

DISTRICT 02

NEWSLETTER

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

MAY 2024

Volume 40

Issue 5

A MESSAGE FROM THE DCM.....

Hey all you Sober peeps!

Nicholas S., our Delegate, has been to New York and back. He has lots of information to share with us at the get-together in Ashland WI, May 17-19.

Meanwhile, we have early-breaking news about PLBB (the plain language big book). The decision was made at the NY General Service Conference this month, to go ahead with publishing it. A 71% majority voted for this to happen. The title of the book will be "Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS."

I sure do hope you can join us at the Ashland Spring Conference. Check out the flyer further on in this publication...or there's one on area74.org also. If you want to Zoom in for parts of the conference it is Meeting ID: 479 428 9816 Passcode: 1212144.

I'm also hoping to see you at our District meeting in Neenah at St Mark's on May 5. See more details as you turn these pages so carefully crafted by our dedicated Newsletter Committee. And THANK YOU to ALL our District Committees for their hard work!!!

Keep Breathin'.....

And trudging the road of Happy Destiny!!!!

Honored to be of service,

Jane M. – DCM District 02

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR DISTRICT:

Nicholas S. just returned from the General Service Conference in New York. He is our Area 74 Delegate and he would like to improve "our face to face communication." He says, "I'm encouraging all of you to talk...amongst your groups etc. to invite me to share my experience and information on a more direct level."

"Our General Service Office, our Board and Grapevine board are doing some incredible work and our fellowship needs to know about it. It's my job to tell you about and share my experience with it. It will be far more effective face to face than my monthly article."

So, we need to let Nicholas know how we feel, as a district full of many groups, if we would like him to come share with us the new information he has acquired. GSR's, please let me know what your groups think. Individuals, talk to your GSR's and your homegroup members if possible.

Looking forward to hearing from you. Honored to be of service,

Jane M. – DCM District 02 dcm@district02aa.org

DISTRICT 02 MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 2024

District 02 Meeting Minutes for April 2024

The April 14, 2024, District meeting was held hybrid at Solutions Recovery Club, 621 Evans St., Oshkosh. The meeting started at 2:03 p.m. There were 24 people in person & 3 people on Zoom; 27 people total. We opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. DCM Jane went over general housekeeping, welcomed newcomers, and invited introductions of all Committee Chairs and GSRs. Housekeeping – silence phones, be courteous, no side conversations. Flyers, pamphlets & service manuals are available on the table.

Twelve Traditions & Twelve Concepts

James read Tradition 4 – long form.

Patrick read Concept 4 from the Concepts checklist.

Approval March 2024 Minutes - A motion was made by Jodi to accept the Secretary report. Matt seconded. Motion passed.

Secretary Report: Karla. Committee Chairs & GSR's please submit your reports to me by Tuesday April 16, 2024, to ensure I can get the notes to Digger in a timely manner. Email reports to secretary@district02aa.org If you are making a motion or seconding a motion, be sure to state your name. Thank you for being of service & for allowing me to be of service.

Treasurer Report: Kim. A motion was made by Bob to accept the Treasurers report. Kendra seconded. Motion passed.

Jane- mentioned that the withdrawals are greater than deposits. Are we okay at this point with monies in the treasury? Should we send a message to groups asking for more money to be sent to the district? Cindy says we are okay. Looking at previous activity, there are months where the deposits are greater than the withdrawals. Kendra mentioned that the DCM will be submitting receipts for reimbursement after attending the spring conference in May. The checking account balance will decrease after the reimbursement is made to the DCM. Committee Chairs should be conscious of any spending going forward. Plan accordingly.

GSRs Reports

Harold –Wednesday Night Our Southern Friend Group at Changing Lanes Alano Club– good attendance at meetings & business meeting.

Michelle – Thursday Women in Recovery at Genesis Club – good attendance.

James – Thurs Night Group in Seymour – going up to conference has a seat available and a ½ room available.

DISTRICT 02 MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 2024

Matt - Sunday Camel Group- good attendance hoping to have some sort of event this summer.

Kimmery – Eye Opener Group Saturday Prince of Peace – meetings are well attended. The home group is growing.

Laurie – Kaukauna Group Friday Night- attended the Winter Assembly in Rhinelander and was the only GSR from the district at the meeting

LCM Reports

Subdistrict A: Open

Subdistrict B: Open

Subdistrict C: James. Going to travel to AA meetings in his assigned area after the spring conference.

Subdistrict D: Open

Subdistrict E: Open

Subdistrict F: Open

Archives: Open.

Grapevine: Patrick. Went to the Oshkosh intergroup and set up a Grapevine table. Jane-was reception good at the intergroup? Patrick-some of the people were not sure what the display was and came over to check it out.

Corrections: Kendra. The Corrections Committee met on 4/14/24 and there were five people in attendance. We discussed Corrections Workshop held on 3/16/24. We had 24 people who attended the workshop and the speakers were inspiring. It was nice to have the participation of two facilities. We received \$25 in contributions for correction literature. Between the Corrections Workshop and Moose & Goose on 4/13/24, we distributed volunteer flyers, volunteer applications along with Bridging the Gap and Corrections Correspondence pamphlets. Please share with your groups we need volunteers to bring AA meetings into all seven facilities in District 02. Next Corrections Committee meeting is scheduled for Sun, May 5, 2024 at 1:00p – St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 140 S Green Bay Rd, Neenah.

Bridging the Gap: Brad. There were no new requests in our P.O. Box, however, I did receive 3 requests from the Area 75 Corrections Chair at the Moose & Goose. The first one will be released 5/28/24 in New London. Next is a female being released in late May or early June up in Marinette, WI. The third left no contact info but will be released 9/20/24 in Oshkosh. Also, I will be following up on a request sent to my predecessor on the 30th of April.

DISTRICT 02 MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 2024

Newsletter: Digger. Things are going smoothly. The deadline for submission of articles for placement in the May newsletter is Tuesday, April 23rd.

Public Information: Susan. The PI Committee met on March 19, 2024 with 5 members in attendance

Old Business

- Two members of our committee participated in the 2024 We Heart Your Recovery in Our Community Event – March 13, 2024 at UW Oshkosh (Culver Welcome Center)
The Committee members made contacts by handing out Hotline Cards and Candy (\$18.34) Will get reimbursed by District 02
It is a Free event and we plan to attend next year

The committee continues to work on projects for 2024

- Hotline Card Distribution will continue –to bulletin boards at for example – gas stations, restaurants, grocery stores, laundry mats, and stores that have a spot for businesses or individuals put cards or flyers
- Hotline Card Distribution will expand to include hotels (65), police stations (29) and fire stations (12)

The Hotline Cards are available for the use by the members or by District 02

- The cards have hot line phone numbers and a QR Code (Quick Response) Code that opens with a Smart Phone. Meetings and District Website can be found using this method.
- Distribution of Grapevines into Little Lending Libraries will continue in the spring and summer of 2024. We need more Grapevines to continue, so please see if your groups can help. Any member of our committee will be able to take them.

New Business

- Our committee continues to collect Grapevines to be distributed to Little Lending Libraries
- PI Committee meetings will be 3rd Tuesday of the month 6 PM April 16, 2024 In Person Genesis Club or Zoom: ID 920 379 4718 PW 123456
- Our Committee is looking for a few more members if interested please let us know Susan B. 920 858 2379 or email publicinfo@district02aa.org
- New project still being considered; will keep the group updated

Our next meeting will be, April 16, 2024 at the Genesis Club in the large upstairs room/ Hybrid available – the time has been changed to 6PM, one hour earlier than in the past.

Web Master: No report.

DISTRICT 02 MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 2024

Treatment & Accessibilities: Jodi. The committee met on 4/6/24 and discussed info from the March district meeting and the concerns for funding ASL. Jodi attended a GSO All Accessibilities zoom meeting. It included the deaf & hard of hearing community. Discussion included how to share the message. The deaf community wants to be part of the discussions. They don't want to be prescribed what meeting to go to. A San Diego group, recommend creating a fund that can be pulled from whatever meeting the deaf attend. Are there ways to fund this? The committee will have more discussion & bring more info to the district. Jodi will attend the GSO meeting monthly and will add information to her report. Here is the website address where additional information can be found as it relates to accessibilities; <https://www.aa.org/accessibilities-committees>

DCM: Jane. ** I attended the March 30 Winter Assembly. It was a great experience. Mostly I learned from the Area Chair about the major "ok-ness" of making mistakes. Apparently 8 per day are very acceptable! Yay!! What a relief.

Nicholas our Delegate is currently in New York hammering out the agenda items with many other delegates. Here's his email if you have questions for him about the proceedings. delegate@area74.org

** I visited a couple of groups that definitely needed some assistance. Was able to refer one group to our AA literature, pamphlets, etc. Unfortunately neither group has a GSR.

** Through my connection with the Area Corrections chair at the Winter Assembly, a contact was made and now District 02 Corrections is in the process of bringing on another volunteer. Yay!

**Going to baseball games may become an event shared between our district and district 01. More information is forthcoming.

**Heads up on a proposal to fund our delegate so he can attend other events while in New York not automatically covered by GSO this year. He's currently paying out of his own pocket. Our district can weigh in on this.

**Attended an Appleton online meeting I had never been to before. It was good.

Old Business

Open positions 2024 Elections

Archives – Harold nominates Kathy. Patrick seconded. Kathy told a bit about herself. She likes history. Sober 2.5 years. Motion passed.

LCM's (A, B, D, E, F) – no nominations. Carried over.

DISTRICT 02 MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 2024

Alt DCM – no nominations. Carried over.

ASL Issues – Jodi. Attended a treatment accessibilities meeting. T&A will discuss and bring info back to the district and provide more solid recommendations.

Harold- are we starting over again per the March minutes. Jodi- ASL was approved by the district. Last month there was a motion put forth and then pulled back. The committee is going to gather more information as it relates to ASL and will bring back to a future district meeting.

Jane – I am confused with the statement that the district approved ASL.

Jodi – The past committee chair says a vote was completed at a district meeting and ASL was approved but the information was missing from the minutes. There was nothing approved for funding. Only that ASL is approved going forward. Jodi looked for minutes and could not find any minutes-back from 2018.

Table this topic until Jodi brings more information back to the district.

New Business

Proposed corrections to February minutes.

Jane proposed to amend the February minutes under T & A in NEW business. Reason being to clarify the statement originally written.

Verbiage from February minutes reads: Priority right now is that we are financially solvent for this service. Kendra, in November \$3600 was presented to the district. At that time, we didn't know the need. In December the majority of District didn't approve the budgeted amount of \$3600 because it was 1/3 of the money that was in the treasury.

Amended verbiage: A priority right now is that we become financially solvent for this service. Kendra: in November, \$3600 (the cost for ASL for 1 year) was presented to the district. At that time, we didn't know the need (for ASL). In December, the majority of District didn't approve the proposed budgeted amount of \$3600 because it was about 1/3 of the money that was slated for the budget.

Kendra – ask the treasurer on the re-wording. Cindy-feels that the amended statement is correct. Make a motion to accept the amended verbiage, seconded by Harold. Motion passed.

Newsletter: check up on guidelines changes – have updates been done? Kendra will get report to Jane this week.

Adjournment A motion to adjourn was made by James and seconded by Mike. Motion carried at 3:25 p.m. and closed with the Responsibility Declaration.

The next District meeting is Sunday May 5, 2024, at St. Mark's Church, 140 S. Green Bay Rd., Neenah.

DISTRICT 02 UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVICE BUT DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?

You are welcome to stop by and join us at one of our regular committee meetings. Learn more about what the district committee's do, and how we help the still suffering alcoholic. Who knows.....maybe you will find an interest and will want to join up!!! Here is a list of upcoming committee meetings:

CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE: Next meeting is Sunday, May 5th, 1:00 pm at St Mark's Lutheran Church, 140 S Green Bay Rd, Neenah. This committee meets to discuss how we can best carry the message to alcoholics in correctional institutions.

Have a question??? Send an email to corrections@district02aa.org.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: Next meeting is Wednesday May 29th, 9am at Fox Valley Central Office, 1528 N Ballard Rd, Appleton. This committee meets monthly to proofread the upcoming issue, and to discuss plans for future issues. We are always looking for fresh ideas! ***Have a question???*** Send an email to newsletter@district02aa.org

PUBLIC INFORMATION: Next meeting is Tuesday, May 21st, 6pm at Genesis Club, 1213 N Appleton St, Appleton. Zoom ID: 920 379 4718 Passcode: 123456. The Public Information (P.I.) Committee provides information about Alcoholics Anonymous to the general public within District 02 and is also responsible for the District 02 Website.

A.A. NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

DISTRICT 02 NEWSLETTER: Stay up-to-date on all of the news in District 02. Sign up at district02aa.org > newsletter > signup

NOW & THEN (Monthly Area 74 Newsletter): Stay connected to Area news, information, and more! **Electronic subscriptions** please send a request via email with your contact information to area74newsletter@gmail.com

Hard copy subscriptions \$25 for 12 issues mail a check made out to CASH and a completed enrollment form to:

Now & Then
PO Box 192
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

BOX 4-5-9 (Quarterly Newsletter from the General Service Office):

This newsletter includes

- information about AA service
- sharing from AA members
 - news about literature
- sharing from groups and service committees
- a calendar of upcoming events

www.aa.org/box-459

DISTRICT 02 MEETING AGENDA

May 5, 2024 - 2:00 PM (GSR Discussion 1:30pm)

St Marks Church – 140 Green Bay Rd – Neenah

ZOOM MEETING ID: 875 9555 4987 PASSCODE: 844696

Open with Serenity Prayer

- Introduce DCM: Meeting Chair
- Introduce all participants
- Housekeeping items: info, etc.

Twelve Traditions – Tradition 5 long form

Twelve Concepts – Concept 5

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports

- a. GSR's
- b. LCM's – James; LCM-C
- c. Archives - Kathy
- d. Grapevine - Patrick R.
- e. Corrections - Kendra R.
 1. Bridging the gap – Brad N.
- f. Newsletter - Digger A.
- g. Public Information - Susan B.
 1. Webmaster - Trevor
- h. Treatment and Accessibilities - Jodi L.
- i. DCM - Jane M.

Old Business:

- Available positions > Alt DCM, LCM's A,B,D,E,F
- New District Guidelines booklets available
- ASL Issues (T and A) 20 minute time limit

New Business:

- GSR – Group issue?
- Delegate: Will groups approve of Area covering extra expenses while he was in NY?
- Delegate: Invite him to visit and share about Gen Serv Conf – at District meeting or separate event?
- Other?

The NEXT District Meeting: Sunday June 9th, Prince of Peace Church, 2330 E Calumet, Appleton
1:30 GSR Discussion / 2pm District Meeting



See

You All There, Okay !!!

2024 District 02 Meeting Schedule

(Meeting Location is Subject to Change)

GSR Roundtable at 1:30 / District Meeting at 2:00

Jan 14	Solutions Club Inc. 621 Evans St, Oshkosh
Feb 11	Changing Lanes Alano Club 344 Broadway St, Wrightstown
Mar 10	Genesis Club 1213 N Appleton St, Appleton
Apr 14	Solutions Club Inc. 621 Evans St, Oshkosh
May 5 Early due to Mothers Day	St Mark's Church 140 S Green Bay Rd, Neenah
Jun 9	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church 2330 E Calumet, Appleton
Jul 14	Solutions Club Inc 621 Evans St, Oshkosh
Aug 11	St Paul Catholic Church 410 Wallace St, Combined Locks
Sep 8	Peace United Methodist Church 2300 W Wisconsin Ave, Kaukauna
Oct 13	Emmanuel Lutheran Church 349 N Main Street, Seymour
Nov 10	Changing Lanes Alano Club 344 Broadway St, Wrightstown
Dec 8	First United Methodist Church 325 E Franklin St, Appleton

DATES TO REMEMBER 2024

4/14-4/20/24	73 rd Gen Serv Conf	Brooklyn, NY
5/17-5/19/24	Area 74 Spring Conf	District 13 Ashland, WI
5/18/24	Area 74 Assembly	District 13 Ashland, WI
5/19/24	Area Comm Mtg	District 13 Ashland, WI
6/7-6/9/24	East Central Reg Conf	Michigan State Conv Grand Rapids, MI
8/3/24	Area Comm Mtg (optional)	Virtual
9/13-9/15/24	Area 74 Fall Conf	District 04 Holiday Inn Stevens Point, WI
9/14/24	Area Assembly	District 04 Holiday Inn Stevens Point, WI
9/15/24	Area Comm Mtg	District 04 Holiday Inn Stevens Point, WI
10/12/24	Fall Assembly	Quality Inn Rhinelander, WI
12/7/24	Area Comm Mtg	Virtual

****NOTE FROM THE DELEGATE:** The servants of Area 74 are excited to provide the **dates for the Area 74 Service Structure**. We are lucky to live in an area that hosts many conferences, workshops and fellowship events. As your trusted servants, we sometimes miss the chance to participate in local events because they conflict with the service events you have entrusted us to conduct. We hope that, by providing the Area 74 service structure dates in early fall; they can be considered as you plan your service and fellowship events for the coming year. We look forward to seeing you.

NOTE FROM CO-EDITORS: We have combined the general events and the Area 74 Service Structure events into one calendar.

BOLD = AREA 74 events UNBOLD = General AA events in our area

First draft Agenda for Area 74 Spring Assembly Saturday May 18, 2024

Hybrid -zoom Meeting ID: 479 428 9816 Password 1212144
American Inn 300 Lake Shore Drive East Ashland WI

7:30 New GSR and New DCM Orientation conducted by Past Delegate
Assembly 8am To 12 pm

8:00am - Welcome and opening remarks-Prayer

Rollcall

Approval of Minutes (3-30-2024)

Area Officers Reports Chair up to 3 Minutes.

Secretary, Registrar, Treasure up to 3 minutes

Standing committee reports up to 3 minutes each

Delegate Report from conference.

Q&A ECR Trustee Cathi Clark

12pm close Assembly

Motion to Close

DISTRICT 02 MEMORIES

*AS PUBLISHED IN THE DISTRICT 02
NEWSLETTER – MAY, 1989*

THE FIFTH TRADITION

“Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

“Our most important job is our only job,” said one of my fellow A.A.’s at a Fifth Tradition meeting. That helps me to think about this tradition, and says in another way what Bill W. writes in the 12 & 12: “Shoemaker, stick to thy last!...better do one thing supremely well than many badly.” (There’s one of those tradition thoughts, intended for the group, that applies to my own life as well.)

The one thing we A.A.’s share is our drinking problem and the way we overcame it. Most of us as individuals have other skills and talents, especially after we’ve been sober awhile. But together, as a group, we have just one thing in common and one thing to offer: a way of life that keeps us sober. Since our way is unique, we have an obligation to share it. No one else can.

Perhaps that’s where the saying comes from, “Whenever anyone, anywhere, reaches out for sobriety, I want the hand of A.A. to be there, and for that I am responsible.”

Bill tells a story in the Fifth Tradition chapter of the 12 & 12 of his reaching out to a belligerent alcoholic. He visited a prospect at Towns Hospital, a tough and obstinate Irishman. The fellow was suspicious and unbelieving until Bill convinced him that making the call was helping Bill to keep sober and happy.

The Irishman began to listen but objected loudly when Bill mentioned spirituality. “You’ve got the nerve to come in here talking religion!” he roared. Bill agreed that the man probably knew much more about religion than he did, said he couldn’t tell the fellow anything about religion. But he did think he knew what the fellow’s problem was.

“Okay,” the drunk said, “Give me the business.”

“Well, I think you’re just a conceited Irishman who thinks he can run the whole show.”

This got the drunks attention. He began to listen and to accept Bill’s words about humility being the key to sobriety. Bill explained that he could apply the principle of humility within his own religion.

Years later, this sober man told people, “My sponsor sold me one idea, and that was sobriety. At the time, I couldn’t have bought anything else.” (12 & 12, pp. 151-154. Barb G.

The Fifth Tradition (Long Form): Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose – that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

MAY 2024

First Friday of the Month, May 3rd, Open AA Speaker Meeting at 7pm **Genesis Club**, 1213 Appleton St, Appleton. Potluck at 6pm, please bring a dish to pass!

First Sunday of the Month, May 5th, District Meeting at 2pm, **St Mark's Lutheran Church**, 140 S Green Bay Rd, Neenah. GSR Roundtable 1:30 *This is a hybrid meeting* Meeting ID: 875 9555 4987 Passcode: 844696

Second Sunday of the Month, May 12th, Open AA Speaker Meeting at 7pm. Potluck at 6pm **First Congregational Church**, 724 E South River St, Appleton *This is a hybrid meeting* Meeting ID: 897 8011 3671 Passcode: 027543

Third Friday of the Month, May 17th, Open AA Speaker Meeting at 8pm, **Peace United Methodist Church**, 2300 E Wisconsin Ave, Kaukauna Al-Anon speaker if available

May 17th – 19th, Area 74 Spring Conference, Americinn, Ashland. Area Assembly Sat May 18th, Area Committee Meeting Sunday May 19th, SEE FLYER

Saturday May 18th, 8-3pm, Changing Lanes Garage Sale, all proceeds support club's mission, 344 Broadway St, Wrightstown SEE FLYER

Last Sunday of the Month, May 26th, Open AA Speaker Meeting at 10am, **St. Elizabeth Hospital**, 1506 S Oneida St, Appleton

Last Sunday of the May 26th, Open AA Speaker Meeting at 7pm, **Solutions Recovery**, 621 Evans St, Oshkosh

JUNE 2024

First Friday of the Month, June 7th, Open AA Speaker Meeting at 7pm **Genesis Club**, 1213 Appleton St, Appleton. Potluck at 6pm, please bring a dish to pass!

June 7th – 9th, 89th Founders Day Celebration, **Changing Lanes Alano**, 344 Broadway St, Wrightstown. SEE FLYER

Second Sunday of the Month, June 9th, District Meeting at 2pm, **Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**, 2330 E Calumet St., Appleton. GSR Roundtable 1:30 *This is a hybrid meeting* Meeting ID: 875 9555 4987 Passcode: 844696

Second Sunday of the Month, June 9th, Open AA Speaker Meeting at 7pm, Potluck at 6pm, bring a side dish to share, **First Congregational Church**, 724 E South River St, Appleton *This is a hybrid meeting* Meeting ID: 897 8011 3671 Passcode: 027543

Third Friday of the Month, June 21st, Open AA Speaker Meeting at 8pm, **Peace United Methodist Church**, 2300 E Wisconsin Ave, Kaukauna Al-Anon speaker if available.

Last Sunday of the Month, June 30th, Open AA Speaker Meeting at 10am, **St. Elizabeth Hospital**, 1506 S Oneida St, Appleton

Last Sunday of the June 30th, Open AA Speaker Meeting at 7pm, **Solutions Recovery**, 621 Evans St, Oshkosh

District 02 Committee Information

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Responsible for the collection and care of archival documents and items for the District.

Chairperson: Kathy archives@district02aa.org

CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE: Provides coordination and support for groups and individuals wishing to carry the message to alcoholics in jails and prisons within the District.

Chairperson: Kendra R. corrections@district02aa.org

Bridging the Gap: Brad N. corrections@district02aa.org

GRAPEVINE COMMITTEE: Relays information about the Grapevine magazine and other materials to the individual groups via their Grapevine Representatives (GVR's).

Chairperson: Patrick R. grapevine@district02aa.org

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE: Provides information about AA to the general public and is also responsible for the District 02 website.

Chairperson: Susan B. publicinfo@district02aa.org

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: Medium for communication of District 02 business and events to the groups, GSR's, and individual members.

Chairperson: Digger A. newsletter@district02aa.org

TREATMENT & ACCESSIBILITIES COMMITTEE:

Provides coordination and support for groups and individuals wishing to carry the message to clients in treatment facilities within District 02.

Chairperson: Jodi L. tfc@district02aa.org

OTHER DISTRICT CONTACTS

DCM – Jane M.

dcm@district02aa.org

Secretary – Karla K.

secretary@district02aa.org

Treasurer – Cindy L.

treasurer@district02aa.org

Webmaster – Trevor F.

support@district02aa.org

District 02 Website

www.district02aa.org

Area 74 Website

www.area74.org

CONTRIBUTIONS

General Service Board

James A Farley Station

PO Box 2407

New York, NY 10116-2407

212-870-3023

District 02 Treasury

PO Box 2632

Appleton, WI 54912

Area 74 Treasury

813 E Harrison St

Appleton, WI 54915

Fox Valley Central Office

1528 N. Ballard Rd., Suite 16

Appleton, WI 54911

920-997-0221

Fox Valley Hotline

PO Box 2382

Appleton, WI 54912

(Joe S., Coordinator)

OTHER INFORMATION

Oshkosh Helpline

920-410-4620

Now and Then

(Area Newsletter)

PO Box 192

Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

AA International

www.aa.org

Area 74 Spring Conference May 17-19,2024
Life will take on new meaning!

AmericInn , 3009 Lake Shore Drive E.
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806 715-682-9950

Room Rate - \$129.99 plus tax per night, Includes Hot breakfast Room and Water Park Pass!

Room Rate held until April 17, 2024 www.americinn.com/hotels/wi/ashland

- Friday Night events include current Delegate's Story of Recovery and service, Musical Jam Session, almost world famous Tetzner's Ice Cream and alkathon!
- Saturday events include Delegate's Report, Standing Committee Open House, Panels, speakers, Banquet, Entertainment and Alkathon!
- Sunday events include Spiritual Speaker, Area Committee Meeting, and farewells.

Name _____ **One registration form per person.**

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone # _____

Email _____

Registration Free if one year or less of sobriety. **Banquet is \$25.00 if free registration applies.** **** Please still send in a registration. ****

Registration Only = \$15.00

Registration **and** Banquet = \$40.00



Amount Enclosed- \$ _____

Please note here any special needs we can help with. _____

Banquet registration must be received by May 1st, 2024
Make checks payable to - District 13 Area 74 Conference
Mail to Area 74 Conference 11090 E. Lund Rd. Maple,WI 54854
Questions - Call Marty 715-363-2418

CHANGING LANES

344 BROADWAY ST.
WRIGHTSTOWN, WI
920-532-9046



FOUNDERS DAY JUNE 7-9, 2024

Celebration

89TH ANNIVERSARY

- Register to camp at the club by calling or texting Karen @ 608-852-6510
- Speaker Meetings
- Campfires
- Bowling
- Alcoholics Anonymous Trivia



Guest speakers

MADONNA- SARASOTA, FL
JOHN- GREEN BAY, WI
ANNETTE- WAUPACA, WI
TERRY- SHERWOOD, WI

Seymour Intergroup
Saturday June 15, 2024

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
349 N. Main Street, Seymour

Doors open @ 4:30pm, Dinner @ 6pm

Hot sandwiches provided,

We are a small group so please bring a side dish to share.

Don't come alone, bring a friend or two..

Meeting starts @ 7:00

AA Speaker: Mike N GreenBay WI

Alanon Speaker: (TBA)

Door Prizes & Fellowship

Air Conditioned....Wheel Chair Accessable Coffee, Soda & Water available

50/50 raffle

CORRECTIONS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Need men and women to bring AA meetings inside both county and state-run correctional facilities, where those populations cannot attend outside AA meetings

Calumet County

Calumet County Jail

206 Court St, Chilton, WI 53014

Men's Mtg: Tues @ 6:30 PM

Women's Mtg: Tues @ 6:30 PM

Outagamie County

Outagamie County Jail

3030 Goodland Dr, Appleton, WI 54911

Men's Mtg: Monday @ 7:15 PM

Men's Mtg: Thurs @ 7:15 PM

Women's Mtg: Tues @ 7:15 PM



CORRECTIONS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Need men and women to bring AA meetings inside both county and state-run correctional facilities, where those populations cannot attend outside AA meetings

Winnebago County

Winnebago County Jail

Men's Mtg: Weds @ 7:00 PM

Women's Mtg: Weds @ 7:00 PM

Winnebago Correctional Center

Men's Mtg: Weds @ 6:30 PM

Wisconsin Resource Center

Men's Mtg: Weds @ 6:30 PM

Women's Mtg: Weds @ 6:30 PM

Oshkosh State Correctional Institution

Men's Mtg: Weds @ 6:30 PM & 7:30 PM (2 hours)

Men's Mtg: Friday @ 9:30 AM (1 hour)

Drug Abuse Correctional Center

Men's Mtg: Thurs @ 6:30 PM

Men's Mtg: Sat @ 2:25 PM

Men's Mtg: 2nd & 4th Friday @ 6:30PM



**"WAY OF LIFE" AA MEETING
ST MARK'S 150 S GREEN BAY RD, NEENAH
7PM FRIDAY NIGHTS**

ENTER THROUGH SIDE DOOR NEXT TO PARKING LOT



WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

- A NEW MEETING
- SOMEWHERE TO GO, TO MEET OTHERS LIKE YOURSELF
- SOMETHING TO DO AT THE END OF YOUR WORK WEEK
- SOMETHING TO FILL YOUR OLD DRINKING TIME

A FRIDAY NIGHT AA MEETING IS AN OPTION

COME AND CHECK US OUT: WHETHER NEW TO AA OR HAVE YEARS OF SOBRIETY.

- HAVE CAPACITY TO HOLD 3 SEPARATE MEETINGS
- FORMAT IS STEP WORK OR TOPIC
- HAVE AA MATERIALS
- CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARIES WITH MEDALLIONS
- SERVE COFFEE AND CANDY
- USUALLY A GROUP GOES OUT TO EAT AFTERWARDS/MEETING AFTER A MEETING

FVCO Group Representative Submission Form



DECLARATION OF UNITY

This we owe to AA's future: To place our common welfare first: To keep our Fellowship united. For on AA unity depends our lives, and the lives of those to come.

What Are Group Representatives?

A) Representation

1. Each AA group is encouraged to elect or appoint one member to represent them at FVCO representative meetings. If a group doesn't have a FVCO group rep, then the GSR or Treasurer should attend the quarterly meeting.

B) Duties and Responsibilities

1. The primary function of the group reps is to guide, vote on, and oversee the Steering Committee of the Fox Valley Central Office. Although they do not exercise any direct control over the day to day operations, through the powers of election, recall, voting, and the ability to influence their respective groups whether to contribute to FVCO, control is thus maintained over the actions of the office and Steering Committee.
2. The representatives are responsible for the relationship of FVCO to individual AA members and the groups.

C) Meetings

1. The representatives will meet quarterly to decide issues, voice opinions, and hear the report of the Steering Committee of FVCO. Meetings will be held every 4th Monday in January, April, July, and October of each year, with the October meeting considered the "Bi-Annual Meeting" where Steering Committee members are elected. The Meetings are held at the Fox Valley Central Office (1528 Ballard Rd., Appleton, WI 54911)



Group Name:

Address:

Day and Time:

Reps Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

Quarterly Report from GSO



Activities of the General Service Board Including A.A. World Services, Inc., AA Grapevine, Inc.

This is a confidential bulletin, for use only within A.A.

First Quarter, 2024

General Service Board Meeting

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. held its quarterly meeting at the Westin New York Hotel at Times Square on Monday, January 29, 2024. Mike L., Interim Chair the General Service Board, presided. All committees met during the weekend. Highlights of committee reports appear below:

Archives

The committee reviewed proposed changes to the GSO Archives Deaccession Form that was initially approved in 2009. Following discussion, the committee accepted the changes to the GSO Archives Deaccession Form.

Conference

The committee recommended to the General Service Board that the request for the General Secretary and Chair of the General Service Board of Great Britain be approved to attend the 2024 U.S./Canada General Service Conference as observers.

Conference actions with Simple Majority but failed to have substantial unanimity: The committee thoughtfully discussed concerns raised by Conference members and A.A. members about the section in the Final Conference Report, "Recommendations Passed by Simple Majority." The committee noted that this section comes from a 1986 Report and Charter Advisory Action, "If a committee recommendation 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 will be duly noted in the Conference Report." The committee discussed the ambiguity of the Conference Group Conscience when a recommendation that fails by a Simple Majority is automatically forwarded to a Trustees' Committee as a consideration and felt that this could unintentionally foster disunity within the Fellowship. The committee noted how the Final Conference Report is used to clearly communicate the Group Conscience from the General Service Conference,

and raised concerns that the Simple Majority section could lead to misunderstandings and confusion. The committee felt that sentiment within the Fellowship may have shifted since the 1986 Advisory Action and agreed to forward a request to the 2024 Conference Committee on Report and Charter to discuss if the practice of communicating items that failed to achieve substantial unanimity as suggestions is still desirable, and if the Conference would like to continue the reporting of these items separately from other items that did not carry from a General Service Conference. The staff secretary will include additional sharing from the committee as background to aid a discussion about this topic.

Subcommittee on Inventory: At their January 12, 2024, meeting, the committee reviewed and accepted the final report from the Inventory Subcommittee. The committee expressed their gratitude to the Inventory Subcommittee for their work on the GSB Inventory and the plan for a Conference inventory to take place at the 75th GSC. The committee agreed to forward the 2025 Conference Inventory Plan to the 2024 Conference Committee on Agenda. The committee noted that a summary of activities related to the GSB inventory will be included in the GSB Board report at the 74th GSC. The committee expressed their gratitude for the work of the Inventory Subcommittee and accepted the report.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

The staff secretary reported the CPC Service Cards are live on the GSO website for CPC Committees to download and use in their local service work. The digital template includes two sections on the card that allows for input of local contact information or a locally developed QR code to be placed on it by local A.A. members performing CPC service. This card can be produced as a poster, flyer, distributed digitally, or added into a presentation.

The trustee's committee received an update from the AAWS Publishing Department on the continued development of the "Pamphlet for the Mental Health

Professionals” which included a working title and look forward to a progress report or draft language at the July meeting.

Corrections

Service material has been developed on Facilitating Online Meetings in Correctional Settings and will be available through the Corrections Desk and the Corrections Kit shortly.

The American Correctional Association meeting in August 2024 was identified as a high priority for a presentation to Corrections Professionals from the United States and Canada.

There are ongoing discussions about how to effectively communicate information about tablet literature in Corrections settings to the Fellowship. Service material is being developed and a survey will be distributed through the National Warden’s Association to gain a facility-level understanding of the availability of AAWS and AA Grapevine literature.

Finance

GSO Financial Results

The committee reviewed the GSO preliminary unaudited financial results for the year ended December 31, 2023. As in prior years, only unaudited 2023 revenue information was reported. Unaudited 2023 financial statements including expenses are scheduled to be completed the week of February 5 and will be distributed to all Board members at that time. Audited 2023 financial statements will be provided to delegates at the General Service Conference.

Gross literature sales for 2023 are \$14,489,002 (93% of budget). This is \$1,092,998 lower than the budgeted amount of \$15,582,000. Preliminary cost of goods sold for 2023 was \$7,297,877 (96% of budget), making the Literature Gross Margin \$7,191,125 (90% of budget). Gross margin is \$758,875 lower than the budgeted amount of \$7,950,000.

Contributions for 2023 are \$10,872,239 (104% of budget). This is \$372,239 more than the budgeted amount of \$10,500,000. December 2023 contributions were \$1,684,109, the most received in one month in over four years. Contributions received in 2023 surpassed the previous annual record of \$10,782,983 set in 2021.

Total revenue for 2023 was \$18,515,501 (99% of budget), This is \$275,819 less than the budgeted amount of \$18,791,320.

GSO 2024 Budget

Work started in September 2023 with financial strategic planning and documenting a timeline which tells

the story of the budget process. A budget that shows the different phases of the budget process, expense reductions made during the process, and an itemized list of reductions and deferred projects was shared with the committee.

In the 2024 budget, total operating revenue is \$19,642,359. Operating expense before depreciation and before GSB support of La Viña is \$19,024,414. GSB support of La Viña is projected to be \$569,512. The bottom line is a surplus of a little less than \$50,000.

Gross Literature Sales are budgeted at \$16,817,345. This is based on unit sales remaining the same as 2023. However, the dollars increased to reflect sales for a full year at the new prices implemented in April 2023. The budget does not include the selling of any new titles. If approved by the Conference, new items will be incorporated in the budget at the time of the reforecast in July.

Contributions are budgeted at \$10,500,000, the same as the 2023 budget and \$372,239 less than the 2023 actual.

The Trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee recommended that the General Service Board approve the 2024 AAWS/GSB Budget with Contributions Revenue of \$10,500,000, Gross Margin on Literature Sales of \$8,492,759, Operating Expenses of \$19,024,414, Support for La Viña of \$569,512 and a net income before depreciation of \$48,433. Deducting depreciation of \$1,020,000 and the budgeted distribution from the International Literature Fund of \$30,000, the net budgeted deficit for 2024 is \$1,001,567.

Reserve Fund

As of December 31, 2023, the Reserve Fund balance net of Grapevine subscription liability is \$12,630,862 which is 7.30 months of 2023 GSO/GV operating expenses.

The Reserve Fund report was accepted by the committee.

Grapevine Financial Results

For the year ending December 31, 2023, only preliminary revenue was reported. Total circulation of the Grapevine magazine and app was 55,412. This compared with a budget of 52,056 and 2022 actual of 59,070.

Total revenue for the year was \$2,562,978 which is \$50,978 more than budgeted and \$83,882 less than the \$2,646,860 achieved in 2022.

Total gross margin for the year was \$1,230,869 which is \$42,474 more than budgeted and \$192,859 less than the \$1,423,728 achieved in 2022.

The Grapevine financial report was accepted by the committee.

La Viña Financial Results

For the preliminary unaudited results for December 31, 2023, total circulation for La Viña was 6,484 compared to 6,732 budgeted and 6,415 in December 2022. Total revenue sales from the magazine and app were \$247,356 compared with a budget of \$209,755. Total gross margin was \$144,316 compared with a budget of \$110,694.

The Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee, based upon updated subscription data, approved the adjustment in the calculated amount of the subscription liability to be held in the Reserve Fund from \$573,012 to \$540,000, allowing for \$33,012 in excess funds to be withdrawn from the Reserve Fund and provided to Grapevine. The Funding percentage of this liability at 34% did not change.

The La Viña financial report was accepted by the committee.

Grapevine and La Viña 2024 Budget

The budget significantly lowers the shortfall for Grapevine and La Viña. It also provides the resources to expand the sales of magazine subscriptions, app subscriptions, books, audio books and other products. Highlights include the following: Reduction of travel, subscription price increase, and efforts to increase subscriptions to "GV Complete." There are three new products this year: Prayer and Meditation audio book in February, Our Twelve Steps in April, Emotional Sobriety audio book in September. Reductions include less freelance help and more work to be done in-house.

Work continues on long-term plans to return La Viña finances to pre-pandemic levels by increasing print and complete subscriptions and lowering costs.

The Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee recommended that the General Service Board approve the 2024 Grapevine (excluding La Viña) budget with Gross Margin on Literature and Subscription sales of \$1,907,115, Operating expenses of \$2,499,287, Expected interest on unearned subscription receipts invested in the Reserve Fund of \$9,600, resulting in a net budgeted deficit of \$582,572.

The Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee recommended that the General Service Board approve the 2024 La Viña Budget consisting of Gross Margin on Literature and Subscription sales of \$118,861, Expenses of \$688,373, and funding from the General Service Board, per Advisory Action, in the amount of \$569,512, resulting in a net result of \$0.

Liquidity Update

The GSO 2024 budget is expected to be cash flow positive, however GV/LV is not. The Grapevine shortfall

is expected and was highlighted in the five-year plan when investing in the app. The five-year plan also showed the need for Reserve Fund withdrawal to continue to support the app for years 1, 2, and 3 of the plan. The cash position for GSO is better now than it has been in months. However, there is still a backlog in paying vendors. A Reserve Fund drawdown will be necessary to convert to the digital age with Grapevine and to emerge from Covid with AAWS.

AAWS has monitored cash position on a weekly basis and if cash had been needed imminently, a meeting would have been called in accordance with the Reserve Fund Policy. AAWS wanted to complete its efforts in expense reductions and finish the work of the 2024 budget process to prepare for the year ahead before recommending a Reserve Fund withdrawal.

The Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee recommended that the General Service Board authorize the withdrawal of \$1,064,652 from the Reserve Fund, to be allocated as follows:

\$500,000 to the General Service Board to ensure sufficient cash on hand to meet liquidity requirements in the second quarter of 2024, which includes \$1.1 million of Conference expenses. This is in response to the cash on hand deficiency carried over since the end of 2022 that was not fully mitigated by positive cash flow results in 2023 that resulted from the generous commitment to self-support from the Fellowship that exceeded both the previous annual record and 2023 reforecast budget for contributions, close management of expenses, and collections of receivables. This draw plus expected positive cash flow in the first quarter of 2024 will fully fund the expenses expected to be paid in the second quarter of 2024.

\$564,652 to Grapevine to fund year three of the Grapevine five-year plan covering the period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2026. This five-year plan, reviewed by the Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee at its January 2023 meeting, called for capital investment and operating support of approximately \$1.1 million in year two (2023) and operating support of approximately \$565k in year three (2024), with the expectation that Grapevine operations would be cash flow positive and not require operating support starting in year four (2025).

Finance Strategy Subcommittee

This subcommittee has met twice since its inception and has worked on scope and intercompany finances. The scope of this subcommittee is to define the flow and impact of AAWS/GSB/GV intercompany payments, to compile information about current efforts and future opportunities for cost containment/revenue enhancements and lastly to discuss fiscal opportunities with an ultimate eye toward sustaining services and strengthening the

Reserve Fund and reviewing the investment policy of the Reserve Fund. The subcommittee created a schedule of payments between the Grapevine, GSB and AAWS.

The subcommittee will examine intercompany allocations, how intercompany balances are determined, and how this is presented to the Finance and Budgetary Committee. They will also help develop a process of how allocations are charged to La Viña. The committee accepted the report of the subcommittee.

Fourth Quarter Financial Report to Fellowship

The fourth quarter financial report will have the revenue numbers, but there is always the potential of an audit adjustment. Expenses are still being worked on and can change when the audit is finalized. When the final audit report is issued, it will be shared with the Conference. The committee decided to provide a revenue-based Financial Report with the budget draft and an explanatory document detailing the budget process and the reductions made during the process. A final report including expenses will be provided at the Conference.

General Sharing Session

The topic of the Winter Quarterly General Sharing Session was "Leadership." Robert L., Trustee-at-Large Canada, and Vera F., AAWS Nontrustee Director, presented.

Robert began by saying "The leadership I am going to talk about is not just for servants engaged in the general service structure, but also for those people who actively contribute to carrying the message to the suffering alcoholic." He referenced page 106 of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, "Here we turn outward toward our fellow alcoholics who are still in distress. Here we experience the kind of giving that asks no reward."

He shared how his sponsor, for example, was a leader. "His peace, his quiet smile, his ability to be attentive, his compassion and benevolence attracted me to him and to follow in his footsteps." Robert noted that we need to remember the idea of attraction rather than promotion. Leadership is based on a kind of joyous humility, which "amounts to a clear recognition of what and who we really are, followed by a sincere attempt to become what we could be" (pg. 58, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*). He shared, "I became a journalist, a writer rather than an electrician or an accountant, for example. I have less difficulty using my pen than screwing in a light bulb in a lamp; and for me two and two can make twenty-two instead of four."

Robert then noted how Concepts III and IX remind us that a good leader will be able to listen attentively and sometimes be flexible to change some or all their ideas, or, sometimes, stand their ground without becoming an-

gry or arrogant. There are few better ways of getting to know ourselves and forging true patience than through virulent adversity. In service, as in life, the pursuit of emotional sobriety and personal growth boils down to the precept that "It is a spiritual axiom that every time we are disturbed, no matter what the cause, there is something wrong with us" (pg. 90, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*). There is no leadership without sponsorship.

He then reflected on Bill W.'s essay on Concept IX (on page C32), "What the sponsor does and says, how well he estimates the reactions of his prospects, how well he times and makes his presentation, how well he handles criticisms, and how well he leads his prospect on by personal spiritual example — these qualities of leadership can make all the difference, often the difference between life and death."

Robert ended by sharing how "(Bill) was the first Trustee-at-large when he visited Norway, England and many other countries which now have well-established general service structures. Perhaps the finest example of his vision is that which led him to write the Concepts, so that the Fellowship would survive him. This foresight has ensured nothing less than the future of the Fellowship. I hope all of us do the same in unity."

Vera shared on the topic of "servant leadership." She began by noting, "In reading the history of the General Sharing Session, I learned that the topic was covered in the January 1978 General Service Board Sharing Session. Robert Greenleaf, a great friend of A.A., founded the 'Servant Leader Movement,' which holds the ideal of replacing self-interest with service to others. Servant leadership is all about the people you serve, which directly aligns with the spiritual principles of Alcoholics Anonymous."

She noted that in Tradition Two, Bill wrote: "Our leaders are but trusted servants. They do not govern." Tradition Two reminds us there is only one authority. Nonalcoholics might read those words and wonder: "Where does A.A. get its direction?" "Who runs it?" "How does anything get done around here?" Tradition Two answers this question. No one gives spiritual advice, judges anyone else's conduct, or issues orders. We work together using the principle of cooperation versus control. We work together in unity recognizing the ultimate authority, a loving Higher Power that resides in our group conscience.

Vera then shifted to her personal experience with these principles. "As a nontrustee director on AAWS Corporate board I serve at the pleasure of the General Service Board and the members of A.A. And it is through delegated authority and responsibility that I can work on behalf of the members of Alcoholics Anonymous. I am

not the boss, and I realized that I didn't have to be the boss. My job was to help move the work forward. I felt a great sense of relief after that realization."

However, she shared that it signified a greater understanding of her fundamental responsibilities, "In essence, I consulted widely on new and important matters. I didn't pass the buck. And once I had sufficient general backing, I freely made decisions and put them into action within the framework of my defined authority and responsibility. That experience was another lesson in: It's okay not to have the answer, but what's not okay is not making the effort."

Vera reflected how preparation increases confidence, as well as efficiency, with the time it takes for this process to unfold. Striving for this is indispensable at all levels. Bill talked a great deal about the GSRs, the future leadership and building blocks of our structure. It takes a homegroup to make a Delegate.

She added a quote from the essay "Leadership in A.A.: Ever a Vital Need": "We have an abundance of men and women whose dedication, stability, vision, and special skills make them capable of dealing with every possible service assignment. We have only to seek folks out and trust them to serve us." Vera noted how "Throughout my time in A.A., I have been sought out, and trusted to serve. Those 'loving invitations' to participate have been and continue to be instrumental in a process of development and spiritual growth, both for me and for Alcoholics Anonymous."

She closed by saying, "Leadership in A.A. has required me to listen, to reserve judgement, put aside my agenda, my way of doing things for a new way, a new perspective, and a new experience. It has also given me multiple opportunities to learn how to make decisions and deal with criticism. Through sponsorship and sharing with other alcoholics, and participation in the committees I get to be a part of, I am invested in the future leadership of A.A. and in the future of A.A."

After the presentations, Deb K., moderator, invited sharing on the topic from those in attendance.

One delegate shared how to him leadership is exemplified in the people he sponsors that take the initiative to be helpful, even if they need help themselves to learn how to carry the message. He reflected how his own early recovery was wrought with self-sabotage as a defense mechanism and appreciated those that saw past it to help him stay.

A General Service Trustee shared how his own experience in corporate environments was that of a top-down leadership structure. In A.A. it's the opposite, we talk to people based on our own stories, and of how we are alike, make mistakes, and share a common humanity in our

disease. He shared how leading is also knowing when to listen to the group conscience, and different points of view, with the intention of learning and developing a perspective.

A General Service Trustee shared how in his professional experience he learned that leadership is the ability to influence a diverse group to reach a common goal. That process is sometimes messy, such as the battles that the Alcoholic Foundation had in the early years and how those carried over, but how those differences are essential to our functioning. Our role is to make sure A.A. is here for the next generation that needs it. For that reason, leadership exists at every level of our service structure with the guidance of spiritual principles.

A nontrustee director shared how she realized it was her last board weekend and was thinking about the impact that rotation has on our leadership. It is a way for new ideas and perspectives to come in that add value to the Fellowship. She spoke about the impact that her service and now rotation will have on her.

A staff member shared how to her humility is the gift to begin again and to take things one day at a time. Being an example means so much. Where she got sober, there was a speaker who talked about how what you do speaks so much louder than what you say. She feels that in her practice she will ask her Higher Power to use the best of her. She had thought initially that would help her to be her best, according to what she wants, but she has found that sometimes the best of her in a situation is showing her humanity, showing her strengths, and showing her weaknesses. She really had to embrace that, even when it seemed daunting. Although she doesn't always appear as she thinks she should, she knows she is showing up to the best of her ability in the right way. As a staff member, she is constantly reminded of the display of experiences from so many different areas and regions and the spirit of rotation.

A delegate shared how leadership looks a lot different than he thought it would. Being one of the oldest members of his home group, he was careful to sit back and let new members rise and not diminish their growth. He shared how he had noticed that in other groups he went to, the old timers are stuck in their ways and won't listen to new ideas and were power drivers.

A delegate shared how when she was a few months sober her sponsor and a few women enveloped her and got her involved in area service. She watched as those women got up on the dais; they were the delegate, alternate delegate, and area chair. She was smitten with their love and example of leadership. God tries his best not to call the qualified, but to qualify the called; she laughed how she had gotten here by making bad decisions! Now she is in a

room with some of the finest human beings. Many times, it's by making mistakes that we learn and grow.

A delegate shared how he loves to talk about leadership. He said there were two ways to look at it: Leadership as being a way of life, which is less about what is on a resume, than about inspiring people. He reminisced on the farewell talks given by outgoing General Service Trustees at the end of Conference last year.

The second way is to look at how we select our qualified leaders. He shared that the further down the triangle, he felt the more two dimensional the characters become. It was important to notice the difference of who someone is "on paper" versus seeing them interacting with others at an assembly. He encouraged more initial review, asking prospective trusted servants, "What's their vision for A.A.?"

A delegate shared how he learned a lot in the beginning from both good and bad leadership. He remembered when the GSR was not able to report back, so he tried to do better when, later on, he became GSR of his group.

A delegate shared her service journey had not been intentional, even from the beginning, as she had been mandated to attend meetings. Looking back, she reflected on how service had gotten her through many losses in life. "I got out of bed because I had service commitments and sponsees. One must freely give back to A.A. what is graciously received."

A Regional Trustee shared about the principle that good leaders eat last. He had learned that in the fire service, where he served for 30 years. He gave an example of a time he was on duty working on putting out a fire; that even in high pressure situations good leadership means practicing taking all the blame and none of the credit. The idea is to empower those around us to stand on their own two feet. This requires engagement, interacting with a new person, and taking the time to help the next person. He shared how those practices help to inspire others to be of service and gave the example of a past GSO employee who inspired him with his example.

A delegate shared how he thought he had all the answers when he first got here. His Higher Power sought fit to put him in a position to sit in the corner and listen to everybody else talk. It taught him a lot, especially as he got more involved in general service. It was hard at first dealing with imposter syndrome, until he got another learning experience. Watching leadership in action during COVID showed him the importance of showing up when needed and rising to the occasion with compassion. "We take the next right step."

Finally, the moderator closed the sharing session and remarked how Vera had initially talked about the group conscience, and how it was a beautiful place to end the

session around leadership. "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." She noted how Tradition Two shows up in seven of our Concept essays; that it is so important to keep in mind that the best source of leadership is the one we hear in the group conscience, that's where we can really have our confidence.

International

The committee accepted reports on the International Literature Fund and World Service Meeting Fund and observed that recent Seventh Tradition contributions to both funds reflect the awareness of countries of the need to assist each other to assure access to the A.A. message and support the World Service Meeting. The committee noted the effectiveness of suggestions from the 27th World Service Meeting's Policy, Admission and Finance Committee to encourage countries that are able to contribute funds to the World Service Meeting Fund.

The committee received reports from participation at the following recent international events: Meeting of Americas (REDELA) in Medellin, Colombia; European Service Meeting, in York, England and the V International Meeting on "Lifestyles v/s toxic Habits," in Guantanamo City, Cuba. The committee discussed the International Data Map project and agreed that due to current financial constraints the project and its budget be deferred to 2025. The committee recognized the significance of having information on global A.A. activity available for countries seeking to sponsor countries without A.A. presence. The committee noted the ongoing update of worldwide A.A. contact information at the International desk.

International Convention/Regional Forums

The IC/RF Subcommittee recommended that the subcommittee be reconstituted in July to continue the work identified in the Scope.

The committee received and accepted a revised schedule reflecting reduced Board/Staff Attendance. The staff secretary presented a revised Regional Forum budget for consideration. The committee accepted the revised budget and agreed to forward it to the Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee.

The committee secretary shared that the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Board forwarded a revised 2025 International Convention budget reflecting an increase in overhead costs from \$150,000 to \$522,165 and resulting in a deficit budget. AAWS requested the trustees' Committee on International Convention-Regional Forums revisit the previously approved registration fees set at the October 2023 GSB meeting to address the deficit. After thoughtful discussion the committee

recommended to the General Service Board that the 2025 International Convention Pre-Registration fee be increased from \$155.00 to \$160.00 (USD) per attendee and that the Full Registration fee be increased from \$180.00 to \$185.00 (USD) per attendee to correct the deficit budget.

The committee reviewed and accepted a tentative list of Program titles for the 2025 International Convention with minor revisions.

Literature

The committee reviewed the draft Plain Language Big Book manuscript and requested additional copyediting by the Publishing Department. The committee agreed to forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature the Plain Language Big Book with the requested copyediting.

The committee also discussed the suggested titles submitted by the Plain Language Big Book subcommittee. After thoughtful discussion, the committee agreed upon one of the three titles which will appear on the draft manuscript that is being forwarded to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.

The committee discussed the draft logistics and timeline submitted by the Plain Language Big Book subcommittee. The committee also reviewed the draft “letter of understanding” outlining the confidentiality guidelines related to review of the manuscript (to ensure A.A.’s legal rights in the registration of the approved final draft of the manuscript with the U.S. Copyright Office, maintain the integrity of A.A. literature and ultimately our most valued asset which is A.A. unity).

The committee discussed the progress to date on the revision to the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.” The project is moving along apace with a limited increase of submitted stories. Given that the original deadline of December 31, 2023, has passed, the committee agreed to extend the deadline to April 30, 2024, to give time for further story submissions. The staff secretary will revise the call out for stories with the new deadline and distribute accordingly.

Nominating

The committee reviewed all candidates’ resumes submitted for West Central and Western Canada regional trustees and found all candidates eligible for election at the General Service Conference in April 2024.

The committee reviewed the slates submitted for the General Service Board (GSB), Officers of GSB, A.A. World Services, Inc., and AA Grapevine, Inc. and agreed to forward each slate as presented to the General Service Board for approval.

The committee that the revised Procedure No. 14 — Selection of Chairperson of the General Service Board and presented it for adoption.

Public Information

“A.A. at a Glance”—The committee reviewed the revised draft flyer “A.A. at a Glance” and **agreed to forward** it to the Conference Committee on Public Information.

“*Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings*”—The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information the revised pamphlet “*Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings*” (with a new working title), which had been previously reviewed by the trustees’ Public Information Committee.

Comprehensive Media Plan — The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2024 Conference Committee on Public Information the *2024 Comprehensive Media Plan*, which had been reviewed by the trustee’s Public Information Committee prior to this meeting through electronic mail.

Working group on Analytics Reporting — The committee reviewed the Working Group on Analytics report. There was a discussion of the potential advantages of a new tool, including the ease of creating regular basic reports in three languages.

The committee **agreed to forward** the 2023 Analytics Working Group progress report to the Conference Committee on Public Information. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the July 2024 meeting.

Treatment and Accessibilities

The staff secretary is developing a timeline workflow to edit and post the remaining twelve interviews of the Military Audio Project to aa.org. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the July 2024 meeting.

The trustees’ committee was provided with an update on the search for two appointed committee members (ACMs). The committee approved the direction of the search and looks forward to an update report at the July 2024 meeting.

AA Grapevine

The AA Grapevine Board of Directors has met twice since the October 27, quarterly meeting. A Strategic Planning session and a Planning meeting on December 9, 2023. The Finance and Budget committee met on December 7, 2023.

Overview

The board aimed to increase app information, Fellowship participation, and subscriptions through strategic planning and app attraction initiatives. GV and LV

Editorial teams are busy with new products and upcoming magazine issues. Did you know we have a new online catalog? Websites, podcasts, and social media channels are all contributing to an increased online presence. Strategic cost-cutting measures are included in our 2024 budget proposal. The emphasis on product diversification and subscription upgrades fuels revenue growth. La Viña remains a focus for financial improvement strategies and an important part of the strategic plan implementation. A new controller has been hired; an official announcement to the Fellowship will be made on February 5, 2024. Finally, preparations for the Grapevine's 80th anniversary are underway. Stay tuned for more information!

Strategic Planning

The AAGVB met half a day on Saturday, December 9, 2023. As a follow up to the October strategic planning session, the AAGV board and staff worked with Tony B., creativity and strategy expert, 32+ years in A.A. Fellowship, for a one-day idea generation session. The primary goal of the session was to increase penetration of the Fellowship to drive higher app subscription levels for AAGV/LV. Tactics included creating clear roles, goals and task accountability for both board members and staff as well as AAGV/LV representatives. The facilitator focused on how to reach groups and members to attract subscribers and what we need to do differently for the Hispanic community. Using a graphic timeline, the group prioritized action steps. AAGV publisher created an action plan and assigned staff and board. A team meeting with the committee chair and publisher will take place in February. A report back to the full board will take place at the March Planning meeting.

Board Meeting

During its December 9, 2023, half a day Planning meeting, the board was updated by the publisher on the following: Discussion around the app launch downloads, subscriptions and revenue received to date. The board discussed whether the apps should be offered worldwide and what that would entail, with no action taken. The publisher will develop and assign attraction efforts based on the ideas generated at the strategic planning session.

The board received activity reports from office operations, Grapevine and La Viña editorial, production, digital communications, digital engagement, and customer relations.

Board Committee Activity

Finance and Budget:

The chair reported the AAGV Finance committee met on December 7, 2023. They reviewed and approved

the October 2023 YTD Financial Statements for Grapevine and La Viña and reviewed the working 2024 Budget for GV and LV. On December 9, 2023, the board was presented with the October 2023 YTD financial results for Grapevine and La Viña and approved them and reviewed the working 2024 Budget for GV and LV. On January 25, the board was presented with the November 2023 YTD financial results for Grapevine and La Viña, the 2024 Budget including the rolling cash flow forecast. In addition, the Board reviewed draft revenue results for FY 2023 for Grapevine and La Viña.

Nominating and Governance: The chair reported no activity since October 2023.

Ad hoc Director's Handbook: The chair reported, the ad hoc committee met on December 6 and January 23. The Table of Contents for the updated handbook was approved and content owners assigned a section. The committee will be creating new content for all sections. The size of the handbook will be reduced to approximately 25 pages by adding links. The document will live on the Onboard platform for easy access. The plan is that the draft will be completed by the March Planning meeting for review by two board members. The final handbook should be available for the next rotation.

Ad hoc Personnel Handbook: A revised draft from Human Resources will be reviewed by the director of operations and publisher and returned to HR if edits are required. Once that process is completed, the draft will be turned over to the committee for their review and recommendation to the full board.

Ad hoc 2025 Convention: The committee met on November 7. The committee discussed GV/LV location possibilities at the Convention, souvenir item as well as other "asks" to be presented to the Convention desk. Subsequent meetings had to be rescheduled due to scheduling conflicts. GV publisher will notify the committee of an upcoming meeting as soon as possible.

Editorial Advisory Board

The GVEAB met on January 11, 2024. GVEAB currently recruiting for a Canadian and Central US member. LVEAB met on November 15, 2023.

Management Report

The Publisher reported the following:

GV LV App

- Downloads GV = 26,623; New in-app subscriptions = 5,305 (iOS 4,745, Android 560).
- Downloads LV = 1,061; New in-app subscriptions = 143 (iOS 117, Android 26).
- Past month GV iOS use: 20,505 sessions on 3,072 devices.

- App user ratings: Google Play 4.8/5; Apple 4.1/5.
 - Current position on Apple top 200 Magazine and Newspaper apps: 34 — just behind Boston Globe but ahead of *Bon Appetit*, The San Francisco *Chronicle* and *Vanity Fair*.
 - Total app sales to top \$100,000 by end of January. GV Inc. revenue to date \$66,455.
 - App attraction efforts: A 13-point plan coming out of our last strategic planning meeting issued to staff and board. Teams developing action plans.
 - Delayed La Viña reimbursements from GSB put GV in a cash crunch October through December. We managed with a close watch on payables and receivables. Now issuing weekly cash reports for review by publisher, treasurer and finance staff. Grapevine Finance confirms GSB La Viña reimbursement Q2 payment of \$233,766 on December 8, and Q3 payment of \$211,755 on January 8.
 - New Controller hired and will start on February 5, 2024. YPTC will continue to serve us for four to six weeks to help with transition and audit.
 - Director of Operations: Janet Bryan is retiring as of April 29, 2024. Transition plans are in the works.
 - January special offer out to “print only” subscribers to upgrade to “complete” for only \$10.
 - Upcoming new products: *Prayer and Meditation* audio book, February 15; *Our Twelve Steps*, April 2.
 - Podcast: Over 726,000 downloads, continues to grow with this month’s listenership up 11% over previous month; Instagram: Grapevine 11,500 followers, La Viña 1,565 followers; YouTube: 12,400 subscribers, 239 videos with 181,874 views. The podcast is now available on YouTube. Grapevine Channel subscribers and any YouTube user who watches A.A. related content will get exposure to the podcast on their feeds.
 - New YouTube playlist “*Blessed*” released in January with RSS feed for Podcast.
 - Grapevine and La Viña News appearing monthly on the Meeting Guide App.
 - App stories to be in Grapevine and La Viña magazines, Grapevine and La Viña News and on the podcast.
 - GV/LV staff attend monthly All Employee huddle with GSO.
 - A Grapevine Area Chair Workshop was held on January 18 to inform Area servants about the new apps and answer questions.
 - Digital Engagement Editor broadening outreach to GVR/RLV network.
 - Director of Operations revising the Business Continuation Plan.
 - Customer Relations Coordinator and new fulfillment house Customer Service relationship has been productive.
 - Online store updates are ongoing.
 - New online only 2024 catalogue released (*postcard with QR code available*).
 - Carry the Message certificates processed in 2023: 1,633.
- Editorial Report: Grapevine:* The senior editor reported the following:
- Recent Grapevine magazines released:
 - » NOV—Gratitude (featuring an interview with Michelle in Archives).
 - » DEC—Remote Communities & Holiday Stories (interview with Mike L.).
 - » JAN—Emotional Sobriety (Regional Forums announcement) — out now.
 - Grapevine magazines currently in production and on schedule:
 - » FEB—Getting Through Tough Times—done, printing.
 - » MARCH—Spanish-Speaking A.A. Members’ La Viña stories (interview with Paz P.)—final proofing.
 - » APRIL—Favorite Big Book Stories (Big Book 85th Anniversary!)—proofing.
 - » MAY—How the Steps Changed My Life (Release of brand-new Step Book!)—stories edited, art meeting soon.
 - » JUNE—Happy 80th Grapevine! — Special Issue—editing stories.
 - » JULY—Annual Prison Issue—selecting stories.
 - *Our Twelve Steps*—New Spring Book—a brand-new collection of stories from A.A. members about the joys and challenges of working the program’s Twelve Steps of recovery—on schedule—due out April 2024.
 - Working with new Digital Engagement Editor to create content for the new app.
 - Early work on special June 2024 GV issue—Grapevine’s 80th Anniversary!!!
 - Podcast — working with hosts to connect with interview subjects from current stories in magazine and important GV & LV information.
 - Publishing more A.A. News and interviews with Class A & B Trustees and important A.A. announcements (working closely with GSO staff desks).
 - Early work being done on *Emotional Sobriety* audio-book (*possible Fall 2024*).
 - Early work is being done on 2025 International Convention product.

Editorial Report: La Viña: The La Viña editor reported the following:

- Recent La Viña magazine released:
 - » NOV/DEC Alegría (The joy of living).
 - » JAN/FEB 2024: Nuevos (Newcomers edition).
- La Viña magazines currently in production and on schedule:
 - » MARCH/APRIL: Short stories — Proof 2.
 - » MAY/JUNE: Relapse — Copy editing.
 - » JULY/AUGUST: Prisons — Selecting stories.
- Stories — 150 new batch of stories received in December only.
- 2025 Editorial Calendar ready and on the website.
- LV informational workshop — last Thursday of the month at 3 pm. We share updates and give presentations of our products. Increasing engagement with Trusted Servants and spreading the word about the App.
- Daily quote: SMS service cancelled. Members can find it in the La Viña App.
- La Viña App: The LV editorial team has developed written and audiovisual materials, in Spanish, focused on the needs expressed in the Hispanic community.

Video tutorials to download and use for La Viña application, as well as PowerPoint presentations with the tools and resources that are available to all A.A. members.

- Working with digital engagement editor, updating and creating content for the app.

The board received activity reports from operations, production, digital communications, digital engagement, and customer relations.

Grapevine Web Report

The digital publishing manager reported monthly web traffic in the 4th quarter for GV averaged 292,916 new visitors; 41,000 returning visitors and 598,610 page views. Due to an upgrade to Google Analytics 4, the numbers for LV were not correct and therefore not included in 4th quarter reporting.

- In addition to **approving** the Planning meeting minutes of September 9, 2023, the Board took the following actions at its meeting on December 9, 2023:
 - » Approved the October 31, 2023, Grapevine financial report.
 - » Approved the October 31, 2023, La Viña financial report.

Travel

Nov. 10 – 12	National Corrections Conference	Oklahoma City, OK
Nov. 17 – 19	East Central Regional Forum	Independence, OH
Nov. 17 – 19	Southern States A.A. Service Assembly	Orlando, FL
Jan. 20	Northeast New York Service Orientation	Hudson, NY

For comments or questions write to: Staff Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163