

## ■ The Long Road to the *Plain Language Big Book*

*The latest A.A. General Service Conference-approved book, designed to help readers understand the book Alcoholics Anonymous, was years in the making, with the participation of hundreds of members and trusted servants across the Fellowship.*

“Our stories disclose in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now. If you have decided you want what we have and are willing to go to any length to get it — then you are ready to take certain steps.”

*Alcoholics Anonymous, CHAPTER 5*

“We share stories about what we used to be like, what happened to us, and what our lives are like now. If you feel like we did and want to stop drinking, then you are ready to get started. You are ready to take these steps toward recovery.”

*Plain Language Big Book, CHAPTER 5*



Two A.A. voices are reflected in the above passages. The first voice belongs to Bill W. and the early A.A. members who contributed to *Alcoholics Anonymous*, known widely in A.A. as “the Big Book.” The second passage comes from the new *Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous*. Despite their stylistic differences — the first passage, written nearly 90 years ago, is formal in tone, the second more direct and conversational — both passages carry exactly the same message: We, like you, are suffering alcoholics. We are here to help you.

The *Plain Language Big Book* was published by AAWS on Nov. 1, 2024, in response to a long-expressed need from the Fellowship to provide a companion volume that does not in any way replace the Big Book but helps express the book’s near-century-old language in ways that many of today’s A.A.s and suffering alcoholics looking for help can understand more fully. The voice in the *Plain Language Big Book* is reminiscent of a sponsor sitting down with a newcomer and the Big Book and saying, “Okay, so here’s what this really means.” As AAWS non-

trustee director Clint M., who served on the trustees’ Literature subcommittee that helped shape the book, says: “At the end of the day, it’s the kind of information you’d share, person to person.”

The new volume — covering the core content of the abridged version of the Big Book (without the stories) — is also intended to help fulfill the needs of the many populations within A.A. who may be without experienced A.A. members who can help them understand the specific vocabulary of the A.A. program of recovery as it is used throughout the Big Book. These include isolated populations in remote communities, people in correctional facilities who don’t have access to outside A.A., or A.A. members who may have reading and comprehension difficulties.

“The *Plain Language Big Book* is truly a stunning example of collaboration by A.A. members, A.A. members who are professionals, committee members, elected delegates, and trustees,” says David R., AAWS publishing director. “The whole process invited participation. In my experience, no other book or pamphlet or piece of literature has gone through such an exten-

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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.

sive review before it was sent to the printer. It bears repeating: We are not trying to replace the Big Book. The language of the Twelve Steps remains unchanged. This book is here to help people who may have barriers to understanding, of one type or another, more fully understand the Big Book.”

The need to find a simpler version of the language of the Big Book has been expressed almost from the beginning of A.A. — the Big Book was called “high-falutin” and “fancy” by some early members. As early as 1993, a proposal was brought forward to the General Service Conference recommending a rewrite of the first three chapters of the Big Book. The proposal was rejected. But in 2015, David M., a member from Area 78 (Alberta/Northwest Territories) who had worked closely with First Nations peoples in Canada, made a presentation at the A.A. International Convention in Atlanta in which he said, “I want to see, sometime in the near future, a plain English translation of the Big Book. ... [S]uch a translation into plain language would be very valuable to our A.A. members in remote communities and to people coming into our western countries who only know English as a second language.” Discussion of this at the General Service Conference in 2016 resulted in a Conference committee consideration that “the need for ‘plain-language’ recovery literature be explored by the trustees’ Literature Committee.”

Carolyn W., the current AAWS chair and a General Service Board trustee, was appointed to that committee in 2018. “On the committee, we looked at certain things, including external data on literacy and analysis assessing reading levels of some of our materials, including the Big Book,” she says. “We also had an appointed committee member who had contact with the young people of A.A. who did some surveys of

what tools people from within A.A. and outside of A.A. might be using because of a lack of understanding the Big Book. [Many of these tools turned out to be from outside A.A.] So it felt to me that if A.A. members needed a resource, A.A. should provide it. All that information was consolidated and presented back to the Conference in 2019.”

In September 2019, the chair of the General Service Board wrote a memo to the trustees’ Literature Committee asking the committee to connect the work of previous committees and provide further information on the feasibility of a plain language Big Book. As a result, the subcommittee for Researching Issues, Possible Tools and Access to the Book (known as RIPTAB) was formed.

RIPTAB considered the original purpose of the Big Book — to carry the A.A. message beyond the physical reach of the original A.A. members. The subcommittee also took a close look at literacy and reading levels in terms of A.A. literature and the general population today. They studied the background of the various requests for a plain language Big Book, chief among them the inability of some alcoholics to identify and relate to the message of the Big Book in its original language. The RIPTAB subcommittee concluded that literacy concerns indeed reflected potential accessibility factors and presented their findings at the 70th General Service Conference in 2020. At the request of the delegates on the Conference Committee on Literature, a video of their presentation was produced and presented to the Fellowship with a request for feedback. After the Conference, new members were appointed to the subcommittee (now known as RIPTAB-II) and continued to explore the topic.

A 2021 Conference Advisory Action recommended that a draft version of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition), be translated into plain and simple language and be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide an audience as possible. The Advisory Action asked that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature. To implement the Advisory Action, the Trustees’ Literature Committee formed a subcommittee, known as TABB (Tools to Access the Big Book).

John W., who served on that committee, says, “I joined the AAWS board as a nontrustee director after the 2021 Conference, and I was appointed to the plain language subcommittee. We worked together to draft the Request for Proposal in order to get a set of potential writers to submit their work for review.”

The subcommittee met 12 times between August 2021 and January 2022. “There were 16 responses to the RFP,” says John. “From these, we commissioned six writers to submit writing samples — a plain language translation of Chapter 5 and a few other select passages. Finally, we three members of the subcommittee and three members from the Publishing Department reached unanimous consensus on our finalist [in February 2022].”

After the 72nd General Service Conference that year, as part of regular rotation, a new subcommittee was formed. “As a member of the new subcommittee,” Clint says, “I reviewed a lot of material to get ready for the 73rd General Service Conference; we also had the support of Publishing. The first six chapters had been created in draft form, so we reviewed that, proposed a number of suggested changes, and then got to work at prepping for the reading room for the 73rd General Service Conference, which we monitored so that delegates could read the material we had at that stage.”

The special readings were set up, John W. says, “in order to be as transparent as possible, given the Fellowship’s deep and wide interest in this project. People were open and welcoming but still a little reserved, given the emotional attachment and deep connection A.A.s have with their experience of the Big Book. Still, the response was overwhelmingly positive. I heard people say things like, ‘I never knew I was translating the Big Book before, but this is the kind of stuff I say to my sponsee so they understand the language from the 1930s.’”

Clint adds: “The text struck me not as something ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ but something completely different. It would be quite a departure for you if you’d only been familiar with the original text. But when I read it now, in a common language type of format, it does strike me as the way we would normally converse with one another about the program.”

At the 74th General Service Conference, David R. says, “all the delegates had the opportunity to read the full draft of the manuscript. The delegates decided, in substantial unanimity, to publish the book. In other words, A.A.’s group conscience spoke, again and again, to move this book forward.”

The *Plain Language Big Book* was an immediate bestseller, with all 72,500 of the first print run selling out in just a few weeks after the book’s publication and a second printing of 100,000 copies ordered shortly after. Check the [Online Bookstore](#) for the latest information on how to order.

## ■ Plain Language Big Book Timeline — the Path to Conference Approval

### **2016** General Service Conference Literature Agenda Item A

Discussion at the General Service Conference in 2016 resulted in an additional committee consideration that “the need for ‘plain-language’ recovery literature be explored by the trustees’ Literature Committee.”

### **2019** RIPTAB

The trustees’ Literature Committee forms the subcommittee for Researching Issues, Possible Tools and Access to the Book (known as RIPTAB) to further explore the need for plain language literature.

### **2020** Findings Presented

The RIPTAB subcommittee presents their findings at the 70th General Service Conference in 2020. A video of their presentation reflecting their concerns that the current Big Book language created accessibility issues was produced and presented to the Fellowship with a request for feedback. After the Conference, a new subcommittee was formed (named RIPTAB-II) to continue researching the issues.

### **2021** Approval to Create a Draft Version

A Conference Advisory Action recommends that a draft version of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition), be translated into plain and simple language and be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable. A new trustees’ Literature subcommittee (named TABB: Tools to Access the Book) and members of the Publishing Department interview candidates to write the book.

### **2022** Writer Selected

In February 2022, a writer is unanimously chosen. At the 72nd General Service Conference, samples of the plain language submissions are provided to the Conference as part of the subcommittee report. After the Conference, a new subcommittee is formed through rotation. The writer produces six draft chapters, which are reviewed by members of the subcommittee.

### **2023** Conference Feedback

Delegates at the 73rd General Service Conference have a chance to read the draft chapters. Their response is overwhelmingly positive.

### **2024** The Plain Language Big Book Is Published

The full draft of the *Plain Language Big Book* is made available for all delegates to read at the 74th General Service Conference. It is approved (with minor edits) with substantial unanimity by the Conference as a whole. The *Plain Language Big Book* goes on sale in print softcover booklet format and as an eBook on Nov. 1, 2024. The list price of the print edition is \$11.00, the same as the softcover Big Book.

Members also may want to check out a detailed [timeline](#) created by District 4, Area 6 and available on their website.

# Inside A.A. Finances

## Part V: CONTRIBUTIONS



This is the fifth in a series of columns from Kevin Prior, Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee and 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**

A.A. is unique among not-for-profit/tax exempt organizations in its principle and practice of self-support as embodied in our Seventh Tradition, the short and long forms of which are below.

**Short Form:** Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

**Long Form:** The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

Why is this unique? Because almost all charities and other not-for-profit organizations seek donations from the public, seek grants from government, foundations, or other sources, or accept other kinds of

donations unless the source of the gift conflicts with their mission.

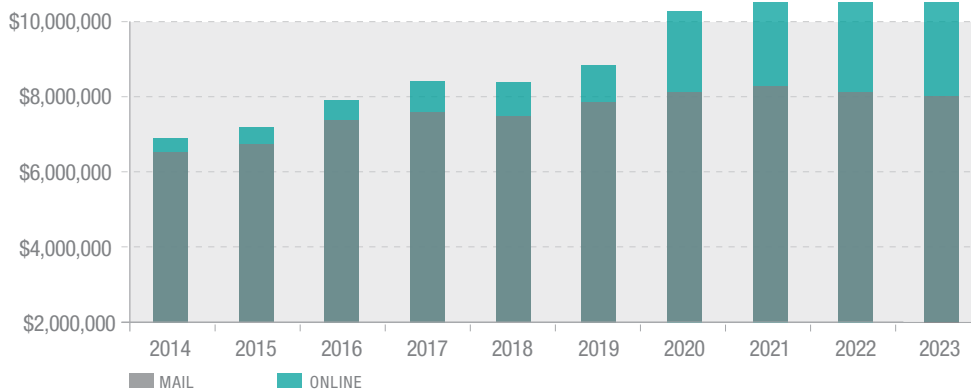
Between my days as an auditor, a board/committee member, and an employee, I have worked closely with a dozen or so very worthy tax-exempt organizations, including charities, civic organizations, churches, and universities. All engaged in some element of development, fundraising, or campaigns to increase financial support. All took advantage of the forgivable loans offered under the PPP Program in 2020, in some cases receiving millions of dollars in financial support. Many also recently received a government rebate through the Earnings Retention Credit Program. A.A. does none of these. A.A. at all levels strictly refuses any contributions from non-members. Accordingly, the General Service Board only accepts contributions from members and groups within our Fellowship. Anyone who contributes through our online portal knows that they must first stipulate they are an A.A. member before the process can be completed. Or, if you're paying by check via “snail mail,” GSO ensures that the contribution is from a member or A.A. group before processing the check. Moreover, in accordance with a Conference Advisory Action, A.A. limits the total amount of individual contributions to \$7,500 per year. Contributions with restrictions or earmarked are not accepted.

There are several powerful positive reasons for the A.A. Tradition of self-support:

- It helps A.A. to remain free of any outside influences or issues that might distract us from our primary purpose.
- It prevents any individual or institution from having undue leverage or power over A.A.
- It keeps us accountable and responsible for our financial stability.

Bill W. did not originally envision A.A. this way. In “A.A.’s

**Growth of Online Contributions – 2014–2023**



A mail contribution cost \$5.60 to process. An online contribution costs \$2.93 to process, a \$2.67 savings.



Legacy of Service” (1951), Bill wrote of how he sought outside donations for the young organization and lamented that a proposed donation from John D. Rockefeller Jr. of “only” \$5,000 meant they were still a long way from “hospitals, missionaries, books and big money.” Later in the essay, Bill writes that Rockefeller “saved us from the perils of property management and professionalism. He couldn’t have done more.” In other words, a self-support structure allowed focus on our single purpose of reaching the still-suffering alcoholic.

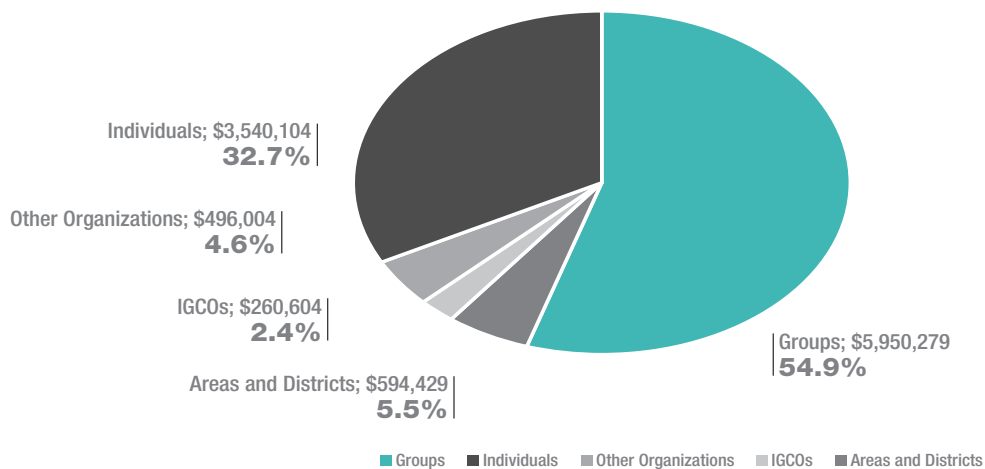
Early in my service to A.A., I was advised never to use the word “donation.” While in the outside world “contribution,” “donation,” and “charitable gift” may be used interchangeably, there is a subtle but important difference for A.A. A donation is support for a cause or organization but does not necessarily imply personal responsibility for either. Contribution carries the additional weight of “I’m doing my part” to make this collective effort successful, such as when members put money in the basket at a meeting. It is an act of participating in supporting the Fellowship, just as making coffee, serving as a GSR, or greeting newcomers are all essential efforts to make A.A. work. Interestingly, the word “donation” only appears twice in *The A.A. Service Manual* — the \$5,000 gift from Rockefeller and Bill’s gift of his shares in the original publishing company to A.A. The word “contribution” occurs 68 times, reinforcing this important distinction.

### Contributions Trends and Details

Members often express an interest in the following graph, which shows Seventh Tradition contributions from 2014 to 2023:

Two things are very noteworthy. First, contributions spiked during the pandemic and have remained strong. Second, online contributions have gone from a tiny fraction of overall contributions to about one-fifth of the total. Online contributions

### Contributions by Type of Contributor — 2023



cost about half of what mail-in contributions cost to process.

Here is the breakdown of where contributions came from in 2023:

Of the contributions that came from groups, the breakdown is as follows:

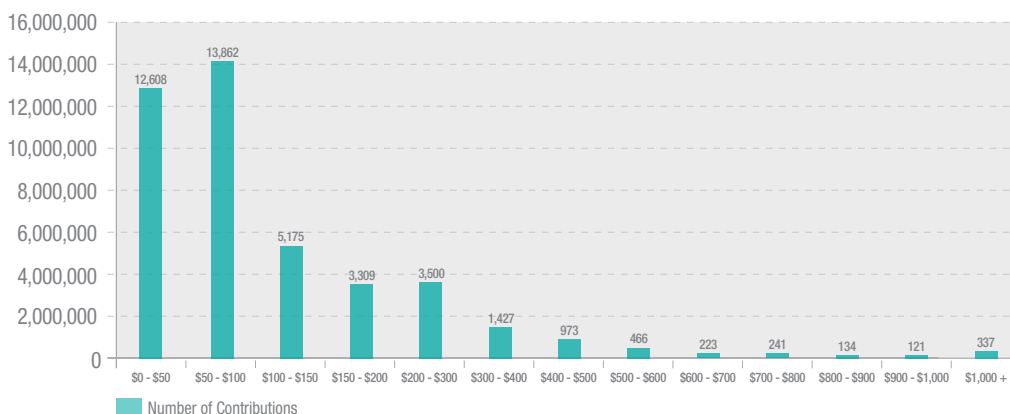
### What do these three graphs tell us?

Self-support continues to be strong.

- Most self-support contributions come from A.A. groups.
- Our primary source of support is from contributions of less than \$100, of which there were 26,000 in 2023. More evidence that *every* contribution is significant.
- In future issues of *Box 4-5-9* we will cover financial reporting, the 2025 budget, and another look at the Reserve Fund.

*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.*

### Number of Group Contributions by Dollar Value — 2023



## ■ International Convention 2025 Update: Countdown to Vancouver



### Volunteers assemble to welcome thousands of Convention-goers

The countdown has begun in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, for a giant celebration to honor A.A.'s 90th birthday. As many as 4,000 A.A. volunteer hosts are expected to welcome the tens of thousands of A.A. visitors from more than 90 countries who will attend A.A.'s 16th International Convention, July 3-6, 2025.

The Volunteer Welcome Committee preparation began last year with the creation of the Volunteer Welcome Committee “core group,” headed by Trish L. as chair. Trish is no stranger to service work, having served as Area 79 delegate and trustee-at-large/Canada. The core group also includes Maureen M. and Kirsten M. as co-chairs, with Diamond D. as treasurer, Dave F. as secretary, and Sue B. as registrar. Reflecting on the theme of the 2025 International Convention, “90 Years — Language of the Heart,” Trish says, “It’s almost exactly a year ago that I ‘officially’ was given the wonderful privilege of serving as the chair of this committee. If there is one thing that I can hope to impress upon you, it is the level of enthusiasm and support in all of Area 79 for the 2025 International Convention, and the support of the Area 79 general service structure in our endeavors.” The team has been working hard to harness that energy and enthusiasm to ensure a fabulous Convention experience for all participants and guests.

The core group oversees the functioning of a number of subcommittees, whose specific roles “will continue to evolve” as the Convention gets closer, according to Trish. Many of the 4,000 volunteers will be

assisting attendees on site with questions about the Convention experience, transportation, hotels, and directions around town. They will greet visitors at the airport and in all Big Meetings, help set up chairs in different meeting venues, lead marathon meetings, provide information to guests who experience access barriers and for those visitors for whom English is not a native language. They will be answering such questions as: “Where can I eat cheaply?,” “Where is the nearest TransLink station?” or “Where is the nearest restroom?” But even more so, as members of A.A., they will be reaching out a welcoming hand and fulfilling one of A.A.'s Three Legacies left to the Fellowship by its founders — that of Service. How will Convention-goers spot the Welcome Committee volunteers in Vancouver? “We’re gathering ideas for a ‘stand-out’ t-shirt,” says Trish. “We haven’t come to a final decision yet, but don’t worry, you’ll be able to spot us.”

Finding enough volunteers to meet the needs of the thousands of guests expected in Vancouver, however, is quite a project, and Trish is enlisting help from the entire Western Canada Region as well as the Eastern Canada Region.

“So far, the largest concentration of interest is in our area,” Trish says. “I expect that as we get closer to the date of the International Convention, we will hear from many more throughout the province and beyond.” In addition, Trish says, “we are developing an outreach program, attending more than 20 service and fellowship events with International

Convention displays. A volunteer kickoff event took place in January to generate excitement, provide information, and enlist volunteers from the immediate area. Information about becoming a Convention volunteer is available at the committee's [website](#).

## **A Packed Convention Schedule and Activities Galore**

The Vancouver Convention Centre is located at the downtown waterfront, where the first night of the Convention on Thursday, July 3, a Block Party will take place at venues around the Convention Campus. Friday night, we all come together in the BC Place Stadium for the Flag Ceremony and Opening A.A. Meeting. Saturday night will feature an Oldtimers A.A. Meeting and the Closing A.A. Meeting will take place Sunday morning. There will be more fellowship opportunities outside the BC Place Stadium after the Friday and Saturday night A.A. Meetings. In between, of course, there will be a full slate of meetings, panels, and workshops, including those in other languages and in ASL (American Sign Language).

When not in meetings, A.A.s and guests will want to sample what Vancouver has to offer. A cosmopolitan city right on the edge of nature, Vancouver makes it easy to combine an urban getaway with outdoor adventure. From family-friendly fun to thrill-seeking exploits, and from marine exploring to mountaintop luxury, you'll find plenty of things to do in Vancouver.

Vancouverites know their city's culinary scene. They know where to find the best tower of fresh seafood, the finest house-made charcuterie, and the best taco truck.

Now, close your eyes and breathe in deep. As the earthy, cedar-scented air fills your lungs, listen to the birds twittering, wind rustling through leaves, and evergreen needles crunching underfoot as you wander the forest's carpeted path. As you round the corner, Stanley Park's Lost Lagoon comes into view. Just a few minutes past are the towers and skyscrapers of downtown Vancouver. This is what inspires Vancouverites every day.

## **Bringing Together the Power of the Fellowship**

Our International Conventions are also a great opportunity for A.A. members to connect with A.A.s from around the world and to reinvigorate their own sobriety. And they are opportunities to let the world know that A.A. is alive, flourishing, and offering hope to suffering alcoholics everywhere. This is achieved in part by the preparation and dissemination of clear and accessible information about A.A. to the media,

and, more important, by offering thousands of individual examples of how A.A. works.

As a nonalcoholic reporter noted of a previous Convention, the city had been "invaded by thousands of benevolent aliens. Wearing badges, they were wandering throughout the city, happy, smiling, and greeting passersby. The citizens of the city," he wrote, "had been touched by this strange new spirit and were smiling back and returning the greetings."

In July 2025, no doubt Vancouver too will experience that "strange new spirit" — an exuberance and a deep humility born of suffering and nurtured by sobriety.

Register for the 2025 International Convention in Vancouver [online](#) or download a registration form from the Convention [webpage](#).

You may also request a registration brochure by contacting the 2025 International Convention coordinator at [2025ic@aa.org](mailto:2025ic@aa.org).

For more information about the Convention and Vancouver, visit the Convention [webpage](#).

## **Convention Housing in Vancouver Still Available**

When Convention registration opened in September, the response from the Fellowship was enthusiastic, with registrations and requests for hotel rooms coming faster than anticipated based on previous Conventions.

The good news is that Vancouver hotels and both universities have rooms AVAILABLE! Once you've registered for Convention, check out all our five housing options. Please note that there is no waiting list for downtown hotels that have already filled up, but the online housing process is dynamic and live, so any official hotel block cancellations are put back into the inventory on the website.

Shuttle service will be offered for attendees with access barriers. The city of Vancouver has great public transportation, which will make it easy for attendees to get around the beautiful city of Vancouver throughout the 2025 International Convention experience.

We look forward to seeing old friends and making many, many new ones!



## ■ How the Seventh Tradition Helped Two A.A. Brothers

The Seventh Tradition supports the services that the General Service Office (GSO) provides to A.A. members and groups who carry the message of hope and recovery to suffering alcoholics. This Tradition has manifested itself in important ways in the lives of Spencer P., of Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, and his brother, Jay.

In the 1990s, Spencer spent seven years working in Japan. While there, his drinking increased and, he says, “I came to a point of desperation. I found a Japanese intergroup office which was close to where I lived, and they told me a little bit about A.A. and I was able to attend a Japanese-speaking meeting in my city.”

Spencer got sober in Japan on December 7, 1997.

After returning to British Columbia, in 2002 Spencer received an urgent call from his brother Jay, who was having trouble with his own drinking. But Jay lived in Saudi Arabia — could Spencer find him an A.A. meeting there? Spencer called the Vancouver intergroup who in turn put him in touch with the International desk at GSO in New York. The International assignment staffer did not have infor-

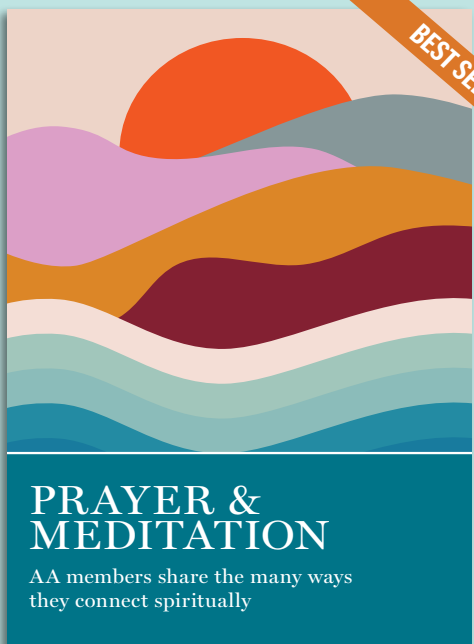
mation on any meetings in Saudi Arabia, but after checking his files, he found the name and phone number of a Scottish Loner who lived there.

However, the staffer said, there’d been no contact with this member for a while — who knew if the number was even active?

Eager to grab any information that might help his brother, Spencer gave the phone number to Jay. The next day, Jay replied with astonishment, “I work with this guy!” The coworker became Jay’s first sponsor and worked with him one-on-one to guide him into sobriety.

Jay, now back in British Columbia, has been sober for more than 20 years. Spencer hopes to do service as a Japanese interpreter at the International Convention in Vancouver this summer. He says: “Thanks to the work of the General Service Office, I’m alive and sober and very well and my brother is alive and sober and very well — and then there’s all the people that we’ve touched. So we feel immense gratitude.”

For more information about self-support and the Seventh Tradition, visit [aa.org](http://aa.org).




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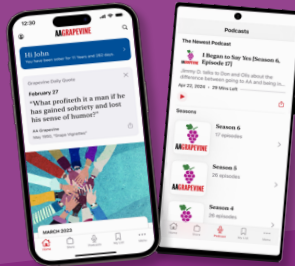
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## ■ Appointed Committee Members Sought for Trustees' Literature Committee

**Deadline: April 15, 2025.** The trustees' Literature Committee has openings for two (2) Appointed Committee Members (ACMs). The committee seeks appropriate individuals to fill these positions and would appreciate any recommendations.

**In keeping with the recommendations of the 2024 General Service Conference that:**

1. "a pamphlet on the Asian and Asian American alcoholic in A.A. be developed," and
2. "a pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in A.A. be developed,"

the trustees' Literature Committee saw the need to initiate the search for two Appointed Committee Members. Each ACM will serve as the leader of a working group for pamphlet development.

**Some of the qualities most desirable for these ACM openings are:**

- Expertise in and/or familiarity with the use of current technology and communication tools.

- Availability for meetings of this trustees' committee held during General Service Board weekends (usually the last weekend in January, July, and October), as well as one meeting during the annual General Service Conference.
- Available time for participation in subcommittees of the trustees' committee, as appointed.
- At least five years of continuous sobriety.
- The ability to work within the committee structure.
- Experience in A.A. service, and in carrying the message to either:
  1. Asian and Asian American alcoholics, or
  2. Transgender alcoholics.

In seeking applications for all vacancies in Alcoholics Anonymous, the Fellowship is committed to creating a large applicant file of qualified persons that reflects the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A. itself.

To obtain a resume form for this opening, please contact the Literature desk at GSO, 212-870-3019, or [literature@aa.org](mailto:literature@aa.org).

Resumes should be submitted to the General Service Office by April 15, 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.**



All visitors must register in advance to gain access to the building in accordance with the building policy. We strongly recommend contacting us prior to your visit so you can be entered into the building's security system.

Groups of 10 or more must contact us ahead of time to schedule a visit.

### **SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT TO GSO**

475 Riverside Drive  
New York, NY 10115

**email [gсотours@aa.org](mailto:gсотours@aa.org)  
or call 212-870-3430**


**\*Please note the building will be closed February 17 and April 18**





# 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** Register by **April 15** for special early-bird pricing! 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!**



NEW FROM GSO

# Our Primary Purpose Podcast

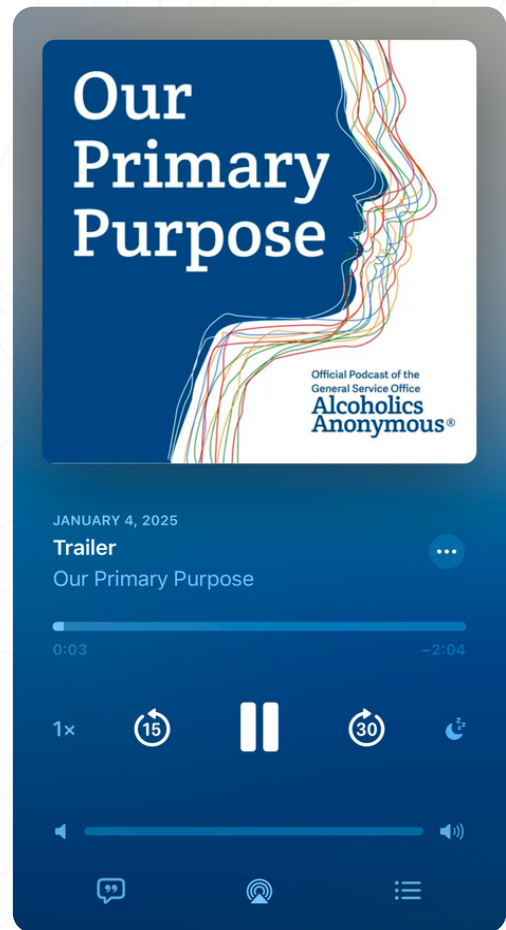
“

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



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

# 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.

## FEBRUARY

- 7-9** Winnipeg, MB Canada  
Western Canada Region Service Assembly (WRAASA 2025)  
Info: <https://wraasa.org/>
- 7-9** Little Rock, Arkansas  
Area 4, District 9 Winter Holiday Conv. 2025  
Write: Box 26135, Little Rock, AR 72221  
Info: [www.winterholidayconvention.com](http://www.winterholidayconvention.com)
- 7-9** Yuma, Arizona  
Yuma Roundup  
Info: <https://aayuma.com/>
- 7-9** Fredericton, New Brunswick Canada  
36th Mid Winter Roundup  
Email: [district5mwr@gmail.com](mailto:district5mwr@gmail.com)
- 7-9** Corpus Christi, Texas  
71st Coastal Bend Jamboree  
Info: <https://www.cbiasa.org/jamboree/>
- 13-16** Boston, Massachusetts  
EACYPAA XXI  
Info: [www.eacypaama.org](http://www.eacypaama.org)
- 14-16** Orange Beach, Alabama  
40th Annual Jubilee Conv.  
Write: Box 724, Gulf Shores, AL 36547  
Info: <https://gulfoastaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/2025Jubilee.pdf>
- 14-16** Destin, Florida  
53rd Gulf Coast Roundup  
Info: <https://www.gulfoastroundup.com/>
- 14-16** Nalanchira, Trivandrum, India  
17th International Conv. Near the Waves  
Info: <https://conventionnearthewave.com/>
- 21-23** Bowling Green, Kentucky  
Kentucky State Conv.  
Write: Box 841, Bowling Green KY 42102  
Info: [www.kystateconvention.com](http://www.kystateconvention.com)
- 21-23** Virtual, New Jersey  
2025 Virtual NERAASA  
Write: Box 3724, Cherry Hill NJ 08034  
Info: <https://area45snjaa.org/neraasa-2025/>
- 21-23** Syracuse, New York  
Salt City Mid-Winter Roundup  
Write: Box 7, Manlius NY 13104  
Info: <https://saltcityroundup.com/>
- 21-23** Virginia Beach, Virginia  
Oceanfront Conf.  
Write: Box 66173, Virginia Beach, VA 23466  
Email: [oceanfrontconference@gmail.com](mailto:oceanfrontconference@gmail.com)

## MARCH

- 7-9** Detroit, Michigan  
Area 33 March Round Up  
Write: Box 390, Southfield, MI 48037  
Info: <https://aa-semi.org/event/mru-2025-event>
- 7-9** Anchorage, Alaska  
Pacific Regional Service Assembly (PRAASA)  
Write: Box 230181, Anchorage AK 99523  
Info: <https://praasa.org/>
- 7-9** Rochester, New York - 43rd Annual Flower City Fellowship Conv.  
Info: <https://www.rochesteraa.org/2025-convention-info>
- 14-16** The Dalles, Oregon  
Columbia River George 32nd Annual Conv.  
Write: Box 973, Hood River OR 97031  
Email: [terry@terrycycle.net](mailto:terry@terrycycle.net)
- 14-16** Atlantic City, New Jersey  
59th Annual Area 45 Conv.  
Info: <https://area45convention.org/>
- 14-16** Hurricane, Utah  
Dixie Winterfest  
Info: <https://dixiewinterfest.org/>
- 20-23** Ruston, Louisiana  
32nd Update Conv.  
Write: Box 505, Ruston LA 71273  
Info: <https://rustonaa.org/upstate2023.html>
- 21-23** Tarrytown, New York  
SENY Conv. 2025  
Email: [publicity@convention.aaseny.org](mailto:publicity@convention.aaseny.org)
- 28-30** Ames, Iowa  
Aim for Ames Roundup  
Write: Box 2522, Ames IA 50010  
Info: [www.aimforames.org](http://www.aimforames.org)
- 28-30** Austin, Texas  
Foro de Oficinas Intergrupales e Intergrupos del Estado de Texas  
Info: <https://aahoustontexas.org/>
- 28-30** Bayamon, Puerto Rico  
68va Conv. de Area 77 Puerto Rico  
Write: Box 1304, Bayamon PR 00960-1304
- 28-30** Portland, Maine  
Northeast Fellowship of the Spirit  
Info: <https://www.nefots.org/>

## APRIL

- 4-6** Rock Springs, Wyoming  
2025 Area 76 Winter Business Assembly  
Write: Box 1301, Green River WY 82935  
Info: <https://wyomingaa.org/event/2025-spring-business-assembly/>

- 4-6** Birmingham, Alabama  
Area 1 Assembly  
Write: Box 209, Opelika, AL 36801  
Info: <https://aaarea1.org/>
- 4-6** Lake Arrowhead, California  
Woman to Woman Lake Arrowhead 2025  
Write: Box 7501, Capistrano Beach CA 92624  
Info: <https://w2warrowhead.com>
- 11-13** Erie, Pennsylvania  
48th Annual Erie Area Spring Conf.  
Write: Box 1357, Erie, PA 16512  
Info: <https://aaeriepa.org/spring-conference/>
- 11-13** Saratoga Springs, New York  
Fifth Annual Saratoga Springfest  
Write: Box 2762, Ballston Spa NY 12020  
Info: [www.SaratogaSpringfest.org](http://www.SaratogaSpringfest.org)
- 17-20** San Diego, California  
48th San Diego Spring Roundup  
Write: Box 12186, La Jolla CA 92039  
Info: [www.sandiegospringroundup.com](http://www.sandiegospringroundup.com)
- 18-19** Manama, Bahrain  
MERCAA Annual Conv.  
Email: [Mercaa.Convention.2025@gmail.com](mailto:Mercaa.Convention.2025@gmail.com)
- 24-27** Edisto Beach, South Carolina  
35th Annual Edisto Beach Roundup  
Info: [www.edistoroundup.com](http://www.edistoroundup.com)
- 25-27** Fairmont, Minnesota  
31st Annual Sunlight of the Spirit Weekend  
Info: <https://sotsweekend.org/>

## MAY

- 2-4** Grants Pass, Oregon  
Rogue Roundup  
Info: <http://rogueroundup.com>
- 16-17** Magnog, Quebec, Canada  
41e Congrès de Magog  
District 88-11  
Info: <https://aaregion88.org/accueil/nos-districts/district-88-11-magog/>
- 16-18** Cadillac, Michigan  
Northern Michigan Inter Area Annual Spring Roundup  
Write: Box 75, Fife Lake, MI 49633  
Info: <https://www.nmia34.org/round-up>
- 16-18** Brossard, Quebec, Canada  
Congrès AA de la Rive-Sud  
Info: [congressaarivesud.com](http://congressaarivesud.com)
- 16-18** Aundeck Omni Kaning, Ontario Canada  
Rainbow Roundup  
Info: <https://www.rainbowroundup.ca>
- 30-1** Zadar, Croatia  
22nd International English-Speaking Conv.  
Info: [www.aaconventioncroatia.com](http://www.aaconventioncroatia.com)