

Delegate's Report July 2023

Grapevine

The new Grapevine and La Viña APPS are in Beta testing.

A delegate I know (who is participating in the test phase) says: "It is so cool!" Straight from the mouth of a fellow drunk 😊

Expected launch date is Sept 15th

Get excited!!

Group announcements, District meetings – let's go!!

Corrections

More and more correctional facilities across the United States are providing inmates with TABLETS – a great way to access educational programs, get subscriptions to Field and Stream, and read eBooks. On every tablet in every correctional facility, AA and Grapevine literature is available to inmates at no cost.

Holy Batman!! Did you know about this?? Do you take a meeting into a correctional facility in NH? ASK the guards if the prisons have tablets...if so, tell the inmates about this!!

How can inmates access AA literature at no charge?

Thanks for asking...that is one of the many things made possible by your 7th Tradition contributions to the General Service Board.

However, the new Grapevine and La Viña APPS will NOT be accessible through inmates' tablets. Guess it makes sense...an app works on a smartphone...so, we still need to focus on...wait for it...

Grapevine's Carry the Message Project.

What's that? Oh, thank you for asking!

You can purchase a Grapevine or La Viña subscription and ask AA to give that subscription to someone who can't afford it...such as an inmate.



Click the little image on the right and it will take you to the website 😊

Plain Language

The final draft chapters have been received – material is being read by board members and Publishing department staff are continuing the editing process.

John W, who led the Board sub-committee overseeing the work on the plain language translation, is offering a virtual presentation on the project on Sunday, August 20th. The event is

hosted by Area 29, Maryland. They are using a 500 capacity Zoom account so there is room for us to attend. Get the scoop from someone who knows 😊 Flyer with all the details is posted on the Area 43 events calendar – check August 20th.

General Service Board Inventory

In my oral and written reports on the General Service Conference, I talked about a Floor Action at the Conference asking the Board to conduct an inventory prior to next year's Conference. This was suggested as a way to unite and move forward after the difficulties associated with the Board Chair's resignation in January. Unifying all members of the Conference (delegates and trustees) will hopefully be an outcome of the inventory for 2 reasons: First, an inventory is our mechanism to reflect and grow. Second, a working group consisting of delegates and trustees has been formed and is tasked with developing the inventory "questions."

The working group has met, and additional meetings will be upcoming. Potential questions are being formulated. The plan (at this point) is for the Board to conduct its inventory during the quarterly Board meeting at the end of October.

Progress!!

Search for new Chair of the General Service Board

As shared in my oral and written reports on the General Service Conference, one Class A trustee position was left vacant and we did not elect a new Board Chair. The rationale was to allow ample time for a robust and thoughtful selection process.

Our new NE Regional Trustee, Ken T, reported that the criteria for eligibility was that the individual had previously served as a trustee and 10 individuals indicated they were willing to stand for the position. This represents a lower number of potential candidates than in previous nomination cycles. Also, the Board Chair has typically always been a Class A trustee (non-alcoholic), although this is not required under the Board's bylaws. Of the 10 resumes received, only one was from a previous Class A trustee and the other 9 were from past Class B trustees.

The trustees Nomination Committee reviewed all the resumes and held virtual interviews with the candidates this past week. A "short list" will be presented to the full Board at their meeting at the end of the month. From that pool, individuals will be selected for a second, in-person interview which will happen during the Board meeting at the end of October. More to follow 😊

Finances at GSB, GSO, AAWS and Grapevine

This information comes from the *unaudited* Board Finance Report for the 6-month period ending June 30, 2023.

- 7th Tradition contributions have come in at 102% of the YTD budgeted amount – good news!

- Contributions declined in 2022 compared to 2021, and still remain below that amount – bad news!
- Sales of AA literature have been very strong. There was a surge in orders in March (before the April price increase), and the June orders are also ahead of projection. Overall, gross sales are 108% of YTD budget amount – good news!
- Gross profit from sales of AA literature has risen substantially this year due to the price increase – good news!
- When we average the literature net profit margin for the 6 months (3 months before the price increase and 3 months after), the Cost of Goods Sold (percentage it costs to print, sell and ship the books) still remains too high at 48.8% - bad news!
- Do not ever, ever, ever buy AA literature from Amazon. Buying from AAWS directly or through our NHAA Service Office accomplishes 2 things: the books cost less than they do at Amazon 😊 and you are supporting Alcoholics Anonymous 😊

Safety and AA

On the 2023 Delegate's Survey, respondents were asked to share what unsafe behaviors they had personally witnessed at AA meetings in the last year.

YIKES! We have seen some unpleasant stuff.

If the meeting doesn't feel safe, a newcomer may not come back.

In my report to you about the survey results, I said we would create opportunities to talk about this – in a safe and respectful way. Look forward to the first one at the August Assembly. We have LOTS of talent in the Fellowship, so we are asking a member with experience in talking about difficult subjects (you know...like feelings!) to lead a workshop.

Bridging the Gap



On the 2023 Delegate's Survey, over 65% of respondents said they would feel comfortable volunteering as a Temporary AA Contact for someone leaving a treatment facility.

But...only 12% of survey respondents are currently Bridging the Gap volunteers.

Can you spell D I S C O N N E C T??

Would you like a presentation at your District meeting??
Email me and I will make it happen!

Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly (NERAASA)

Many of you attended the NERAASA weekend in February. The NE delegates have been notified that the event came in over budget, and actually lost money. Discussions are ongoing, but it looks like I may be bringing a request to the Area for us to make a small donation (\$250) to replenish the prudent reserve – we had to draw down the reserve to give “seed money” to Area 59, which will be hosting NERAASA in 2024. More to follow 😊

AA Service Manual Study Group (virtual)

I am delighted to be part of a group organizing an AA Service Manual Study, which will be hosted by Area 43. Meetings will be 7-8:00pm every Thursday, beginning on September 7.

We will examine a chapter a week, and participants are encouraged to read the relevant section of the Service Manual in advance.

A speaker will provide a 20 minute “lead” to introduce that week’s chapter and provide highlights, followed by discussion/questions.

The AA Service Manual – in its new format – is an amazing tool. Join us and let’s explore together.

[**FLYER**](#) with all the details 😊

[**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**](#) with all the details 😊

Grace F
Area 43 Panel 72 Delegate