

## 2025 International Convention Update

### REGISTRATION OPEN FOR IC 2025

In 2025 we will celebrate A.A.'s 90th Anniversary at the International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Convention registration and housing reservations are currently available [online](#).

The Convention theme is “90 Years — Language of the Heart” and takes inspiration from Bill W.'s reflections on A.A. around the world. In the November 1972 issue of Grapevine, Bill W. reflected on his first visit to A.A. overseas with his wife Lois in 1950. “As we journeyed from land to land, we had the same magnificent adventure in kinship over and over again,” he wrote. “Everywhere, everywhere, it was the same. This was something much greater than people cordially meeting people. This was no merely interesting comparison of mutual experiences and aspirations. This was far more; this was the communication of heart to heart in wonder, in joy, and in everlasting gratitude. Lois and I then knew that A.A. could circle the globe — and it has.”

**Three Big Meetings Video.** The video will be an anonymity-protected recording available for viewing post-Convention. Cost is \$60 (USD). You may order the video as an add-on when registering for Convention, or purchase after Convention at the online bookstore on [aa.org](#).

### FAQ: How do speakers get chosen for the International Convention?

A frequently asked question about the International Convention is how the speakers are chosen. In September, a form requesting suggestions for speakers was distributed to the U.S./Canada General Service Conference members (i.e., delegates and trustees), central office and intergroup managers, international GSOs, and World Service Meeting delegates.

Members who are registered or plan to register for the Convention can be considered as possible speakers. The selection of speakers is through a group conscience process, keeping in mind that we strive to include speakers who have not spoken at previous Conventions.

We anticipate receiving many suggestions for speakers for the 2025 International Convention and will likely receive more names than we have speaking slots to fill. We may need to “go to the hat” to choose speakers on panels who represent a cross section of the Fellowship.

Anyone selected as a speaker will receive an invitation sometime in early 2025. (Please note that the final panel topics/themes are developed and chosen by the Convention planning team.)

Our hope is that speakers will come prepared to celebrate the miracle of A.A. and inspire others with their stories of recovery and sharing the language of the heart.

### Questions?

Please visit the 2025 International Convention [webpage](#) for the latest information. And check out our [IC 2025 FAQs](#), which are regularly updated with information on Convention-related topics, including an update on volunteering at the Convention.

**See You In Vancouver!**  
**Rendez-vous à Vancouver!**  
**¡Nos vemos en Vancouver!**

### Connecting Members Online

The 2025 International Convention will offer opportunities to participate online for those who cannot attend the event in person and make available a recording of the three big meetings.

**Register for the Virtual Session Program Track.** This is a two-day, eight-session online program track. The sessions will be livestreamed as they take place and will not be available for purchase after the Convention. Cost is \$35 (USD). We are planning to incorporate interactive sharing into part of the sessions. Register [here](#) or print and mail the registration form.

**Purchase the 2025 International Convention**

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**Note on anonymity:** From time to time in this publication full names and/or pictures of GSO employees, Class A trustees and other nonalcoholics are used. The anonymity of A.A. members is maintained, as they are identified throughout by first name and last initial only.

## ■ Canada's Oldest Prison Group Celebrates 75 Years

In June 2024, the Dorchester Intramural Group, the oldest active registered A.A. group behind the walls in Canada, celebrated its 75th anniversary. The group, based at the Dorchester Penitentiary medium-security facility in Dorchester, New Brunswick, celebrated the milestone anniversary with 23 members in custody at the prison and 16 “outside” A.A.s, including Dave A., who is a member of the group, Area 81 delegate Marietta M., and Nick S., Corrections coordinator at GSO.

The Dorchester Penitentiary is a federal prison with a decidedly Victorian appearance that first opened in 1880. The complex now houses medium-security and minimum-security facilities. The celebration included recognition of members marking anniversaries, including a 30-year celebrant who received a coin from Nick. The post-meeting fellowship included cake and lots of hugs and tears. “The inside members were just so looking forward to seeing someone from the office in New York,” Nick says. “Some of us were crying. It was very emotional. I really realized the value of the work the Corrections desk does.”

Dave A., who lives about 30 minutes outside of Dorchester in Moncton, says service at Dorchester Penitentiary is “my passion.” Dave, who also is a past delegate, says the Clark Group was instrumental in aiding what would eventually become the Dorchester Intramural Group.

“Back in 1947, the Clark Group was only

two years old, but they approached Dorchester,” says Dave. “At the time it was Dominion Penitentiary, a maximum-security prison. Somehow [the Clark Group] had seen the need to go into this place that most people were trying to stay out of.”

With the help of the Clark Group, the Dorchester Intramural Group — “intramural” in this case meaning “something situated or done within the walls of a building” — was formed inside the prison and listed with the General Service Office on June 22, 1949. Many of the inside members found sponsors among outside members of the Clark Group, which, Dave says, “is basically what I’m doing right now. I picked up the torch when I saw the need. Sometimes without guidance, meetings [within the facility] fall off the rails, due to lack of connection with A.A. on the outside. And sometimes corrections officials feel more comfortable if outside members are present, because it helps make them feel that something is being done at the meeting that has to do with Alcoholics Anonymous.”

For several years Dave was the only one going into

### ■ REMINDER

#### UPDATED CONTRIBUTIONS MAILING ADDRESS FOR CANADA

Please note below the correct mailing address for individuals, groups, districts, areas, and other entities within the service structure to use when making contributions by check to the General Service Board. Which address you should use depends on whether the check is denominated in Canadian dollars or U.S. dollars.

##### **Checks in Canadian dollars payable to “General Service Board” may be mailed to:**

Post Office Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163

##### **Checks in U.S. dollars payable to “General Service Board” may be mailed to:**

Post Office Box 2407  
James A Farley Station  
New York, NY 10116-2407

GSO receives your contribution fastest when you contribute online via the secure portal on the A.A. Contributions webpage at [contribution.aa.org](http://contribution.aa.org). If you prefer to pay directly from your bank account rather than use a credit card, please open a PayPal account and link your bank account to your PayPal account. You may then use the PayPal option on our contributions portal. Please consider creating a recurring contribution.

**For questions or assistance with contributing,  
contact Member Services at [memberservices@aa.org](mailto:memberservices@aa.org)  
or 212-870-3023.**



*A coin carved by a member of the Dorchester Intramural Group.*

the facility. “But things are starting to pick up,” he says. “We now have some really dedicated people who come from Prince Edward Island to New Brunswick to help with the meetings,” which means they pay a \$50 bridge toll and make a four- to seven-hour round trip to support the inside members.

“It’s not only that they come that distance,” Dave says. “As recovering alcoholics, they bring a whole lot of really valuable experiences.” Jason M., an inside member at the Dorchester medium-security facility says, “The message I’ve learned is that I’m not alone in here and that there are people who care enough that they go out of their way to come into the institution to help the alcoholic who still suffers, and in the process, they also help themselves.”

Marietta is one of the members who made the trip from Prince Edward Island to attend the celebration. “On behalf of Area 81, I brought a copy of the Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve to honor the celebration,” she says. “Going into a prison population that’s segregated from society because their behavior was unacceptable to the general population, it didn’t cross my mind that I would feel fear or reluctance. I was just quite happy to meet members of an A.A. group that belongs to Area 81, and which happened to be in this facility. When my turn came to talk, I did tell them that I had brought their voice to the General Service Conference,” particularly in regard to the new *Plain Language Big Book*, which, she says, the inside members believe will be an important way to spread the word behind the walls.

“The way the inside members looked at Dave, they

really trusted him,” says Nick, who also attended the Hilltop Group at Dorchester Minimum and the Faithful Group at Springhill Medium in Nova Scotia, as well as non-prison meetings. “And you could see how much he cares about these guys and what this service work does for him. Their message of hope — that they’re getting recovery even in their situation — is a message we all need. Just as much as they need it from us, we need it from them.”

### **A.A.s behind the walls at Dorchester Penitentiary shared their thoughts on how the Fellowship has affected their lives.**

- “A.A. means everything to me. It’s where my freedom comes from. If I were still drinking, I’d have even less. — **Kevin K.**
- “When you’re ready to change your life, A.A. can and will help if you want it to. — **Bill T.**
- “It helps me [understand] what drinking did to me and what I did to others. — **Ron M.**
- “I’ve been sober for 31 years but a member of A.A for only six years. I’ve been incarcerated for the majority of the past 62 years. Had I found A.A. a couple of decades earlier, it would have changed the course of my life and prevented years of incarceration. — **Radec L.**
- “It’s a place where I feel welcome and let my guard down. — **Pete S.**
- “A whole new way of life and a way to meet new friends. — **Patrick B.**
- “I hear a lot of personal stories that help me reflect and understand a lot of the problems that I’ve kept inside for years; it helps me look toward the future with hope. — **Paul N.**

# Inside A.A. Finances

## Part IV: A FORWARD LOOK



*This is the fourth in a series of columns from the chair of the General Service Board (GSB) Finance and Budgetary Committee (commonly known as “the Finance Committee”). The purpose of this series is to demystify the GSB finance and budget processes and provide information on planning and oversight.*

**By Kevin Prior**

Since the last finance column was published in *Box 4-5-9* earlier this year, the 74th General Service Conference in New York was held and I had the pleasure to visit Vernon, British Columbia; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Ottawa, Ontario to meet with members of the Fellowship at Regional Forums.

In the first three columns, we looked at financial oversight in general, did a deep dive into the Reserve Fund, and discussed allocations and why they are important. I promised in the first installment that we would also answer questions on literature price increases, literature-versus-contribution revenue, and the Grapevine apps. I’ll look at those topics below and in future columns and present a look ahead to 2025.

First, some background on the role of the chair of the Finance and Budgetary Committee. Rotation is an essential principle and practice at every level of A.A. service; however, there also is an important role for continuity. For example, the treasurers of the A.A. World Services (AAWS) and AA Grapevine (AAGV) boards rotate each year, with the treasurer usually serving as the respective AAWS or AAGV chair the following year. For the GSB, we select a Class A trustee (because of their long, six-year terms) who holds the

treasurer position for their entire time on the GSB. This trustee also chairs the trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee providing continuity for that committee as well. As current chair, I am keenly aware of this tremendous responsibility and opportunity to help strengthen our Fellowship today and for the future.

We are blessed that our structure provides us with two corporate boards that engage in both short-term budgeting and long-range planning. This structure allows the GSB Finance Committee to focus on trends, overall financial needs, and financial issues beyond the scope of AAWS and AAGV, such as oversight of the Reserve Fund.

So, it is in this spirit that I share this information on topics of interest and concern to the Fellowship.

### Literature Sales and Pricing

Before the Covid pandemic, the Fellowship had robust literature sales and strong margins on those sales. As you can see in the chart below, we experienced severe drops in sales during the pandemic. “Gross Sales” are what we sell literature for — a \$10 book = \$10 in gross sales. Gross sales though aren’t the whole story. What did that book cost to print? If it cost \$6, then we made \$4. If the book cost \$12, we actually would lose money. That amount we make is called many things: gross margin, margin, or net sales, for example. Gross

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



Margin Percentage is what we make divided by the sale — so \$4 made on a \$10 book is 40% gross margin. With that primer in mind, the chart on page 4 shows a bit of recent history.

Not all the news is bad of course. We have experienced record levels of Seventh Tradition contributions from the Fellowship in the last several years. Contributions in 2018 were \$8.4 million — they rose to \$10.8 million in 2023. That incredible generosity, combined with necessary use of the prudent reserve, got us through these challenging times.

Looking forward, when we budgeted 2024 literature sales, we did not assume new literature would be approved at Conference; rather, we only forecasted that unit sales (the number of books) would be the same as 2023 but with the full-year impact of the price increase. Put another way, stabilization was possible *without counting on new literature*. I feel tremendous gratitude for this from a finance perspective.

I am sometimes asked, “How much support, if any, should come from literature sales versus contributions?” This question of “book profits” goes all the way back to Bill W. and is a big part of his essay on Warranty Two. I can’t answer the spiritual question of “How much is right?” but I can say that, in our current circumstances, 50 cents on the dollar is the minimum we need for a stable and healthy budget.

### **The Grapevine and La Viña Apps**

The Grapevine Board, with support from the trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee and the General Service Board, faced the reality of the digital publishing explosion and shrinking print publications industry head on. They did so with the knowledge that is very easy to default to the status quo, and with tweaks and adjustments, and occasional good fortune, the status quo can be preserved for a long time. But it became increasingly more difficult to ignore the dramatic drop in demand for print in recent years.

Launching the [apps](#), which augment but do not replace print issues of Grapevine and La Viña, was a big risk. Financially, it involved the cost to build the app and the cost of maintaining the operations of Grapevine and La Viña while digital revenues grow. This was a process of years, not months; and it is still a work in progress.

As of June 30, 2024, total circulation (print and digital) for Grapevine is 59,032. This is 2% behind budget but 11% above 2023. While app subscriptions have trailed original expectations, interest and enthusiasm for the print products or print/digital combined products have been unexpectedly strong. As I like to say in presentations, “I am an optimist but not a Pollyanna.”

I am excited that our Grapevine offerings are being adopted by the Fellowship. My personal paid subscription, for example, is “Grapevine Complete,” which includes the app and the print version. Overall, the long-term outlook for the new digital offerings is positive, especially since app subscriptions tend to be “sticky” (that is, they have high rates of continuing subscriptions).

### **2024 Reforecast Budget and 2025 Budget Process**

In his Concept XI essay, Bill W. notes that the trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee will ask for mid-year budget revisions if “earlier estimates have gone too much wrong.” In practice, a budget reforecast process generally occurs every year.

As I mentioned in the first article in this series, the amount of time GSO and Grapevine employees, our corporate boards, and the trustees’ Finance Committee invest in rigorous budgeting and reforecasting processes is substantial. This investment is highly valuable if it produces an accurate map of upcoming activity. Barring highly unpredictable events, such as the Covid pandemic, a “successful” reforecast process produces results that do not vary much from the original budget and is an accurate prediction of the full-year actual results. This lends greater credibility and reliability to the budgeting process.

For example, the 2024 reforecast budget was very close to the original approved 2024 budget. For AAWS/GSB, reforecast revenue and expenses varied less than 1% from the original budget. Grapevine expenses varied only 1.5% from the original budget. Grapevine reforecast revenue varied 7% from the original budget. In the case of the Grapevine revenue shortfall as an example, we pay attention to whether any variance is one-time or if it will affect future years. In this case, the variance was due to a forecasting error as to when new subscription prices would be in effect. This will *not* affect future budgets.

In 2023, AAWS/GSB and AAGV audited revenue and expenses were all within 4% of the respective reforecasts. That’s a solid level of accuracy we can rely upon for making sound decisions and plans going forward.

In the next Inside A.A. Finances column, we’ll look at contribution trends, rebuilding the Reserve Fund, and financial reporting to the Fellowship. Stay tuned!

*Kevin Prior, CFA, CPA, currently serves as the Finance Committee chair. He is a Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee and senior director of finance at the St. Louis, Missouri-based Catholic Health Association of the United States, a nonprofit similar in size and scope to A.A.*

## ‘OUR VOICES, OUR RECOVERY’

### ■ First Online Convention for Women in Africa Draws Members From Around the World

“What I’ve learned in A.A. is, you start with this small idea. Then somehow, I don’t know, HP does wonders, and it evolves and evolves,” says Esther O., chairperson of the first annual Voices of A.A. Women in Africa Convention (VAAWAC), which took place online on Aug. 24, 2024.

This year’s theme, “Our Voices, Our Recovery,” highlighted the importance of A.A. women across Africa having the opportunity to share their stories.

“We are all alcoholics, yes,” Esther says. “We are all women, yes. But ... people from different countries may not understand our different cultures, our different perspectives of how we became alcoholics. We are the same, but different.”

This first VAAWAC launched with a four-hour online event, featuring speakers from 12 African countries. The organizers have a long-term vision to evolve the event into a hybrid convention, rotating through different host countries in Africa, to build a stronger community among A.A. women online and in person.

More than 175 women from around the world attended the convention. Some followed the suggestion to wear a touch of white to symbolize A.A. unity. The participants heard from members in Botswana, Djibouti, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, who all shared their experience, strength, and hope.

Several speakers recounted how they first learned about A.A. through rehab facilities or portrayals in American media, only to discover that there were few or no in-person meetings available in their local areas. Another challenge they faced in their recovery was the scarcity of women attending meetings in their community or available for sponsorship. For many, digital platforms became a vital lifeline, allowing them to connect with other alcoholics worldwide via email, messaging apps, and online meeting platforms.

Esther, who got sober in 2012, started an online women’s group in 2020 during the Covid pandemic — and the group continues to thrive. This led her to become an intergroup representative, and then the chair of the Kenya intergroup and a delegate to the Sub-Saharan Africa Service Meeting. “I was like, oh my god! What have I put myself into?” she recalls. “And then my sponsor told me, ‘You always used to complain about this and the other. This is your opportunity to be of service and put some structure in Kenya.’ And that’s how it all started.” Through her service and involvement with other events, the idea for VAAWAC began to take shape and a dedicated 10-member planning committee was formed.

The gathering created a welcoming atmosphere of encouragement, empowerment, and empathy. During breaks, attendees enjoyed the music of African artists while the chat buzzed with expressions of gratitude, offers of sponsorship, and shared links to meetings.

Before closing with “Amazing Grace” and the Serenity Prayer, Esther posed one final question: “Do we want another one next year?” The answer was a resounding “Yes!”

**Check out Grapevine on YOUTUBE!**

**CLICK**

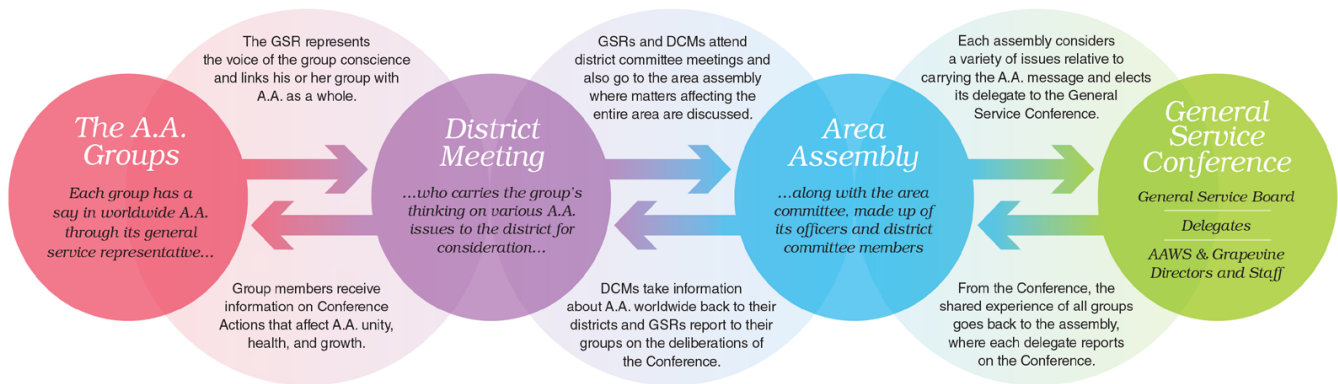
- Listen to our weekly podcast
- Watch helpful app how-to video shorts
- Hear members share in their own voices
- Hundreds of GV & La Viña videos in English and Spanish!

**New playlists!**

- Stories by young people in AA
- Member stories in ASL

[www.youtube.com/aagrapevine](http://www.youtube.com/aagrapevine)

“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.” —Tradition Two



## FROM THE CONFERENCE DESK

### ■ The General Service Conference: A Year-Round Process

As we plan for the 75th General Service Conference, which will be held April 27 to May 3, 2025, A.A. members in service continue the work of carrying forward the Conference process throughout our Fellowship.

The General Service Conference plays a pivotal role in A.A. within the U.S. and Canada General Service Structure, where the collective voice of A.A. groups across the U.S. and Canada finds expression. At the top of the U.S. and Canada structure is democratic service, where each group's input helps to shape policies and practices during the week-long Conference. Participation begins with local A.A. groups electing General Service Representatives (GSRs) to represent them at district and area assemblies. These GSRs serve as vital links, conveying their groups' feedback, ideas, and concerns to the General Service Conference through their area delegate, thereby strengthening the Conference process.

Before the General Service Conference, GSRs gather at district meetings and area assemblies to discuss agenda items and carry the group conscience of their A.A. group. These assemblies foster unity, fellowship, and discussion, ensuring the group conscience from various groups participate in forming the collective conscience. GSRs also participate in electing their area delegate who attends the General Service Conference for two consecutive years.

At the General Service Conference, the 93 service area delegates comprise at least two-thirds of the voting Conference members who will discuss and vote on Conference Committee recommendations, guided by A.A.'s Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts for World Service. Topics for discussion include literature/media development, cooperating with professional communities, making the A.A. message accessible, finding A.A. within a treatment or custody setting, finance/contributions, and Conference policies, among others.

“GSRs serve as vital links, conveying their groups' feedback, ideas, and concerns to the General Service Conference through their area delegate.”

In essence, our General Service Conference embodies A.A. members' dedication to unity, collective action to carry our message of hope, and ensuring the Fellowship thrives in its primary purpose to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers, one day at a time.

[Read the final report of the 74th General Service Conference.](#)  
[Find your home group's district within your service area.](#)

## Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet

The Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet (F-203) is updated yearly by General Service Office (GSO) Staff. It provides examples of how Seventh Tradition contributions sent by you and your group to the General Service Board (GSB) support the work of your GSO to help the alcoholic around the corner — and around the world. Some Seventh Tradition support highlights include:

### Archives

Archive preservation activities help to ensure that the Fellowship's records are safely preserved and accessible to members. With Seventh Tradition support, GSO archivists preserved thousands of vital historical documents and photographs, utilizing archival quality housing enclosures that provide physical support, protection, and handling of materials. Learn more about the [A.A. Archives](#).

### Corrections

In response to many correctional facilities going paperless, Grapevine and AAWS Publishing collaborated on a multi-year project to make A.A. literature available on more than 400,000 tablets in jails and prisons. For more information on tablets and the A.A. literature available, please contact [corrections@aa.org](mailto:corrections@aa.org).

### Cooperation with the Professional Community

Professionals in nearly every field encounter problem drinkers but may not know much about A.A. The Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) desk provides accurate, up-to-date information about A.A. to professionals in a variety of ways. Outreach includes a [newsletter](#), regular posts on a social media [channel](#), and support for local committees to exhibit at professional conferences and meet with professionals in their area to inform them about A.A.

[Read more](#) about how your Seventh Tradition contributions help to carry the message.



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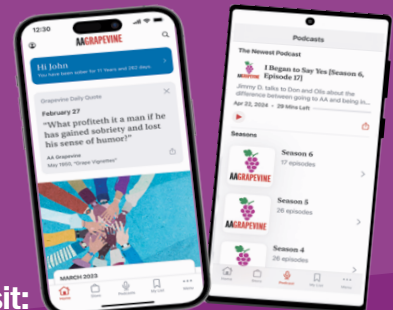
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# Announcing: A new book from AAWS on sale November 1, 2024



The *Plain Language Big Book* is a tool to help readers understand the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, which was first published in 1939. This new book is designed so that the A.A. Twelve Step program of recovery from alcoholism may be easily understood and accessible by all people who have a desire to stop drinking.

Members of A.A. fondly call the original book *Alcoholics Anonymous* “the Big Book.” It is the basic text of the A.A. program. The *Plain Language Big Book* has been written to present the original ideas and same spiritual message of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

This new text is not intended to replace the much beloved Big Book. Rather, the *Plain Language Big Book* is a book crafted over several years by A.A. members and publishing professionals to support alcoholics on the path to recovery. The book is intended to help people who have a problem with alcohol gain access to A.A.’s lifesaving message.

For years, A.A. members have expressed needed for the Plain Language Big Book. Based on the shared experience of A.A. members, some people may not have regular contact with other A.A. members to help them understand the A.A. program of recovery and the specific vocabulary as it is used throughout the original book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. Other people have a hard time reading, especially books that were written long ago. This *Plain Language Big Book* is written in simpler language to support readers in their recovery.

This book is published in accordance with Advisory Actions passed by substantial unanimity of the General Service Conference (GSC) of Alcoholics Anonymous. In 2021, the 71st GSC advised that this book be developed. Progress reports, then sample chapters were reviewed at the 72nd and 73rd GSCs. The final draft of the *Plain Language Big Book* was reviewed and approved by substantial unanimity at the 74th GSC, in April 2024. This process and outcome adopts this text as Conference-approved Literature.

The *Plain Language Big Book* covers the core content of what is the “abridged version” (the edition without personal stories) of the original Big Book.

Readers are also encouraged to seek out the current edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* and meet with A.A. members to support their own individual paths of recovery from alcoholism.

**The *Plain Language Big Book* is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.**

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**PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK:** A Tool for Reading *Alcoholics Anonymous*

- **Publication (on-sale) date: November 1, 2024**
- **List Price \$11.**
- **Item B-90**
- **192 pages; 8½" x 11"**
- **Softcover format with flaps**



# Mark Your Calendars and Make Plans to Attend the 2025 A.A. International Convention

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada




**July 3-6, 2025**

Vancouver will welcome A.A. members from around the world for the 2025 International Convention. This will mark the 90th anniversary of the beginning of our Fellowship's founding.

## **ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**

Check the IC 2025 [webpage](#) for more information about online registration.

Taking place every five years, the A.A. International Convention marks the anniversary of Bill W.'s first meeting with Dr. Bob and the birth of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935. At the Convention, members and their families and friends from around the world attend meetings, workshops, dances, and events. A highlight is the traditional flag ceremony to celebrate sobriety worldwide.



**Let's celebrate sobriety together  
in Vancouver in 2025!**

# Visit the General Service Office!

Visitors are welcome to GSO, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Tours are scheduled at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 2 p.m., and last about 45 minutes.

**On Fridays, GSO hosts an open A.A. meeting at 11 a.m.  
There is also a guided tour offered after the meeting at 12:15 p.m.**



## SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT TO GSO

All visitors must register in advance to gain access to the building in accordance with the building policy. Accordingly, we strongly recommend that individuals contact us prior to their visit so that we can enter them into the building's security system.

**We're located at 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY**

Groups of 10 or more must contact us ahead of time to schedule their visit so that we can best prepare for your time at the General Service Office.

To schedule your visit, email [gstours@aa.org](mailto:gstours@aa.org) or call 212-870-3430.

To learn more about visiting GSO, including location details, our health and safety policy, and information about purchasing literature, please visit [aa.org/visiting-the-gso](https://aa.org/visiting-the-gso).

**Please note, the building will be closed to visitors November 28 and 29, December 25 and 26, December 31, January 1, January 20 and February 17.**





# Calendar of Events

**NOTE:** Events may be canceled or moved to online formats due to health and safety concerns. Please contact the event coordinators as listed before making your plans.

Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the General Service Office. Please note that we cannot attest to the accuracy, relevancy, timeliness, or completeness of information provided by any linked site. For any additional information, please use the event contact information provided.

## NOVEMBER 2024

- 15-17: Ocean Shores, Washington  
Serenity at the Shores  
Box 994, Ocean Shores, WA 98569  
Info: oceanshoresjamboree.com/
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- 22-24: Ardmore, Oklahoma  
41st Annual Red River Valley Rally  
Info: redrivervalleyrally.com/
- 
- 29-30: Devonshire, Bermuda  
Annual Bermuda Conv.  
Box WK 178, Warwick Parish, WKBX Bermuda  
Info: aa.bm/
- 
- 29-1: Groton, Connecticut - CSCYPAA  
(Connecticut State Conv. of Young People)  
Box 7060, Meriden, CT 06450  
Info: cscypaa.org/

## DECEMBER

- 6-8: Biloxi, Mississippi  
Southeast Regional Forums  
Info: aa.org/event/2024-southeast-regional-forum

## JANUARY 2025

- 3-5: Houston, Texas  
SETA Conv. 2025  
Box 130433, Houston, TX 77219  
Info: setaconvention.org/
- 
- 9-11: Laughlin, Nevada  
River Round Up  
Box 22511, Bullhead City, AZ 86436-2511  
Info: rcco-aa.org/events/round-up-january
- 
- 24-26: Jacksonville, Florida  
Southern States Women's Conference  
Info: southernstateswomensconference.org/
- 
- 26-28: South Padre Island, Texas  
Sober in the Sand Jamboree  
Info: soberinthesandjamboree24.rsvpify.com
- 
- 31-35: Angeles City, Pampanga Philippines  
40th Philippines National Conv.  
B-10 L-11 C Mariveles Street,  
Angeles City Pampanga, Philippines  
Info: aaphilippines.com/fellowship-events/

## FEBRUARY

- 7-9: Little Rock, Arkansas  
Area 4, District 9 Winter Holiday Conv. 2025  
Box 26135, Little Rock, AR 72221  
Info: www.winterholidayconvention.com
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- 7-9: Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada  
Western Canada Region Service  
Assembly 2025  
Info: wraasa.org/
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- 13-16: Farmingham, Massachusetts  
EACYPAA XXI  
Info: eacypaama.org/home

- 14-16: Gulf Shores, Alabama  
40th Annual Jubilee Conv.  
Box 724, Gulf Shores, AL 36547  
Info: gulfcoastaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/2025Jubilee.pdf
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- 14-16: Destin, Florida  
53rd Gulf Coast Roundup  
Info: https://www.gulfcoastroundup.com/
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- 14-16: Nalanchira, Trivandrum India  
17th International Conv. Near the Waves  
Info: conventionnearthewave.com/
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- 21-23: Bowling Green, Kentucky  
Kentucky State Convention  
Box 841, Bowling Green, KY 42102  
Info: kystateconvention.com/
- 
- 21-23: Virginia Beach, Virginia  
Oceanfront Conference  
Box 66173, Virginia Beach, VA 23466  
info: oceanfrontconference@gmail.com

## MARCH

- 7-9: Traverse City, Michigan  
Area 33 March Round Up  
Box 390, Southfield, MI 48037  
Info: March Roundup 2025
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- 21-23: Tarrytown, New York  
SENY Conv. 2025  
Info: 2025 SENY Convention
- 
- 28-30: Ames, Iowa  
Aim for Ames Roundup  
Box 2522, Ames, IA 50010  
Info: aimforames.org/
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- 28-30: Bayamon, Puerto Rico  
68va Conv. de Area 77 Puerto Rico  
Box 1304, Bayamon PR 00960-1304  
Info: pr-area77.org/calendario