

California Northern Interior Area 07



January 2026 Delegate Report

I am an alcoholic. My name is Claudio. Its a joy and delight to serve as Delegate for California Northern Interior Area 07 Panel 76

I didn't get a chance and forgot because I was full of emotions at the Election Assembly. I want to say thank you to My Girlfriend Jessica for all her support the last few Panels. My Family, Sponsors, Service Sponsor and all the people who I have served with over the last 8 years of serving in the Area. To the Area for the opportunity to serve and for the trust you have placed on me to serve as your Delegate.

My sobriety date is 12-15-06 and my home group is the Natomas Group. You can find me at Peace Lutheran Church 924 San Juan Road in Sacramento on Monday nights at 7:00pm. I stand before you today as the Delegate but I never forget that I am an AA member first, trusted servant second.

What does a Delegate do? I get to serve as a communication link between the area, the General Service Office (GSO), AAWS, and the Conference structure throughout the year. I get the opportunity to listen to your group conscience and take your voices in my heart to the General Service Conference which begins April 26th in New York. I help ensure you have timely, relevant information to share with your districts and home groups as I receive the information. Sometimes information gets out before I even receive it. Please know I will share information when I receive it.

Where to find my reports and information that I pass on from GSO, AAWS and Grapevine is on our Area Website in the Delegates Page. Please have some patience as we are all starting new positions so it might take some time to get things rolling. I will send out an email to the DCMS when we get things up on the website.

I am pleased to announce that I will be serving on the 76th General Service Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community. Below you will see the Delegates that I will be serving with at this year's Conference.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

Panel 75

Dan B. - Area 59, E. Pennsylvania
Beverly F. - Area 54, Northeast Ohio
Jim L. - Area 38, Eastern Missouri
Denise M. - Area 51, North Carolina

Panel 76

Claudio B. - Area 7, Northern Interior CA
Brian B.- Area 66, Northwest Texas
Melanie C. - Area 90, Northwest Québec
Joe E. - Area 45, Southern New Jersey

To date we have the following items on the committee's agenda that have carried over from last year :

- A. Review progress report on AAWS LinkedIn page.
- B. Review progress report on the development of outward facing pamphlets 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. Consider a request that stand-alone audio/visual clips be created when developing any new/revised videos for professionals.

Information on the General Service Conference

There are 136 voting members of the 76th General Service Conference Annual Meeting.

Ninety-three delegates elected by the service areas of the U.S. and Canada comprise 68.38 percent of the voting body. Delegates always make up more than two-thirds of the voting members.

The General Service Office staff, general manager and Grapevine office staff and the Grapevine executive editor/publisher, totaling 17, comprise 12.5 percent of the total.

General Service Board of Trustees and Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) and Grapevine directors, totaling 26, comprise 19.12 percent of the voting members.

The usual composition of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous consists of twenty-one trustee members.

Six trustees, known as Class A trustees, are nonalcoholic. Class A trustees bring to the Board special expertise in areas such as business, medicine, and law, and are asked to serve for six years.

The alcoholic (Class B) trustees serve for four years. Eight regional trustees are elected, one from each of the regions of the U.S. and Canada. Two trustees-at-large are elected, one from the U.S. and one for Canada.

The remaining trustees, called general service trustees, are selected based on their expertise in areas of finance, publishing, or other fields that would be helpful to the General Service Board and its corporate boards. Currently, there is one general service trustee.

The A.A.W.S. Board oversees the activities of Alcoholics Anonymous World Service, Inc. (except for Grapevine material) and the General Service Office. This board is currently composed of nine directors: two regional trustees, two general service trustees, three on-trustee directors, the general manager of GSO and the GSO staff coordinator.

The Grapevine Board oversees the operation of AA Grapevine, Inc., and is composed of nine members, including one Class A trustee, one general

service trustee, two regional trustees, four non-trustee directors and the Grapevine executive editor/publisher.

La Vina 30th Anniversary (XXX La Vina)

- We are hosting the XXX La Vina Anniversary on July 24 – 26, 2026 in Area 72! Save the date cards will be available shortly.

Preliminary Agenda Topics

- This year 110 Proposed Agenda Items (PAI) were received prior to the September 30th deadline.
- The final agenda topics will be available in February 2026, with background information available by late February. I will send an email as the information becomes available.

Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA)

- Registration for the PRAASA is now open! It will be held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel in Waikiki, Oahu, February 27 – March 1, 2026. The theme this year is “Finding Common Ground.” Registration details can be found at: <https://praasa.org/registration/>.
- To keep costs down here are some ideas:
 - Share a room with someone at the host hotel. That experience can often create lifelong memories. My memories have always been good, but I've heard of some that weren't so memorable.
 - Explore your booking options. If you book the Hilton Hawaiian Village through another site or discount, that's perfectly fine. Just make sure the name on your PRAASA registration matches the name on your hotel reservation so the host committee gets credit toward their room block.
 - Consider a vacation rental and share with friends! This can be a great cost-saving option.

- If you are attending PRAASA, the program chair is looking for people to volunteer at the conference. They need timekeepers, moderators, and panel speakers. Please contact our Alternate Delegate, Holly, and provide her with your name and contact information. Grapevine and La Viña Updates

Grapevine & La Vina updates

- Anticipated Pre-conference Discussion: The AA Grapevine Board advanced a proposed agenda item to the General Service Conference Committee to explore alternative funding models, including allowing contributions to AA Grapevine, Inc.
I believe we are at a turning point with Grapevine. The last year we were self-supporting through subscriptions was in 2017. From 2018 to present, the GSB has covered over \$2.8M in deficits. I will be asking for creative ideas on how we can sustain the Grapevine!
- Intergroup / CSO sales of Grapevine and La Viña Subscriptions: The board approved a partnership allowing Intergroup, Central, and Area Offices to offer Grapevine and La Viña subscriptions, earning a 10% commission while improving member access. TBD on timing.
- Books: On November 1, 2025 we launched the new bulk book discounts with the goal to help increasing sales and help bridge the deficit.
- GV App Investment Update: Apple and Google payments to Grapevine now exceed the original \$400K app investment from the GSB in 2023 (\$421,250).
- Podcast: 1,290,358 downloads representing 31% growth from this time in 2024 – it continues to get great feedback!

Corrections

- *Sharing from Behind the Walls Newsletter*: We are limiting our printing and mailing due to cost. We will continue providing physical copies in return letters to incarcerated members. If you would like to read it, digital versions are available on aa.org

Conference Inventory Implementation Committee

- Inventory committee met 2x a month Sept – Dec 2025. The committee will function as any other conference committee and provide recommendations accompanied by considerations to the 76th General

Service Conference. The background be provided like other agenda items.

Literature:

- Effective February 1, 2026, you will see a price increase of \$3 per item for books and a 15% increase for all other literature items.
- Plain Language Big Book is nearing its first year with 214,000+ print copies sold, 7,500 eBooks reported. The audiobook is moving forward and a target launch in mid-2026 (cost estimated \$10.5K)
- 5th Edition Big Book: Aim to have a draft for the 76th GSC. New stories will be Committee Eyes Only. People who submitted will be notified if/when the Conference approves the book.
- 4th Edition Spanish Big Book: Progress report will be provided at the 76th GSC, it's getting close!
- We are seeking stories of personal recovery from all members in the A.A. with ethnic or cultural ties to Asia
<https://www.aa.org/submit-story-asian-and-asian-american-alcoholic-alcoholic-pamphlet> and from all transgender, non-binary, genderqueer, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming members.
<https://www.aa.org/submit-story-aa-for-the-transgender-alcoholic-pamphlet>
 - o Deadline for submissions: March 31, 2026

Public Information

- Check out the new “Young People Shorts” on AA’s YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/@alcoholicsanonymousworldse1373/shorts>
- New YP Service Card: PI has released a service card with the ability to customize for local YP information to use in outreach to YP.
<https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/yp-service-card-en-update.pdf>

75th General Service Conference Final Report is available!

- You can find all the reports from the different boards, trustees, staff, and information on the Conference Inventory online at aa.org and search final conference report.

International Convention Report

- We are still waiting for a final financial report and hope to have that in Q1 2026.

Regional Forum

- We are offering a special forum online for deaf alcoholics! Save the date, January 17, 2026. No cost to register – translation available in
- English, Spanish, and French & ASL, LSQ, LSM. Register here: <https://web.cvent.com/event/75b675fe-7dee-4e5e-876c-600a8c85ff9e/regProcessStep1>
- The regional forum is held once a rotation in the Pacific Region, the next Pacific Regional Form will be on December 4 – 6, 2026 in San Diego, California.

General Service Office Retrofit/Remodel

- The office shifted to remote operations on August 11 to support a planned retrofit, originally expected to conclude within 10–12 weeks. Construction was paused after asbestos was unexpectedly discovered. We will not be responsible for additional costs. The office will continue operating remotely and updates will be shared as timelines are confirmed.

Meeting Guide App

Impacts Meeting Guide releases after November 1, 2025
Due to Google Play Store policy updates, all Android apps, including Meeting Guide, must meet new system and security requirements. Check for any required updates! Instructions to check and update your Android version: <https://support.google.com/android/answer/7680439>

Let's Talk About Money

AAWS/General Service Board Summary (YTD September 30, 2025)

- Total operating revenue is \$13,775,293 which is about 6% less than the budget of \$14,608,870.
- Total operating expenses before depreciation are \$13,650,321, which is about 3% less than the budget of \$14,059,309.
- Operating surplus before depreciation is \$124,971 compared to a budgeted surplus of \$549,561.
- Contributions are \$7.08M which is 11% less than budgeted and significantly lower (13%) than 2024.
- Due to capital expenditures a 2.45M drawdown on the Reserve Fund was approved at the July 2025 board meeting (2.1M for retrofit and 350K for GVLV operations).
- In December 2025, AAWS approved UP TO a \$750K drawdown to pay outstanding bills, largely to our literature printing vendor.
- The impact of the drawdown will leave the Reserve Fund between 4.5 to 5 months coverage for operating expenses versus a target range of 9 to 12 months.
- I had to look up some of the words I just read to you and still didn't understand them. I'm going to need them to make a simple plain language version for me when they explain numbers. Please be patient with me as I learn and expand my vocab. I will probably need a numbers or finance sponsor to help me understand these numbers. I want to learn so I can best serve you in the Area.

Grapevine / La Viña Summary Year to Date September 30, 2025

Numbers reflected below are based on the re-forecasted budget approved at the July board meeting

- Grapevine's bottom line (GV Net Loss) (312K) has improved by 51% from this time last year. After the Q2 losses were reforecast at \$300K.
 - Keep in mind our initial 2026 budget, expected a loss of \$134,862.
- App subscriptions grew 24% (17,057 vs 13,771), but print declined -8% (41,643 vs 45,492)
- Subscription income is \$31K higher than the reforecast and \$51K higher than last year.
- Total Gross Margin is \$1.372M, which is an \$111K improvement over last year and \$32K higher than the reforecast.
- Operating expenses (before depreciation) were \$1.572M, \$30K over reforecast but \$227K lower than last year.

- Total subscriptions are 192 above reforecast, but 563 lower than last year. As expected, digital and app subscriptions increased, while print subscriptions declined. (In Q3 we experienced a boost of 1,000 app subscriptions from the International Convention.)
- GV Subscription income is above reforecast and higher than last year. This is primarily due to a prior price increase, as renewing subscribers are paying higher rates.
- La Vina cost of service was \$364K, \$1K over budget, but \$78K (18%) lower than the first nine months of 2024.
- Year over year, La Viña subscriptions have grown and higher income from both subscriptions and content sales, while having reduced overall expenses.
- Subscriptions for La Viña continue to do well with an average of 8,036. This is 1,050 higher than last year but is under forecast by 437.

Alcoholic Anonymous World Service Finance CommitteeThe Finance Committee reviews and approves AAWS financial reports, the annual budget, and the revised mid-year budget. In addition, the committee approves changes to literature prices and discusses matters related to self-support.

The Committee welcomed Nick S., a General Service Office (GSO) staff member, who has joined the newly created Self-Support service desk. Nick will lead self-support communications and recurring contribution initiatives, coordinate messaging and visual materials across departments, and provide regular reports to the Self-Support Subcommittee.

The AAWS Finance Committee recommended that monthly communications be initiated with Conference members from the Self-Support area, developed in consultation with the AAWS Treasurer, the General Service Board Chair, and the General Manager, with regular updates provided to the AAWS Self-Support Subcommittee.

AAWS/General Service Board Financial Indicators as of September 30, 2025

Don't Miss the Latest...

- The AA Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Hour Podcast
<https://www.aagrapevine.org/podcast>
- YouTube |AA Grapevine <https://www.youtube.com/@AAGrapevine>
- YouTube |AAWS -
<https://www.youtube.com/@alcoholicsanonymousworldse1373>
- Instagram |AA Grapevine Magazine (@alcoholicsanonymous_gv)
https://www.instagram.com/alcoholicsanonymous_gv/
- LinkedIn |AAWS
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/aaworldservicesinc/>
- Online Contributions and Self-Support |
<https://www.aa.org/aa-contributions-self-support>

Before concluding, I want to reiterate to the Area my commitment to continue listening, learning, and serving, and to thank you all for your service and support.

Happy 24hrs

Claudio B
Delegate Panel 76