



76th General Service Conference Theme “Humility in Action”

Why Are We Here?

To have some fun **and** help shape the future of Alcoholics Anonymous! Today, we will talk about some of the General Service Conference (GSC) agenda items. This document is to help you facilitate a discussion within your homegroup so you can share their feedback with your Delegate, me! I want to bring a sense of Area 72’s conscience to the General Service Conference, April 26 - May 2, 2026.

Remember the groups are the boss, and each AA group has a voice in AA as a whole. We elect General Service Representatives (GSR) to attend District and Area meetings. Areas elect a Delegate to attend the General Service Conference, where AA’s collective conscience is represented.

Today, you will actively participate in the general service structure, learn from each other, and please feel free to ask questions. I ask that you remain open-minded, willing to listen, and participate!

Keep In Mind:

- ☀ This document contains summaries of several General Service Conference agenda items.
- ☀ The complete agenda and background information can be found on our [google drive](#) or **QR code above**.
- ☀ This is a lot of information, don’t hesitate to ask questions!

How To Use This Packet:

- ✓ Explore the agenda items and summaries of the background information to better understand the topics.
- ✓ Take notes to help you facilitate a discussion with your homegroup.

Next Steps & Key Dates

- ✦ Prepare to speak with your homegroup - don’t wing it!
 - If you have questions or want to prepare together, reach out to me or Lupita (your Alternate Delegate), your District Committee Member, or service sponsor. We are here to help!
 - If you're short on time, pick a few agenda topics you think will be most interesting to your group. It’s about the quality not the quantity of feedback. Be sure someone takes notes!
- ✦ Share your group feedback with me **no later than April 18th**.
 - **I don’t want a “vote”** from your group - I want to know how they think, feel, and what questions they might have on the topics.
- ✦ Submit written feedback through the [Google form](#) (ideally), or via email, text, or phone call!
- ✦ I will also host a **“Share with your Delegate”** session on **April 19th at 9am PT** on Zoom if you prefer to share your group’s feedback verbally.

Questions? Call, text, or email me: Courtney – Delegate, Area 72 - 206-795-8311 or delegate@area72aa.org

Reminder: This document contains summaries of several General Service Conference agenda items. The purpose of these summaries is to provide GSRs with pertinent information to facilitate an informed group conscience in their homegroup.

FINANCE	
Finance Agenda Item B	Discuss motion to add wording to Item F-3, "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix." (PAI 99)
Synopsis of Background Material	<p>This agenda item proposes adding new language to the existing pamphlet "<i>Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix</i>" (F-3), specifically on page 13 following the pie charts showing group contribution samples.</p> <p>The proposed additional language: "A.A. Grapevine and La Viña do not accept contributions. They are supported by sales of subscriptions, books and other specialty items. When your group is discussing how to distribute contributions to A.A. service entities, please consider how you may support Grapevine/La Viña. Purchasing subscriptions for your group, gift subscriptions, books or specialty items is a great way to support Grapevine/La Viña."</p> <p>The problem the motion aims to solve is a gap in awareness: while the pamphlet already notes that Grapevine and La Viña don't take contributions, it offers no guidance on how groups might still support them. Both publications have struggled financially.</p> <p>This topic relates to the Grapevine & La Viña Conference Committee topic we will discuss below: F: Consider that the AA Grapevine, Inc., accept contributions.</p>
Discuss with your Homegroup	Does your group support having the suggested wording added to the Self-Support pamphlet? Why, or why not?
NOTES for your Homegroup	
FINANCE	
Finance Agenda Item C	Consider a request to create a Twelve Step study guide or workbook. (PAI-70)
Synopsis of Background Material	<p>Currently, there is no Conference-approved guide dedicated specifically to working the steps. While many Conference-approved books are helpful, none focus solely on the steps.</p> <p>The proposal originated from incarcerated women in Oregon who, following a pre-conference delegate report back, expressed how difficult it is to find sponsorship and get guided through the steps in a structured way. A proxy GSR brought a motion to</p>

Area 72 Pre-Conference Packet (2026)

	<p>Oregon Area 58 that ultimately passed at the September 2025 Assembly. The intended outcome is a practical, accessible resource that supports members, particularly those in remote communities or incarcerated, in engaging more deeply with the program.</p> <p>Historical context: this question has come before the General Service Conference (GSC) before. The 13th GSC (1963) first explored the idea, the 24th GSC asked the Literature Committee to look into it, and the 35th GSC reaffirmed that existing literature adequately covers the steps, effectively closing the door on the conversation. The GSO's Legal and Intellectual Property department noted that between January 2024 and December 2025, it received and denied 24 outside requests to create step workbooks based on AA literature. The Literature Committee reviewed a similar proposal in 2023 and recommended finishing current projects first, but expressed hope this would be considered in the future.</p>
<p>Discuss with your Homegroup</p>	<p>Does your group support the idea of creating a Twelve Step study guide or workbook? Why, or why not?</p>
<p>NOTES for your Homegroup</p>	
<p>GRAPEVINE / LA VIÑA</p>	
<p>GV/LV Agenda Item F</p>	<p>Consider that the AA Grapevine, Inc., accept contributions.</p>
<p>Synopsis of Background Material</p>	<p>AA Grapevine, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation under the umbrella of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. It publishes Grapevine and La Viña magazines and books and carries the AA message through print, digital, audio, and video formats.</p> <p>Current Reach and Usage stats can be found on pg. 36 of the Grapevine background.</p> <p>Grapevine, Inc. does not accept direct contributions and operating income comes from subscriptions, book sales, and other product-related revenue.</p> <p>Grapevine's 5-year plan includes measured price increases for subscriptions and books. Those increases are not expected to fully cover the cost of its expanding services.</p> <p>Considerations if Contributions Were Permitted Accepting contributions could better align Grapevine, Inc. with how other AA entities are funded under Tradition Seven, diversify revenue beyond subscriptions and product sales, and improve overall financial stability. It would also create a funding mechanism for services that currently have no revenue attached: things like prison tablet content, podcasts, and social media. The tradeoff is that it would require building new administrative infrastructure for contribution management and reporting, comparable to what AAWS already uses.</p>

	<p>Concerns and Potential Risks that Have Been Identified Grapevine preserves an 80-plus-year tradition of sales-based self-support and stays consistent with a 1994 Conference Advisory Action that urged self-sufficiency through subscriptions. There are also concerns about muddying the financial boundaries between the Grapevine and other AA entities, and the communication challenge of ensuring members understand that contributing to AAWS doesn't support Grapevine, and vice versa.</p> <p>Policy and Governance Considerations Issues that may require definition include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eligibility of contributors (e.g., AA members and AA entities only) ● Limits and safeguards consistent with AA Traditions/Conference Advisory Actions (e.g. contribution limits) ● Affirmation of Grapevine’s editorial independence ● Transparency and reporting requirements ● Measures to avoid unintended impact on other AA service entities <p>Tradition Consideration Some may view accepting contributions as inconsistent with Tradition Nine. The long form excerpt states: "The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York...". This language suggests that the role of receiving voluntary contributions from the Fellowship belongs specifically to the General Service Board only.</p> <p>Historical Grapevine deficit requiring Reserve Fund coverage: 2025: -\$284,000 2024: -\$852,000 2023 -\$787,974 2022: -\$440,633 2021: -\$112,818 Total: -\$2.477M</p>
<p>Discuss with your Homegroup</p>	<p>Is this the right time for this discussion with the upcoming survey and review of the new Grapevine 5-year plan? Does this conflict with our spiritual principles and Traditions (long form of Tradition 9)? What other ideas do you have?</p>
<p>NOTES for your Homegroup</p>	

Area 72 Pre-Conference Packet (2026)

LITERATURE	
Literature Agenda Item I	Consider publishing the personal stories from the Fourth Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous not included in the draft Fifth Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous.
Synopsis of Background Material	<p>At the 2022GSC the Conference Committee on Literature recommended that a second volume of the book <i>Experience, Strength and Hope</i> (B-20) be developed with the stories dropped from the Fourth Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, and that a progress report be brought to the Conference Committee on Literature once development of the publication is in progress. Note: This item failed to receive the votes necessary to become an Advisory Action on the Conference Floor.</p> <p>In 2026, The trustees' Literature Committee agreed to forward a committee suggested to the 2026 Conference Committee on Literature that consideration be given to the publication of the 30 stories not retained from the Fourth Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous.</p> <p>Cost: \$8,000-\$15,000 estimated cost for a new book is the most defined estimate we can provide without presuming the direction of a committee's discussion and action.</p>
Discuss with your Homegroup	Is your group in favor of publishing the stories removed from the Fourth Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous? Why or why not?
NOTES for your Homegroup	
TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES	
Treatment & Accessibilities Agenda Item E	Consider a request to review locally produced safety-related video service material and provide input on the potential for this video service material to be adapted for use by GSO.
Synopsis of Background Material	<p>The committee reviewed the proposed agenda item (PAI-84), "Consider adapting video animations of the flyer (F-228) "Safety and A.A." and "The Safety Card for A.A. Groups" developed by District 22 in Area 93, for approval, use, sale, and distribution by AA World Services.</p> <p>Three proposed agenda items (PAIs 84, 90, and 107) relating to A.A. safety videos were reviewed. It was suggested that all three items be grouped together as one agenda item.</p> <p>This item arose when several groups in Central California Area 93 experienced ongoing threats to safety including racial slurs, intimidation, and targeted harassment. These incidents disrupted meetings, our group conscience and group safety, and endangered unity.</p> <p>In response, a local District formed a subcommittee that turned to the Twelve Traditions, the A.A. Safety Card, the Twelve and Twelve, and The A.A. Service Manual. This video was one of the resources used to demonstrate how to uphold Tradition</p>

Area 72 Pre-Conference Packet (2026)

	<p>One while remaining grounded in love and tolerance, and with responsibility to our primary purpose.</p> <p>The intended outcome is an “increased awareness and availability of safety resources for groups across Alcoholics Anonymous” (South Eastern New York, Area 49, PAI-90). The authors of PAI-107, from Mid-Southern California Area 09, further elaborate the goal of this agenda item and video to “serve as a valuable resource for Public Information, CPC, and Treatment committees working with non-members, and or professionals who seek to understand what A.A. does—and does not do—and to provide their clients or patients with a potential solution or understanding to the challenges they may or may not face.” (PAI-107)</p> <p>Preview links are available for review prior to consideration: English: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFohozwCpc6BjqHFoCGwtNc9SSs30D1Dp Spanish: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFohozwCpc6AfHV1OBebFNauk1epmUHgi</p>
<p>Discuss with your Homegroup</p>	<p>What does your group think about AAWS utilizing these locally produced safety-related videos, and this material being adapted for use by the General Service Office?</p>
<p>NOTES for your Homegroup</p>	
<p>TRUSTEES</p>	
<p>Trustees Agenda Item G & H</p>	<p>G. Consider a request to produce an animated video based on the pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.” PAI-103</p> <p>H. Consider a request to produce an animated video based on the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.” PAI-104</p>
<p>Synopsis of Background Material</p>	<p>These PAI’s (103 & 104) came from Area 73 (W. Virginia)</p> <p>PAI-103: It is hoped that this video will be used/seen by people who are not familiar with Alcoholics Anonymous. In addition, it could be used by sponsors when working with a new person or at first step meetings as a jumping off point.</p> <p>PAI-104: “It offers another way to get the 12 Traditions out to more people who otherwise might not take the time to read about them. It could also be used by Sponsors or even Groups to initiate discussion about the Traditions.”</p> <p>From the December 10, 2025 Interim Meeting of the Trustees Literature Committee: The committee agreed to forward PAI-103 to the 76th (2026) General Service Conference.</p> <p>The Twelve Steps Illustrated (P-55): https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/P-55_0725.pdf</p>

Area 72 Pre-Conference Packet (2026)

	<p>The Twelve Traditions Illustrated (P-43) https://www.aa.org/twelve-traditions-illustrated</p> <p>For reference, here is an example of a recently adopted 12 Concepts for World Service video https://players.brightcove.net/6416005702001/experience_6903ca33aa96e6ec945ec48f/share.html</p>
<p>Discuss with your Homegroup</p>	<p>What does your group think of the idea of an animated video based on the pamphlets? Why, or why not?</p>
<p>NOTES for your Homegroup</p>	
<p>ARCHIVES</p>	
<p>Archives Agenda Item B</p>	<p>Consider a request to define eligibility for Area-level service for members residing outside of the geographic area they want to serve. (PAI 46)</p>
<p>Synopsis of Background Material</p>	<p><i>From the November 2, 2025, trustees' General Service Conference Committee report:</i> The committee considered a proposal to “discuss who can serve as an area trusted servant if they live outside the area they are serving” and agreed to forward to the 2026 Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions.</p> <p>“The pandemic has shed light on this question, which has always bubbled below the surface - both when a past delegate has relocated and when someone in a Zoom group in one area is from another, sometimes very far away, and has then become an area or district trusted servant.”</p> <p>A larger topic of discussion in the background pertains to wider representation of Hispanic groups, for example, with a linguistic area in each region, possibly with a national Hispanic trustee. The perception would then arise whether this closes the pathway for Hispanic trusted servants to “earn a spot” as delegates or area officers.</p> <p><i>The A.A. Service Manual (See information on The Delegate, p.32)</i> https://www.aa.org/aa-service-manualtwelve-concepts-world-services</p>
<p>Discuss with your Homegroup</p>	<p>What feedback does your group have regarding the request to define eligibility for Area-level service for members residing outside of the geographic area they want to serve?</p>
<p>NOTES for your Homegroup</p>	

UPDATES FOR YOUR GROUP: Discussed at 75th General Service Conference	
<p>GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA Agenda Item D</p>	<p>Review the progress on the AA Grapevine survey of the membership to identify relevance, usefulness and financial viability of products and services provided by Grapevine, such as the magazines, books (print, digital, and audio), podcast and social media (Instagram and YouTube).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A 2025 Advisory Action called for a survey designed to identify the relevance, usefulness, and financial viability of Grapevine and La Viña products and services, including the magazines, books in print, digital, and audio formats, the podcast, and social media platforms such as Instagram and YouTube. The action further requested a progress report to the 2026 Conference Committee on AA Grapevine and La Viña, a final report to the 2027 committee, and a memo to the board within 60 days containing suggestions for the content of the survey. ● A Survey Subcommittee was formed. ● Survey questions recommended by the Survey Subcommittee on pg. 20-21 of Grapevine background. ● A separate survey proposal with an initial quote of \$18,500 provided by consultant on pg. 22-25 of Grapevine background
<p>LITERATURE Agenda Item C</p>	<p>Review progress report on the development of the Fourth Edition of the book Alcohólicos Anónimos – Spanish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Progress reports have continued to be provided to the committee including that story ● Submissions are reflecting each of A.A.’s Three Legacies. The committee requested a draft manuscript or progress report be brought to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature. ● With a revised timeline Chapter 10 was completed on April 7, 2025 – Chapter 11 was then completed on June 2, 2025 (based on revised timelines due to translations of background material and final Conference Report). ● A new member was added to the working group from Area 87 Southwest Quebec and as of October the working group is actively looking for two new members – one from Canada and the other from Puerto Rico. ● From the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature: That a draft manuscript or progress report be brought back to the 2026 Conference Committee.
<p>LITERATURE Agenda Item D</p>	<p>Review draft of the Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Purpose of the Fifth Edition: “an update of stories to better reflect current membership.” The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion,’ ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare,’ and the Appendices remain as is. ● 2,393 members submitted stories. Volunteer readers helped the Big Book Subcommittee review them. They noted the unique elements of each story. Emphasis was placed on selecting stories with depth and weight that would help a newcomer identify and find hope. The list was narrowed from 2,393 stories → 159 → 48 and finally 26 new stories. The 26 selected stories reflect A.A.’s diversity — different regions, ages, backgrounds, and life experiences. They include members from remote communities, immigrants, LGBTQ+ members, military members, those who were incarcerated, and members who struggled with the idea of a Higher Power. All share how they found sobriety and hope through Alcoholics Anonymous.

Area 72 Pre-Conference Packet (2026)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Final draft will be reviewed by the Literature Conference Committee. If it is a recommendation from the Literature Committee the rest of the Conference will have the ability to review the new stories ● A list of the stories remaining in the new edition can be found in the Literature Committee background p. 15 – 22
<p>LITERATURE Agenda Item F</p>	<p>Review progress report on the development of a Plain Language Big Book amendment process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Plain Language Big Book Review Process Subcommittee has been developing a structured workflow to route suggested changes to the PLBB, guided by A.A. spiritual principles, Concept X, and AAWS publication policy. ● The details can be found in the background information; here is a SHORT summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When a Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) is received, the Trustees' Literature Committee determines whether it is editorial-sent directly to the Publishing Department-or substantive, in which case it is forwarded to the subcommittee for evaluation. Substantive changes may be routed to an external consultant for drafting, with the resulting language reviewed and approved by the subcommittee before a recommendation is made back to the Trustees' Committee, which retains final authority over what is forwarded to the Conference Committee on Literature. <p>A visual "swim lanes" workflow has been drafted to clarify roles and avoid double-headed management. This chart is meant to prevent confusion about who is in charge of what. You can find it on page 2G of the Literature background material</p>
<p>LITERATURE Agenda Item G</p>	<p>Review progress report of subcommittee exploring the needs of Spanish-speaking members for tools to access the Big Book.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The subcommittee agreed that some of the work to evaluate the need for Spanish-language tools would be best conducted after the publication of the Fourth Edition of Alcohólicos Anónimos. ● The subcommittee also agreed to develop a draft survey of Spanish-speaking members to gauge interest in and need for tools for reading the Big Book (and other literature) in Spanish. ● With approval from the trustees' Literature Committee, the subcommittee hopes to make the survey available to Spanish-speaking members in February 2026. ● A draft of the survey can be found on pages 32 and 33 of the Literature background material.
<p>REPORT & CHARTER Agenda Item D</p>	<p>Discuss progress on classification of AAWS and AA Grapevine Literature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No info at this time, a report will be provided verbally by AAWS Chair (I have asked for clarification on lack of background)
<p>INVENTORY IMPLEMENTATION Agenda item A</p>	<p>Review Inventory Implementation Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Conference Committee on Inventory Implementation met nine times and reviewed the 75th General Service Conference inventory findings. ● On the PAI process, the committee recommended that Conference committees receive quarterly visibility into all incoming PAI's, that the October feedback call be replaced by a Joint Committee meeting where both trustees and Conference committees have a voice and vote on agenda item disposition, and

Area 72 Pre-Conference Packet (2026)

	<p>that the PAI Status Grid become a living document that tracks items until they're fully resolved. The committee also called for clearer communication to the Fellowship that year-round PAI submissions are welcomed, the deadline only applies to the immediately upcoming Conference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● On governance and role clarity, the committee recommended the GSB schedule a dedicated sharing session to align trustees, directors, delegates, and staff on the scope and authority of each service role. It also recommended that the Nominating Committee provide a brief summary report to the Conference Committee on Trustees explaining the selection rationale for Class A trustees and non-trustee directors.● On the inventory process itself, the committee recommended formalizing it at a regular five-year cadence beginning in 2031, with an implementation committee built into each cycle.● Two additional suggestions rounded out the report: that workload concerns be tracked through ongoing GSB/AAWS/AAGV reporting, and that small-group A.A. discussion meetings be incorporated into future Conference scheduling to foster connection across the body. <p>The detailed background can be found in Google Drive https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1qKekQtpFK07cmpTJQ660uVke3AP-Pmdq</p>
--	---