

65th General Service Conference - Highlights

April 19-25, 2015 – Crowne Plaza Hotel, New York, NY

Delegate Statistics

<u>Age</u>	<u>Sobriety</u>	<u>Service</u>
Average 57	Average 22	Average 18
Oldest 78	Longest 42	Longest 37
Youngest 32	Shortest 8	Shortest 5

Conference Inventory

The G.S.C. completed the 3rd and final year of inventory questions. Look for bound report later in the year.

The 65th GSC uses electronic voting devices for the first time.

Committee recommendations were voted on Thursday only, without problems. The 66th G.S.C. will use the devices on Friday only. Future use will be determined in 2017.

Corrections

The committee asked the Trustees Committee to review the effectiveness of the criteria used to link alcoholics inside and outside. One concern is the distance requirement.

Finance Committee

Advisory Actions

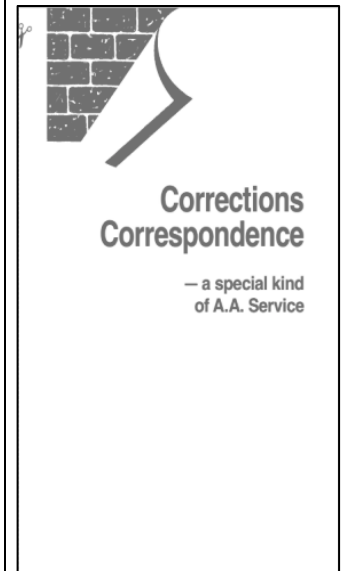
- Proceed with Phase 1 of the G.S.O. plan to translate pre-Conference and Conference material into Spanish and French beginning with the 66th General Service Conference. Estimated cost is \$80,000 to \$120,000.
- Trustees Committee on the General Service Conference will create a plan to translate all Conference material and provide a progress report at the 66th GSC. Likely will change the submission deadline.

Considerations

- Took no action on increasing the area contribution [currently \$1,600] for the delegate expense to the Conference

Failed Recommendation

To increase limit for individual contributions from \$3,000 to \$5,000 annually.



Agenda Committee

2016 General Service Conference

Theme: "Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts"

Presentations: a) Connecting with the Newcomer, b) Connecting with Each Other, and c) Connecting With A.A. as a Whole

Workshop: "Anonymity – The Spiritual Foundation"

Considerations

1) Asked the trustees to explore ways to include the Conference Committee [delegates] in selecting conference agenda items, and 2) Provide delegates who are conference committee chairs with full background materials for the last quarterly board meeting prior to the GSC.

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Literature Committee

Advisory Actions

- Trustees to develop literature for the alcoholic with mental health issues.
- Revise these current pamphlets
 - "AA and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic"
 - "AA for the Woman"
 - "Inside AA: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services"
 - "Your AA General Service Office"

Considerations

- Took no action on combining the *Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions* with the *Twelve Concepts* into a single book.

Report & Charter Committee

Advisory Actions

There were several updates to the Service Manual. The items below represent the ones that prompted the most discussion.

- Restore the table of contents of the *Twelve Concepts for World Service* in the same order as published in the 1990-91 Edition.
- Print a limited run of *AA Regional Directories* (Canadian, Eastern US and Western US) annually for purchase upon request.

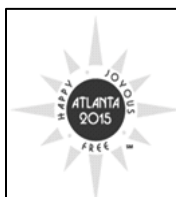
Considerations

- Took no action on a request to include a chart in the section "Working with Local Intergroups" noting that since local intergroups and central offices are not part of the general service structure, a chart could be misleading.

75TH ANNIVERSARY BIG BOOK–2014

177,888 Books Sold: Gross Revenues	\$1,888,880
Costs of Books sold & shipping	904,032
Gross Profit	984,848
Early reorder created an overstock situation & required an Accounting write-off of 125,000 Books	823,152
Net Profit on 75 th Anniversary Book	161,696

- ❖ 40,000 Books on hand are budgeted and expected to be sold in 2015
- ❖ 125,000 Books were written-off for Accounting purposes, but remain in physical inventory and are available to be sold.



2015 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous

July 2-5, 2015 – Atlanta, Georgia

Details at www.aa.org

2015 AA International Convention volunteer portal: <http://www.aageorgia.org/international.html>

Grapevine

Advisory Actions

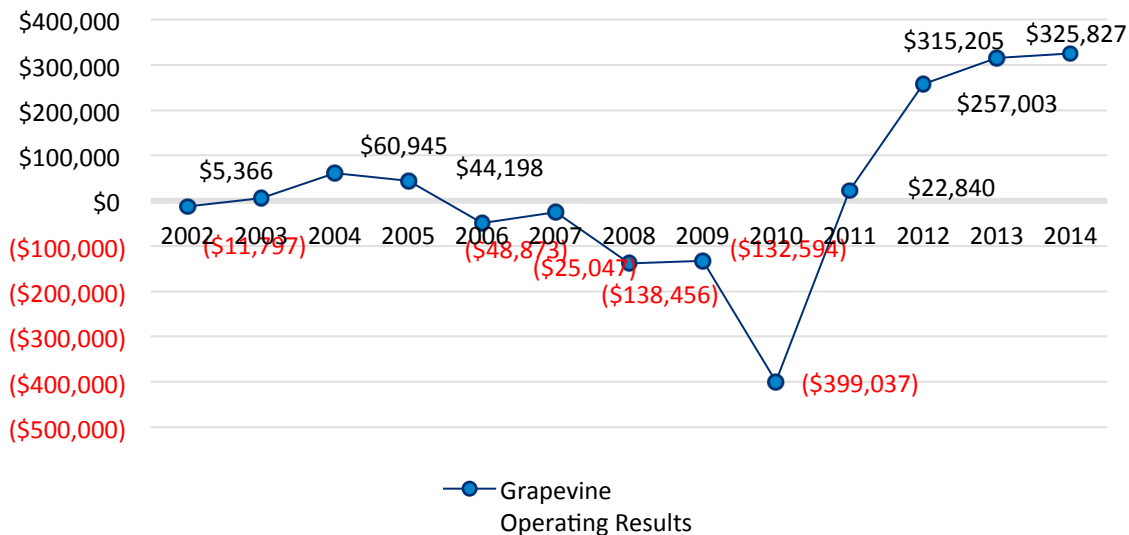
- Revised the pamphlet "A.A. Grapevine and La Vina: Our Meetings in Print" was approved

Considerations

- La Vina is published as cost effectively as possible.
- Implement a communication plan to the fellowship clarifying La Vina's unique status as a service that strives to be self-supporting.
- Encouraged purchase of Subscription Gift Certificates by local service committees, groups and members to provide magazines to people in prison, treatment centers and nursing homes.
- Suggested that the AA Grapevine board produce two books:
 - Armed Forces Members' AA Stories (working title)
 - Voices from Early AA (working title)

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AA GRAPEVINE ANNUAL OPERATING RESULTS



Grapevine

Operating Results continue to improve. The growth is largely due to lowering expenses. Subscriptions continue to decrease so this is not sustainable. Subscription sales are what is needed.

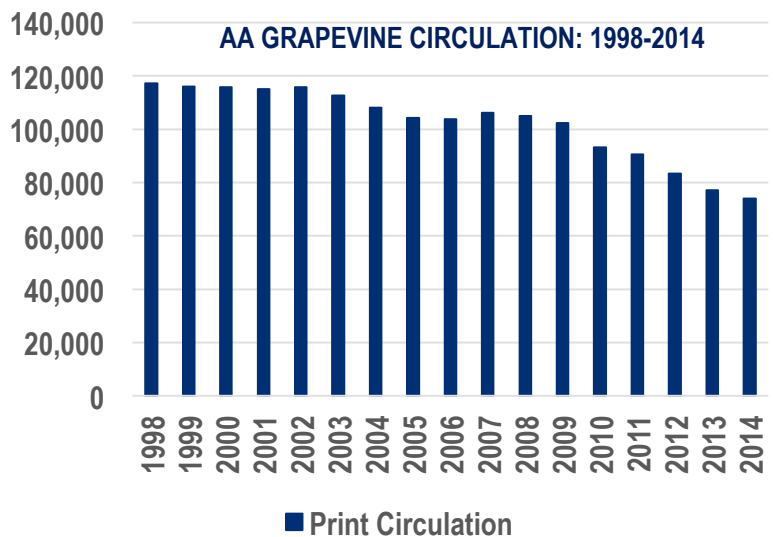
Public Information Committee

Advisory Actions

- Approved "Doors", a video PSA, providing for a dialog voice-over using professionals, not to exceed \$24,000. The PSA will be centrally distributed.
- Approved the 2014 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey pamphlet and display, with minor edits.
- Discontinued the video PSAs "A Force of Nature" and "Testimonials."
- Authorized the A.A.W.S. board to produce and post audio/video service material on the aa.org website, provided certain conditions are met.

Considerations

- Need for guidance on the use of social media by A.A. members. Distribution of literature should correspond with the launch of the [Anonymity Resource Page](#).
- Explore new forms/channels of presenting and distributing content using such platforms such as Twitter, Instagram and Google+.



	GV	La Viña
Annual Subscription Price	\$28.97	\$11.97
Number of Issues Per Year	12	6
Cost per Issue	\$2.41	\$1.99
Cost per day for your sobriety	\$0.08	\$0.03

Grapevine Subscription Challenge

<http://www.aagrapevine.org/grapevine-challenge>

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Pension Fund

- Transferred 1.5 Million from the reserve fund to the pension fund
 - Saved both Corporations money
 - Projected to lower the Reserve Fund Ratio to 9.4 months
- 2014 liability increased to \$36.1 million from \$27.7 million
 - Discount rate declined 4.76% to 3.89% in 2014

* A.A replaced the Defined Benefit Plan with a new Defined Contribution Plan established January 1, 2013 for new employees hired subsequent to January 1, 2013. Over the very long-term, this change will have the effect of capping the pension plan obligations and over time reducing the ongoing cost. These obligations are funded out of A.A.W.S. and Grapevine current operations and now account for about 9% - 10% of the G.S.O. operating expense budget, down from 12% in 2013.

Pension Fund

Year	Liability	Assets
2012	\$29.9M	\$19.5M
2013	\$27.7M	\$24.1M
2014	\$36.1M	\$27.8M

CONTRIBUTIONS

	2014	2013
Group Contributions	\$5,816,065	\$5,718,306
Specials ¹	507,201	629,542
Individuals	396,445	398,880
Foreign, WSM etc.	127,400	73,800
Memorials	31,473	63,178
Special Meetings ²	14,509	12,815
Other	4,975	9,850
Totals	6,898,068	6,906,371

¹Special contribution is one that comes from any number of A.A. entities that is not an A.A. Group, for example, a Conference, a Committee, an Area, a District, an Intergroup, etc.

²A Special Meeting is a meeting that does not want to be a group but does want to contribute to the General Service Board.

PERCENTAGE OF SERVICES SUPPORTED BY CONTRIBUTIONS

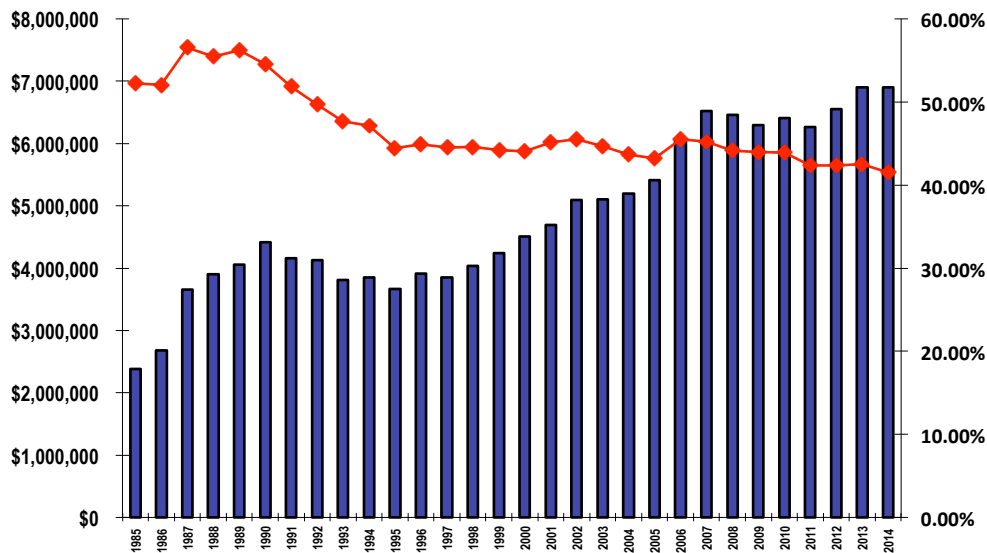
	2014	2013	2012
Contributions	\$6,898,068	\$6,906,371	\$6,557,608
Services	9,725,210	9,507,782	9,254,131
Shortfall	2,827,142	2,601,411	2,696,523
Percentage of Services Supported by Contributions	70.90%	72.60%	70.90%

Publishing Revenue

2014 revenues to increase by ~ 4.2M

- \$12,841,973 in 2013
- \$17,128,071 in 2014

CONTRIBUTION HISTORY: 1985–2014



Major Factors

- \$1.9M in revenue for the anniversary edition of the Big Book
- \$2M in bulk purchase sales ahead of the October price increase

■ Total Contributions

◆ Total Percentage of Groups Contributing