



Language of the Heart
Lenguaje del corazón
Le langage du cœur

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

July 3–6, 2025 | Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

MEMORANDUM

TO: General Service Conference Members
FROM: Bob W., General Manager
DATE: 8/15/24
RE: alcoholicsanonymous.com

I have great news to share with you. The ownership transfer of the domain name alcoholicsanonymous.com to AAWS, is now complete! You may recall that it was announced at the General Service Conference in April, that an agreement had been reached and executed with the previous owners of the website/domain.

We successfully negotiated the ownership transfer without cost, with an agreed effective date of July 31st. Shortly after I executed the agreement in April, the prior owners redirected the domain name to Sober.com. Our council immediately addressed this with them, but they were unwilling to cease the redirection. Our council advised us it was best to be patient and wait until the transfer of ownership was complete.

The office coordinated closely with our council to ensure a smooth and timely transfer, although we did experience a slight delay. Within a few short days, the issue was resolved and alcoholicsanonymous.com is now redirected to AA.org.

This has been a long journey dating back to the year 2000. Over the years there have been several unsuccessful attempts to acquire the site and numerous interactions to discontinue the use of our name. Since assuming my role as General Manager, monitoring intellectual property and copyright issues has been a very important priority. The creation of the Legal, Licensing and IP Department has allowed for more organization, oversight and focus regarding IP and copyright matters. The department is now reporting regularly to the AAWS and General Service Boards allowing for proper oversight.

As reported at the General Service Conference, although we were able to successfully negotiate the transfer of ownership without any fees or costs paid to the prior owners, we did, however, incur legal costs along the way. Because the timeline dates back so many years, it's difficult to know the total amount of legal costs incurred. The recent pursuit of alcoholicsanonymous.com began in December 2022. Since that time, legal fees to complete transfer of ownership were approximately \$85,000.

I appreciate and am grateful for the support and patience of all three Boards and all General Service Conference members. Thank you so much for all you do for AA.