 86Y/41N Passed
- Motion on pamphlet 86Y/40N Passed (AA)
- Motion to reconsider 62Y/68N Failed

District 12 – Public Information (PI)

Item C – GSO Podcast

Committee accepted report on development of a GSO service oriented podcast and requested analytics on the first podcast be brought back to the 2025 conference committee

Item L – Young People's Video

Committee recommended the 18 interviews be used to produce the videos and place them on appropriate streaming media. Viewed preview of video. 122Y/4N Passed (AA)

Item M – PI Pamphlets

- Flyer AA at a Glance approved with minor edits 121Y/6N Passed
- Speaking outside revised 121Y/4N Passed
- Message to Teenagers retired 92Y/33N Passed

District 13 – Treatment & Facilities

Item D. Bridging the Gap

Committee Recommended the pamphlet be approved with minor edits. 116Y/10N Passed.

- Help the alcoholic in a treatment program to transition to a life of sobriety in AA
 - Detox, treatment centers, hospitals, Aftercare, IOP, etc,
- History goes back to the 1930's (right?)

Item E – Bridging the Gap Service Materials

Committee recommended the flyer “Where Do I Go From Here” be updated with current inclusive language and info on how to find AA in person and online and return to 2025 committee.

Committee consideration

District 14 Policy & Admissions

Participation of Online Groups in GS Structure

Committee Consideration

“Based upon the Ad Hoc report findings [included a survey of online groups], there are no clearly expressed needs outlined in order to move forward with the creation of an additional Delegate Area for online groups, at this time. The committee noted that the suggestion of a future guideline service piece on the participation of online groups maybe a helpful resource[...]as information continues to be shared and gathered form the US/Canada service structure.”

“As we go through the day, we...”

PAUSE



For just a few minutes to ask a question or two -

Then we move on...

Activity Reports & Presentations



GSO Services



Responded to **27,475** unique email inquiries



Handled **13,808** phone calls



Received **31,168** Literature Orders



Mail/Shipping processed **36,623** pieces of incoming mail and **9,599** pieces outgoing

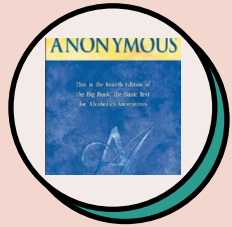


Front Desk associates received and routed **12,045** phone calls

GSO Services

- Welcomed **1,470** visitors and 12 large groups of more than 20 members (10 more groups booked through June of this year)
- Legal, Licensing, and Intellectual Property
 - Processed over 1,100 licensing requests
- Language Service Department
- Over 1,500 translation requests, not include Conference background material
- Archives – Responded to roughly 1,500 research requests
- Publishing:
 - New Translation of the Big Book in development – Haitian Creole
- Acquired AlcoholicsAnonymous.com at “no cost”.

AAWS 2023 Literature Distributed



Big Books – All Formats (ex. 75th Anniv Ed.)
860,359



Twelve Steps And Twelve Traditions – All
330,202



Daily Reflections – All Formats
120,525



Total English Literature Items – 3,819,357
Spanish – 314,275 French – 94,780



Big Book Sale Through July 31st
75th Anniversary \$3 - All Other BB's 10% off

AA
Grapevine
and La Vina

- ❖ Roughly 750K downloads off the podcast or about 6,000 per week.
- ❖ Instagram – 11,500 followers and 1,500 for La Vina
- ❖ YouTube – 12,500 subscribers
- ❖ Raising prices to \$36, 48, 30 for print, complete, and digital.
- ❖ 51,063 magazine subscribers (This is better than feared)
- ❖ 3,506 app subscriptions - A decrease of about 4,244 from last year
- ❖ La Vina magazine has 6,484 subscribers



Location Plus Report

“On balance, the business case to move does not appear supportable at this time, given upfront costs as high as \$7.1 million, and likely very high attrition of staff (>80%), in turn impacting the ability to support GSO’s service mission to Members.”

- ROI of moving would be between 3 and 9 years depending on the city
- Atlanta seemed like the best choice, based on a variety of metrics.
- Used outside vendor to help determine the feasibility of moving the office
- Looked at moving in the city, nearby, or to a different city
 - Outside cities were finalized to be Atlanta, Indianapolis, and Philadelphia
 - Started with 116 different metro areas across the country
- We will not be renewing the lease on the 8th floor for savings of about 1.4 million over 10 years.
- This will require renovations to current floor to account for more offices and staff, which will cost about 1.4 million.

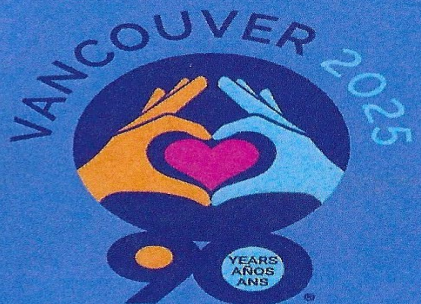
Save
the
Date!

2025 AA. International Convention

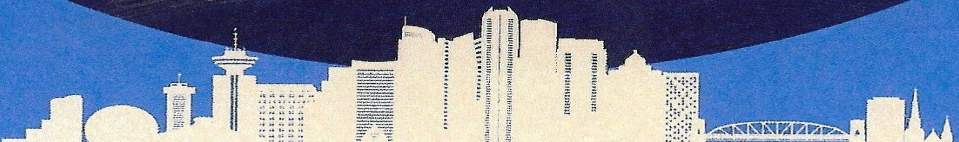
July 3-6, 2025



Scan here!



Language of the Heart
Lenguaje del corazón



International Convention

- ❖ Vancouver, B.C., Canada
- ❖ Check Passport Requirements & Conviction Record Requirements
- ❖ July 3-6, 2025 – AA 90th Anniversary
- ❖ Pre-Registration \$160; Full Registration \$185 pp. To Cure A \$522K Deficit Budget
- ❖ Registration Opens September 2024
- ❖ Self-Supporting*
- ❖ Live Streams Not Practical
- ❖ Post IC Videos
- ❖ 2030 IC – St. Louis, MO
- ❖ 2035 IC – 100th Anniversary – Indianapolis, IN



Language of the Heart
Lenguaje del corazón
Le langage du cœur



As many of you may know, planning is well underway for the 2025 International Convention that will be held July 3-6, 2025, in Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

As planning continues your Convention Coordinator feels it is important that we obtain ongoing feedback from the Fellowship as it relates to domestic and international travel, attendance at large events, and thoughts regarding hybrid events, and incorporate the feedback in our planning. The following survey is one of several that we plan to dispatch during the planning process so that we may remain current with the thoughts of the Fellowship.

Kindly take a few minutes and answer the questions below. (All responses are anonymous.) We appreciate your participation and look forward to seeing you in person or virtually at the International Convention in 2025!

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/c19ffc50038b45829f1a52eeaf4f33ec>

Final Conference Report

Electronically Online & Hardcopy

General Service Board
and Trustees
Committees Reports

GSO, AAWS and
Grapevine/LaVina
Services Descriptions &
Reports

Conference Committee
Reports

Meetings

Full Recommendations

Full Committee
Considerations

Full 2023 Audited
Financial Report

Draft Included In
Conference Book

Workshops:

“Connecting Home Groups to
the Conference Throughout the
Year...”

Presentations:

Safety Throughout AA
1728 Sponsorship
Overcoming Barriers...
Meeting of the Americas
AA Around the World
Remote Communities

NERD Business

What was voted in:

- NERD 2026 Area - 12 Delaware (Wilmington)
- NERAASA 2027 - Area 49 Southeast New York (Tarrytown)
- NERF 2027 - Area 50 Western New York (Niagara Falls)

What was already in Place:

- NERD 2025 - Area 28 Maine
- NERAASA 2025 – Online: Area 45 Southern NJ
- NERAASA 2026 - Maine
- NERF 2025 – Area 61 Rhode Island



“As we go through the day, we...”

PAUSE



For just a few minutes to ask a question or two -

Then we move on...

Notable Advisory Actions



Notable Grapevine Committee AAs

LaVina

The AA Grapevine Board develop a 5-year financial plan for La Viña with the goal to reduce shortfalls and increase revenue to be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.



Notable Agenda Committee AAs

2025 Conference Inventory

1. The 2025 Conference inventory plan approved and a summary no longer than eight (8) pages be included in the 2025 final conference report.
2. A comprehensive summary of the conference inventory be developed and distributed as an electronic version only

2025 Conference Theme

The Committee recommended the following theme for the 2025 General Service Conference:

“Working Together, Increasing Trust.”

Notable Report & Charter Committee AAs

AASM Amendments

1. The items that receive simple majority be included in the Final Conference Report under the heading “Recommendations that achieved Simple Majority – These items did not receive the two-thirds majority required to pass as a Conference Advisory Action.”
2. “In 2023 an Advisory Action was passed by the General Service Conference outlining a process for polling the General Service Conference body between annual meetings using virtual technology.” (Add to Ch.9)

AASM Amendments

The order of the chapters in The A.A. Service Manual be amended from:

- 10: The General Service Office Chapter
- 11: A.A. World Services, Inc. Chapter
- 12: AA Grapevine, Inc.

to:

- 10: A.A. World Services, Inc.
- 11: AA Grapevine, Inc.
- 12: The General Service Office

Notable Public Information Committee AAs

Retiring Several PSA's & Flyer

- A. "Since Getting Sober I Have Hope" (:30 Sec)
- B. English language version of "Since Getting Sober I Have Hope" (:60s)
- C. English language version of the radio Public Service Announcement (PSA) "We Know How You Feel" (:15s)
- D. The flyer "A Message to Teenagers".

Replacement PSA's

Two PSA's be distributed on broadcast media, tracked and evaluated at a cost of \$17,000 to be in addition to the planned \$48,000 to track the Value of Donated airtime on PSAs in 2024 per the audit. The total expenditure should not exceed \$65,000 and that the information gathered from the process be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee.

Notable Policy & Admissions Committee AAs

EDW

The Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) process be adopted and implemented.

PAI Submissions Date

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.

Notable Literature Committee AAs

Retirements, & Clarification

- ❖ The pamphlets “It Happened to Alice” (P-39) and “What Happened to Joe” (P-38) be retired.
- ❖ 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.

Pamphlet Approved

- 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.

Failed
Committee
recommendations



Failed Committee Recommendations

Finance

One Board weekend online annually and Trustee Emerti expenses (as discussed on Slide 48)

Agenda

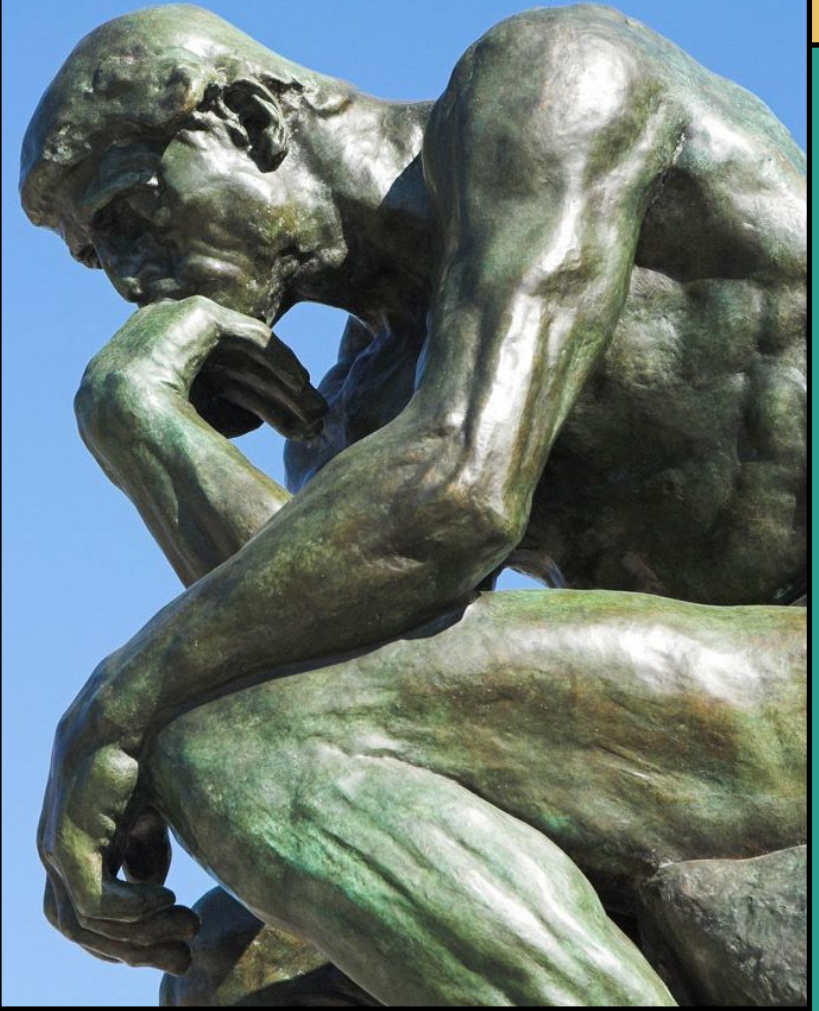
Suspensions of oral presentations of Area Highlights at the 74th GSC.

PI

Development of a social media policy (36Y/90N)

Board meeting minutes in 3 languages within 3 weeks (34Y/90N)

Notable
Committee
Considerations



Agenda Committee

The committee discussed the value of Workshops during the Conference week and noted that local committees conduct workshops based on these topics and provide opportunities to inform delegates with a broad range of experiences.

The committee discussed the number of videoconference meetings that occur within service areas, regions, and for Conference Members. The committee felt that some local events share misinformation, or inconsistent materials, which is troubling. The committee discussed ways that could help clarify and support accurate information and felt that the three Board chairpersons could explore aligning their efforts to share information within the Fellowship.

CPC & Corrections Committees

The CPC committee reviewed a progress report on the development of an outward facing pamphlet for mental health professionals and noted the continued work moving forward toward the production of the pamphlet. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community.

The Corrections committee requested that the staff coordinator on the corrections desk gather shared experience on how local corrections committees encourage and engage members in corrections service. The collected shared experience would be available upon request from the corrections desk

Grapevine Committee

The committee requested that the Grapevine Board develop a plan for a more effective La Viña subscription procedure, fulfillment process and customer service experience and that a progress report be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.

The committee requested that the Grapevine Board develop a Grapevine and La Viña financial reporting system that is clearer and easier to understand for the Fellowship.

The committee felt they needed feedback from the Fellowship and requested that the Grapevine Board conduct a survey to the membership to identify relevance, usefulness and financial viability of products and services provided by the AA Grapevine, such as Podcast, Instagram and YouTube, with a report to be brought back to the 2026 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.

ICRF Committee

The committee requested that the trustees' International Convention and Regional Forums Committee explore ideas to develop a new declaration to be adopted at the 2030 International Convention. The concept is to review the history of The Responsibility Statement or the "I Am Responsible" Declaration that was introduced at the 1965 International Convention in Toronto. In addition, the history of the "Unity" declaration that was introduced at A.A.'s 35th Anniversary International Convention held in Miami Beach, Florida in July 1970. The committee looks forward to a progress report being brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on International Convention and Regional Forums.

Literature Committee

The committee reviewed a progress report on revisions to the pamphlet, “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.” The committee requested that a new draft, partial draft, or progress report be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.

The committee reviewed a progress report on revisions to the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.” The committee noted that the introduction section has been drafted and that outreach efforts have been efficient, effective, and resulted in an increased number of story submissions. The committee requested that a draft or progress report be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.

The committee reviewed a progress report on the video animation of the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated.” The committee requested that the project proceed with Phase II Option I to include translation of narration voiceover and visual text into French and Spanish.

Public Information Committee

The committee recommended the QR codes be added to

- ✓ PSA announcements
- ✓ The Flyer “AA At A Glance
- ✓ The Pamphlet “Speaking at Meetings Outside A.A.”

The committee reviewed the memo from GSO's CFO related to tracking Public Service Announcements, noting that \$48,000 to track PSAs has been accepted as an audit requirement. The committee requested that this expense be allocated to the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee budget. The committee suggested that for the tracking of PSAs more cost-effective means of tracking be researched.

The committee discussed the Mesmerize Point Public Service Announcement (PSA) distribution and was pleased to see the ongoing opportunity to reach a large audience at no cost. The committee suggested that the trustees PI Committee renew the annual contract with Mesmerize Point for the 2024-25 year, providing it could be done so at no cost. The committee suggests research to see if it is available in Canada.

Public Information Committee

The committee reviewed and accepted the 2023 Report on the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Meeting Guide app. The committee offered the following suggestions and looks forward to a report to be brought to the 2025 Conference Committee on Public Information:

- Consider a suggestion to add A.A. literature to the Meeting Guide app.
- Consider creating a mechanism for listing online meetings on the Meeting Guide app without tying them to particular locations.
- Consider adding a clarification to the location information on the Meeting Guide app to specify that locations (like churches) do not imply affiliation.

Consider adding an option to make 7th tradition contributions possible through the Meeting Guide

R/C And T/A Committees

Treatment & Accessibilities

The Military Outreach Project should add interviews with A.A. members who are veterans and:

- Focus on creating a landing page for the military audio interviews on the website www.aa.org.
- Prioritize an interview with a Canadian Francophone A.A. member in the military.
- Include the military audio interviews on A.A.'s YouTube page using a simple

Report & Charter

The committee underwent a multi-year process of assessing the accuracy and effectiveness of the redesigned 2021-2023 edition of *The AASM*. While further functional clarity is needed, in order to prevent a further delay in printing, a significant number of revisions were identified and corrected. The committee requests that the GSB assign a dedicated trustee liaison to the Report and Charter conference committee to ensure the accurate implementation of those revisions to the 2024-2026 *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* for printing in 2024.

Plain Language Big Book



Plain Language Big Book

Impressions

- Easy reading
- What I would say to a spouse when taking him through the book
- First reading – I became affected by it
- I could envision people reading it alone and being able to understand it the first time
- Will generate a lot of “feedback” especially re 12 Steps explanation viewed as a re-write

Structure

- Headings (themes) and sidebars (explanations and definitions)
- Glossary
- Side by sides (Dr.’s Opinion, Steps, Traditions, Concepts)
- Gender balancing not gender neutrality
- God remains but changed to HP in some places or jus “God” instead of “Him”

Plain Language Big Book

Disclaimer in Preface

“This book is different. It offers the same message and ideas as the first Big Book but is written to be more easily understood. This book is not intended to replace Alcoholics Anonymous. It is written to make the ideas presented in the Big Book easier to access. It is another tool for sharing the message of A.A.’s program of recovery.”

Reactions

- Resist PAI’s
- Read it first for yourself
- Use constructive criticism – open mindedness
- Make suggestions for the betterment not book’s dissolution

Plain Language BB: Report-back

Twelve Steps

Chapter Five
As is

Side-by-side
in appendix

1. In this first step we admit to ourselves that we are powerless over our drinking, we also accept our lives have fallen apart and we cannot manage them.
2. Then we start to believe that a Higher Power can help us stop drinking and guide us to a clearer mind
3. In the next step, we make a decision to trust God to guide us with future decisions
4. Thinking long and hard...being very honest with ourselves...
5. In Step 5, we take responsibility for everything we have done wrong. We do this with ourselves and our Higher Power. Then we meet with someone we trust...
6. We open ourselves completely...that our Higher Power can...
7. We connect with our Higher Power....
8. After that, we write down a list...
9. To complete Step 9 , we reach out to people...we discuss with them what we could do to make things right...
10. On a regular basis we continue to think long and hard about our actions and mistakes and make amends as soon as we realize it.
11. In this Step, we try to improve our connection with our HP...we use practices like prayer and meditation...
12. Taking these steps leads us to a spiritual awakening that changes us...we use them to help others...we also continue to use the principles in all areas of our lives

Plain Language BB: Report-back

How It Works

- ❑ It is very rare for someone to completely commit to the AA program and still fail...
- ❑ If you feel like we did and want to stop drinking, then you're ready to get started...
- ❑ Confusing and powerful condition unlike anything else in the world...
- ❑ We ask for God's protection and care with all the honesty we have...
- ❑ (What an order!) First time reading the steps, they may seem difficult...
 - ❑ B...could have stopped or changed our alcoholism
 - ❑ C. God could or would help us if we tried to find God
- ❑ In this drama of life, God was going to be our director. God would be in charge
- ❑ Third Step prayer unchanged followed by a translation
- ❑ Fourth Step columns the same
- ❑ Holding our grudges can be fatal
- ❑ ...we tried to imagine a smart and fair way to run our sex life...like other problems, we asked God to help us create some ideals

Plain Language BB: Report-back

Headings
& Sidebar
Captions

- ❖ (SB) Step 4 – Defects of Character/Character Defects: personality flaws or shortcomings that block our spiritual growth and get in the way of our recovery
- ❖ (SB) Step 9 – Amends: means finding ways to make things right
- ❖ (H) Step 3 – Stop Playing God
- ❖ (H) Step 3 – How Selfishness Hurts Us
- ❖ (SB) Step 4 – Inventory includes strengths and weaknesses
- ❖ (H) Step 4 – Dealing with Resentments
- ❖ (H) Step 4 – How to inventory your sex life
- ❖ (SB) Step 9 definition of serenity
- ❖ (H) Ch. 11 – We found a solution / How AA Has Grown / The Fellowship Today
- ❖ (SB) Dr. Opinion – Craving; an irresistible urge to drink; obsessive thoughts about alcohol that compel the drinker to start drinking and keep drinking
- ❖ (H) Bill's story – Learning about alcoholism at hospital / A Visit From A Friend

Plain Language BB: Report-back

- Page 164 – “Our book is meant to offer you suggestions only...This is the great fact for us...Give yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to God ...May God bless you and keep you until then
- After 5th step directions – not taken out
- Retiring at night & upon awakening – not taken out
- The four horseman – not taken out
- Contempt prior to investigation - now says “(paraphrased from) Herbert Spencer”
- Deep down in every... (Ch 4) - God is already within you – deep down in every person is the simple and powerful idea of God. It may be hidden by personal problems or by worship of other things, but it is still there.
- Step 9 promises – much the same with a definition of serenity in the sidebar; extravagant to outrageous or unlikely
- Step 10 promises – It’s just our new reality
- Bill’s story – “why don’t you create your own idea of who or what God is....That idea changed everything for me.

Literature Committee Recommendation - PLBB

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.
- Literature Committee met Saturday before Conference from 8am – 6 pm to read, review, discuss, and tweak the draft manuscript
- Every other conference member was given 2 hours with the book (P73’s - Two sessions one last year and again this year)

Heard at Conference

“

Ho'oponopono

”

Plain Language Big Book

The Voting

- Six to 7 hour discussion on floor beginning Thursday evening appx. 7:45 PM to midnight then again in the Friday AM beginning 9 AM
- First order of business was motion to require 75% supermajority; motion had to be un-tabled first – 61Y-69N (2/3 needed) motion fails (I voted in favor)
- Amendments
 - Bill & Bob's stories to be made as side by sides 16Y-112N Motion fails
 - Remove explanations of Steps, Traditions and concepts 32Y-97N Motion fails (I voted in favor) > motion to reconsider 55Y-74N (SM) Motion fails (I voted in favor)
- Motion to recommit 35Y– 95N Motion fails (I voted in favor)
- Motion to call the question on recommendation 99Y-31N Motion passes
- Motion on recommendation 91Y-38N Motion passes (I voted against)
- Minority opinion > motion to reconsider 58Y-71N Motion fails (I voted in favor)
- Silence - people on opposite sides hugging; some crying
- Almost everyone was for the book, even its harshest critics, but many thought it was not ready yet. On the other side, some “frothy emotional appeal”

Plain Language Big Book

Floor Discussion

Pros

- “When Jesus was asked what book to read, he said the one you can read.”
- We can pass it now and fix it later
- If we don’t pass this, people will die out there
- Testimony from Hispanic delegates on their experience reading the PLBB
- We don’t need more time: reviewed by Trustee and Conference committees

Cons

- Citing Charter, explanation of Steps and Traditions is tantamount to a rewrite
- Will create more PAI’s than you can imagine
- Will cause more division and more groups to withhold contributions
- There is much to be fixed in the book
- Need for the fellowship to read it first

Plain Language Big Book – Floor Actions*

*These floor actions were recommitted with others

I

The additional feedback from the CCL in their memo to the Publishing on sticking points for the PLBB draft manuscript be implemented in the before printing

II

The explanations of the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts be removed from the Plain Language Big Book

III

The Plain Language Big Book be retitled to: “The Plain Language Guide to A.A.’s Twelve Steps of Recovery”

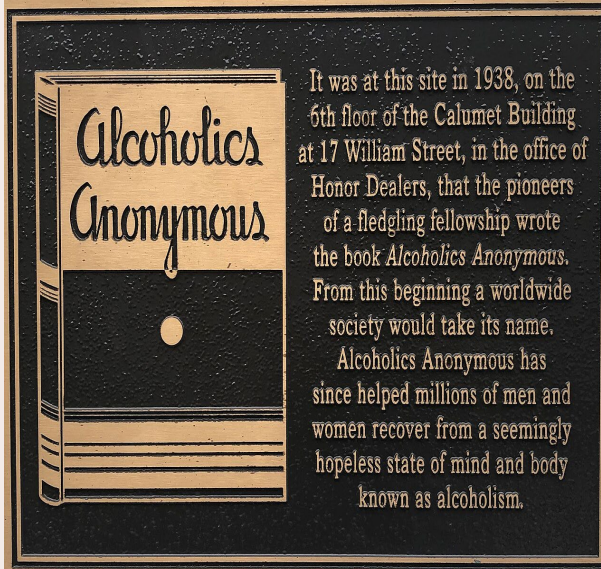
Fifth Edition Big Book

- Approximately 2,500 Stories read and reviewed
- 150-200 stories to be re-read for possible selection in new edition
- Decision yet to be made over which new stories to be included and which of Fourth Edition stories to be replaced
- Estimated two years before Fifth Edition brought to the conference
- Note: side picture is not cover – just me making things up for the presentation. Actual Fifth Edition cover to be determined

ALCOHOLIC
ANONYMOUS

This is the ~~Fourth~~ Edition of
the Big Book, the Basic Text
for Alcoholics Anonymous





Did You Know?

- ❖ The BB is on the Guinness World Records list of all-time best selling books.
 - ❖ In 2011, Time magazine placed the book on its list of the 100 best and most influential books written in English since 1923, the year in which the magazine was first published.
 - ❖ In 2012, the Library of Congress designated it as one of 88 "Books that Shaped America."
-
- ❖ Much of the book was written in 1938 at the Calumet Building in Newark, NJ (the site of first 'headquarters' of AA), using the secretarial services provided by Ruth Hock. (See plaque, above.)
 - ❖ President Richard Nixon received the millionth copy of the book. The 25-millionth copy was presented to Jill Brown, the warden of San Quentin State Prison, at the International Convention in Toronto, Ontario to commemorate the first AA prison meeting taking place at San Quentin in 1941. The 30-millionth copy of the book was presented to the American Medical Association in 2010, which declared alcoholism an illness in 1956.

Floor Actions



Floor Actions

1. A pamphlet for the unhoused person that specifically addresses alcoholism, what A.A. is and is not. (*Decline to consider 90Y – 39N, Passed*)
2. Censure and reorganization PAI's have no submission deadline and be forwarded directly to Conference Committee on Trustees. (40Y – 87N, Failed)
3. A pamphlet on the Asian and Asian-American alcoholic in A.A. be developed. (99Y – 27N, Passed AA – discussed previously)
4. All memorandums between Conference Committee and Trustees Committees or Boards be made available to all members of the Conference. (*Decline to consider 119Y – 7N, Passed*)
5. La Viña continue to be published by the AA Grapevine and supported by the General Service Board utilizing AA Grapevine resources to achieve efficient production and distribution. (Recommitted by motion – lack of time to consider)
6. The Grapevine Board develop a plan for a more effective La Viña subscription procedure, fulfillment process and customer service experience. (Recommitted by motion – lack of time to consider)

7. All non-offensive PAs submitted for consideration of the 72nd, 73rd and 74th General Service Conferences regarding the change made to the A.A. Preamble by the 71st General Service Conference be grouped as one item, and forwarded to the appropriate 75th General Service Conference committee with the following suggestion: given the importance and interest of this issue, consider forwarding the item to the general service areas for wider discussion, looking toward a fair and reasonable solution to the division within the Fellowship by the use of different copyrighted Preambles. (Recommitted by motion – lack of time to consider)
8. The additional feedback from the Conference Committee on Literature identified in their memo to the publishing Department on sticking points for the PLBB. (Discussed at Slide 96. Recommitted by motion – lack of time to consider)
9. Whenever any changes are brought to the Conference floor to the Founders' writings...(Previously discussed at Slide 58. Recommitted by motion – lack of time to consider)

Floor Actions

10. The AA Grapevine Board develop a 5-year financial plan for the Grapevine with the goal to reduce shortfalls and increase revenue to be brought back to 2025 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña. (Recommitted by motion – lack of time to consider)
11. Reaffirm 1975 AA that delegates place more emphasis on group support to the GSB due to inflation. (Recommitted by motion – lack of time to consider)

Floor Actions

12. Delegates who require translation be provided with all documents, materials, reports, communications, etc., in their native language, with all necessary information to be able to fulfill their role as trusted servants, bearing in mind the traditional Right of Participation. (Recommitted by motion – lack of time to consider)
13. In the flyer “A.A. At a Glance” — in the last paragraph on page one under the heading “Who can attend A.A. meetings?” that the last sentence ““Closed’ discussion meetings are for alcoholics only” be changed to: “Attendance at a ‘closed’ meeting is limited to A.A. members and persons who have a desire to stop drinking.” (Recommitted by motion – lack of time to consider)
14. The explanations of the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts be removed from the Plain Language Big Book. (Discussed at Slide 96. Recommitted by motion – lack of time to consider)
15. Retitle the Plain Language Big Book to: “ The Plain Language Guide to A.A.’s 12 Steps of Recovery.” (Discussed at Slide 96. Recommitted by motion – lack of time to consider)

““ In striving to reach an informed group conscience, we might end later, though we want to be mindful of the scheduled resources and observing HALT ””

“1986 – Policy and Admissions – When matters of great significance having long term effect on the fellowship or of substantial expense are presented to the floor in the waning hours of the Conference, such matters be referred to the appropriate committee at the next conference in order for the group conscience to be as informed as possible.”

What
Does
The
Future
Hold?



Questions and Answers





I think that we have developed almost a fetish that here is some terrific infallibility in the group conscience and I would like to modify it to this extent; that when the group conscience is thoroughly informed, and when experience backs a decision or conclusion it has reached, and when it isn't too mad or too fearful it can be (and almost always) supremely wise as to the best interest of Alcoholics Anonymous.

...and there is a little addendum there

that gets overlooked: that's called the *trusted servant*.

Now we're getting into the area of our affairs...of defining what should be the trusted servant relation to the group conscience. This is not so easy a definition, for this is a definition of *leadership* under God, under the ultimate authority of the group conscience, which can be wrong sometimes. And it has to take into consideration the extreme fallibility of the so called trusted servants...

”

-Bill W. pp. 64-65 Our Great Responsibility

“

So, therefore, the art of growth has a good deal to do with making constructive use out of trouble...We all paid a big price in suffering and tragedy, and all throughout we could see this one phenomenon: people at their best on the one side, and people at their very worst on the other. Between these two mighty forces, A.A., under the guidance of God, marched down the middle... So, when I learned you'd had a red hot delegates' meeting, hotter than anything yet seen in this conference, I said, 'Hurray, we're going to learn something! This is wonderful.'

”

-Bill W. pp. 129-130 Our Great Responsibility



Our Great Responsibility

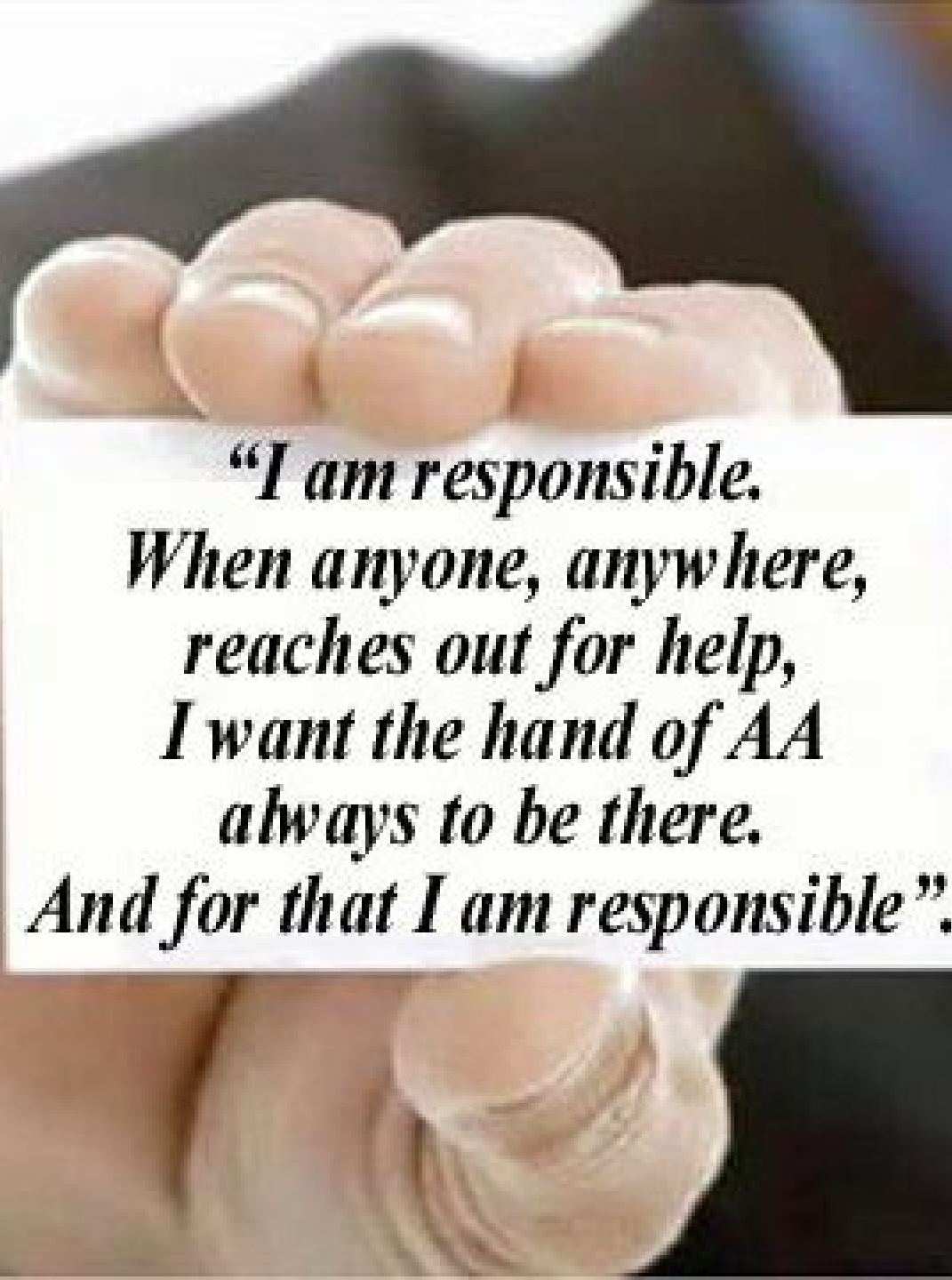
A SELECTION OF
BILL W.'S
GENERAL SERVICE
CONFERENCE TALKS
1951-1970

An Experience at the Conference

For a brief moment on the first morning after the conference began, I felt as if I were sitting at the first Conference and the vision was in black and white – almost like the cover of the book *Our Great Responsibility*. And the sense of being inside and part of the history of AA...

And then I wondered why:

Isn't everyone wanting to be a part of this?



***“I am responsible.
When anyone, anywhere,
reaches out for help,
I want the hand of AA
always to be there.
And for that I am responsible”.***

Why I'm Here

(Why We're All Here)

The morning after the day I was elected – I fell into tears during my meditation...

In my quiet time, the morning after I came back from Conference, I cried...

I never realized until then why...

It was the sense of responsibility that I felt!

“ This was a grievous time - a perfectly enormous strife and violence among the dearest of friends. But it was a growing up experience of prodigious value. Because we had taken the first step from adolescence into that of full responsibility, and you folks have picked up the tab. We have overcome these fears of trial and error and of growth by these experiences, and now we are in the final process of defining of what service leadership consists of, and who are trusted servants, and so on. It's a residue, a remnant that, when finally decided, will take us into the area of complete responsibility, I trust. ”

- Bill W., 1963 Conference talk