

68th General Service Conference

Crown Plaza Time Square, NY
April 22-28, 2018

Alcoholics
Anonymous®





68th ANNUAL General Service Conference

A.A. – A Solution for All Generations

Les AA – Une Solution pour toutes
les générations

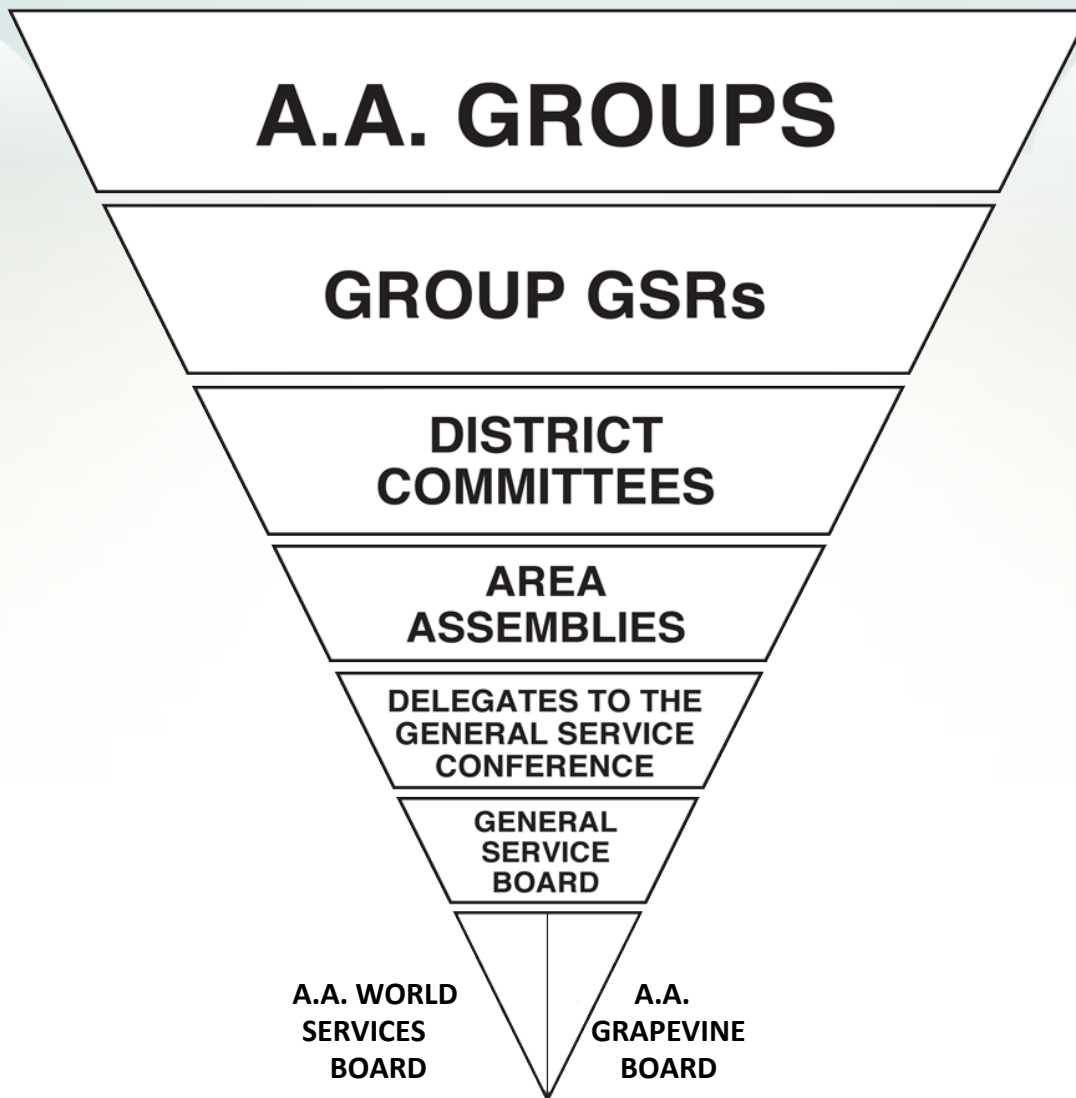
A.A. – Una solución para todas
las generaciones

STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE

(U.S. and Canada)



Ideas



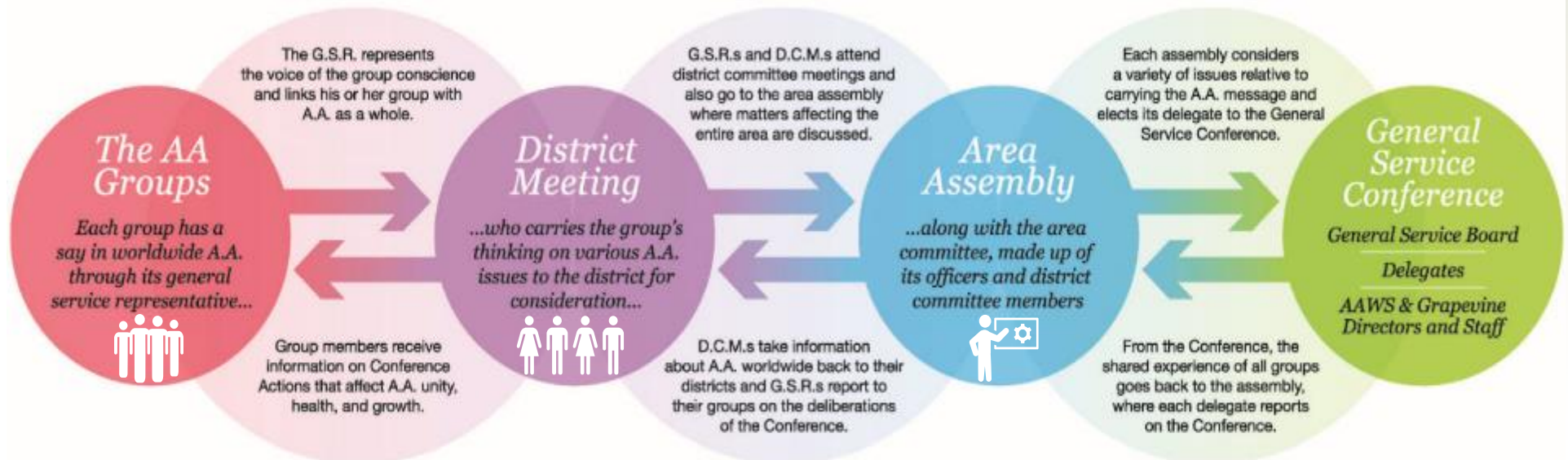
Services



Circles of Love and Service

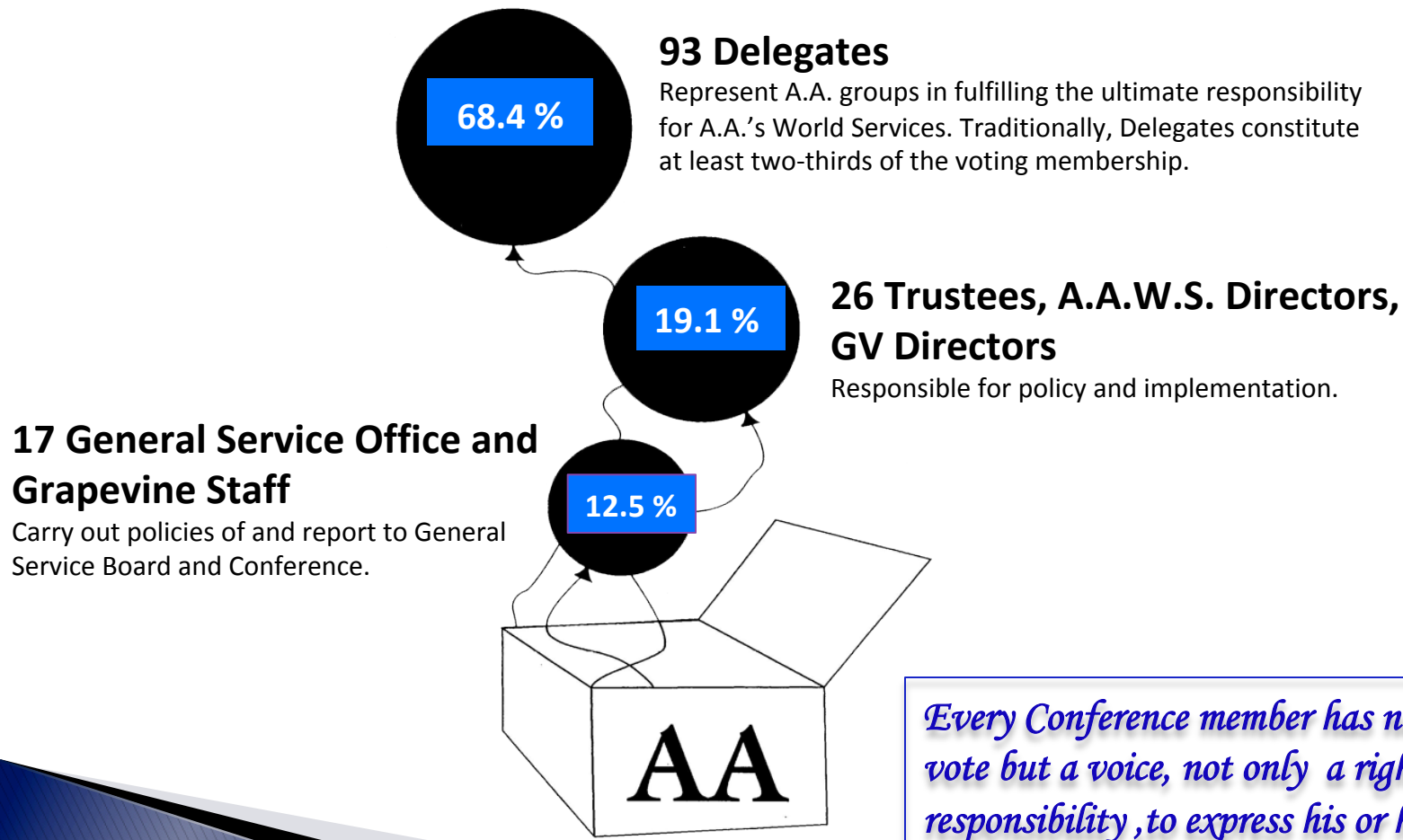
Working to ensure every AA member's voice can be heard

A.A. is made up of interconnected circles of people within the Fellowship, who work together to carry A.A.'s message of hope. But in order for A.A. to run itself without bosses or rules, in accordance with our Twelve Traditions, we need a system of communication for finding out how A.A. as a whole feels about its world affairs, and how it wants to operate.



Who Makes Up The Conference?

This year there were **136** voting members of the General Service Conference acting together as guardians of A.A.'s World Services and of the Steps and Traditions. They are composed as follows:



of U.S. & Canada

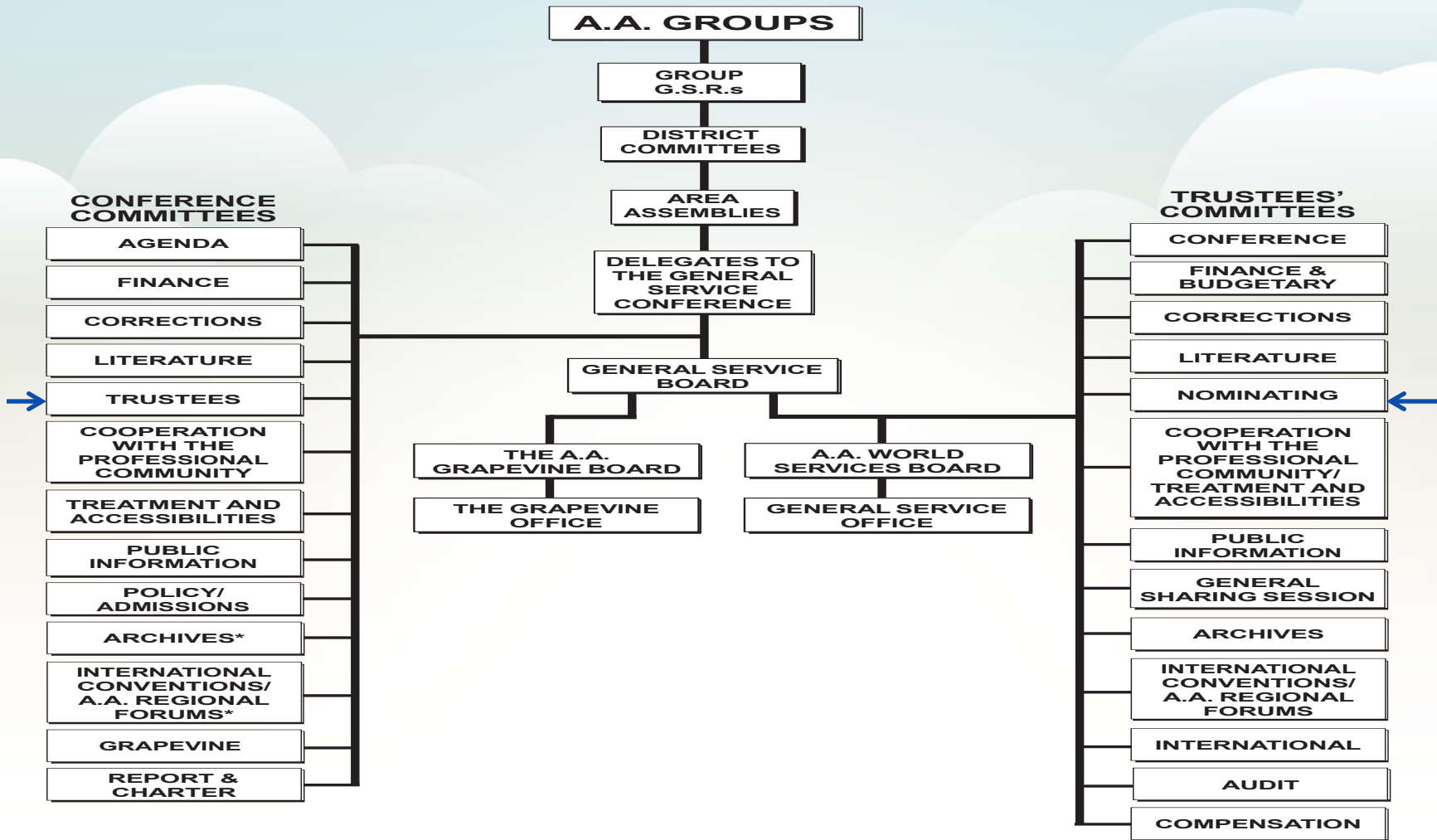
This map represents a general outline of Areas



Delegate Statistics

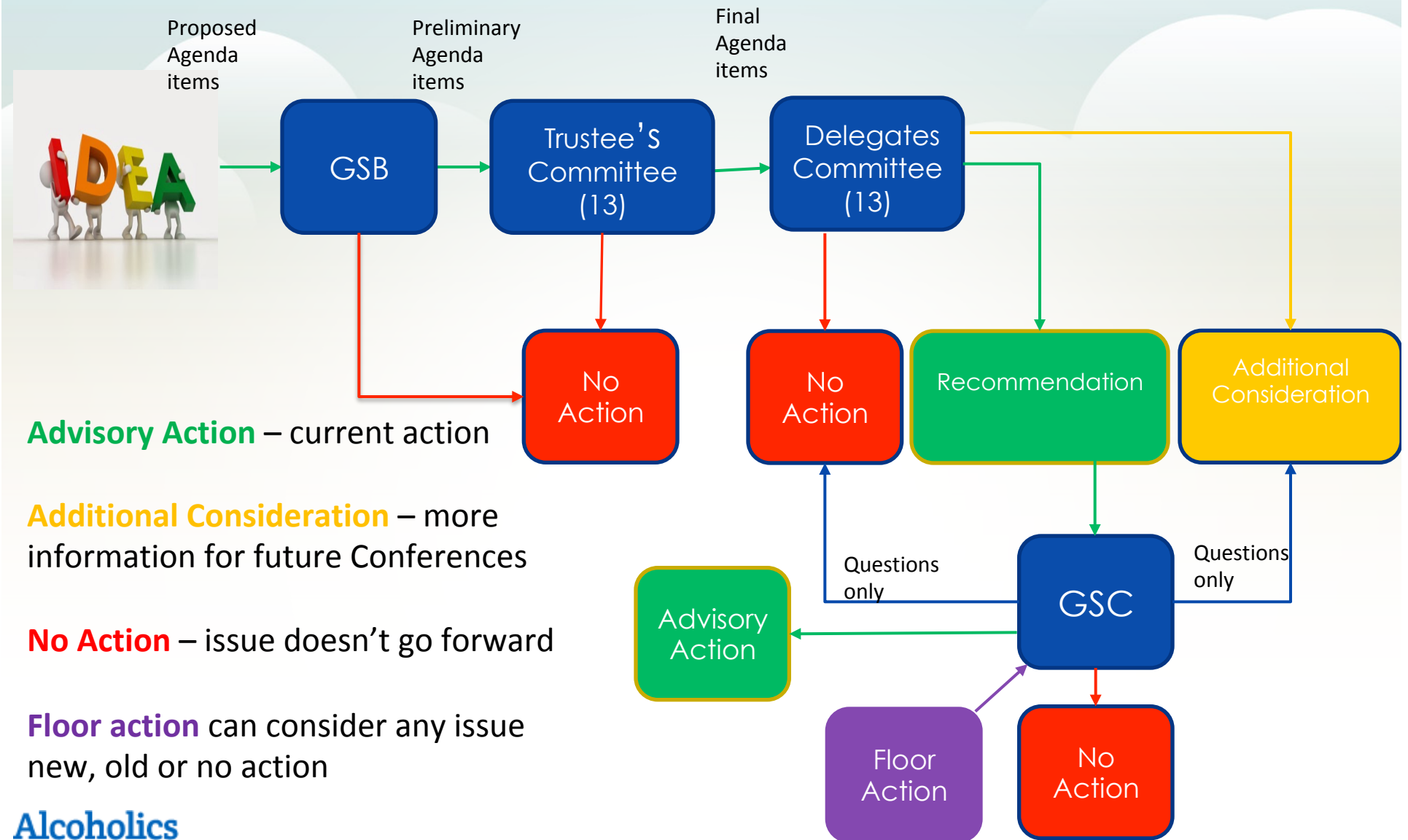
	<u>Years</u>
✓ Average Age	59
✓ Oldest	76
✓ Youngest	35
✓ Average years of Sobriety	23
✓ Longest sobriety	38
✓ Shortest sobriety	8
✓ Average years in Service	18
✓ Most years in Service	38
✓ Least years in Service	6

The General Service Conference Structure (U.S. and Canada)



*Secondary committee.

Committee Process (2018)



Trustees Committee New Trustees

- **Class B (Alcoholic) Trustees**

- Eastern Canada Region **Jan L.**
- Pacific Region **Kathryn F.**
- General Service **Beau B.**

**Next year we will elect the SouthWest Regional Trustee
And select two new Class A Trustees**

Trustees – Additional Considerations

The committee thoughtfully **reviewed a proposal to censure the General Service Board** and after seeking extensive additional input from the general manager of G.S.O., the chair of the General Service Board, and additional General Service Board trustees, **agreed to take no action**. The committee recognized that the litigation regarding the Printer's Copy Manuscript at Alcoholics Anonymous has caused many in the Fellowship to have strong feelings on all sides of this issue. **The committee believes that the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most important treasure we have as a Fellowship.** The committee also recognizes that the General Service Board and the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Board have many legal responsibilities and **must sometimes make use of the right of decision, but in the spirit of A.A. unity**, the committee asks the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc. that:

- ◆ All major decisions made by A.A. World Services, Inc., AA Grapevine, Inc., the General Service Office or AA Grapevine management be promptly and fully reported to the General Service Board, as appropriate. If the General Service Board, the A.A. World Services or AA Grapevine boards need to initiate a legal proceeding as a plaintiff, that whenever possible, **they will consult the members of the General Service Conference before starting such a proceeding, being ever mindful of A.A. unity and A.A.'s financial prudence.** However, the committee understands that sometimes this might not be possible.
- ◆ The committee recognizes that the General Service Board, A.A. World Services Inc., and AA Grapevine, Inc. could be brought into litigation by other parties and in no way wants to limit their actions required to protect these corporations.

Trustees – Additional Considerations

The committee reviewed a **proposal to reorganize the A.A.W.S. and General Service Boards and took no action**. The committee noted that although a reorganization was not considered necessary at this time, the committee requested that the trustees' Committee on Nominating **develop procedures for a partial or complete reorganization** of the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. or AA Grapevine boards and that a report be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Trustees, including all possible options.

US Regions and Areas

- Pacific – 15
- East Central – 14
- South West – 11
- South East – 13
- North East – 18
- West Central – 8
- Total 79 Areas

Canadian Regions and Areas

- Western – 4
- Eastern – 10
- Total 14 Areas



of U.S. & Canada

This map represents a general outline of Regions.

Agenda

Advisory Actions

- The theme for the 2019 General Service Conference will be:
“Our Big Book – 80 Years, 71 Languages.”
- The presentation/discussion topics for the 2019 General Service Conference will be:
 1. Yesterday’s World – Our Legacies Begin
 2. Today’s World – Demonstrating Integrity, Anonymity and Service
 3. Tomorrow’s World – Courage to be Vigil

The following will be the workshop topic for the 2019 General Service Conference: “Clarity of Purpose – Addressing the Needs of Our Meetings”

Agenda

Additional Considerations

The committee reviewed the report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference, which included the Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference 2016 Report on the Agenda Item Selection Process. The committee noted that progress has been made on implementing the plan in the 2016 report. However, the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference forwarded a request to the General Service Board to continue to **consider enhanced participation of area delegates in the process for selection of agenda items**, and no action on this item was reported by the board. The committee noted the 2016 report suggested that:

Before the January board weekend, the entire Conference committee could have a conference call with the corresponding trustees' committee chair and staff secretary to review items submitted as agenda items and to talk about items still being considered by the trustees' committee. This way, Conference committee members would get a verbal report on the disposition of items submitted to the trustees' committee, and could share regarding those items. This would allow all Conference committee members to offer feedback on proposed Agenda items. Their feedback could be brought to the trustees' committee meeting as background for the discussion. The committee noted that this has not happened and requested that the trustees' committee chairs implement this conference call portion of the plan starting in January 2019. After reviewing the results of the survey of Conference committee chairs about the implementation of the 2016 plan, the committee requested that this sharing be gathered from the Conference committee chairs annually and provided to the Conference Committee on Agenda. **The committee requested the trustees' committee create a process for area delegate review of proposed agenda items that were not forwarded to a Conference committee** and bring a report to the 2019 Conference Committee on Agenda.

Cooperation with the professional community

Advisory Actions

- AAWS develop a company page on LinkedIn to provide additional resources to professionals that come in contact with alcoholics
- Revised pamphlets ***“If You Are a Professional”, “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous”*** and, ***“A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional,”*** with information for professionals that come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services, including information on how to contact A.A. worldwide.

Corrections

- No Advisory Actions approved

Additional Committee Considerations:

- Suggested that the Trustee's Committee
 - update Prerelease Service Material with existing literature
 - Create letter to corrections professionals to raise awareness about prerelease
 - Create a checklist to be included in Corrections kit

Grapevine/La Vina – Advisory Actions

- **AA Grapevine, Inc. allow sales of Grapevine and La Viña books, single-issue magazines (as available), and other products to non-AA entities, such as (but not limited to) hospitals, treatment centers and book stores. [Note: As a current practice, AA Grapevine, Inc. does not seek outside sales for magazine subscriptions.]**
- AA Grapevine, Inc. continue to seek opportunities to expand bulk sales. [Note: AA Grapevine, Inc. currently offers volume discounts and will respond to requests, rather than solicit sales from outside entities.]
- AA Grapevine, Inc. provide notification to A.A. World Services' list of non-A.A. entities to let them know that they can now purchase AA Grapevine and La Viña books, single-issue magazines (as available) and other products.
- **La Viña be published at its current frequency of six times per year as a service to the Fellowship, with perfect binding, at 68 pages, and in full color.**
- The revised pamphlet “AA Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print” be approved and the title changed to “AA Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print and Other Media.”

Literature – Advisory Actions

- The revised pamphlet “A.A. for the Woman,” retitled “**Experience, Strength and Hope: Women in A.A.**,” be approved.
- The revised pamphlet “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic,” retitled “**Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.**,” be approved with minor edits provided by Publishing regarding use of gender specific language.
- The revised pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and its Services” be approved.
- The draft pamphlet “**Experience, Strength and Hope: A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues – and their sponsors**” be approved.
- The trustees’ Literature Committee revise the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” to include a section on anonymity, and bring back a progress report or draft text to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The title of the pamphlet “**G.S.R. General Service Representative: May Be the Most Important Job in A.A.**” be changed to “**G.S.R. General Service Representative: Your Group’s Link to A.A. as a Whole.**”

Literature – Advisory Actions

- The trustees' Literature Committee undertake a comprehensive update to the video "Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure" to reflect a contemporary presentation of the General Service and AA Grapevine offices as well as a current portrayal of the General Service Structure, and bring back a progress report or draft updated video to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The pamphlet **"The God Word" (currently published by the General Service Board of A.A., Great Britain) be adopted by A.A. World Services, Inc.** with minor editorial changes.
- The trustees' Literature Committee **develop a pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies**, with emphasis on the history of the Three Legacies, how they work together and including personal stories of members' experiences with the Three Legacies, and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The trustees' Literature Committee develop a pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women alcoholics by gathering sharing from Spanish-speaking women in A.A., and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature.

Policy/Admissions – Advisory Action

- Electronic voting was used at the 2018 General Service Conference excepting for the election of regional trustees which were conducted by ballot.
- The “Process for Polling the General Service Conference between Annual Meetings” was approved.



Public Information- Advisory Action

- The video PSA “Changes” be approved with the following revision: That the line “That’s where A.A. came to my rescue” be replaced with “A.A. offered a solution.”
- In addition to the work of local committees, the video PSA, “Changes” be centrally distributed ,tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$42,000 and that the information gathered from the process be forwarded to the 2019 Conference Public Information Committee for their review.
- **The Young People’s Video submission be approved.**
- The pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity,” with expanded content on Traditions Eleven and Twelve, be approved.
- **The trustees’ Committee on Public Information develop language reflecting that A.A.’s anonymity Traditions are not a cloak protecting criminal or inappropriate behavior and that calling the proper authorities does not go against any A.A. Traditions. A progress report or draft language is requested to be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information.**
- The updated pamphlet “A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous” be approved.
- A progress report including website analytics and the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube account be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information.

Report and Charter

- Following publication of the 2018-2020 edition of The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service, the **A.A.W.S. Publishing Department undertake a thorough evaluation, update, and redesign of the Service Manual** with a preliminary draft or progress report to be sent to the 2019 Conference Committee on Report and Charter.
- Any Committee Considerations be published in their entirety in both the printed Conference Final Report and the anonymity-protected digital version.
- Changes to the Service manual in the
 - Definition of panel in the Glossary of Service terms
 - Text boxes visually displaying the member positions on each of the three corporate boards be added to Chapter Ten

Treatment and Accessibilities

- **The title of the pamphlet “Accessibility for All Alcoholics” be changed to “Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers.”**
- The proposed changes by the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities to the pamphlet “Accessibility for All Alcoholics” be approved with additional revisions.
- **The Scope of the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities be expanded as follows:**
 - Finally, the committee supports the work of individual A.A. members and groups striving to ensure that A.A. members who live in underserved or remote communities — communities difficult to reach because of geography, language or culture — have access to the A.A. message.**

Archives

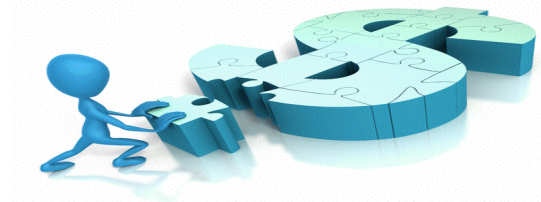
- **The proposed new publication, *Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970* be approved with minor editorial changes.**

International Convention/Regional Forums

- **The following two cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2030: Indianapolis, Indiana; St. Louis, Missouri.**
- Up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2020 International Convention at A.A.'s expense.

Finance

- The Conference-approved maximum annual contribution from an individual A.A. member to the General Service Board be increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000.



Floor Actions passed

- The text on page 18 of the pamphlet “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous” that currently reads:

Please check your local telephone directory or newspaper for the number of Alcoholics Anonymous. Be revised to read:

Alcoholics Anonymous can be found on the Internet at aa.org and in most telephone directories by looking for “Alcoholics Anonymous.” Additionally, online meetings are available, which members of the military and others often use when they are in places where there is no meeting nearby.

- Area Service Highlights be published in their entirety in both the printed Conference Final Report and the anonymity-protected digital version.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY – 2017

\$ - in Thousands	GSO	Publishing	Grapevine	La Viña	2017	2016
REVENUE						
Net Sales		\$13,694	\$2,811	\$151	\$16,656	\$16,160
Contributions	\$8,409				8,409	7,935
Interest		.3	20		20	16
TOTAL REVENUE	8,409	13,694	2,831	151	25,085	24,111
EXPENSES						
Costs of Goods Sold		4,332	879	56	5,267	5,235
Operating (Program & Supporting) Expenses	10,222	5,790	1,826	221	18,059	17,410
TOTAL EXPENSES	10,222	10,122	2,705	277	23,326	22,645
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(1,813)	3,572	126	(126)	1,759	1,466
RESERVE FUND at December 31					14,353	14,959
Operating Expenses					18,059	17,410
Number of months coverage					9.5	10.3

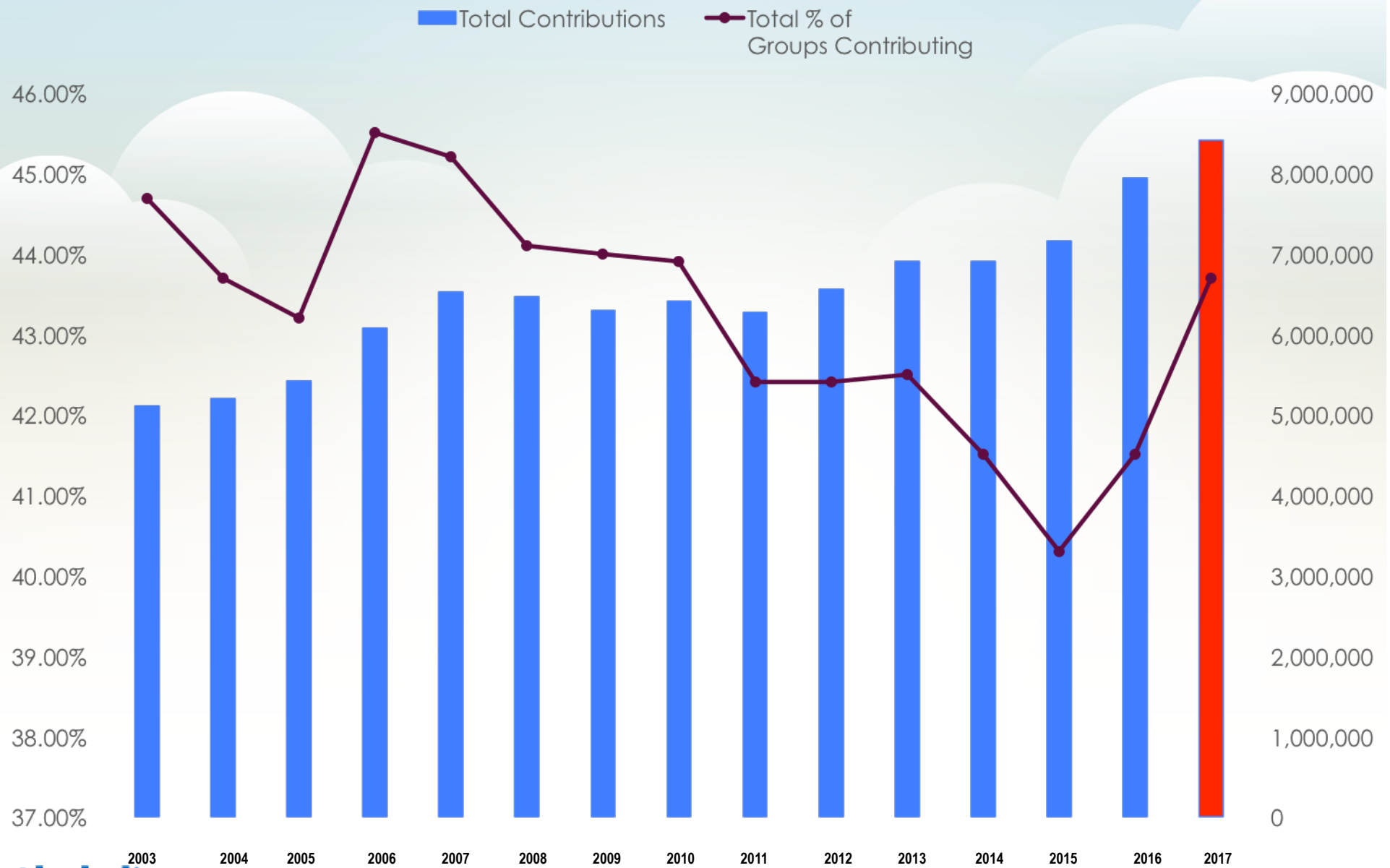
*Excludes nonoperating Funds: Reserve, Capital Projects, Pension, Post-Retirement Medical Benefits

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MEMBER SERVICES & STATISTICS – 3 YEAR HISTORY

	2017	2016	2015
Number of Members	1,381,954	1,362,402	1,348,072
Cost of Services per Member	7.40	\$7.27	\$7.14
7 th Tradition Self-Support Contributions per Member	<u>6.09</u>	<u>5.82</u>	<u>5.31</u>
Cost of Services NOT covered by Self-Support	1.31	1.45	1.83
Number of Groups	66,860	66,336	65,741
Cost of Services per Group	\$152.90	\$149.34	\$146.48
7 th Tradition Self-Support Contributions per Group	<u>125.78</u>	<u>119.62</u>	<u>108.82</u>
Cost of Services NOT covered by Self-Support	27.12	29.72	37.66
Percentage of Groups Contributing	43.7%	41.5%	40.3%
Number of Groups that Contributed	29,219	27,542	26,500
7 th Tradition Self-Support Contributions of Groups that contributed – Slide 8 – S 1	\$231.34	\$234.41	\$225.40

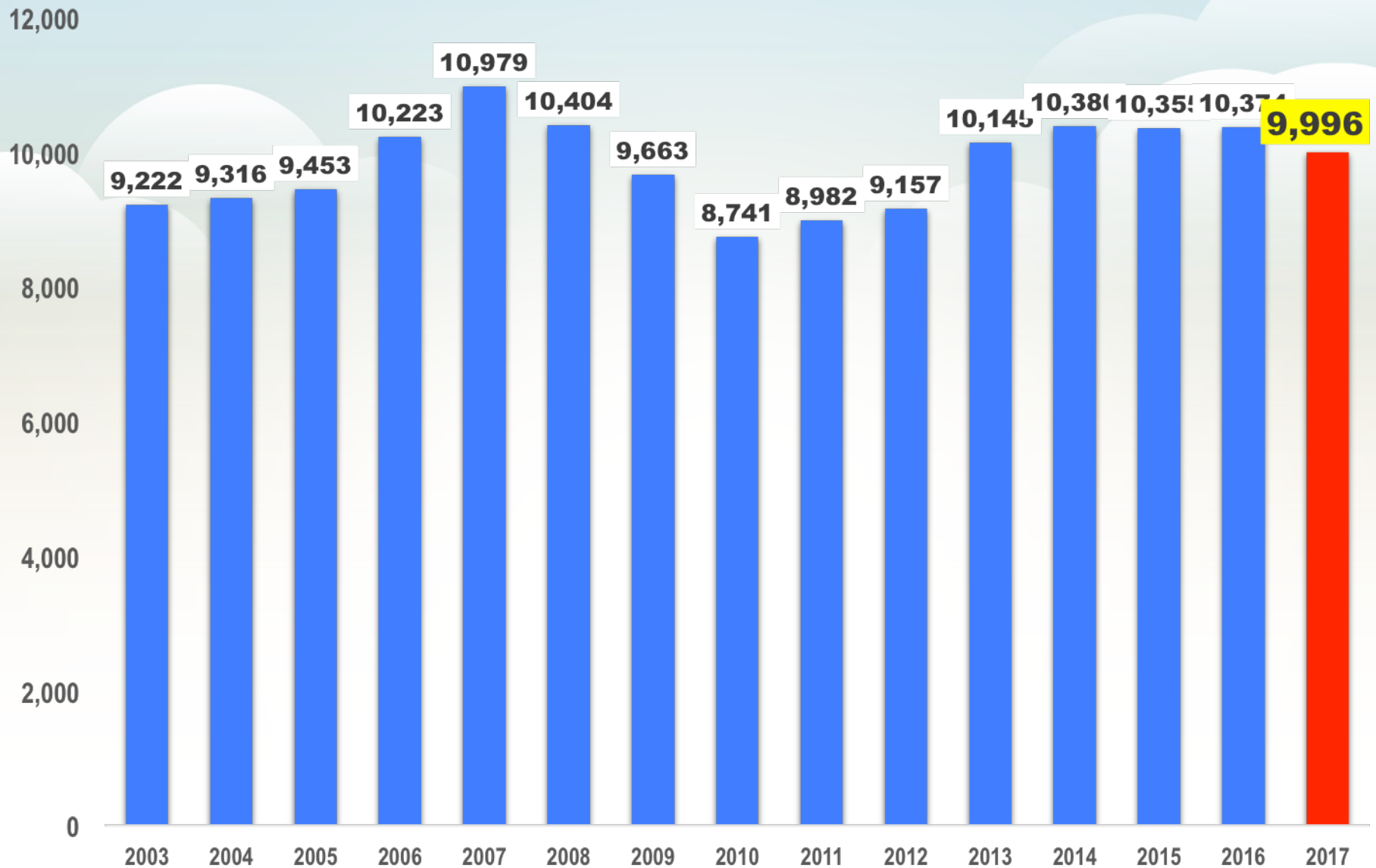
7TH TRADITION SELF-SUPPORT – 2003 – 2017



GRAPEVINE OPERATING RESULTS – 2003 – 2017



LA VIÑA – AVERAGE CIRCULATION – 2003 – 2017



2018 Budget Outlook and Trends

❖ GSO/AAWS

- Membership levels remain flat
- Contributions show small growth
- Literature sales show small growth – 1% per year
- Expenses continue to grow slowly – 2% - 3% per year

❖ GRAPEVINE

- Subscriptions revert back to decline 2% - 3% per year
- Expenses continue to grow slowly – 2% - 3% per year

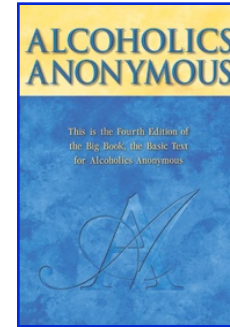
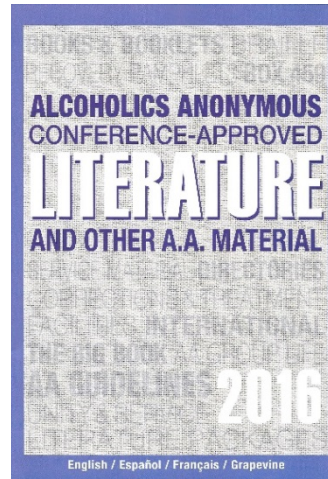
❖ 2019 & 2020 Budget Outlook

- GSO/AAWS, Grapevine, and La Viña combined budgeted results is \$630,000 loss in 2019, with following year having even larger loss, assuming no changes in contributions levels and operating expenses

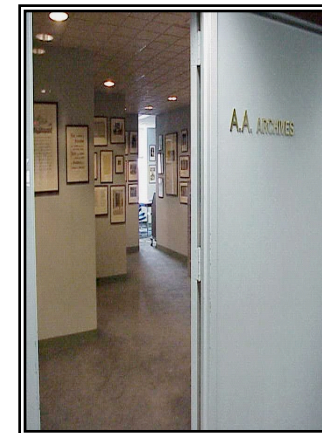
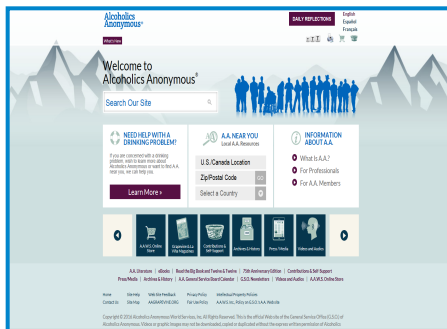
Net Results (\$ in Thousands)	2017 ACTUAL	2018 BUDGET	2019 BUDGET	2020 BUDGET
GSO/AAWS Slide 48	\$1,759	\$502	\$155	(\$142)
Grapevine Slide 52	126	(271)	(616)	(847)
La Viña Slide 54	(126)	(146)	(169)	(181)
Total	1,759	85	(630)	(1,170)
Reserve Fund Ratio (months) Slide 60	9.5	9.7	9.2	8.4

GSO's Responsibility

- Publishing**



- Services**

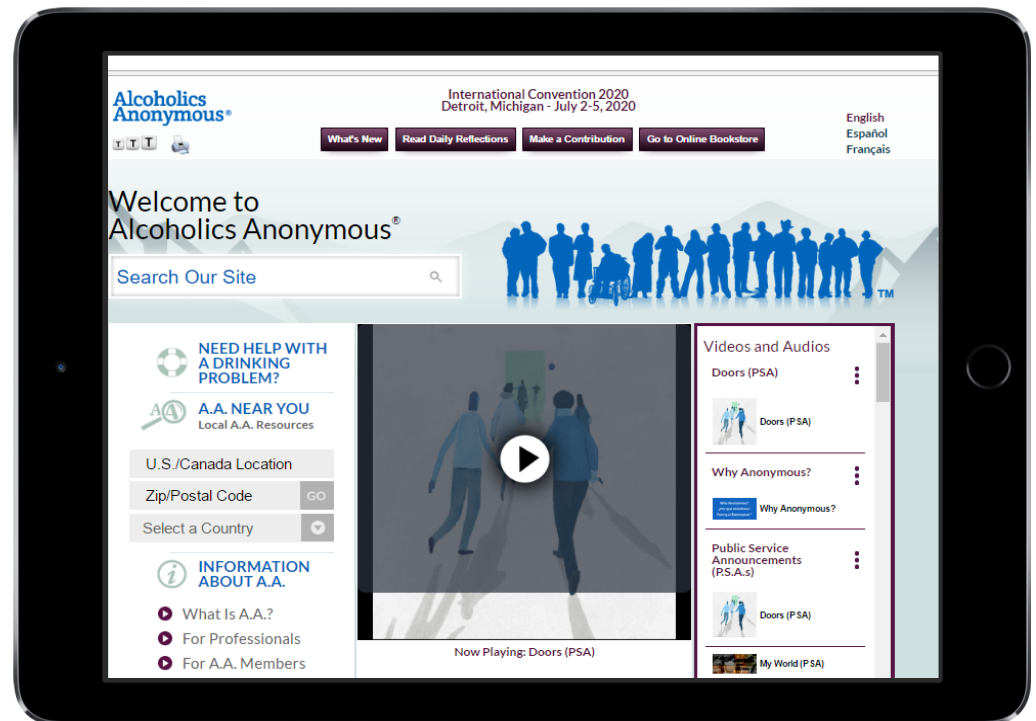


Our AA Website...

AA.Org receives over **1,000** visits a day for “Need Help With A Drinking Problem”

Online requests for **PI** information for the media and press averaged **3,000** per month

AA.Org received over **12,000,000** visits last year



Each year, AA...

Staff members respond to more than 90,000 emails and letters from AA members, suffering alcoholics, distraught family members, professionals, students, the press and others interested in AA



CORRECTIONS

Corrections answers over **~6,500 letters annually**; that's more than 18 letters per day, every day



ARCHIVES

Receives over **1,300 requests**



SHIPPING

Distributes **~8 million** books, pamphlets & audio materials



CONTRIBUTIONS

Receives over **73,000 pieces** & *AA received ~8,000 contribution letters in the month of December alone*



Questions?