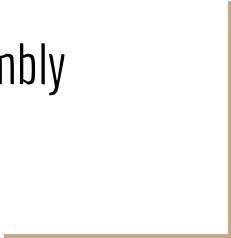




Area 55 Delegate Report

June 22, 2025
General Service Assembly



Welcome to
the 75th

GENERAL SERVICE
CONFERENCE

2025 General Service Conference

April 26 - May 3, 2025

“Working Together, Increasing Trust”

A Note on Service Sponsorship

The General Service Conference is complex. Members of the Conference strive to ensure the Conference embodies the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. Additionally, there are some complex procedural aspects of how the Conference operates.

If you are at all confused by this report, how it all ties together, or what it means, please feel free to ask questions.

However, finding and working with a Service Sponsor will help you to learn and grow more in service, which may make reports like this more invigorating and accessible in the future.

“Without A.A.’s services, we’d often fumble that new man just coming in the door; without our services we’d certainly spoil the main chance of those millions who don’t yet know.”

- Bill W.

75th ANNUAL General Service Conference

2:00

Working Together, Increasing Trust
Travailler ensemble, accroître la confiance
Trabajar conjuntamente para aumentar la confianza

75th GENERAL SERVICE
CONFERENCE

2025

Working Together, Increasing Trust

Travailler ensemble, accroître la confiance

Trabajar conjuntamente para aumentar
la confianza

General Service Conference - by the Numbers

- 138 Conference members
 - 93 delegates
 - 17 paid staff (General Service Office, Grapevine)
 - 22 General Service Board Trustees, AAWS Directors, Grapevine Directors
- 75 non-voting resource attendees
 - GV/LV, archives, communications services, finance, hospitality, HR, language services, METS, office services, operations, publishing, staff services, technology services, legal/licensing/IP dept., ACMs, Interpreters, Trustees emeriti, and 2 voting technology vendors
- 1298 pages of prep material (excluding Conference Inventory responses)
- 95 agenda items
 - 119 PAIs were submitted and not forwarded to the conference by the trustees. [Click here to view the PAIs not forwarded](#)
- 3 languages: All written material and floor discussion was translated into English, French, and Spanish
- One conscience

Advisory Actions* made at the General Service Conference

For a full list of Advisory Actions of the 75th General Service Conference, [click here](#).

**Some votes that did not result in advisory actions are included in this presentation for various reasons (mainly, if the item was discussed at Area 55's Mini Conference or if I have received questions about the item from members), while some advisory actions that were passed, such as slates of Trustees, are not included for the sake of brevity.*

Trinket Trivia Alert

Keep your eyes open for questions in **green** throughout the presentation.

Agenda Committee - Item A

Review suggestions for the theme of the 2026 General Service Conference.

Theme selected by Agenda Committee: "Humility in Action"

Vote Outcome: 125 in favor, 8 opposed

Status: Advisory Action

Agenda Committee - Item B

Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2026 General Service Conference.

Topics selected by Agenda Committee

"Restoration and Discovering Grace, Unity and Fellowship"

"Gossip vs. Facts: Examining the Health of Our Own Communications"

"Finding Common Ground"

Vote Outcome: 115 in favor, 17 opposed

Status: Advisory Actions

Agenda Committee - Item C

Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2026 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended the following workshop topic for the 2026 General Service Conference: **"Keeping Our Own House In Order"**

Outcome of vote: 119 in favor, 6 opposed

Status: Advisory Action

Agenda Committee - Item H

Discuss 2024 progress report on Conference Inventory.

Committee Recommendation: The committee recommended that a Conference Inventory Implementation Committee, with composition similar to the makeup of the General Service Conference, be established by the General Service Board to identify and implement actionable items, based on the inventory report back sessions held at the 2025 General Service Conference. The committee requested that an implementation committee report be brought back to the 2026 General Service Conference.

Vote Outcome: 117 in favor, 14 opposed

Status: Advisory Action

Agenda Committee - Item I

Consider the request to suspend oral presentations of all Area Service Highlights and continue printing highlights in the final report. (PAIs 20 and 32)

Committee took no action (this means the Agenda Committee at the General Service Conference did not pass this consideration with $\frac{2}{3}$ vote, meaning it never left the committee to be presented to the Conference as a whole)

***Area 55 also declined to consider.**

Agenda Committee - Item J

Consider a proposed pilot for a Harmony and Effectiveness Session.

The committee took no action.

***Area 55 was opposed to this item**

Agenda Committee: New Business

On a quarterly basis, the General Service Office provide a grid of proposed agenda items and their disposition status to reaffirm the 2016 Advisory Action, "The General Service Office post to the Conference dashboard, and regularly update information concerning the status of the proposed Conference agenda items."

Vote Outcome: Missing from notes

Status: Advisory Action

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)

Committee - Item A

Review progress report on AAWS LinkedIn page.

Committee Consideration: CPC Committee recommended that, on a one-year trial basis, AAWS subscribe to a LinkedIn premium account at a cost not to exceed \$1,000 per year, and to bring back a report on the effectiveness of the upgraded account to the 2026 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community.

Vote outcome: 114 in favor, 19 opposed

Status: Advisory Action

CPC - Item B

Review progress report on the development of outward facing pamphlet for mental health professionals.

The committee recommended that the project for the development of an outward facing pamphlet for mental health professionals be redirected, utilizing existing content in the current draft and reformatted in a quad-fold layout. The committee requests that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2026 Conference Committee on CPC.

Vote Outcome: 110 in favor, 19 opposed

Status: Advisory Action

CPC - Item D

Review progress report on the effective use of CPC videos on aa.org.

Ancillary Action: Committee proposed scrapping all three videos (Healthcare, Legal/Corrections, and Employment/HR) and creating a new, single video for professionals.

Vote outcome: 77 in favor, 53 opposed

Status: recommendation failed.

Trinket Trivia: What proportion of votes “in favor” are needed for an Agenda Item to become an Advisory Action?

Finance Committee - Item A

Consider a request to reaffirm the 1975 Advisory Action that delegates emphasize to the groups the effect that inflation has had on the contribution of dollar and the necessity for adjusting contributions accordingly, to support services provided by the General Service Board. [Floor Action from the 74th General Service Conference].

Committee took no action

***Area 55 was in favor of this Item**

Finance Committee - Item C

Review the Conference-approved level of \$10,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members.

Committee recommended an increase to \$12,500.

Vote Outcome: 107 in favor, 25 opposed

Action Status: Advisory Action

Finance - Item G

Consider a request to remove the phrase, “A group may also decline to hear reports from a GSR at all” from page 10 in the A.A. Service Manual. (PAI 72) * (EDW)

Vote Outcome: 111 in favor, 17 opposed.

Status: Advisory Action

The Committee recommended that an FAQ addressing “What happens if a group decides not to hear a GSR report?” be added to the Chapter 1 FAQs section in the next revision of the Service Manual.

Motion to commit to Report and Charter Committee passed 116-19.

Finance Committee: New Business

The committee recommended that the General Service Board Quarterly Financial Report include supplemental reporting on current capital projects and current and estimated maintenance costs.

Vote outcome: 103 in favor, 28 opposed.

Status: Advisory Action

Finance Committee: New Business

The committee recommended pausing the retrofit of the General Service Office until the Trustees Finance and Budgetary Committee develops a plan to replenish the Reserve Fund to a minimum of 9 months of operating expenses and bring back a progress report to the 76th General Service Conference

Vote Outcome: 55 in favor, 105 opposed

Status: Failed

Grapevine - Item C

Review the 5-year financial plan for La Viña.

The committee recommended "that the Grapevine Board develop a revised La Viña five-year plan covering years 2026 - 2030 to be brought back to the 2026 Conference Committee on the AA Grapevine and La Viña. The revised plan should reflect a focus on actionable, realistic, and achievable goals, and the background materials should include at least five years of financial history that substantiates its projections."

Vote outcome: 50 in favor, 82 opposed

Status: Failed

Grapevine - Item F

Consider request to revise the pamphlet “Grapevine and La Vina: Our meetings in print.” (PAI 79)

The committee recommended that the pamphlet “Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print” (P-52) be revised to clarify the text and accurately reflect changes in Grapevine operations.

Vote outcome: 131 in favor, 3 opposed

Status: Advisory Action

***Area 55 was in favor of this item**

Literature - Item B

Review draft of the revised pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.”

The committee recommended that the revised pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated” be approved.

Vote outcome: 104 in favor, 28 opposed

Status: Advisory Action

Literature - Item C

Review draft of the revised pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.”

The committee recommended that the revised pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American” (Retitled “Indigenous People in A.A.”) be approved.

Passed: 126 - 5

Literature - Item F

Review draft of the developed video animation of the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated.”

The committee recommended that the developed video animation of the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated” be approved with minor edits.

Passed 131 - 2

[This video](#), created by the General Service Office in Great Britain, is being adapted with permission.

Literature - Item G

Review draft of revisions to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”

The committee recommended that the revisions to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” be approved with minor editorial changes and formatting standards.

Passed 109 - 20

Trinket Trivia: What happens to undistributed copies of “old versions” of pamphlets at GSO after a revised version is approved by a General Service Conference?

Literature - Item J

Consider request that the Twelve Concepts for World Service and essays on the Twelve Concepts for World Service be included in the current publication, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. (PAI 23)

Final Vote Outcome: 69 in favor, 61 opposed

Status: Failed

***Area 55 was in favor of this item**

Trinket Trivia: If you vote on the non-prevailing side of a motion, what can you do that may change the outcome of the vote?

Literature - Item K

Consider request to update the book Living Sober. (PAIs 34, 64, 106, 90, 92, 121,122)

The committee recommended that the Trustees' Literature Committee update the language and content of the book Living Sober with a progress report or draft manuscript to be delivered to the 2026 Conference Committee on Literature.

Vote outcome: 94 in favor, 37 opposed

Status: Advisory Action

***Area 55 was in favor of this item**

Literature - Item L

Discuss Plain Language Big Book review process.

Development of a process within the Trustee's Literature Committee for receiving, assessing, and forwarding proposed changes to the Plain Language Big Book to the Conference Committee on Literature.

Passed: 112 - 20

The committee recommended that proposals to rescind or revise the Plain Language Big Book be collected and deferred until the 77th General Service Conference to allow for a wider Fellowship experience.

Passed: 120 - 11

Policy/Admissions - Item D

Discuss the process of Simple Majority Items.

Recommended rescinding the 1986 Advisory Action on simple majority items which reads as follows:

"If a committee recommendations does not receive the two-thirds vote required to become a Conference Advisory Action, but has a majority of votes, it automatically becomes a suggestion and be duly noted in the Conference Report"

and that it be replaced with the following clarifying language:

"Recommendations achieving simple majority, but not substantial unanimity, are not suggestions to the General Service Board to take action but should be memorialized in the Conference Final Report to be informational and to provide historical context."

Passed: 93 - 38

Policy/Admissions - Item E

Consider request that a Super Majority of voting members be required to change or amend Founders Literature. (PAI 36, 93, 96)

The committee took no action.

***Area 55 conscience did not reach $\frac{2}{3}$ majority needed to be in favor of this item**

Policy/Admissions Item F

Consider a request to develop guidelines for the roles and responsibilities of temporary replacement delegates. (New Item)

The committee recommended that following the General Service Conference that the temporary replacement Area delegate may maintain access to the OnBoard platform at the discretion of the sitting Area delegate, through the end of the year.

Passed 118 - 13

Public Information - Item B

Public Service Announcements (PSAs)

The committee recommended that the trustees' PI Committee review of video Public Service Announcements (PSAs) be changed to a review cadence of five years from the release date of each video. The review of audio PSAs should follow a similar cadence.

Passed 90 - 38

Public Information - Item B

PSAs - Adopting 3 videos from GSB Australia for use in US and Canada

Recommended that three videos produced by the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia ("Are you risking your job?" "Are you a danger to your family?" and "Cham-pain") be adapted by AAWS for use on media platforms in the US and Canada.

Passed 114 - 18

Videos to be adapted can be found [here](#), along with several others from Alcoholics Anonymous Australia

Public Information - Item N

Review report from the A.A. Membership Survey working group.

Recommended that the Trustees' Public Information Committee develop a plan for a 2026 AA Membership Survey utilizing random sampling methodology.

Passed: 110 - 18

Public Information - Item 0

Review progress report on Young People 's video project.

Recommendations were made and passed to retire 5 outdated Young People's videos since newer videos are now available:

"A Group of People Just Like Me": 122 - 8

"On the Beach": 123 - 5

"Alcoholics Anonymous": 125 - 3

"25 and Under": 127 - 4

"Young and Sober in AA: from Drinking to Recovery": 127 - 4

The committee recommended that efforts to collect user-generated young people videos be discontinued:

Passed: 117 - 14

Report & Charter - Item A-4

Consider a request to remove the word “woman” from the Concept IV essay. (PAI 75,124)

It was recommended that the word “woman” be removed from the Concept Four essay, so that: “New volunteer corporate directors will ask why any paid **woman** staff member should also be a corporate director and thereby have a vote as good as their own.”

Be changed to:

“New volunteer corporate directors will ask why any paid staff member should also be a corporate director and thereby have a vote as good as their own.”

Passed: 108 - 20

Trinket Trivia: Who wrote the Concept Essays, and where can you find them?

Report & Charter - Item B

Consider a request to expand Article Three in the Conference Charter to protect the co-Founders' writings. (PAIs 81,15, 26 and 109)

The committee recommended that the General Service Board classify all AAWS and AA Grapevine literature written prior to 1971 as Recovery, Service, or Archival/Historical; review existing policies and consider proposing additional policies as appropriate for updating each classification, and that a progress report be provided to the 2026 General Service Conference.

Passed: 109 - 20

Treatment & Accessibilities - Item E

Review revision of the conference-approved flyer “Where do I go from here” (F-4).

Recommended an update to the flyer “Where do I go from here?” (F-4) to be approved with the following change:

The sentence which currently reads:

“This mutual understanding gave them the strength each desperately needed to pass up the first drink that had always paved the way to disaster.”

Be replaced with the following sentence:

“This mutual understanding and **program of recovery** gave them the strength each desperately needed to pass up the first drink that had always paved the way to disaster.”

Passed: 98 - 29

Trustees Committee - Item G

Consider the request to include the version of A.A. Comes of Age, Lasker Award text in the book, Alcoholics Anonymous.(PAI 24 and 63) * (EDW)

Committee took no action.

***Area 55 was in favor of this item**

Trustees - New Business

The committee recommended that motions to censure or reorganize the General Service Board be sent directly to the Conference Committee on Trustees, for committee eyes only.

Context: Meaning these PAIs would be added to the agenda for the Conference Committee on Trustees, but would still need to come to the Conference floor for full discussion and vote.

Motion to recommit to the Conference Committee on Trustees passed 92 - 37

International Convention/Regional Forums - Item C

Consider that all Sovereign States flags be a part of the Flag Ceremony at an International Convention. (PAI 10)

Referred to Trustees for further exploration, potential impact, and demonstrated need.

***Area 55 was unanimously in favor of this item**

No more Agenda Items. Conference discussion on committee reports concluded at 7:23pm on Friday



But 12 floor actions had been submitted and were up next...



Only one floor action passed:

Begin a study to explore the needs of Spanish-speaking members for tools to access the Big Book. This study will include identifying specific needs within the Spanish-speaking community to determine whether a plain language translation of the Big Book is an appropriate tool or if other accessible materials would be more effective to support Spanish-speaking members who face barriers related to literacy or comprehension.

Want to dive deeper into the agenda item voting process?

To view the spreadsheet I used to track agenda items and voting, including procedural votes (amendments, referrals, calling the question, etc.) during the GSC, [click here](#).

In this shared copy, I deleted the column tracking how I voted, except for in items discussed at the Area 55 Mini Conference, since the body I was part of made decisions by group conscience, which I now stand by - regardless of how I voted.

But wait, there's more!

Another function of the Conference is ensuring effective communication throughout the structure.

Many reports and updates are shared with Conference members. This is a way to ensure transparency, accountability, and communication about the countless ways and immeasurable efforts put forth throughout our service structure.



Corporate Board Reports

- AAWS Literature Distributed in 2024
 - English: 1,230,182 books; 132,973 booklets; 1,660,505 pamphlets; 161,276 miscellaneous (CDs, cassettes, DVDs, workbooks)
 - Spanish: 297,792 total items (a palindrome!)
 - French: 88,205 total items
- AAWS Board Report
 - "I cannot do justice to the staggering amount of work completed to fulfil our Primary Purpose and to support our services"
- General Service Board Report
 - "In addition to meetings of the full Board*, the trustees' committees and subcommittees met more than 130 times during the course of the last board cycle. As you might imagine, this is neither healthy nor sustainable in the long term."
 - *Outside of regular Board weekends, the full board met 12 times in 2024

Trinket Trivia: What is the most popular A.A. pamphlet in English?

Trustee Committee Reports

A.A.'s volunteer Trustees also found time to submit [detailed reports](#) on what they have been up to - serving as stewards of our resources, custodians of our Steps and Traditions, and holders of the chief initiative and active responsibility of most world service matters

AA Grapevine Corporate Board Report (PPT)

- Digital Highlights:
 - YouTube Channel: 2018
 - Free Access in Pandemic: 2020
 - Grapevine and La Viña join Instagram: 2021
 - Podcast Launch: 2021
 - Grapevine and La Viña Apps: 2023
- 2024 saw an 8.5% subscription increase for Grapevine and a 17% increase for La Viña

Did you know? Alcoholics in 84 different countries - including two in North Korea - subscribe to Grapevine or La Viña

For the written GV Board Report, [click here](#). For GV literature distribution info, [click here](#).

Trinket Trivia: In what decade did La Viña begin publication?

The General Service Office is more than just “GSO Staff”

Thirteen staff work the “Office Desks” and are alcoholic members of our Fellowship, but 77 additional staff work in 12 different departments at GSO to keep our operation running smoothly...

And each of those departments [submitted reports](#) on what they’ve been up to!

Did you know? Within the Operations Department, the 2-person Mail and Shipping team processed 40,894 pieces of mail in 2024?

Don't worry about GSO's Tradition 8 "Special Workers"...

Each of them [submitted a report](#) as well!

Fun Facts!

- The Public Information desk emailed over 30,000 media outlets the "Annual Anonymity Letter to the Media" in February 2025
- The Treatment/Accessibilities/Remote Communities desk coordinates the bimonthly Loners and Internationalists Meeting newsletter for 360 LIM members worldwide
- GSO had over 1700 visitors last year
- The 2024 World Service Meeting had 74 delegates representing 49 countries in attendance
- 1118 corrections facilities in the US have access to AAWS digital literature
- A.A.'s LinkedIn page, a Cooperation with the Professional Community initiative, has 4,255 followers
- GSO's Archives received 308 new physical items last year

We also talked about A.A.'s Finances

- "Picnic Table" Slides from A.A. General Service Board's former treasurer
 - Cost of program services per A.A. member (U.S./Canada): **\$6.48**
- 7th Tradition Contributions by Area
 - Area with highest % of groups contributing to GSO: Area 11, Connecticut, **82.64%**
 - Average: 32.41%
 - **Area 55: 24.83%**
 - Average contributed by groups: \$403.19
 - **Area 55: \$256.18**
- Grapevine Operating Budget
- General Service Office Operating Budget
- Reserve Fund Report
- Consolidated Financial Statements / Audit
- Trustee's Finance and Budgetary Report

Trinket Trivia: Where do the majority of 7th Tradition contributions come from - Groups or individuals?

A Random Tidbit...

- To view the 19 questions included in the General Service Conference Inventory, view pages 4-5 of [this document](#)
 - Question 14, **“Are we asking too much of our trusted servants, particularly their time? Is the work being done focused on a balance of quantity and quality?”** caught my attention while completing the inventory questions and also during the discussion.
 - To view Conference members’ responses to question 14, [click here](#)
 - **IMPORTANT NOTE:** These responses are merely individuals’ personal answers to the question. They do not necessarily reflect the group conscience of the Conference that emerged after small group and whole-body discussion took place.

Final Thoughts from Rotating Trustees

- "When I complain about me, I say I know better than God."
- "We need to talk about issues with each other, not at each other."
- "Our families have served A.A. well."
- "Service isn't our decision, it's God's."
- "You shouldn't be alive, but you are, so you must have a purpose."
- "Who is not in the room? Who is in the room? We need to take our own inventory."
- "God has a funny way of operating."
- "In grief, the best thing you can possibly do is serve."
- "What sacred ground we've walked."

Final Final Thoughts from Rotating Trustees

- "Class A Trustees are part of the continued grace that continues to be visited upon A.A."
- "Don't spend time navel gazing, spend it thinking about how to help the newcomer."
- "...service gladly rendered. I no longer need to be a round peg in a square hole."
- "We are in this together."
- "Difference between being in service and being of service."
- "Instead of 'why me?' ask 'why not me?'"
- "I hope that I have served you my best."

Questions?

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