



# June Delegate Report

I will be going over some stuff I was unable to talk about at the Post-Conference Assembly. I hope my report today helps answer any questions people may have had or did not ask at Post Conference Assembly

- The discussion focused on contribution platforms for the General Service Board, and there is active work to explore additional options that stay within the Traditions.
- John W., Trustee Chair and Treasurer for the AAWS Board, noted that platforms like Venmo present a challenge because GSO cannot currently verify whether contributions are coming from AA members.
- Homegroup Online was also discussed, and the Board continues to review it carefully with a focus on Tradition alignment. Since it accepts contributions from multiple fellowships, that adds complexity to the discussion.
- Nick, the self-support staff member, shared that they are reaching out to groups that have been contributing through Homegroup Online, letting them know GSB cannot accept those contributions at this time. The notice is still under legal review.
- A key takeaway was that the issue is not so much the budget itself, but the revenue needed to support the work of AA.
- The report reminded us to consider our own contribution plan to AA and to remember that services like the Meeting Guide App exist because members contribute.
- The GSB Chair and GSO manager said they are listening, and they believe some of the current contribution-process challenges should improve when the new website is launched.

- It was also emphasized that there are still millions of alcoholics who need help, and stronger funding helps AA reach more people.

### Area Sharing Highlights

- During the general sharing session, delegates from across the U.S., Canada, and beyond shared their Area highlights.

- Hearing the reports from all 93 Areas was described as encouraging and hopeful, showing the care and love present throughout the Fellowship.

- One clear theme was that many Areas are using WhatsApp to stay connected at the group, district, and Area levels.

- Spanish-speaking districts were mentioned as using WhatsApp especially heavily, which was seen as a reminder to meet people where they are.

### A.A. International

- Robert L., Trustee-at-Large from Canada, spoke about the purpose of the World Service Meeting: carrying the message to alcoholics everywhere, no matter the language or location.

- Patrick, the international staff member, stays in contact with 68 international service offices and literature centers, showing how global this work has become.

- The report highlighted ongoing relationship-building through meetings and visits in the Americas, Asia-Oceania, Europe, East Africa, and elsewhere.

- A powerful example came from East Africa, where online meetings have helped AA grow, while cultural barriers still make participation difficult for many women.

- Another moving example came from Bulgaria, where AA's growth has happened in a different way and over a longer period, showing that AA develops differently around the world.
- Jennifer B., one of the newer Trustees-at-Large, was described as a strong and valuable global representative for AA.

## Financial Reports

- The 2025 audit was presented by BDO USA, and the organization received the highest-level audit opinion with no adjustments needed and no serious issues reported.
- AAWS reported a \$5.2 million decrease in assets, mostly because of timing around International Convention pre-registration income, while net value increased by \$1.2 million.
- Seventh Tradition contributions were about \$10.6 million, which was lower than the previous year.
- Member contributions covered about 57% of total operating costs, showing that self-support still matters a great deal.
- The report also noted that AA services cost about \$5 per member per year for program services, with somewhat more when supporting services are included.
- AAWS still ended the year with a small surplus, which was a good sign of stability.

## Grapevine and La Viña

- The Grapevine app has continued to grow since launching in 2023, with about 17,000 subscribers in 2025.
- Magazine income increased slightly, helped by the 2024 price adjustment, and subscriptions across formats also increased.

- Grapevine is still operating at a loss, but the loss is smaller than last year, which shows improvement.
- La Viña continues to receive General Fund support, though that support has decreased somewhat while circulation continues to grow.

## **2026 Financial Picture**

- Early 2026 financial results were stronger than expected, with slightly more income than planned and less spending than budgeted.
- The Reserve Fund is at a little over five and a half months of expenses, which is a solid position.
- Several International Literature Fund grants were approved, including support for Bolivia and Mexico, showing how contributions help carry the message worldwide.
- There is continued focus on self-support, including clearer materials and multilingual resources such as “Contributions = Service.”
- The Plain Language Big Book has already sold over 200,000 copies, and feedback has been very positive, especially from members who found it easier to connect with the program through it.
- Corrections access is also improving, with a large increase in literature use through tablets in correctional facilities.

## **The Cross Functional Communications**

The Cross Functional Communications Group was created after the General Service Board’s inventory in January 2024, when the idea was first raised.[1][2]

The Board then held a communications workshop in November 2024, and that workshop generated questions and topics to send to a cross-functional group for ideas and feedback.[2][3]

The group met 11 times during 2025, and its report was brought to the General Service Board in January 2026.

Its work was coordinated through the GSB Strategy/Leadership ad hoc committee, and the ideas from the Board's strategic planning sessions are expected to keep coming up for discussion.

### **The Cross Functional Communications Group consisted of:**

Chosen "by lot":

André D, Panel 74 Area 87

Dave D, Panel 74 Area 63

Paul L, Panel 74 Area 23

Allen S, Panel 74 Area 28

Rainer L, GSO Staff  
(AAGV)

Nikki Oliver, Non-Trustee Director

### **Assigned as part of the GSB Strategy/Leadership Ad Hoc:**

Molly Oliver, Class A Trustee

Carolyn W., Class B Trustee:

### **Ex-officio:**

Scott H., GSB Chair

Bob W., General Manager GSO

### **Feedback from participants:**

**Area Delegates:** happy to participate, nice to start seeing results, important to hear various perspectives, further results will be important, it was good seeing how decisions are made, gained insight to GSO and GSB, better prepared to share rationale, enjoyable experience, great learning, privileged to be part of this, hard to follow such a big topic, a lot to learn, shared evolution and challenges from area point of view, benefits to the areas by including area delegates.

**GSO Staff:** Opportunity to listen to delegates and understand perspectives, this values roles and responsibilities. Tremendously positive, provided another perspective, and offered improvements and simplifications.

**Trustees/Directors:** Very helpful, we don't know what we don't know, better understand issues and needs, pause to consider what the issues are and how to address them more effectively, critical to assess effectiveness, allows for a deep dive by a smaller group to make more discussion by a larger group possible.

**The cross functional approach:**

This approach was both new and familiar. Inventory groups and workshop groups at the General Service Conference have used this type of composition to gain input from varied perspectives and roles to good effect for many years.

The GSB's implementation of a similar group to provide input to the GSB is an adaptation of this; care was taken to note where these discussions interact with delegated responsibilities of management, the service corporations (AAWS and AAGV) or the GSB. No matters of "movement-wide policy" were decided, and some topics were identified for broader discussion.

The Group discussed the following topics, at length, and provided substantial feedback to the GSB. There have been some early results, discussion continues through strategic planning.

- Review Communications Abstract and provide feedback. (has now been adopted for Board orientation, and is available to all of you on OnBoard)
- Consider if any communications are no longer needed, and how to improve key communications such as the GSO Quarterly Report. (this discussing resulted in Board Packages to Conference members, and a more indepth GSO Quarterly Report)
- Discuss annual calendar and provide input on expectations, needs, priorities and timelines

- Discuss and provide input on methods of communications email, website, onboard,
  - podcast. What is most effective for which communications.
  - Consider the possibility of an AA Member/Service focused app vs Meeting Guide vs other tools available
  - How best to engage the service structure to ensure timely, accurate, two-way communications with emphasis on dialogue.
  - Seek additional ideas or suggestions from the cross functional communications group (open ended topic from the GSB to allow space for any other topics or ideas the group wanted to raise)
- We will discuss 3 topics that were identified by the Group for Conference discussion. There is about 15 min per topic in this session.

1) Communications abstract

2) What tools are needed to facilitate better communications?

3) Streamlining communication within the Conference structure

Other topics for future discussion at Conference or at Regional Forums if not otherwise addressed during inventory discussions.

- Consider ways to balance engagement in events and workshops, responses to individual communications with disparity in access to information among the areas.
- Establish a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities up and down the triangle for ensuring effective communications, with emphasis on how we can support one another
- Seek ways to keep those in the minority engaged and ensure that processes where minority voices are heard are understood and shared. Consider how to communicate timelines and processes behind decisions.
- Explore how sharing sessions can be better utilized at all service levels to draw out opinions and foster thoughtful discussion (not everything is best as a PAI)



Source	What is the communication?	Brief description of its contents	Frequency	Primary audience	Distribution list	Approximate number of direct recipients	Methods of distribution													
							Staff only	email	Onboard	MG app	sa.org	Listserve	AAJAP youtube	Twitter apps	CV website	CV Youtube	Media gram	Other		
Staff Services	Literature		Biannual	Literature committee chairs (ASA, DSBST and SSC) GSC members		Recipients: 437 Sent in all three languages			X	X										
	Public information		Biannual	Public info committee chairs (ASA, DSBST and SSC) GSC members		Recipients: 748 Sent in all three languages			X	X										
	Traffic/Accessibility		Biannual	TSA committee chairs (ASA, DSBST and SSC) GSC members		Recipients: 312 Sent in all three languages			X	X										
	ADK Speeches	OSG Committee Speech for approved Committee Members	As needed	OSG Members OSG Staff		Recipients: 592 Sent in all three languages			X		X	X								
	Annual Assembly Letter to the Media (ALM)	Letter to Media regarding Assembly	Once a year	Area IV Committee Chairs GSC Members OSG Staff		Recipients: 251 Sent in all three languages			X	X	X	X							Cision PR Newsline	
	Publication Announcements (Onsite Services)	Announcements of new products, rates and price increases	As needed	OSG (received and in advance of receipt by Fabricating)		Recipients: 541 Sent in all three languages		X	X	X	X	X								
	Request for story submissions (and other candidate engagement)	Call-outs for story submissions	As needed	OSG Members OSG Staff		Recipients: 600 Sent in all three languages			X		X	X								
	OSG Voluntary Announcements (Nominating)	Announcements of Voluntary for Class A & B Trustees	As needed	OSG Members Trustee Elects Past Trustees		Recipients: 592 Sent in all three languages			X		X	X								
	OSG Staff Voluntary Announcements (Director of Staff Services)	Announcements of Voluntary for OSG Staff Services	As needed	OSG Members Trustee Elects Past Trustees Past OSG Staff		Recipients: 1000 Sent in all three languages			X		X	X	X							
	International Convention every 5 years	Announcements regarding the International Convention	As needed	OSG Members General Service Structure trustee servants OSG Staff OSG Trustees OSG Members International GSCs		Recipients: 3000+ Sent in all three languages			X		X									Dedicated IC Page on AAJAP Announcements also sent via newsletters, etc.) and Podcasts
	Membership Survey (Public Information)	Survey to determine demographics of the membership	Conducted periodically, as directed by Conference	OSG members		Recipients: 135 Sent in all three languages			X		X									
	Sharing from Behind the Walls	Empire from which sent by OSG to persons in custody with their permission	Three times a year	Persons: digital availability through on.org Connections Chairs receive links through their webpages editors, but they do not receive distribution or register list. Printed copies are included in postal correspondence responses to each PC		Recipients: 5000 Sent in all three languages			X			X								(Print not sent to persons in custody)
	LM Bulletin	Confidential Bulletin received only by members of LM	Six times a year	LM Bulletin Members Liaison, Members, Internationalists, Past Conference, and Lower Officers		Recipients: 350 Sent in English Only			X	X										
	Press releases and other announcements (Public Information)		As needed	Area IV Committee Chairs OSG members OSG Staff (Public, depending on the Press release, committee chairs for other committees may be added to the recipient list, i.e., Access or CFC)		Recipients: 251+ Sent in all three languages			X	X	X	X	X							Cision PR Newsline

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## Topic 2 - What tools are needed throughout the service structure?

Communications on recurring or key topics may benefit from a tool kit approach where the tools/resources are provided to all conference members for local use and sharing to reduce duplications and shared workload while fostering greater consistency. Would you use something like this?

Kits/workbooks/guidelines provide information but how can we better support people to share it?

## Topic 3 - Streamlining communication within the Conference structure

Explore the capabilities within OnBoard to improve communication, increase access to information, and decrease the need for multiple sources to access information.

The Area Delegates have an existing process of a "mail admin" that

may be modified to assist with moderation of the OnBoard Messenger to help with expanding the use of this tool.

(It was shared that the General Service Board of Al-Anon strictly use a thread-based forum on a platform, like OnBoard, which aids in limiting the number of email exchanges between trustees and employees; and proposed that this may be another function that may prove beneficial in streamlining communication within the Conference structure.

## **What's New in AA since the Conference**

### **On Sale Now! Plain Language Big Book – Audiobook Edition**

A tool for understanding the book Alcoholics Anonymous

New from A.A. World Services, Inc., the Plain Language Big Book audiobook is intended to help listeners better understand the book Alcoholics Anonymous — fondly called “the Big Book” by generations of A.A. members and considered the basic text of the A.A. program of recovery.

This new format describes A.A.’s Twelve Step program in simpler language than the original Big Book, which was first published in 1939. The Plain Language Big Book presents in simpler language:

- The ideas contained in the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous
- Specific A.A.-related words and phrases used in the original 1939 book
- Vocabulary in the original book that may be dated or not familiar to readers
- The core content of the original Big Book without member stories — often called the “abridged edition.”

Upon publication, the audiobook will be available at <https://onlineliterature.aa.org/audiobooks> for purchase.

This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.

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## PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK: A Tool for Understanding Alcoholics Anonymous

- Publication (on-sale) date: June 15, 2026
- List Price \$13.99
- Runtime: 32 tracks totalling 8 hours and 41 minutes
- Audiobook

## GSB Chair Loving Invitation Video to Regional and Special Forums.

**Please Visit What's New on [aa.org](http://aa.org) to see the video.**

## Regional Trustee and Trustee-at-Large/Canada Service Opportunities

Opening for three Class B (alcoholic) Trustees - Northeast and Southwest Regional Trustees and Trustee-at-Large/Canada. Resumes are due by January 1, 2027.

Three new Class B (alcoholic) Trustees will be elected at the General Service Conference (GSC) in April 2027, two Regional Trustees (Northeast and Southwest) and a Trustee-at-Large/Canada.

The new Northeast Regional Trustee will succeed Ken T., of Pepperell, MA; the new Southwest Regional Trustee will succeed Teresa J. of Albuquerque, NM; and the new Trustee-at-Large Canada will succeed Robert L. of Notre-Dame-des Monts, QC.

In seeking applications for vacancies in Alcoholics Anonymous, the Fellowship is committed to creating a large file of qualified applicants that reflect the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A. itself.

A sound A.A. background is a basic qualification for Class B trustees. Ten years of continuous sobriety is desirable but not mandatory. Candidates should be active in both

local and area A.A. affairs and because trustees serve the entire Fellowship, the background and the willingness to make decisions on matters of broad policy that affect A.A. as a whole is also required.

Since much is asked of the trustees with respect to their time, please be sure your candidate understands the commitment. Applicants are encouraged to discuss this time commitment with their family and employer. Trustees are expected to attend the following:

- Three quarterly board weekends - meetings typically run from Friday through Monday noon.
- A fourth quarterly meeting combined with the annual General Service Conference (seven days) in April/May.
- Special meetings of the Board as needed.
- Trustees serve on committees of the GSB and may also serve on trustees' subcommittees involving multiple video conference calls, including weekends, weekdays, and evenings.
- Rotational attendance at Regional Forums.
- May be asked to serve two years on either the A.A. World Services, Inc. or AA Grapevine corporate boards, which meet more frequently than the GSB and include possible corporate board subcommittees.
- Frequently invited to participate in regional or area activities such as service conferences, area assemblies and other A.A. events.

In addition to the above, the Trustee-at-Large is also expected to:

- Attend the World Service Meeting as delegates representing the U.S. and Canada. The World Service Meeting is held every two years, and the meeting location alternates between New York City and a location outside the U.S. and Canada.
- In the year between the World Service Meeting, the Trustees-at-Large attend the Meeting of the Americas (REDELA) as delegates representing the U.S. and Canada. The location rotates among member countries in North, Central and South America.
- Trustees-at-Large will occasionally be invited to attend international events that will require additional time away from home. They represent the GSB at these events in helping to carry the A.A. message.

Trustees are reimbursed for travel, hotel and meal expenses.

As soon as possible after your area has elected a candidate for Regional Trustee and/or Trustee-at-Large/Canada, the GSC delegates are asked to send the name and contact information of the candidate to the secretary of the trustees' Nominating Committee at [nominating@aa.org](mailto:nominating@aa.org). The secretary will then reach out to the candidate with instructions on how to submit their resume. Resumes must be received electronically or post marked by the **January 1, 2027** deadline.

## Class A Trustee Service Opportunity

### News Description

Following the 77th General Service Conference (GSC) in April 2027 there will be one (1) opening for a Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee to serve on the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (GSB). The trustees' Nominating Committee asks trustees, delegates, and directors to reach out to appropriate candidates for Class A Trustee and encourage them to consider serving Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.).

Class A Trustees serve up to two consecutive three-year terms. Since the experience the Class A Trustees offer is valuable to the GSB their availability and attendance at the meetings noted below is critical. Applicants are encouraged to discuss this time commitment with their family and employer.

- Three Quarterly Board weekends - meetings typically run from Friday through Monday noon.
- A fourth Quarterly meeting combined with the annual GSC (seven days) in April/May.
- Special meetings of the board as needed.
- Trustees serve on committees of the GSB and may also serve on trustees' subcommittees involving multiple video conference calls, including weekends, weekdays, and evenings.
- Rotational attendance at Regional Forums.
- May be asked to serve two years on either the A.A. World Services, Inc. or AA Grapevine corporate boards, which meet more frequently than the GSB and include possible corporate board subcommittees.
- Frequently invited to participate in regional or area activities such as service conferences, area assemblies and other A.A. events as assigned.

Trustees are reimbursed for travel, hotel, and meal expenses.

In seeking applications for the GSB, the trustees' Nominating Committee is committed to creating a large applicant file of qualified people reflecting the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A.

Class A Trustees are chosen from a variety of professional backgrounds, including accounting, clergy, corrections, education, finance, health care, law, medicine, military, psychology, social work, and science. Candidates are invited to include statements demonstrating interest in Alcoholics Anonymous, leadership skills and characteristics, a proven track record in their professional field, experience as a board member, and experience working with A.A. and its members.

Candidates can submit their business or professional resume using this [resume submission link](#), by email to [nominating@aa.org](mailto:nominating@aa.org) or send by mail to Secretary, trustees' Nominating Committee GSO, PO Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 by August 31, 2026.

## **Finances for the Quarter 1 Unaudited:**

- We expected to take in about \$5.59 million.
- we actually took in about \$5.66 million, so that is slightly better than expected.
- We expected to spend about \$4.44 million.
- we spent about \$3.88 million, so it stayed well under budget.

Because spending was lower than expected, we ended up with a bigger extra amount left over than the budget predicted. So finished the quarter in a stronger financial position than planned

The retrofit costs are separate from the regular operating numbers. That means AA also spent money on a major project to improve the building or systems, and those costs are tracked on their own so they do not get mixed in with the everyday budget.

**GREEN** – Favorable Variance

**YELLOW** – Unfavorable Variance, Informative

**RED** – Unfavorable, Trustees Finance/Board action and/or discussions ongoing

Indicator	Q1 2026 Actual Versus YTD Budget	Q1 2026 Actual Versus Q1 2025
Contributions	\$2.499M vs \$2.520M, 1% less than budget	\$2.499M vs \$2.372M, 5% more than prior year
Gross Literature Sales	\$4.817M vs \$5.197M, 7% less than budget	\$4.817M vs \$5.017M, 4% less than prior year
Net Literature Sales (Gross Margin) <sup>1</sup>	\$2.887M vs \$2.770M, 4% more than budget	\$2.887M vs \$2.465M, 17% more than prior year
Gross Margin as a Percentage of Gross Literature Sales	59.9% versus 53.3%	59.9% versus 49.1%
Operating Expenses before depreciation	\$3.875M vs \$4.444M, 13% less than budget	\$3.875M vs \$3.898M, 1% less than prior year
Operating Surplus before depreciation	\$1.784M vs \$1.149M	\$1.784M vs \$1.265M
Reserve Coverage (# of months)	5.27	6.37

<sup>1</sup>To explain gross margin, if a hard cover Big Book is sold for \$12, \$12 goes to gross literature sales. If that book cost \$6.12 to print and mail, net sales are what we keep, in this case \$5.88. The Gross Margin percentage on this sale is  $5.88/12.00 = 49\%$ .

## Budget – General (applies to all entities)

The budget, per our Bylaws, is approved by the General Service Board (“GSB”) at its Q1 meeting. Each July, the budget is re-forecast to reflect any actions by the General Service Conference and any needed adjustments to plans and to reflect the actual income and expenses for the year so far. A budget re-forecast is approved by the GSB at its Q3 meeting and from then on becomes the budget for the remainder of the year. The concept of a reforecast budget in July allows for budget revision to reflect any actions by the General Service Conference and is also consistent with Bill W’s words in Concept 11.

The QFRs for the 1st and 2nd Quarters are based on the Original Budget. The QFRs for the 3rd quarter and full year are based on the Reforecast Budget.

## AAGV Financial Statements

Grapevine had a better first quarter than last year, even though it still ended with a small loss. Its main business is doing better overall because more people are using the app, and the losses are getting smaller.

What changed

- App subscriptions went up a lot. That means more people are choosing the digital version.
- Print subscriptions went down a little. So some readers are moving from paper to digital.
- Subscription income was stronger than expected. More money came in from subscriptions than the budget planned.

Content revenue was a little weaker. That part brought in less than expected and less than last year.

What it means Grapevine is selling more through its app, which helps bring in money, but print sales are slipping a bit. Even so, the overall picture improved because costs were controlled and the gap between income and expenses got smaller.

The report says Grapevine's bottom line improved by \$119,000 compared with last year, which means it lost less money than before.

## **La Viña**

La Viña had a slightly higher cost than budgeted, but it still did better than last year because expenses were lower. Its subscriptions have gone down, and book sales started slowly, but the organization has been able to offset that by spending less. The shortfall for La Viña is not counted as a Grapevine corporate loss; instead, the General Service Board funds it as part of AA service work.

Grapevine is gradually getting healthier because digital growth is helping make up for weaker print sales, while La Viña is still supported by AA service funding and is working to rebuild subscriptions.

### III. B. AAGV Key Financial Indicators (“KFI”)

**GREEN** – Favorable or neutral Variance

**YELLOW** – Unfavorable Variance, Informative

**RED** – Unfavorable, Trustees Finance/Board action and/or AAGV Board discussions ongoing

Indicator	Versus 2026 Budget	Versus Prior Year (March 31, 2025)
Total Grapevine (“GV”) Subscription Income	\$566K vs \$527K, 7% above budget	\$566K vs \$489K, a 16% increase
Total GV Print-only Circulation	41,995 vs 41,050, 2% above budget	41,995 vs 43,066, an anticipated 2% decrease
GV App + Online + GV Complete Subscriptions	20,148 vs 18,564, 9% above budget	20,148 vs 16,136, a 25% increase
Total Circulation	62,143 vs 59,614, 4% above budget	62,143 vs 59,202, a 5% increase
GV Subscription Net Profit Percentage	62% vs 60%	62% vs 49%
GV Total Gross Margin (all products)	\$502K vs \$488K, 3% above budget	\$502K vs \$412K, a 22% increase
GV Operating Expenses	\$505K vs \$513K, 8% lower than budget	\$505K vs \$537K, a 6% decrease
GV Net (Loss)	\$(36K) versus (\$59K)	(\$36K) vs (\$155K)
LV Total Gross Margin	\$43K vs \$51K, \$7K lower than budget	\$43K vs \$46K, a 4% decrease
LV Total Circulation	6,925 vs 7,367, 6% lower than budget	6,925 vs 8,173, a 15% decrease
LV Operating Expenses	\$144K vs \$150K, 4% lower than budget	\$144K vs \$155K, a 7% decrease
LV Support from GSB	\$107K vs \$106K, 1% above budget	\$107K vs \$115K, a 7% decrease