



February Delegate Report

- Welcome to our new location at East Yolo Fellowship.
- Thank you to District 27, Appointed Chairs, Officers, and all volunteers for a wonderful Winter Assembly.
- Special thanks to the Tech Committee for managing a great hybrid assembly, moving storage, buying equipment, and solving tech issues behind the scenes.

- Ways to stay informed about A.A.:
 - Meeting Guide app – use the “News” button.
 - AA.org – click “What’s New.”
 - CNIA.org – check “What’s New” on the Delegate’s page.

- General Service Board:
 - Received 8 pieces of correspondence this quarter: local/area matters, a past trustee’s suggestions, and 4 letters about withholding or reducing contributions related to Conference actions, the 2020 International Convention, and lack of information that has now been reported.
 - Concept VII was quoted: the Conference’s “practical power” is greater than the trustees’ legal power, including in extreme cases the ability to withhold funds.
 - These letters are being seen as loving appraisals, expressions of concern, and minority opinion, rather than simply “power of the purse.”
 - Over 20,800 contributions were received in the same quarter.
 - The Board reaffirmed its commitment to respond in writing to all correspondence and have responses available for Board review.

- A.A. World Services (AAWS) Board:

- Full Board met 8 times since the last meeting, focusing heavily on budget review, which the Finance Committee approved.

- Communications & Language Services: working on initiatives like YouTube Shorts to reach more young people.

- Finance: approved international literature fund requests and continued budget oversight.

- Trademarks: AAWS holds 58 trademarks; new ones are created as needed for publications, conventions, and major initiatives.

- Nominating: submitted recommendations for a general service trustee and a non-trustee director.

- Publishing: continued positive reception of the Plain Language Big Book; approved a new illustrated Twelve Steps display (about 25 dollars), with more formats possible depending on sales.

- Services & Technology: continued work on tech and communication improvements, including earlier notices of literature changes; completed a strategic plan review and internal inventory to maintain standards.

- Grapevine Board:

- Financial: losses reduced from over 800,000 dollars two years ago to under 300,000 dollars this year, with hope to reach about 200,000 dollars next year; primary purpose remains reaching those who are still sick and suffering.

- Digital growth: app subscriptions up 35% in 2025; 120 new EU subscriptions after January 11 release; app store revenue over 456,000 dollars.

- Audience expansion: podcasts over 1.3 million downloads (about 24,000 per month); social media growth includes 62,000 Instagram views and 17,000 YouTube subscribers.

- Products: greeting card sales brought in 32,000 dollars.

- Innovation & strategy: fulfillment system conversion underway; weekly online Grapevine open meeting to be repurposed as podcasts; new subscription sales commission model for intergroups and central offices.

- Accessibility: ASL playlist for deaf and hard-of-hearing members on YouTube.

- Planning: 5-year strategic plans for Grapevine and La Viña to be shared with the Conference committee.

- Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Committee:

- Reviewed revised "CPC PowerPoint" (F-75) and "Information on Alcoholics Anonymous" (F-2); found them more current and effective.

- Continues to gather shared experience on professionals working with unhoused alcoholics; an update is planned for Q3 2026.

- Corrections Committee:

- Audio version of the Plain Language Big Book expected in June at about half the projected 20,000-dollar budget.

- Smart Communications added as another tablet provider.

- More Grapevine literature is now in correctional facilities than at any time in A.A. history.

- E-communications are improving efficiency and lowering costs.

- Digital literature is beginning to be implemented in Canadian correctional facilities earlier than expected.

- The committee stressed the need for more volunteers for correspondence and expressed deep gratitude to current volunteers.

- General Service Conference / Finance-related items:

- Initial planning underway for a self-supporting trip to Stepping Stones.

- Considering an earlier start to Saturday's closing session of the Conference to allow a shared visit and smoother travel.

- Will continue inviting only current Conference members to the Sunday Opening Dinner and A.A. meeting, for unity and financial prudence.

- Clarified Opening Dinner invitation list:

- Conference members.

- GSO/GV employees (with a cap on RSVPs).

- Local hospitality committee members.

- Conference interpreters.

- Trustee Emeriti attending the Conference.
- Admitted observer from Ireland Service Structure.
- Stepping Stones staff.
- GV/LV Advisory Boards will no longer be invited, consistent with not including ACM attendance.

- Grapevine/La Viña (operations):

- Darwin conversion underway with Grapevine Digital, Customer Relations, Finance, and vendors Treeline and North Studio; expected completion by end of February.
- Weekly online Grapevine open meeting starts February 4, 2026; meetings recorded and released as a second weekly podcast; anonymity protected.
- Ongoing work with warehouses to reduce inventory.
- Intergroup/central office subscription sales commission model begins after the Darwin conversion.
- Book discounts and free shipping started November 1, 2025, leading to strong sales in November and December.
- CDs on half-price sale to clear inventory; CDs will soon be discontinued.
- PAI 76 (restore "men and women" in the A.A. Preamble) was discussed; after thoughtful discussion about unity and disunity, the Grapevine Board took no action.
- Special Forum for Deaf Alcoholics held virtually January 17 (noon–8 p.m.); GSO staff presented on products and services; members expressed strong appreciation for the ASL playlist on YouTube.

- Literature Committee:

- Accepted a draft graphic explaining how changes to the Plain Language Big Book would be reviewed and revised.
- Accepted a progress report on the process to receive, assess, and forward proposed changes to the Plain Language Big Book.
- Reviewed a proposed agenda item to revise and expand the pamphlet "The A.A. Member — Medications & Other Drugs" (P-11) and agreed to forward it to the 76th General Service Conference.

- This item will be assigned to the Corrections Committee as part of Equitable Distribution of Workload.

- A.A. World Services / Finance (simple summary for 2025):

- Numbers are unaudited and as of January 26, 2026; they may change after all December activity and the audit.

- 2025 operating revenue: about 18.9 million dollars (7% below budget).

- 2025 operating expenses (before depreciation): about 18.5 million dollars (2% below budget).

- Operating surplus: about 325,000 dollars (budget had projected about 1.3 million).

- Figures exclude International Convention and building retrofit costs (retrofit spending about 493,000 dollars through year-end).

- As of January 26, 2026:

- Operating cash: about 575,000 dollars.

- Accounts payable (bills owed): about 1.14 million dollars.

- Short-term gap between cash and bills: about 563,000 dollars.

- Reserve Fund:

- GSB authorized up to 750,000 dollars to draw for AAWS and GSB operations; 500,000 dollars actually drawn.

- Currently about 5.9 months of combined GSO, Grapevine, and La Viña operating expenses (2025 budget basis).

- Expected to be about 5 months after full retrofit draw by April.

- International Convention:

- Final numbers not ready; awaiting:

- Canadian GST refund.

- Three hotel rebate reconciliations.

- Insurance claim for lost revenue from Canada postal strike.

- Current indication: results appear close to break-even relative to the size of the event.

- Public Information Committee:

- Appreciated a new draft service card for young people and encouraged moving forward once complete.
- Reviewed draft of young people's user-generated videos and suggested adding them to AAWS YouTube Shorts.
- Appreciated adapted PSAs from GSO Australia.
- Recommended adding an "actor portrayal" disclaimer to videos where appropriate, in line with existing policy.

- Agenda items, background, and workshops:
 - There are 68 total agenda items for the Conference.
 - I serve on the CPC Committee and especially want to hear from GSRs on the 5 CPC items.
 - GSRs can find all service committee information at AA.org > Inside A.A. > Service Committees.
- CPC agenda items (for GSR input):
 - Agenda A: Review A.A. LinkedIn presence (link on AA.org under CPC); feedback on the page is welcome.
 - Agenda B: Progress report on developing an outward-facing pamphlet for mental health professionals (draft is Conference-only; GSRs can suggest general ideas such as color, font, photos, tone).
 - Agenda C: Review content and format of the CPC Kit and Workbook (digital versions at AA.org > Inside A.A. > Service Committees > CPC).
 - Agenda D: Review progress report on the effective use of CPC videos on AA.org (GSRs can watch CPC videos on the site).
 - Agenda E: Consider a request to create short stand-alone audio/visual clips when developing new or revised videos for professionals (shorter clips and "sound bites" to fit how people watch media today; request originated from Area 75 BC/Yukon CPC committee in Vancouver).
- Other agenda items that stand out:
 - Corrections:

- Consider the request to update the pamphlet "The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs."

- Finance:

- Discuss motion to add wording to F-3, "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix."

- Consider a request to create a Twelve Step study guide or workbook.

- Consider a request to discuss the location of the General Service Conference (PAI-22).

- Grapevine/La Viña:

- Consider that AA Grapevine, Inc. accepts contributions.

- Literature:

- Review draft of the Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous.

- Review progress report on the update to Living Sober.

- Review progress report on developing a Plain Language Big Book amendment process.

- Report and Charter:

- Consider the request to remove a quote from Dr. Bob in The A.A. Service Manual.

- Inventory Implementation:

- Review Inventory Implementation Report.

- Closing:

- Direct GSRs to CNIA.org, > Delegate Page > Confidential Downloads and committee background.

First, the General Service Board.

The Board Secretary shared a quarterly communications report. Eight pieces of formal correspondence were received. These included local and area matters, suggestions from a past trustee, and four letters about withholding or reducing contributions. Those four letters were related to Conference actions, the 2020 International Convention, and concerns about not having information, which has now been reported out.

Concept Seven was quoted, reminding us that the practical power of the Conference is usually greater than the legal power of the trustees. That includes, in extreme cases, the ability to withhold funds. The Board noted that these letters are best understood as loving appraisals, expressions of concern, and ongoing minority opinion, rather than simply “power of the purse.” Thoughtful consideration and careful review are called for in all cases.

At the same time, more than twenty-thousand eight-hundred contributions were received during the same quarter. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to respond in writing to all correspondence, and to have those responses available for Board review.

Next, A.A. World Services, or AAWS.

The AAWS Board met eight times since the last report, spending much of that time on budget review, which was approved by the Finance Committee.

Some committee highlights: Communications and Language Services reported progress with things like YouTube Shorts, which are helping us reach more young people in the Fellowship. The Finance Committee approved international literature fund requests and continued to oversee the budget. AAWS currently holds fifty-eight trademarks, and new ones are created as needed for publications, conventions, and other major initiatives. The Nominating Committee submitted recommendations for a general service trustee and a non-trustee director.

The Publishing Committee reported continued positive reception of the Plain Language Big Book, and approved a new illustrated Twelve Steps display with updated graphics, priced around twenty-five dollars, with the possibility of additional formats depending on sales. The Services and Technology Committee is continuing work on technology and communication improvements, including earlier notification of literature changes. The AAWS Board also completed a strategic plan review and an internal inventory to help maintain strong operational standards.

Now, the Grapevine Board.

They highlighted significant financial improvement. Losses have been reduced from over eight-hundred-thousand dollars two years ago to under three-hundred-thousand dollars this year, with hopes to reach around two-hundred-thousand next year. Even with that progress, they emphasized that the primary purpose is still to reach people in the program who are sick and suffering.

On the digital side, app subscriptions rose thirty-five percent in twenty-twenty-five, with one hundred twenty new European subscriptions after the January eleventh release. Revenue from the Apple and Google app stores now exceeds four-hundred-fifty-six-thousand dollars. Podcasts have more than one-point-three million downloads, averaging about twenty-four-thousand per month. Social media continues to grow, with around sixty-two-thousand Instagram views and seventeen-thousand YouTube subscribers.

Products include greeting cards, which generated thirty-two-thousand dollars in sales. On the innovation and strategy side, a fulfillment conversion is underway, a new weekly online Grapevine open meeting is being repurposed as a podcast, and a subscription sales commission model is being developed for intergroups and central offices. For accessibility, they've created an ASL playlist on YouTube in collaboration with deaf and hard-of-hearing members. Five-year strategic plans for Grapevine and La Viña will be shared with the Conference committee, with ongoing focus on strategy and innovation.

Now I'll move into committee reports.

First, Cooperation with the Professional Community, or CPC.

The committee reviewed the newly revised CPC PowerPoint, item F-75, and the service piece "Information on Alcoholics Anonymous," item F-2. They felt both

revisions are more current and more effective tools for carrying the message to professionals.

On professionals working with unhoused alcoholics, the Staff secretary is continuing to gather shared experience and plans to bring an update or progress report to the third-quarter twenty-twenty-six meeting.

Next, the Corrections Committee.

They reported that the audio version of the Plain Language Big Book is expected to be released in June, at about half of the originally projected twenty-thousand-dollar budget. Smart Communications has been added as another tablet provider. There is now more Grapevine literature available in correctional facilities than at any time in A.A. history.

E-communications are improving efficiency and cost-effectiveness, and digital literature is beginning to be implemented in Canadian correctional facilities earlier than anticipated. The committee emphasized the ongoing need for more volunteers to support corrections correspondence and expressed deep appreciation for those currently serving on the front lines.

Next, a simple summary from the Finance side and the General Service Conference.

I'll share a brief overview of the A.A. World Services financial report for twenty-twenty-five. These numbers are unaudited as of January twenty-sixth, twenty-twenty-six, and may change after all December activity is recorded and the audit is complete.

For all of twenty-twenty-five, G.S.O. brought in about eighteen-point-nine million dollars in operating revenue, which is about seven percent less than what was budgeted. Operating expenses before depreciation were about eighteen-and-a-half million dollars, about two percent less than budget. That

leaves an operating surplus of roughly three-hundred-twenty-five-thousand dollars, compared with a budgeted surplus of about one-point-three million.

These numbers do not include the International Convention, which is tracked separately, and they do not include building retrofit costs. Retrofit spending was about four-hundred-ninety-three-thousand dollars by year end.

As of January twenty-sixth, G.S.O. had about five-hundred-seventy-five-thousand dollars in operating cash, and about one-point-one-four million dollars in accounts payable. That means a short-term gap of roughly five-hundred-sixty-three-thousand dollars between cash on hand and bills due.

To help with that, the General Service Board authorized using up to seven-hundred-fifty-thousand dollars from the Reserve Fund for AAWS and GSB operations. So far, only five-hundred-thousand dollars of that authorization has actually been used.

On the Reserve Fund itself: right now, it equals about five-point-nine months of operating expenses for G.S.O., Grapevine, and La Viña, based on the twenty-twenty-five budget. If the full amount authorized for the retrofit is drawn, the Reserve Fund is expected to be around five months of operating expenses by April, when retrofit payments are expected to be completed.

Regarding the International Convention, final financials are not yet available. There are still three open items: a Canadian goods and services tax refund, final hotel rebate reconciliations from three hotels, and an insurance claim related to lost revenue from the Canada postal strike. Based on what is known now, the CFO reports that the Convention appears to be close to breaking even, relative to the overall size of the event.

On the Conference-related Finance items, the committee heard an update from an initial planning meeting for the self-supporting trip to Stepping Stones. There was feedback from the last post-Conference trip asking for a schedule that better supports a shared experience for all Conference members. The committee

supported starting Saturday's closing session a bit earlier, to allow for that shared experience and timely departure.

The committee also agreed to continue inviting only current Conference members to the Sunday Opening Dinner and A.A. meeting, recognizing the benefits to unity, financial prudence, and clarity. They clarified the invitation list to include Conference members, a capped number of G.S.O. and Grapevine employees, local hospitality committee members, interpreters, trustee emeriti attending the Conference, an admitted observer from the Ireland service structure, and Stepping Stones staff. The Grapevine and La Viña Advisory Boards will no longer be invited, in line with decisions not to include ACM attendance in twenty-twenty-six.

Next, Grapevine and La Viña operations.

The "Darwin" conversion is underway, involving Grapevine Digital Publishing, Customer Relations, Finance, and vendors Treeline and North Studio, with completion expected by the end of February. A weekly online Grapevine open meeting will begin on February fourth, twenty-twenty-six. That meeting will be recorded and published as a second weekly podcast, with anonymity protected.

Production and Finance continue working with warehouses to reduce inventory. An Intergroup and Central Office subscription sales commission model is planned as the first project after the Darwin conversion. Book discounts and free shipping, which began November first, twenty-twenty-five, led to strong book sales in November and December. There is also a half-price sale on compact discs to clear inventory, and CDs will soon be discontinued.

The Grapevine Board considered a request, PAI seventy-six, to restore the words "men and women" to the A.A. Preamble, replacing the word "people." After a heartfelt and thoughtful discussion about the impact of the twenty-twenty-one change, the level of disagreement, and current and potential disunity, the Board chose to take no action.

There was also a Special Forum for Deaf Alcoholics, held virtually on Saturday, January seventeenth, from noon to eight p.m. G.S.O. staff presented on products and services available from Grapevine and AAWS for deaf alcoholics. Members expressed a lot of appreciation for the ASL playlist on the Grapevine and La Viña YouTube channels.

The Public Information Committee expressed appreciation for a new draft service card for young people and encouraged moving forward once it is complete. They reviewed draft young people's user-generated videos and suggested adding them to AAWS YouTube Shorts. They also appreciated the adaptation of public service announcements from G.S.O. Australia, and reminded us that an "actor portrayal" disclaimer should be added where appropriate, in line with existing policy.

The Literature Committee reviewed and accepted a draft graphic explaining how any changes to the Plain Language Big Book would be reviewed and revised. They also accepted a progress report on developing a process to receive, assess, and forward proposed changes to the Plain Language Big Book. They reviewed a proposed agenda item recommending that the pamphlet "The A.A. Member — Medications and Other Drugs," item P-11, be revised and expanded, and agreed to forward it to the Seventy-Sixth General Service Conference. This item will be assigned to the Corrections Committee under Equitable Distribution of Workload.

Now, let's talk briefly about agenda items, background, and workshops.

There are sixty-eight total agenda items on the Conference agenda this year. I serve on the CPC Committee, and I'd especially love to hear from G.S.R.s about the five CPC agenda items we'll be discussing at the Conference.

If you'd like more information, you can go to AA.org, click on "Inside A.A.," and then "Service Committees." Under CPC you'll find information about the agenda items.

For CPC:

Agenda item A involves our LinkedIn page. If any of you or your groups use LinkedIn, please check out the page and let me know what you think.

Agenda item B is a progress report on an outward-facing pamphlet for mental health professionals. A draft pamphlet will be presented at the Conference and is for Conference eyes only, but if you have general thoughts about design—things like color, font, photos or no photos—I'd love to hear that.

Agenda item C is to review the content and format of the CPC Kit and Workbook. A digital version is available on AA.org under Inside A.A. and Service Committees.

Agenda item D is a progress report on the effective use of CPC videos on AA.org. You and your groups can watch those videos on the Service Committee section of the site.

Agenda item E asks us to consider creating short stand-alone audio or visual clips when we develop new or revised videos for professionals. The idea is that shorter sound bites may work better in the world we live in today. This request came from a CPC committee in Area 75, BC Yukon, in Vancouver.

A few other agenda items that caught my eye:

In Corrections, there is a request to update the pamphlet "The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs."

In Finance, we'll discuss a possible wording change to the self-support pamphlet "Where Money and Spirituality Mix," consider a request to create a Twelve Step study guide or workbook, and consider a request to discuss the location of the General Service Conference.

In Grapevine and La Viña, there is an item to consider allowing AA Grapevine, Inc. to accept contributions.

In Literature, we will review a draft of the Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous, review a progress report on updating Living Sober, and review a progress report on developing an amendment process for the Plain Language Big Book.

In Report and Charter, there is a request to remove a quote from Dr. Bob in The A.A. Service Manual.

And finally, in Inventory Implementation, we will review the Inventory Implementation Report.

I know that's a lot of information. My hope is that you'll take away at least one or two items you feel strongly about and bring those back to your groups. Please let me know what your groups think, so I can carry your experience and conscience with me to the Conference.

Thank you for letting me serve, and I'm happy to take questions or hear your group's experience.