

■ Three New Class A Trustees Join the General Service Board

Following the 75th General Service Conference in April, the General Service Board selected three new Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees who will serve the Fellowship over the next six years: **Tom Ivester**, M.D., of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Chief Clinical Officer at Novant Health; **Kelly Parsley**, of Helena, Montana, a professor of Health Sciences; and **Veronica Ramirez**, of Weslaco, Texas, retired Chief Probation Officer of the Eastern District of Louisiana. Class A trustees are friends of the Fellowship specifically selected for their professional expertise and the unique skills they bring to the board's work of carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. In addition, A.A.'s Class A trustees can do certain things that Class B (alcoholic) trustees cannot do, such as showing their faces on camera or using their last names without violating the Traditions and principles of anonymity.

'This program works'

Dr. Tom Ivester specializes in maternal-fetal medicine — high-risk obstetrics — and is currently the chief clinical officer for the triad region of North Carolina for Novant Health. He was raised in the small town of Aberdeen, North Carolina, where he had more than a passing acquaintanceship with Alcoholics Anonymous from a young age. With his father a member of A.A., he “literally grew up in the Fellowship,” he said. “Pretty much from day one, I went in tow to any open A.A. meetings where they would tolerate little ones. We had Saturday night speaker meetings, which in our hometown usually meant covered dish dinners, and Mom and I were there with my little sister in those smoke-filled rooms and pretty much came to know these folks as part of our extended family.”



Even in college and medical school, Tom remained close to his father and the program. “My Dad was a popular speaker on the [A.A.] circuit and traveled both nationally and internationally, and one of my favorite things was to go with him if I could,” he said. As Tom got further into his career and spent less time traveling with his father, he still felt a part of the A.A. community, bringing his family to his father’s joyful celebration of 50 years of sobriety. “My young son was with us and so he got his first exposure to the wild side of the Fellowship at a gathering that brought people in from all corners of the continent,” he said. “And we still maintained close personal contact with people from my father’s group that we had built strong family bonds with — that group of people who, if they called you or if you called them, there was pretty much nothing you wouldn’t do for each other.”

After their father died, having been sober for 65 years, Tom and his sister reflected on “the incredibly powerful orientation to service that he had.” So, it’s not surprising that Tom sought for a way to continue this legacy. This opportunity came when a couple of A.A. acquaintances with positions in general service reached out to suggest he apply for an open Class A slot. Despite the fact that he was starting a new phase in his professional career that would keep him extremely busy, Tom put his hat in the ring. So far in his role as Class A trustee, he is working on several committees — Archives, Public Information, and Cooperation with the Professional Community, with the latter two having the most immediate relevance to his professional life.

“Having been in medicine for 30-plus years, I’ve certainly seen various levels of understanding from the medical community when it comes to Alcoholics Anonymous,” Tom said. “You have segments that have deeply embraced it, and others who have somewhat discounted it as a nonevidence-based and not medically oriented space to support recovery.” As a public-facing Class A, Tom said he is “eager to help

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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.

explore opportunities to expand the consciousness of the medical community about the value-add [of A.A.]. I think there is a lot of opportunity to bring these issues to the fore in our professional communities, as well as the patient communities we serve, especially now that there is evidence that validates what many of us have known for a long time, which is that this program works.”

‘A stack of miracles’

Kelly Parsley grew up in Idaho in a family with multiple members who were affected by alcoholism. But it wasn’t until her husband, Jeff M., joined Alcoholics Anonymous, and she started attending open A.A. meetings, that she truly began to understand the depth and impact of the program. “I remember being struck by the life-and-death, spiritual commitment of members working to save one another,” she said. “I was so moved and wanted to be a part of the amazing work this fellowship was doing.”

At the same time, she was very clear that she didn’t qualify for membership. “The price of admission to A.A. is devastatingly high,” she said. “And I had no desire to stop drinking — simply because I had no desire to drink in the first place.”

As a nonalcoholic, all Kelly felt she could do was “hover around the edges and thank [people in A.A.]



for their good work.” But when the opportunity to become a Class A trustee presented itself, she decided that this would be her chance to serve. As a professor of health sciences, Kelly and her students have spent decades researching alcohol use and abuse. That work led her to serve

on various state and national committees, including as chair of her local board of health and a regional hospital board. “I’ve learned a lot about leadership, and how communities and organizations can work to improve the lives of our neighbors,” she said. “I hope to bring some of those skills to my service with A.A.”

The process took numerous interviews over 18 months, but she loves the work. “I can’t tell you how honored I am that I was put on the Corrections Committee,” she said. “I know very little about the corrections world, but after reading everything that A.A. has available for people who are incarcerated and about all the work the A.A. Corrections Committee does, well, it will just move you to tears. It is overwhelming to see the obstacles put in the way of incarcerated people who desperately need A.A., and how persistent they are in having their voices heard. They ask for [copies of] the *Grapevine*. They say, ‘Send me someone who can help me start a meeting in here.’ Seeing the impact of the staffers and the Corrections Committee in getting a prison to open up, it’s like a miracle — a stack of miracles.”

Kelly also works on subcommittees for the *Plain Language Big Book* Revision Process and the forthcoming Fifth Edition of the Big Book, as well as the International Committee. “The bottom line, when it comes to being a Class A trustee, is that I am the luckiest person in the world,” she said.

‘A very beautiful friendship’

“Let me tell you a little bit about my community corrections journey,” **Veronica Ramirez** said. “I started with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice as a parole officer and, in 2001, I got hired with Federal probation, where I spent the next 21 years in several different offices



and in different roles. I worked in Laredo and San Antonio, Texas; Denver, Colorado; and San Francisco, California. I ended my career in New Orleans as chief probation officer for the Eastern District of Louisiana.” During this period, Veronica was also a criminal justice adjunct instructor at two different colleges. Now retired, she continues to teach criminal justice at South Texas College in McAllen, Texas. She lives in the Rio Grande Valley city of Westlaco.

Veronica’s association with Alcoholics Anonymous went hand in hand with her career. “As a parole

officer I used to refer people to A.A. routinely” she said. “But it was mechanical, in a way. I didn’t really know anything about A.A., except that I knew that it worked. I saw people live because of A.A. I saw people experience real change, lifelong change.”

In 2015, Judge Ivan Lemelle, a senior United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana in New Orleans and a former Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee, invited Veronica to a conference in California where there would be an open A.A. meeting, which Veronica decided to attend. “I remember being just amazed at the energy and the love,” she said. “And I thought, ‘wow, all of these years I have been supervising people who were going to A.A. but I knew so little about it.’ And so that was the beginning of a very beautiful friendship with A.A.”

A few years later, after Veronica had begun working with Judge Lemelle in New Orleans as chief of probation, he suggested she attend another open A.A. meeting, to which she replied, “Sure, Judge — I’ll go if you go with me.” And he did. “It was a meeting called ‘On the Dot’ which met at seven in the morning right above a coffee shop,” she said. “And whatever piece of my heart hadn’t been touched by that first open meeting was touched at On the Dot. I still cannot pinpoint what happened there to move me so greatly, but it’s also true about A.A. in general. The hugs. The vulnerability. The humility. The idea of hope, and of a Higher Power. Even though I am a nonalcoholic, I get so much healing from these meetings.”

Veronica retired in 2022, but continued to attend open meetings on her own, particularly Spanish-speaking meetings. When Judge Lemelle told her that a Class A trustee position was opening on the General Service Board, she thought seriously about applying. She had family obligations to consider, but with the blessings of her father, whom she was helping to care for, she interviewed for the position. “A.A. hold such a special place in my heart, I felt strongly that I should try this,” she said. “And so here I am.”

As a Class A, Veronica serves on the Corrections Committee. “Even though I am retired, the imprisoned still hold a very special place in my heart,” she said. She is also doing work on the Cooperation with the

Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee and the International Committee. About her new role, Veronica said, “People in A.A. often tell me how thankful they are that I’m here, but the way I look at it, I’m thankful that A.A. saw something in me that they felt I could bring to the table. So, I am grateful, and I am honored.”

■ Meet the Two New Members of the AAWS Board

Julie C. and Matt K. join the board as nontrustee directors

Well before Julie C. became a new AAWS nontrustee director last spring, she learned the spirit of service from her mother, who was a “great community volunteer who taught me how valuable helping others was,” she said. Today, Julie brings that spirit of service to her new role as a member of the AAWS Board, serving as chair of the board’s Communications and Language Services (CLS) Committee and the Finance Committee’s Self-Support Subcommittee.

Julie, who lives in a small community in California’s Sierra Nevada mountains, began drinking as a 13-year-old when her brother sold her a bottle of liquor. “I was a very lonely teenager, without many friends, and alcohol gave me this sense of ease and comfort where I could really talk to other people,” she said. For the first few years that worked for her, but by age 19 she was trying to control her drinking — “one of the most miserable ways to drink,” according to Julie — and after a few more miserable years, she got sober in January 1986, in San Francisco.

She started doing group service at her close-knit home group and then branched out to answering phones at intergroup and taking meetings into institutions. She then moved from big-city A.A. to a small mountain town of 2,000 people and a “teeny, tiny fellowship community,” which she loved. In her professional career as an accountant, she worked for big CPA firms, but when she moved to her mountain town, she worked as CFO for a local nonprofit which, she says, “returned her to her roots” of service, as did her A.A. work as a GSR and area officer before her service as a Panel 71 delegate. When a devastating forest fire destroyed part of her community and neighboring towns, she said “the principles of A.A., which teach us to do service, which teach us to be responsible to our community, inspired me to join the board of a local nonprofit dedicated to helping the community recover.”

Coming in the winter 2026 issue of Box 4-5-9...?

Meet the new General Service Board Class B Trustees: Teddy B.-W., Jennifer B., Sherry S., Susan V., and John W.

As chair of the new CLS Committee, Julie shares with the other committee members the hope to “embrace some of the desires of the Conference in terms of the translation and honoring of all three languages within our structure.” She added, “There’s also an opportunity to make sure we embrace the possibilities of new communications technology. Look at how we’ve done that with online meetings; they were controversial back in 2020, but now many of us are hybrid [attending both in-person and online meetings].”

Julie is also focused on ways to use A.A.’s digital platforms to better reach professionals and make information easily accessible. She is immensely grateful for [Our Primary Purpose](#), the new official A.A. podcast from GSO, and eagerly awaiting season two in 2026. Julie is also excited about the growing potential of the AAWS YouTube Shorts [channel](#), seeing this platform as a unique way to reach both A.A. members and the still-suffering alcoholic with fresh, purposeful content rather than solely reformatting existing materials. In addition, Julie chairs the Self-Support Subcommittee, focusing on communication strategies that highlight how member contributions sustain AAWS’s work to help carry the message, and engaging more members through initiatives such as updating the Self-Support webpage, sharing stories in *Box 4-5-9*, and refreshing contribution acknowledgments.

“Communication isn’t just about technology,” Julie emphasized. “It’s about making sure our principles of anonymity, inclusivity, and service are alive in every

medium we use. Whether someone listens to a podcast on their morning walk, watches a YouTube story late at night, or [visits] our website in a moment of crisis, they should find hope and help right away. And we will continue striving to provide as much access in Spanish and French as possible.”

Ultimately, she said, “I really think that there’s just so much opportunity within communications for us to reach out to people of the next generation, people coming into A.A. We’ll be working within the A.A. principles, while reaching suffering alcoholics, and it’s an opportunity I’m grateful and excited about.”

Matt K. also joins the AAWS Board as a nontrustee director this year. Matt lives in Connecticut, where he also got sober. His drinking began and ended at a young age. Matt first joined A.A. while in high school. “I had the same unmanageability and powerlessness that anyone in A.A. knows about,” he said. “Car crashes, things catching fire — I even got an F in art class, which shows you how really unmanageable things were!” He noted that Young People in A.A. (YPAA) conventions were instrumental for him. After drinking again a couple of years later, he returned to A.A. within five days, remaining sober since age 20 and making the most of his time in the program.

Sponsorship guided Matt into service, which included a trip to the Northeast Regional A.A. Service Assembly (NERAASA) early in his sobriety. “I was not one to hear an announcement at a meeting and



A CALL FOR STORIES FOR THE PAMPHLET
“A.A. FOR THE ASIAN & ASIAN-AMERICAN ALCOHOLIC”

Deadline: March 31, 2026

In 2024, there was a General Service Conference advisory action that "a pamphlet on the Asian and Asian-American alcoholic in A.A. be developed."

The trustees' Literature Committee is seeking stories of personal recovery from all members in the A.A. structure of the United States and Canada with ethnic or cultural ties to Asia.

[SUBMIT YOUR RECOVERY STORY](#)

[MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT](#)

<https://www.aa.org/submit-story-asian-and-asian-american-alcoholic-alcoholic-pamphlet>

www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/Asian_and_Asian_American_Alcoholic_Call_for_Stories.pdf

think, ‘Oh, that’s a great idea!’ A lot of the best things I’ve ever done have come from people pushing and encouraging and nudging me,” he said. “Put me in a car full of A.A. characters going places and that works. In my early service experience, I saw how big all this was — all the different activities that we could all do.” In addition to serving on a regional YPAA host committee, some of Matt’s other service roles have included DCM, area CPC chair, area Corrections and Treatment chair, NERAASA program chair, and Panel 71 delegate.

On a somewhat parallel career path, Matt worked as a social worker before attending law school and becoming an attorney. “I never thought being a social worker or an attorney was possible for me when I walked into A.A.,” he said. “Service in A.A. taught me to be willing to try new things.”

Matt began his service on the AAWS Board at an opportune time. What was previously the AAWS Technology Communications Services (TCS) Committee, has recently split into the Communications Language Services Committee and the Services and Technology Committee, the latter of which Matt is glad to be chairing. He is also the current chair of AAWS Strategic Planning. The September Strategic Planning session involved a valuable group discussion on topics like optimizing and best utilizing A.A.’s digital communications and AAWS’s communication efforts with the broader Fellowship.

Matt drove to his first AAWS board meeting in June feeling a little bit of imposter syndrome. “I went there thinking they are going to realize they picked the completely wrong person,” he said. But he has since realized that he has valuable contributions to make, for which he is grateful. “I walked into A.A. as a person years ago who had no employability, no social skills, no ability to talk to people, and no hope for the future,” he said. “I’m not that special, but I would describe myself as a very willing person — a willing alcoholic — committed to doing whatever is necessary to stay sober and to help others do the same. I feel very humbled by this opportunity to serve.”

■ Meeting Guide App Update

New Android Requirements Effective November 1, 2025

Due to Google’s updated Play Store policies, all Android apps—including Meeting Guide—must now meet new system and security standards.

WHAT THIS MEANS:

- ▶ **If your device runs Android 15 or higher:**
No action needed.
- ▶ **If your device runs below Android 15:**
The app should continue to work if already installed.
- ▶ You may **not** be able to install, reinstall, or receive updates.
- ▶ Consider upgrading your phone or OS (if possible).

After November 1, Meeting Guide may not appear in the Play Store for users on older Android versions.

Instructions to check and update your Android version: support.google.com/android/answer/7680439

For more information, see Google’s policy overview: support.google.com/googleplay/android-developer/answer/11926878

YOUR SEVENTH-TRADITION CONTRIBUTIONS HELP POWER THE MEETING GUIDE APP

Since 2019, the Meeting Guide app has connected hundreds of thousands to life-saving meetings across the U.S., Canada, and worldwide.

Real Impact

- More than 950,000* users and growing
- 152,000+ meetings listed
- 555+ A.A. entities providing the latest meeting information

At Your Service
Your Seventh-Tradition contributions support updates to the app that better serve the Fellowship and respond to your expressed needs—and make it easier for suffering alcoholics find the help they need.

*As of Q3 2025

New Feature: Online Meeting Finder

- Access meetings worldwide
- Filter by time zones, formats & preferences
- View in your device's timezone

Your contributions help ensure the app stays high performing, evolving, and improving the user experience.
[Learn more at aa.org/meeting-guide-app](https://aa.org/meeting-guide-app)

The Power of Our Seventh Tradition

■ In Area 62, Communicating the Impact of the Seventh Tradition

Beth H. and Pat M. of Area 62 in South Carolina are among the many A.A. members seeking effective ways to emphasize the importance of the Seventh Tradition in carrying the message to the Fellowship and beyond. For their area, this took the form of a nifty illustrated Seventh Tradition fact sheet that focuses on local concerns — what Beth, former Area 62 chair and now alternate delegate, called “our community committees: Bridging the Gap, Corrections, Treatment, PI and CPC.”

Pat, currently Area 62 delegate, was inspired to create the Area 62 Fact Sheet by the updated Seventh Tradition [Fact Sheet](#) issued by GSO in March. Pat said that the GSO Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet is effective, in part, because of the illustrations, “which make things more relatable.” But even more important, he said, “It can be a living document that’s updated every year.”

Underscoring this, Pat said that when he put the Area 62 Fact Sheet together, “a big push we were doing was billboards, so one of the pictures is of a billboard. And there were paragraphs about what we were doing in Public Information and CPC, with a picture relating to conferences. You can focus on whatever the thrust of a Carry the Message committee is at that time.”

Once color copies of the Area 62 Fact Sheet were printed, Pat brought them to the Area Assembly. “We passed it out at the GSR meetings and the DCM meetings, where we talked about it to let them know what it was for,” he said. Word of mouth took over, as it so often does in A.A., and, according to Pat, the Area 62 Fact sheet “has pretty much spread all over the Southeast by now.”

Beth, meanwhile, raised awareness of the fact sheet at the monthly meeting of area chairs. “Throughout the U.S. and Canada, there are areas that are heavily into translation and interpretation,” Beth said, regarding how other areas could adapt the Area 62 example. “That’s a huge part of their budget and something that could really benefit from self-support.”

Pat pointed out that the Area 62 Fact Sheet allows A.A. members in South Carolina to see just where their basket contributions are going. “This type of sheet highlights for members specifically what their area is doing with the money,” he said. “Sometimes the important thing is demonstrating the need. But just as important is demonstrating the results.”

To learn more about the Area 62 Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet, contact Beth H., 62altdel@area62.org

Your Seventh Tradition Contributions to Area 62 Help Carry the Message

Contributions made by you and your home group to the Area supports the work of your Area 62 committees to help the alcoholics that haven’t found the rooms yet. They are suffering through life as only another alcoholic can understand. They are in our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, jails, institutions, and sometimes our own homes. All of Area 62 committees, including Accessibilities, Archives, Grapevine, Literature, S&P’s, and Website play an important part in carrying and preserving the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. Here are some highlights.

Your contributions make possible essential activities to fulfill our primary purpose.



Public Information (PI) Coordinates with Districts in giving presentations about A.A. to schools and organizations. Providing information about A.A. through digital and print materials. Ensuring local libraries, visitor centers, etc. have accurate meeting information about A.A. They work with state media outlets for broadcasts of PSAs.



Cooperation with the professional community (CPC) Professionals in the medical, legal, and human resources fields often come in contact with problem drinkers but may not know much about A.A. The Cooperation with the Professional Community committee chair provides accurate, up-to-date information about A.A. to professionals in a variety of ways, including targeted programs at professionals (Adopt a Doc), exhibits at professional conferences staffed by members of local Groups & Districts. (low Country Mental Health, S.E. Behavioral Health, SCAPA, SHRMA, etc.)



Corrections Working with Chaplains & Wardens to gain access to bring meetings and literature into facilities. Coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups to carry the message of recovery to alcoholics who are in custody. Raising awareness of the Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.) among “inside” and “outside” A.A. members.



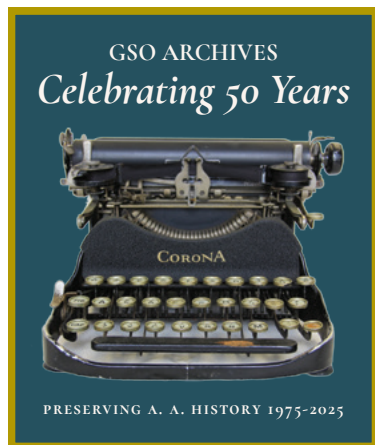
Treatment In addition to bringing the message of hope for recovery to alcoholics in a variety of treatment settings, A.A.’s on Treatment Committees demonstrate to administrators and staff “how it works” and are instruments of attraction to the A.A. program. The active Treatment Committee provides information about A.A., as well as literature and guidelines for setting up A.A. meetings in residential treatment facilities and outpatient settings.



Bridging the Gap Coordinates with Districts, Groups, Corrections and Treatment committees, to help individuals in custody and treatment, to transition to a local A.A. community through Prerelease Contacts.

■ Celebrating 50 Years of the GSO Archives: *A Legacy Preserved*

Fifty years ago, the General Service Office (GSO) Archives opened its doors with a mission both simple and profound: to preserve the evolving story



of Alcoholics Anonymous and to make that history available to members worldwide. Today, with a staff of six professionally trained archivists, the GSO Archives continues this vital work — cataloging, organizing, preserving, and digitizing

a vast and growing collection of materials that document the spiritual journey and service work of A.A. members across generations.

From dusty letters to digital records, the GSO Archives is a living, breathing testament to A.A.'s past and its promise for the future. As we celebrate 50 years of preservation, we're reminded that our shared history is not just a story — it's a service.

The GSO Archives staff handles a steady flow of research inquiries, some of which can take a full day or more to resolve. They manage a massive archive of printed materials — pamphlets, newsletters, and books, all in three languages — as well as documents from local A.A. archivists from all over the United States and Canada. These may include group histories, reports, newspapers, and even handwritten letters from the earliest members of A.A.

Archives Director Michelle Mirza has been part of the tremendous evolution of this work since she started at the GSO Archives more than 26 years ago. “At the beginning of my GSO journey in 1999, I used a typewriter, which was replaced with a computer when we ran out of correcting tape,” she said. “We used floppy discs to save our correspondence and other documents. Materials were not digitized and searchable, thus the laborious process of conducting research the old-fashioned way, reading pages and pages to find that nugget of information.”

Over the decades, the Archives adapted to rapidly changing technology, and today a digital repository with a robust search engine facilitates the quick retrieval of relevant, reliable information. From historic correspondence to digital preservation, every artifact stored or scanned represents a thread in the

rich tapestry of A.A.'s legacy. A 2024 study found the Archives include:

- 5,083 books
- 5,953 audio recordings
- 1,000+ films and videos
- Thousands of documents and digital files

These are stored at GSO in New York City and at two off-site locations. Preservation efforts ensure these items remain accessible for future generations.

As the Archives celebrate this milestone anniversary, Mirza reflected on the enormous contributions of those who were there in the early days. “The archivists who came before our current team, starting with our beloved first archivist, Nell Wing, played an essential part in collecting and preserving our history, making the most of the tools and strategies available to them at the time,” she said. “Today, we continue to adapt, managing large and diverse formats and developing policies for long-term access and security. One box at a time — organizing, preserving and scanning — we continue to forge forward with professionalism, care and love for our collective history.”

The Letters That Shaped Our Fellowship

One of the most treasured stories found in the Archives is the development of A.A.'s Twelve Traditions. In April 1946, Bill W. published “Twelve Suggested Points for A.A. Tradition” in the *Grapevine*, a result of hundreds of letters sent by early A.A. groups to what was then the headquarters in New York. These letters were filled with concerns — disputes over membership, group autonomy, public controversy, and more.

Bill, who personally knew many involved in these disagreements, stressed the need for equal recognition of all A.A. groups and affirmed the right of

Local Archives: Your Group's Story Matters, Too

While GSO Archives are critical to preserving our history, local archives play an essential role.

Groups are encouraged to:

- Host Oldtimers meetings and archives workshops.
- Share history in newsletters.
- Contribute to larger archives projects.
- Use GSO's *Archives Workbook* and *Preservation Guidelines* at aa.org/gso-archives.

groups to “manage their own affairs... even the right to be wrong.” These heartfelt letters, combined with Bill’s insights, led to the publication of the Twelve Traditions between 1947 and 1948, and their adoption in 1950.

In 2021, the Archives began digitizing letters from Bill W. and Dr. Bob — a project supported by Seventh-Tradition contributions. Deciphering Dr. Bob’s handwriting (famously hard to read) proved a challenge. Once transcribed, these letters became searchable, unlocking insights into his early A.A. service in the Midwest.

Dr. Bob’s correspondence includes letters to Bill, A.A. members, nonalcoholic secretary Ruth Hock and alcoholic secretary Bobbie B. He also wrote lovingly to Sister Mary Ignatia, his spiritual partner in A.A. service at St. Thomas Hospital. In one of his final letters to her in 1950, he wrote: “You have demonstrated in so many ways your love, loyalty and kindness that I cannot even begin to thank you adequately... So for my rare privilege of knowing you I feel most humbly grateful.”

Questions From Members

The Archives receive all sorts of questions from members:

“When was my group founded?”

“What do we know about people mentioned in the Big Book?”

“What kind of cigarettes did Bill W. smoke?”

“What was Dr. Bob’s tattoo?”

While some questions have documented answers, the Archives refrain from interpreting writings, focusing instead on facts and source material.

Visit the Archives — In Person or Online

Archives staff are excited to welcome back in-person visitors once the GSO retrofit project has been completed, Mirza said.

“One of my greatest joys is the storytelling that unfolds through Archives,” she said. “In our exhibit space, every display tells a story — not just offering information but connecting our visiting A.A. members and friends to our shared history. Each piece is carefully chosen, not only for its sentiment, but for its ability to deepen member connections and enhance organizational understanding.”

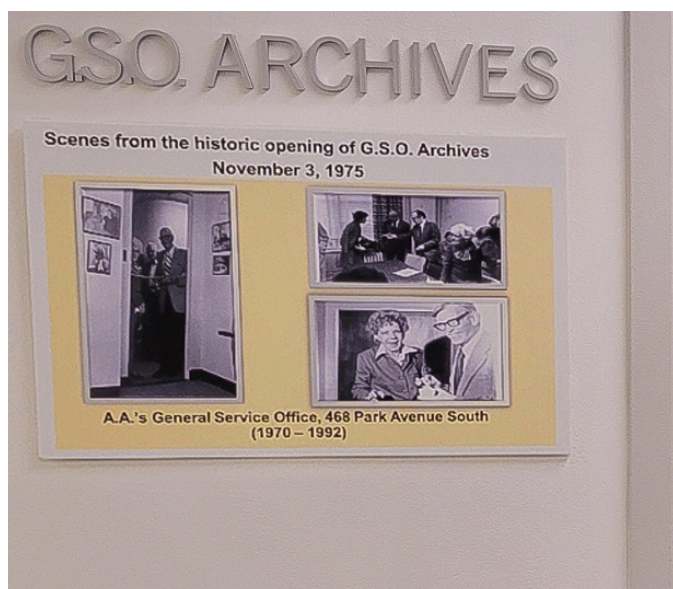
Exhibits visitors see include:

- Bill’s 1920s typewriter used by Ruth Hock
- Panoramic photos from International Conventions
- Translations of the Big Book

The exhibit space is also a space where different voices from all over the world converge, creating a shared harmony through story and memory. “Archives staff also treasure the opportunity to listen, converse, and learn more about A.A.’s history around the world,” Mirza said. “Visitors help us become even more effective stewards in providing archival service. We are looking forward to reopening the Archives and guiding our visitors on an engaging journey through stories the exhibits tell.”

Meanwhile, those interested in A.A. history may visit the **Online Archives** anytime at aa.org/aa-archives-exhibits.

This article has been adapted from A Book of Fellowship — 90 Years of Sharing Love and Service, the 2025 International Convention souvenir book, available for purchase at the Online Bookstore, <https://onineliterature.aa.org/A-Book-of-fellowship>.



◆ NOW STREAMING

Our Primary Purpose*

Podcast

“

Featuring interviews with GSO staff and voices from A.A. history and the Fellowship today — learn how GSO supports A.A. groups and members to carry the message of hope and recovery.

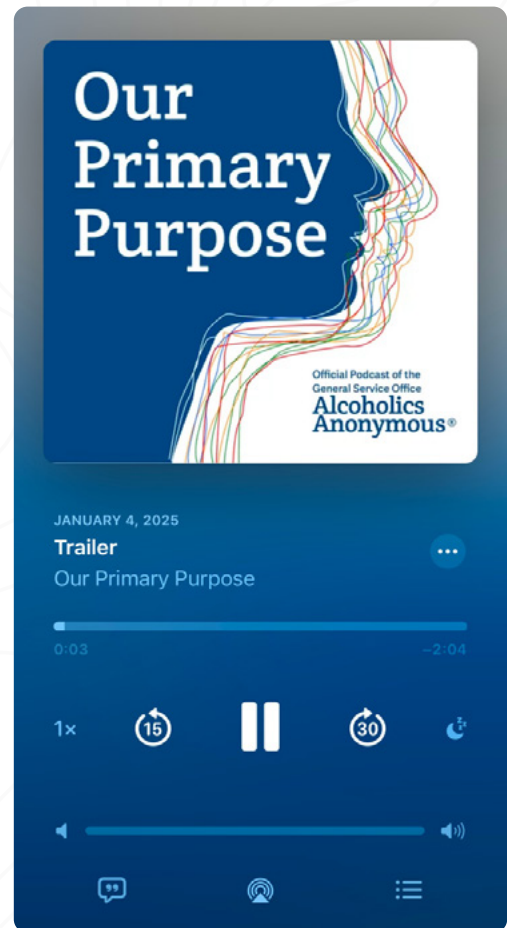


*Available in English only

**Season 1 streaming now and
available on podcast platforms**



aa.org/gso-podcast



Questions? Contact us at
gsopodcast@aa.org or visit the
[webpage](#).

■ GSO Staff Assignments: New Role Focuses on Self Support/Finance

GSO Staff Member Assignments are filled by a rotating group of professionals who are required to be members of the A.A. Fellowship. In accordance with Tradition Eight, these “special workers” reflect a model that has proved effective in supporting the Fellowship and year-round A.A. World Services (AAWS) and General Service Board (GSB) committee work. With the help of Staff Services Associates, they provide services specific to their Assignment or Desk.

As of September 2025, a new Staff Assignment has been created for Self Support/Finance. This new role will help alleviate the heavy workload of key GSO employees in the Finance Department, such as the CFO and Controller, so they can more fully focus on serving the Fellowship within their professional capacities.

The Staff member on the Self-Support / Finance assignment will serve as secretary to the following committees:

- AAWS Finance Committee
- AAWS Self-support Subcommittee
- Trustees’ Finance Committee
- GSB Audit Committee
- Conference Committee on Finance

They also will function as a central resource for group and member experience and provide continuity and support in matters related to A.A.’s tradition of

self support as well as finance and related committee actions.

The current Staff Assignment Coordinators as of September 2025 are as follows:

Treatment/Accessibilities/Remote Communities:

Michael R., access@aa.org

Conference Coordinator:

Rainer L., conference@aa.org

Cooperation with the Professional Community:

Karina C., cpc@aa.org

Corrections:

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Staff Coordinator:

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Read more about the areas of responsibility for Staff Assignments: aa.org/f-15-gso-staff-assignments

CALL FOR STORIES

In 2024, there was a General Service Conference advisory action that “a pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in A.A. be developed.” The Trustees’ Literature Committee is seeking recovery stories from transgender, non-binary, genderqueer, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming members in the A.A. structure of U.S. & Canada.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROJECT

www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/Asian_and_American_Alcoholic_Call_for_Stories.pdf

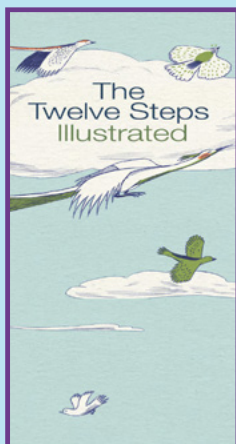
SUBMIT YOUR RECOVERY STORY

www.aa.org/submit-story-asian-and-asian-american-alcoholic-alcoholic-pamphlet

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS
MARCH 31, 2026**

Publishing News!

NEW ITEMS NOW AVAILABLE FROM AAWS



New Conference-approved redesigned pamphlet! “Twelve Steps Illustrated” (Item P-55) \$.75 USD

Completely redesigned, this is an easy-to-read presentation of A.A.’s program of recovery. Each of the Twelve Steps is explained through illustration and simplified text.

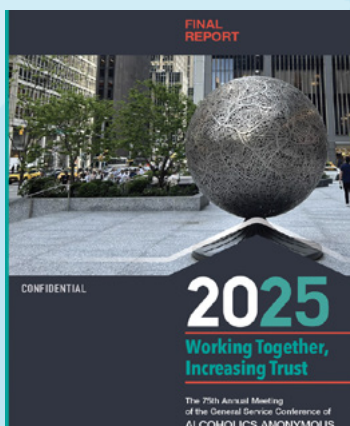
General Service Conference-approved.

Sample pages



Now in print and digital formats!

2025 General Service Conference Final Conference Final Report



Print version (Item M-23) \$1.95 USD

The 75th General Service Conference was held April 27-May 3, 2025, at the New York Hilton Midtown in New York City. The 2025 General Service Conference Final Report offers background on the agenda items addressed, as well as the sharing sessions, presentations and the Conference Inventory process.

The report is now available in print in English, French, and Spanish editions.

As always, we encourage ordering all our items of literature from local groups, districts, areas, Intergroups and Central Offices, as they play a vital role in local Twelfth Step activities.

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.

DECEMBER 2025

- 5-7 Providence, Rhode Island**
Northeast Regional Forum
Info: <https://www.aa.org/regional-local-and-special-forums>
- 5-7 Herndon, Virginia**
Southern States Service Assembly (SSAASA)
Info: <https://www.ssaasa.com/>
- 12-14 Pontiac, Michigan**
72nd Michigan State Conv.
Write: Box 39, Milford MI 48381
Info: <https://aa-semi.org/>

JANUARY 2026

- 9-11 Manchester, New Hampshire**
NECYPAA 35
Info: <https://www.necypaa35.org/>
- 23-25 Corpus Christi, Texas**
72nd Coastal Bend Jamboree
Info: <https://www.cbias.org>
- 24-26 South Padre Island, Texas**
Sober in the Sand
Info: <https://www.aadistrict27.org>

FEBRUARY

- 6-7 Trivandrum, Kerala, India**
18th International Conv. Near the Waves
Info: <https://conventionnearthewave.com/>
- 6-8 Naperville, Illinois**
ISCYPAA XLIII (43rd Illinois State Conference of Young People)
Info: <https://www.iscypaa.org/>
- 12-15 Des Moines, Iowa**
International Women's Conf.
Write : Box 8234, Des Moines IA 50301
Info: <https://internationalwomensconference.org/>

13-15 Chonburi, Thailand

Pattaya Thailand Roundup 2026
Info: www.thailandaaroundup.com

13-15 Mahanomen, Minnesota

23rd Annual Wild Rice Round-Up
"Lose Your Winter Blues"
Write: Box 203, Mahanomen MN 56557
Info: <https://www.wildriceroundup.com>

20-22 San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize

Meeting in Paradise
Info: <https://www.meetinginparadise.com/>

20-22 Syracuse, New York

Salt City Mid-Winter Roundup
Write: Box 7, Manlius NY 13104
Info: <https://saltcityroundup.com/>

27-1 Yuma, Arizona

Yuma Roundup 2026
Info: <https://rcs.squaredroot.net/org/YUMA>

27-1 Honolulu, Hawaii

Pacific Region Service Assembly (PRAASA)
Write: Box 104, Hauula, HI 96717
Info: <https://praasa.org>

LV PRODUCTS:



SGV05

Lo Mejor De La Viña II. \$14.99

A valuable anthology of true stories shared by Spanish-speaking members of Alcoholics Anonymous. This book brings together the experiences of men and women from different countries who found a new way of life through the AA program.

Each story reflects spiritual awakening, unity, service, and the transformative power of recovery. The Best of La Viña II is a living tool for sobriety born from the heart of the Hispanic community.

AGLV01

Agenda De Grupo LV. \$19.99

Record the most important details of your meetings in a practical and organized way with this new tool designed especially for Hispanic AA groups.

The La Viña Group Agenda is an essential resource that strengthens unity, facilitates service, and supports the spiritual growth of your home group.

Easy to use, functional, and purposeful, this agenda is a tool created to organize, record, and track your group's activities.