

November 18, 2021

Greetings Area 30 Committee Members,

The trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. held their fourth quarterly meeting at the Sheraton Times Square Hotel, New York, NY as well as via videoconference over the last weekend of October. Each of the Trustees' committees and the GSO staff presented a report of their work for the prior quarter. I have extracted the highlights from each report where Area 30 has a corresponding committee:

- Accessibilities
- Archives
- Cooperation with the Professional Community
- Corrections
- Grapevine
- Literature
- Public Information
- Treatment

Highlights from the Finance and Budgetary committee are also included.

Please share freely with your committee members, district members, and any interested member of A.A.

Do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like additional information.

In love and service,
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1. Accessibilities

- a. The committee discussed the update to the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic.” The committee discussed the subcommittee review of the 42 submitted stories and agreed to a first round selection of seven of the stories to be considered for the updated version of the pamphlet.

2. Archives

- a. The committee discussed the proposed agenda item to “Develop a book on A.A. history from 1955 through 1965, with similar books covering 10-year spans to be published in the future” and took no action. A similar agenda item was thoroughly discussed at the 71st General Service Conference, where the Conference Committee on Archives “took no action.” Sharing from a recent meeting between the chair of the committee and members of the 2021 Conference Committee on Archives to obtain feedback on proposed agenda items indicated that no new background information to support the proposal was provided.

3. Cooperation with the Professional Community

- a. The committee reviewed the LinkedIn progress report and discussed issues with “hashtags.” The committee asked staff to pilot use of “hashtags” and develop a policy of how to address issues of anonymity, A.A. principles and Traditions that may arise with use of “hashtags.”

4. Corrections

- a. The committee discussed the update report on revisions to A.A.W.S. inner-facing literature to replace “inmate” and “offender” with “person in custody”. The committee recommended that G.S.O.’s Executive Editor consider a “hard/soft” deadline with the goal of all of the relevant material being updated by year-end 2023. They requested that the Executive Editor provide an update report to the January 2022 meeting including inventory, dollar amounts, projections, and a timeline for completion.

5. Grapevine

- a. The AA Grapevine Board reviewed agenda item requests and agreed to forward the following to the 2022 General Service Conference Committee on the Grapevine:
 - Discuss the wide-ranging impact the Preamble change has had on the AA Fellowship.
 - Review progress report on AA Grapevine Workbook revisions.
 - Review progress report on the Grapevine and La Viña Instagram accounts.
 - Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2023 or later.

6. Literature

- a. The committee reviewed the progress report regarding the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic”. The report includes plans to reach a broad participation from the target audiences. To support efforts to expand ways to submit stories, the committee requested that the secretary seek input from the Grapevine Editor on ways to accept online and audio story submissions.
- b. The committee reviewed the progress report regarding the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American”.
- c. The committee reviewed the progress report regarding development of a draft Fourth Edition of the book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*: To support efforts to expand ways to submit stories, the committee requested the secretary seek input from La Viña editor on ways to use online or audio story submissions.
- d. The committee reviewed the progress report regarding a version of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition)*, translated into plain and simple language which is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible. The committee reviewed the subcommittee progress report including the development of a plan for consultation and oversight which will be updated at the next meeting.
- e. The committee reviewed the progress report regarding development of a draft Fifth Edition of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, including the preliminary timeline that is being developed by the subcommittee. In anticipation of the call out for stories, the committee requested that the secretary seek input from the

Grapevine editor on ways to use online and audio story submissions forms. The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report at the January 2022 meeting.

7. Public Information

- a. The committee discussed the podcast pilot episode and affirmed G.S.O. can effectively produce a professional sounding podcast and the episode outlined the beginnings of a framework for future theme-based episodes. The pilot episode used existing content material such as previous *Box 4-5-9* articles and AA Grapevine audio story recordings. Improvements can be made to ensure that each episode is cohesive around particular themes. We can expand on regular consistent podcast segments, such as Archives, AA Grapevine News, What's New, G.S.O. rotation on each assignment, and even a Did You Know? segment, so that people will understand what to expect from the G.S.O. podcast.
- b. The committee discussed the post-production efforts of the two 2021 Conference-approved PSAs. The committee secretary reported that the target distribution date and press release is November 2021.
- c. The committee also discussed the 2021 P.I. committee consideration that a PowerPoint presentation be developed for P.I. and C.P.C. committees for the purpose of providing shared experience on "how to" present about A.A. at non-A.A. events. The committee looks forward to a progress report on this effort from the staff secretary at the January 2022 meeting.

8. Treatment

- a. The committee reviewed the draft pamphlet, "For Professionals: "Bridging the Gap" to Help Alcoholics." The committee agreed to continue reviewing the draft pamphlet and forward any considerations for revisions to the staff secretary by mid-December. The committee noted that the term "inmate" is used and requested that it be revised to the updated term of "person in custody."

9. Finance and Budgetary

- a. The committee reviewed the G.S.O. unaudited financial results for September 30, 2021.
- b. Gross literature sales year to date are \$8,613,803 which is 76% of the 2021 budget of \$11,400,000 and \$1,477,745 more than last year. September gross sales were \$746,519, the first time since June that monthly sales did not exceed \$1 million. Gross sales are averaging \$957,089 per month compared to a budget of \$950,000 per month. To meet the budget, monthly gross literature sales need to average \$928,732 over the last three months of the year.
- c. Contributions year to date are \$7,416,647, which is 74% of the 2021 budget of \$10,000,000 and \$293,439 more than this time last year. Contributions are averaging over \$824,072 per month compared to a budget of \$833,333 per month. Monthly contributions have declined from \$940,632 in July to \$762,965 in August to \$736,734 in September. To meet the budget, monthly contributions need to average \$861,118 over the last three months of the year.
- d. Total operating expense for the period ending September 30, 2021, is \$11,543,559 which is 73% of the budget amount of \$15,887,354 and \$512,887 less than last year. 2021 includes depreciation while 2020 does not. If depreciation is added to 2020, total operating expense in 2021 is \$652,671 less than last year. Payroll and benefits year to date are \$6,978,975, which is 73% of the budget amount of \$9,518,557 and \$567,919 less than last year.
- e. The combination of the above revenues and expenses resulted in G.S.O. reporting a preliminary surplus of \$1,448,089. This compares to a budgeted surplus of \$747,312 and a deficit of \$612,104 at this time last year.