



Area 55 Delegate Report

November 2024
General Service Assembly



Panel Officer Happenings

- Monthly video chat to review communication, workflow, offer support, problem solve, and connect as friends on 11/11/24.
- Delegate + Alternate Delegate had follow-up meeting with Delta Hotel for OSC, expecting final numbers next week
- Lots of support needed and given over the past month

Delegate Debrief

- Report and Charter Committee
 - Reviewed ready-for-print version of updated Service Manual
- OYPAA outreach in October: 21 people signed up for State Convention updates
- OSC statewide planning meeting on Nov. 2 - final 2024 OSC budget shared
- Area Outreach trip on Nov. 3 - a jolly good time
- Waffle Wednesday on Nov. 6 for East Central Region delegates and trustee: sharing/receiving ESH
- Received preliminary agenda items for 75th General Service Conference. Final list will be available following February 2025 General Service Board meeting. Agenda timeline:
 - • Preliminary GSC Agenda: November 11-16 (Including PAIs forwarded to Conference)
 - • Final GSC Agenda: February 17-25 (Including PAIs forwarded to Conference)
 - • Conference Committee Background Distributed February 17-25
 - • PAIs Not Forwarded to GSC: February 24-28
- Asked to submit up to 5 speaker nominations for International Convention by Dec. 6
- General Service Conference sharing session Nov. 22: “The Integrity of the Conference Process”

Updates from the General Service Office

- [Box 4-5-9 Fall 2024](#)

AAWS Literature Sales (Grapevine results were comparable)				
	GROSS SALES	MARGIN/NET SALES	GROSS MARGIN PERCENTAGE	NOTES
2018 Actual	\$14.2 million	\$9.5 million	67%	Healthy sales and margins
2019 Actual	\$14.4 million	\$9.4 million	65%	Healthy sales and margins
2020 Actual	\$9.1 million	\$6.6 million	73%	36% drop in gross sales as meetings, intergroups, and the world shut down in-person gatherings due to Covid. Inflation had not yet affected margin, but we took in \$2.8 million less in net sales versus the prior year.
2021 Actual	\$11.7 million	\$6.3 million	54%	Covid freeze begins to thaw, but inflation, especially for paper and printing pricing, is rapidly compressing margin.
2022 Actual	\$12.0 million	\$4.9 million	41%	Higher gross sales than 2021, but \$1.4 million less in margin than 2021 — and cut in half since 2019.
2023 Actual	\$14.6 million	\$6.8 million	47%	First book price increase since 2014 (effective 4/2/23) begins to stabilize margin; inflation begins to slow.
2024 Budget (Original and Reforecast)	\$16.9 million	\$8.5 million	50%	Margin has stabilized at 50% as 2023 price increase is in effect the full year and inflation continues to slow. But the days of more than a 60% gross margin are likely gone forever.

Updates from the General Service Office

- Box 4-5-9 continued
 - First ever Voices of A.A. Women in African Convention held August 24, 2024.
- GSO Quarterly Report
 - Operating revenue is 5% over budget (good thing), operating expenses are 5% under budget (also good). Combined = budget surplus instead of a planned deficit
 - However, reserve fund balance is underfunded by ~3 to 6 months of operating expenses (\$4.8 million)
- Message from GSO General Manager (sent Nov. 14)
 - Contributions are up \$760,000 compared to last year, a 9% increase, with a 5% increase in number of contributions
 - “As members we often say that when A.A. needs money, the Fellowship will respond. The financial need and challenges continue, so if your group is able, in the spirit of gratitude month, please consider a special contribution to the General Service Board.”
- Bob W., General Manager GSO

Tradition 7 in Area 55

- Contributions Update from Area 55 Groups to the General Service Board:
January 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024
 - \$12,357.84 total contributed by Area 55 groups
 - 318 groups in Area 55, of which 277 are active
 - Of these, 32 groups, or 11.6% of active groups, contributed to GSB between July 1 and September 30, 2024 (Q3 contributions)
 - **Active districts with engaged DCMs saw roughly double the average rate of groups contributing**
 - [A.A. Contributions and Self-Support](#)
 - [General Service Office Online Contributions](#)

69th Ohio State Convention of AA... Hosted by Area 55

- **Who:** A.A. members from Area 55, other Ohio areas, and Al-Anon / Alateen participation. Me, you, your sponsor, your sponsees
 - **What:** A weekend of Fellowship, Unity, Service, and Recovery
 - **When:** August 8 - 10, 2025
 - **Where:** Delta Hotels Toledo
 - **How (much):** Rooms for \$129/night; registration TBD
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- Theme: Attraction By Action
 - Next planning meeting: Saturday, January 18th, 10:30am - Noon at Central Office (3328 Glanzman Rd)

2025 Area 55 Mini Conference

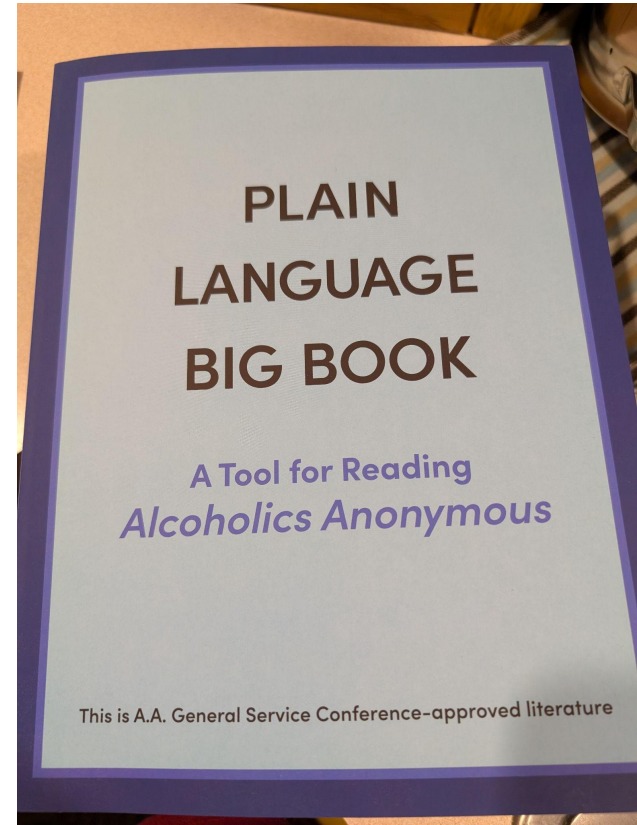
- **Friday, March 28 - Saturday, March 29** at First United Methodist Church in Bowling Green
 - *Change for 2025 only:* Area 55 Mini Conference will be the last Ohio Mini Conference instead of the first one
- Upcoming planning meetings. All Mini Conference planning meetings will be held at 10am at Central Office
 - December 14
 - December 28
 - January 11
 - January 25
 - February 15
 - March 1

Broad Highway - Area Outreach Trips

- Joint effort between Area 55 General Service, NOCYPAA, and Ohio State Convention committee
- Monthly outreach trip to outlying districts - all are welcome to join
- Co-planned by NOCYPAA outreach chair
- December Broad Highway Trip: Saturday, December 7
 - 10:00am: Monroe First Things First (718 N Macomb St, Monroe, MI) District 6
 - 11:30am: Monroe Primary Purpose (304 S Monroe St, Monroe, MI) District 6
 - Fellowship Lunch (TBD)
 - 2:30pm: Steps to Change (8131 Airport Hwy, Holland, OH) District 3

Other Updates / Reminders

- Meeting of committee chairs - **Noon on December 15** at Senior Centers, Inc. (before Assembly)
- Look into finding an alternate for your position
- **Plain Language Big Book**: now available [online](#) and via Central Office
 - First printing (300,000 copies) has sold out
 - Day of release saw ~5,000 sales per hour
 - Please keep your ears open for feedback from the fellowship in Area 55
 - How is it being received?
 - What is your reaction?
 - How is it being used to facilitate carrying the message?



Action Items – Opportunities to Engage in Service

- 69th Ohio State Convention — join the planning committee
 - **Next meeting to be held on January 18th, 10:30am - Noon, Central Office (3328 Glanzman Rd)**
- Share information from this report at your next group conscience
- Connect with your district
- Encourage your group to discuss the possibility of “adopting” someone on the accessibility list
- Mini Conference + State Convention = lots of ways to dive in

Where to find these reports?

- Delegate reports will be uploaded to area55aa.org/delegate-report/
- Links/attachments of reports will be included in the following month's digital mailing

Questions?

- Reach out to delegate@area55aa.org

Respectfully submitted,

Josh D., Delegate Area 55 Panel 74