

## ■ 66th A.A. General Service Conference Convenes

*Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts*

“Most of us here today come from our areas by election or the hat, but all of us are here today as guardians of A.A.,” said Barb C., of West Virginia, delegate chair of the 2016 General Service Conference in her greeting to Conference members at the event’s opening session. “So, as I see it,” she added, “this is my challenge here, perhaps yours, also: to continue to grow through the 36 Principles, to serve A.A. as a whole, to be a guardian of A.A. and to keep my eyes wide-open, smiling and laughing, arms outstretched, open and welcoming.”

Reflecting the Conference theme, “Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts,” and following a welcome by Terry Bedient, Class A (nonalcoholic) chairperson of the General Service Board, and the official roll call by G.S.O.’s general manager Greg T., Barb’s address set the Conference in motion, launching a week’s worth of discussion, debate and the pursuit of A.A.’s primary purpose.

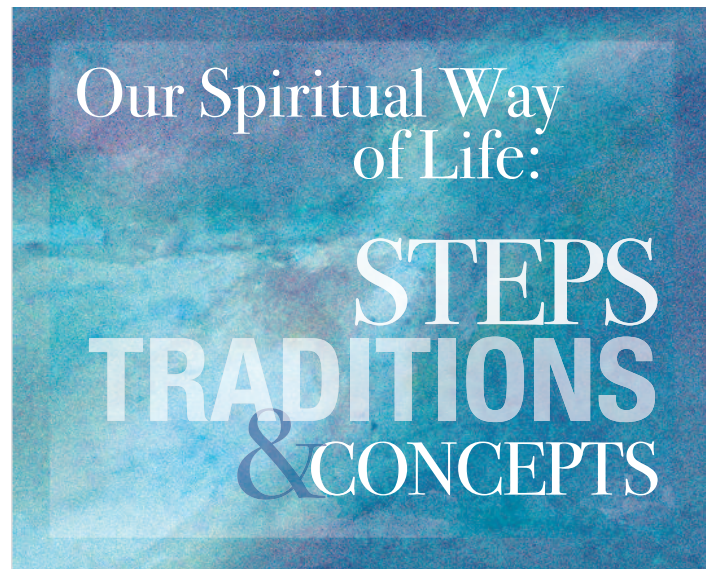
Meeting from Sunday morning, April 17 to Saturday afternoon, April 23, 2016, at the Crowne Plaza Times Square Hotel in New York City, the 134 voting members constituting the 66th General Service Conference assembled from all parts of A.A.’s eight service regions across the United States and Canada. Serving as “the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society” (Concept II, *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*), the 2016 Conference was comprised of 93 delegates, 25 members of the General Service Board of Trustees, the A.A. World Services and Grapevine Corporate Boards, and 16 members of the A.A. staff of the General Service Office, the Grapevine and La Viña.

Terry Bedient served as Conference chair; Greg T., G.S.O. general manager and Barb C., delegate chair, served as vice chairs; and Mary Clare L. served as Conference coordinator. Andrew W., West Central regional trustee, gave the Keynote Address, noting that unity in A.A. “is not when you agree with me, but when we hear all voices.” He continued, “We *all* win when we have broad discussion, listen to the minority voice and find our collective group conscience.”

That process began sooner than some might have thought at the 66th Conference, as early in the opening session a motion was made proposing the restoration of a workshop topic voted on at the 65th Conference in 2015 that had been deferred between Conferences to the 2017 agenda in favor of a workshop topic designed to gain input from Conference members on a report from the General Service Board. While the report highlighted important fiscal and membership trends, debate on the

motion ranged back and forth, raising questions of process and procedures for changes made to the agenda between Conferences. In the end, the motion failed and the agenda remained as presented; but the spirited discussion paved the way for continued reflection at the committee level and throughout the Conference.

As the business of the Conference got underway, two visitors from the Ukraine — Mykhailo A., past World Service Meeting delegate, and Yuri T. — were admitted to the Conference as observers.



Sunday evening the Opening Dinner was followed by an open A.A. meeting, chaired by Michelle P., Eastern Massachusetts, chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee; the leader was Betty M., Southeast Michigan. Speakers were: Drew A., Southern Wisconsin; Jennifer K., British Columbia/Yukon; Richard B., A.A.W.S. director; Ami B., Grapevine executive editor/publisher; and Racy J., G.S.O. staff member.

Conference week is long, often arduous, but ultimately rewarding — filled with board and committee reports, presentations and discussions, area service highlights, sharing sessions and committee meetings. The main focus of each Conference though, is on the deliberations of each of the thirteen Conference committees, and it is during the committee meetings that the major work of the Conference is done. Once again, this year, after a joint meeting with each corresponding trustees’ committee, the Conference committees reviewed material and background information, weighed and discussed various issues

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and came up with recommendations, some of which resulted in Conference Advisory Actions. (Highlights of Advisory Actions appear on page 3.)

At the Delegates Only meeting Tuesday evening Bob M., South Dakota, was selected as the delegate chair for the 67th Conference; Ian R., Manitoba, will be alternate chair. On Wednesday, trustee elections were held and Cate W., of Winnipeg, Manitoba, was selected as Western Canada regional trustee. Due to an unidentified ailment, however, that overtook a number of delegates, the West Central regional trustee election had to be put off until the next day, when Tom A. of Waite Park, Minnesota, was selected from the hat after five ballots. (In response to the health issues that prompted the rescheduling of the election, Class A trustee David Fromson, M.D., requested that portable bottles of hand sanitizer be placed prominently in the lobby area outside the meeting hall as a precautionary measure to limit the spread of any germs that might further impact the Conference. As he noted later on Saturday in his rotation remarks, he might be the only person in General Service Conference history to be remembered for requesting that alcohol be widely administered at an A.A. event.)

Following two days of committee meetings and a Tuesday afternoon trip to visit G.S.O. and Grapevine offices, the workshop session on Wednesday morning focused on the report from the trustees' Feasibility Study Subcommittee, with workshop questions developed to facilitate brainstorming among Conference members on four basic topics: improving internal and external communications; increasing revenues; reducing expenses; and structure. The report itself, presented earlier in the week by David Morris, Class A trustee and chairperson of the trustees' subcommittee, evaluated some current fiscal trends and presented a three-year budget outlook of the General Service Board and its two operating corporations, A.A.W.S., Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc., highlighting the following areas:

- G.S.O./A.A.W.S.: membership levels are flat; contributions show little growth; literature sales show slow to no growth; expenses continue to increase slowly at 2% - 3% per year.

- Grapevine: subscriptions continue to decline 2% - 3% per year; expenses continue to increase slowly at 2% - 3% per year.

- Budget Outlook: G.S.O./A.A.W.S., Grapevine, and La Viña combined budgeted result for 2016 is a \$325,600 loss, with following years having even larger losses, assuming no changes in operations or income.

Based on the workshop discussions, the General Service Board will review the feedback gathered from Conference members and determine what ideas may be actionable, bringing them back to future General Service Conferences for consideration.

On Thursday, as the bulk of the committee reports began, a brief Conference-wide training session was conducted to facilitate electronic voting — a procedure in the second year of a two-year trial. Armed with input from last year's Conference, an outside consultant was brought in to oversee the process and after a series of practice votes — using mock questions like “Do you like coffee?” to test the system — the Conference as a whole took a vote (by hand — the old-fashioned way) to move forward electronically.

With results displayed automatically on two screens at the front of the meeting hall, voting progressed smoothly, though some Conference members may still hear in their sleep the words “Voting is open,” followed in a matter of seconds by “Voting is closed,” which accompanied each action of the Conference on Thursday.

A report will be prepared as the result of the two-year experiment, and the 67th Conference will decide whether future Conferences will employ this method of tallying results.

With discussion and voting on committee agendas and floor actions finally complete, Friday evening rotating Panel 65 delegates lined up around the room and gave emotional two-minute farewells, highlighted by a tongue-in-cheek song dedicated to Panel 66 delegates and sung to the tune of “Route 66.” The 2016 General Service Conference then officially closed with the Serenity Prayer, led by Lisa P. (English), Michel B. (French) and Gilberto V. (Spanish).

Rotating trustees gave their farewell talks at the closing brunch on Saturday morning: Michele Grinberg and John Fromson, Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees; and Andrew W., West Central regional trustee.

While the General Service Conference works year round, the annual meeting held every spring is the culmination of the year's activities, the time when the collective conscience of A.A. in the U.S./Canada emerges to take actions that will help groups and members today and in years to come. In this way, the Conference is a window to the future of the Fellowship.

Each Conference has its own flavor and focus, and as the 66th Conference began to recede, those returning members of the 67th Conference started to turn their attention toward the 2017 Conference with its theme: “Supporting Our Future.”

## ■ 2016 Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations

Conference Advisory Actions represent recommendations made by the standing committees and approved by the Conference body as a whole; or recommendations discussed and voted upon by all Conference members during general sessions. Some Advisory Actions and a few additional committee considerations appear below in condensed form. A complete list will be published in the *Final Conference Report*.

### Advisory Actions

**Agenda**—that the theme for the 2017 General Service Conference be: “Supporting Our Future”; that the presentation/discussion topics be: Growth, Participation, Contributions.

**Cooperation With the Professional Community**—that a new section on A.A. and medication be added to the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional”; that text be added to the pamphlet “Is There An Alcoholic in the Workplace?”; that an introductory paragraph for professionals be added to the pamphlet “Problems Other Than Alcohol.”

**Corrections**—that the video to replace “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” be titled “A New Freedom.”

**Grapevine**—that the delegate chair for the Grapevine Conference Committee be allowed the same participation at the January A.A. Grapevine Board meeting as all other delegate chairs at their corresponding trustees’ committees.

**Literature**—that the trustees’ Literature Committee develop a plan that includes a systematic schedule for the annual review of recovery literature items; that the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” be updated; that there be a comprehensive revision of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”

**Policy/Admissions**—that two A.A. members from the Ukraine be admitted to the 66th General Service Conference as observers; that the 69th General Service Conference be held April 28–May 4, 2019.

**Public Information**—that the English- and French-language versions of the video public service announcement “Tengo Esperanza” be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated; that the video public service announcement “I Thought” be discontinued.

**Report and Charter**—that various copy changes and information be made to *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service*; that a new edition of *The A.A. Service Manual* be published biannually (i.e., every two years) beginning in 2018.

**Treatment/Accessibilities**—that the term “Special Needs” be removed from the name of the Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities.

**Trustees**—that the slate of trustees be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. in April 2016.

### Additional Considerations

**Archives**—the committee discussed ways of encouraging A.A. groups to write or update their group histories.

**Finance**—the committee discussed information from the A.A.W.S. Self-Support Subcommittee and considered the format and use of the flyer “The Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet” (F-203).

**International Conventions/Regional Forums**—the committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and how to attract first-time attendees.

## ■ Estimates of Groups and Members as of January 1, 2016<sup>1</sup>

	Groups	Members
United States	60,698	1,262,542
Canada	5,043	85,530
Sub-Total	65,741	1,348,072
Correctional facilities <sup>2</sup>	1,450	35,710
Loners, Internationalists,		
Homers	2	66
Total	67,193	1,383,848
Outside U.S. & Canada <sup>3</sup>	50,555	705,850
Grand Total	117,748	2,089,698

1. The General Service Office does not keep membership records. The information shown here is based on reports given by groups listed with G.S.O., and does not represent an actual count of those who consider themselves A.A. members.

2. U.S. and Canada only.

3. We are aware of A.A. activity in more than 180 countries, including 62 autonomous general service offices in other lands. Annually we attempt to contact those G.S.O.s and groups that request to be listed in our records. Where current data is lacking we use an earlier year’s figure.

## ■ Name That Theme

### For the 2020 International Convention — Deadline Oct. 3, 2016

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about a theme for the 2020 International Convention celebration of A.A.'s 85th Anniversary in Detroit, Michigan, July 2-5, 2020. We invite you to send in suggestions for a theme, which will be selected by the trustees' International Conventions/Regional Forums Committee. Please let us hear from you by October 3, 2016.

To spark your thinking, the themes of past A.A. International Conventions have been: 1965 "I Am Responsible"; 1970 "Unity"; 1975 "Let It Begin With Me"; 1980 "The Joy of Living"; 1985 "Fifty Years With Gratitude"; 1990 "Fifty-Five Years—One Day At a Time"; 1995 "A.A. Everywhere—Anywhere"; 2000 "Pass It On—Into the 21st Century"; 2005 "I Am Responsible"; 2010 "A Vision for You;" and in 2015 "80 Years — Happy, Joyous and Free."

Send your ideas to: International Conventions Assignment, P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

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## ■ A Brief History of the Conference

It's been with us for so long now, providing guidance and stability throughout the Fellowship, that there may be some within the A.A. universe who have forgotten — or never knew — that not everyone thought creation of the General Service Conference was a good idea. It could be said that nothing comes easy in A.A. — not the price many have paid to get here, the sacrifices necessary in keeping our groups together, or the ongoing maintenance of the very services that hold us in unity today. So, it should be no surprise that getting the Conference up and running as "the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society" itself took some doing.

A.A. had grown tremendously in the years since the Alcoholic Foundation had been created in 1938, when there were barely 100 A.A. members. In 1946, when membership had reached about 30,000, Bill had begun formulating a plan for some kind of conference with delegates from A.A. groups around the country.

In the beginning, though, there was little enthusiasm for the project. As almost all the 15 trustees on the board of the Alcoholic Foundation saw it, the Alcoholics Anonymous movement had flourished in the 10 years since the Foundation had been created, and they saw no reason to endorse what looked like a radical change. Bernard Smith, who joined the board as a nonalcoholic trustee in 1946, was alone in supporting the plan. A businessman and a lawyer, Smith's backing over the next few years was to prove crucial.

One angry faction that opposed the conference called

itself the Orthodox Group, and included Henrietta Seiberling among its few members. In a letter she wrote at the time she charged that Bill was motivated by greed and suffering from delusions of grandeur, and that, "we want the people in the Groups to know just what the dangers are."

One nonalcoholic trustee, Leonard Harrison, resigned over the issue, saying in a February 1948 letter to Bill: "I have felt that a degree of isolation of the Foundation from the main currents of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement has been, and would continue to be, a stabilizing factor in dealing with the necessary 'housekeeping,' legal, and financial affairs of the A.A. headquarters. The somewhat intricate relationships envisaged in your plans... will invite more troubles than solutions, I believe."

Harrison later rejoined the board and was credited by Bill with being a calming influence that helped the Foundation weather the controversy.

Essentially, Bill feared that after he and Dr. Bob passed on, the Alcoholic Foundation would eventually suffer a loss of legitimacy. As Bill saw it, such a development would hurt A.A. in various ways, including diminished financial support from A.A. groups for the New York office.

Writing to an A.A. member in San Diego at the end of 1947, Bill said: "We shall have to do something... about the New York Headquarters. A self-perpetuating Board of Trustees unknown to most A.A. members could never stand up over the long future. So we shall have to have some kind of annual conference in which out-of-towners delegated for the purpose would sit down and talk things over with the Trustees, the office, and the Grapevine, and make a joint annual report to the Groups."

As Bill noted, however, in a July 1955 article from *The Language of the Heart* (p. 162), "It was one thing to say that we ought to have a General Service Conference, but it was quite another to devise a plan which would bring it into successful existence. The cost of holding such a Conference was easily dismissed. Even though the outlay might be \$20,000 for each yearly session, this would be only fifteen cents apiece extra for each A.A. member, and mighty well worth it. What member wouldn't give that much to be sure that A.A. didn't collapse at its center in some future day of great need or crisis?"

"But how on earth were we going to cut down destructive politics with all its usual struggles for prestige and vain-glory? How many delegates would be required and from where should they come? Arrived at New York, how could they be related to the Board of Trustees? What would be their actual powers and duties? Whatever the plan, it had to be sound enough to work well on the first trial. No blunders big enough to create a fiasco could be allowed."

And work well it did. Like other not-so-popular-at-first ideas (think Big Book and Twelve Traditions), in the 66 years since its "experimental" appearance on the A.A. landscape, the General Service Conference has proven to be an indispensable thread woven firmly into the fabric of A.A., a worthy successor to the Fellowship's founders and early members.

## ■ Résumés for Trustees Election due Jan. 1, 2017

Three new Class B (alcoholic) trustees — from the East Central and Southeast regions and the trustee-at-large/U.S. — will be elected at the General Service Conference in April 2017. Résumés must be received at G.S.O. no later than January 1, 2017, and must be submitted by delegates only.

The new East Central regional trustee will succeed Bill F., of Marietta, Ohio; the next Southeast regional will follow Chet P. of Orlando, Florida. The new trustee-at-large/U.S. will fill the position currently held by Bob W., of Westfield, Massachusetts.

A sound A.A. background is a basic qualification for Class B trustees. Ten years of continuous sobriety is desirable but not mandatory. Candidates should be active in both local and area A.A. affairs; and, because trustees serve the entire Fellowship, they require the background and the willingness to make decisions on matters of broad policy that affect A.A. as a whole.

It is also important that trustee candidates understand the commitment of time required. Trustees are expected to attend three quarterly board weekends, with meetings often scheduled from Thursday afternoon through Monday morning, and the General Service Conference, which lasts for one week. Often trustees are asked to attend a Regional Forum weekend. In addition, regional trustees are usually asked to serve two years on either the A.A.W.S. or Grapevine Corporate Boards, which meet more frequently than the General Service Board.

Please submit your candidate's résumé to the Secretary, trustees' Nominating Committee, General Service Office.

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## ■ Opening for A.A.W.S. Nontrustee Director

A.A. World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) has started its search to fill the vacancy for one nontrustee director, which will open following the 2017 General Service Conference. Interested A.A. members are encouraged to submit a résumé.

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

Basic qualifications for this position are: a minimum of seven years of continuous sobriety; a sound business or professional background is preferable, but not limited to the following areas—finance, management, publishing, legal, or information technology; the ability to work with others; availability to attend all regular meetings of the A.A.W.S. Board (currently, up to eight per year), three weekend meetings of trustees' committees (to which cor-

porate board directors are appointed), and the General Service Conference, for one week in April.

In addition, directors may be called upon to attend subcommittee or other meetings and to represent A.A.W.S. at Regional Forums or other A.A. functions. Résumés should be sent to A.A.W.S. Board secretary, at the General Service Office, no later than July 1, 2016.

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## ■ Opening for A.A. Grapevine Nontrustee Director

A.A. Grapevine's Corporate Board has started its search to fill the vacancy for nontrustee director, which will open following the 2017 General Service Conference. Interested A.A. members are encouraged to submit a résumé.

Basic qualifications for this position are: a minimum of seven years of continuous sobriety with a working knowledge of *The A.A. Service Manual*; ability to work with others; experience serving on boards of directors (nonprofit experience is most helpful); knowledge of organizational strategic planning, problem-solving and implementation of change; experience with organizational management and finances; and familiarity and experience with publications media, including new communication technologies and methodologies.

The time commitment required is significant and includes availability to attend all regular meetings of the A.A. Grapevine Board (currently up to eight a year), three weekend meetings of trustees' committees (to which corporate board directors are appointed) and the General Service Conference for one week in April. Trustees' committees may also include conference calls between in-person meetings.

In addition, directors may be called upon to attend subcommittee or other meetings and to represent A.A. Grapevine at Regional Forums or other A.A. functions.

Résumés should be sent to Janet Bryan, operations manager, A.A. Grapevine, by July 1, 2016.

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## ■ Opening for Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustee

The trustees' Nominating Committee asks that trustees, delegates and directors submit any names they deem appropriate as candidates for Class A trustee, to replace the General Service Board trustee Terrance M. Bédient, when he rotates in 2017. Class A trustees are chosen from a variety of professional backgrounds, including doctors, lawyers, clergy, media, social workers and educators.

Please submit your candidate's business or professional résumés to the Secretary, trustees' Nominating Committee, General Service Office, by July 31, 2016.

# The Budget Highlights

## 2016 G.S.O. Budget

These budget highlights describe the “OPERATIONS” of the General Service Office—A.A. World Services (the Publishing operation), the General Fund (Service activities) and the Grapevine Operations. It excludes any activities reported separately in the Reserve Fund, Convention Fund, Post-Retirement Fund or the Capital Projects Fund.

**Income:** The 2016 budget projects literature gross sales of \$13,707,484. The 2016 budget was developed with the realization that unit sales volumes have been declining gradually, however we are expecting an overall increase in unit sales as those who purchased significant amounts of literature prior to the October 1, 2014 price increase need to restock. When approving the 2016 budget, the A.A.W.S. Board continued to focus diligently on revenue and expense assumptions and how they ultimately affect the long-term fiscal health of the General Service Board and its Reserve Fund.

Manufacturing, royalties, and shipping and warehousing costs are budgeted slightly higher than the 2015 results taking into consideration inflationary increases and the expected increment in unit sales, offset by the absence of royalty payments as the last recipient has passed away.

After subtracting manufacturing and shipping and warehousing costs, gross profit is budgeted at \$9,007,384, or 66.9%. The 66.9% gross profit percentage anticipated for 2016 compares with 65.4% realized for 2015 and 66.1% budgeted for 2015.

It should be recognized that as we continue to strive to have literature available throughout our Service Structure in Spanish and French, as well as English, lower print runs in non-English languages usually result in higher production costs. We strive to have the same selling prices regardless of the manufacturing cost; therefore lower gross profit margins for low volume items will affect the overall gross profit percentages in the future.

The table below reflects the Gross Profit Percentages from 2011 through the 2016 budget.

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 Budget
63.7%	63.7%	64.3%	58.6%	65.4%	66.9%

Prudence dictates that ongoing reviews are necessary to control costs and reinforce the revenue stream to provide sufficient funds to continue providing services. Trusted servants continue to evaluate costs of operations as well as assess the services provided.

**Contributions:** Seventh Tradition self-support contributions for 2016 are budgeted at \$7,100,000, which is just slightly higher than the 2015 budget and approximately even with 2015 actual contributions received of \$7,154,000.

During 2015, contributions from groups and individuals (as distinguished from those received for the World Service Meeting literature efforts) of \$7,109,338 were \$145,338 greater than budget and \$280,848 greater than 2014. Contributions received from World Service Meeting countries toward the World Service Meeting International Literature efforts amounted to \$44,808, approximately two thirds of \$69,600 received in 2014. Total contributions including WSM efforts were just over \$7,154,146.

The percentage of the A.A. groups that choose to list with the General Service Office that have participated in the Seventh Tradition by contributing to the General Service Office was 40.3% in 2015. For the last ten years it has been in a relatively stable range (between 40% and 45%) for the past ten years.

**Total Operating Revenue** for 2016 is anticipated at \$16,107,784, an increase of approximately \$800,000 (5%).

**Total Operating Expenses** for 2016 have been budgeted at \$16,134,475, approximately \$1,015,136 or 6.7% greater than 2015 expenses but \$489,550 (2.9%) less than the 2015 budget.

The 2016 G.S.O. budget anticipates an excess of expenses over revenue of \$26,691. After considerable discussion that included concern for sales trends and expenses, the A.A.W.S. Board recommended and the General Service Board approved the 2016 budget.

It should be remembered that generally the Reserve Fund is funded by literature profits. This anticipated loss for 2016 compares with a profit of \$205,625 for 2015, \$1,376,656 for 2014, \$31,554 for 2013, \$152,448 for 2012, \$819,132 for 2011, \$1,255,289 for 2010, \$1,273,500 for 2009, and a loss of \$275,000 for 2008.

## 2016 Grapevine Budget

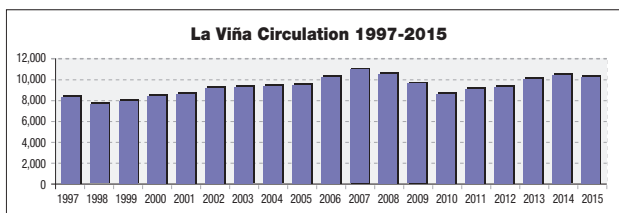
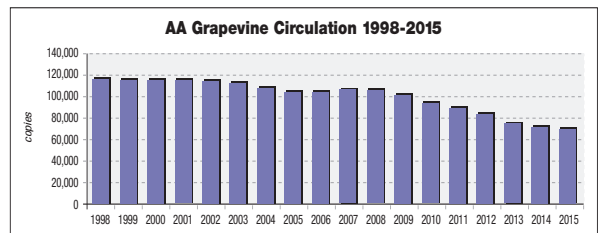
The 2016 Grapevine budget calls for an average circulation for the print magazine of 70,369. This anticipates 737 more copies than the 2015 budget but approximately 1,597 fewer than the 2015 average paid print circulation of 71,966. The 2016 budget calls for approximately 5,097 GV online subscriptions, which compares with the 2015 budget of 5,368 and the 5,233 actually achieved. Print magazine circulation for the last 18 years is depicted in the adjacent chart.

**Income:** Magazine income of \$2,093,366 is expected to be approximately \$50,900 less than 2015. Other Publishing Income from books, cassette tapes, and miscellaneous items is budgeted at \$577,187, approximately \$233,900 less than 2015.

**Total Gross Profit:** Combining the magazine and other publishing items, a gross profit of \$1,716,983 is budgeted for 2016. This compares with \$1,968,828 achieved for the 2015 budget of \$1,938,427.

**Total Operating Expenses:** Total Operating Expenses for 2016 are budgeted at \$1,867,946, \$131,829 greater than the 2015 expenses of \$1,736,117, but \$93,288 less than the 2015 budget.

**Net Income (loss):** For 2016, the Grapevine anticipates a net loss of \$146,263. This compares with a 2015 budgeted loss of \$14,607 and an actual profit from operations of \$240,811.



For 2016, La Viña expects a gross profit on the magazine of \$61,549, compared with \$63,160 achieved in 2015. Circulation for 2016 is estimated to decline to 10,017, some 338 or 3% less than the 2015 average but 1.5% greater than the 2015 budget. Other Publishing Income is estimated at \$21,984, which after deducting cost of product of \$6,408 expects to contribute \$15,576 to revenue. Total costs and expenses are estimated at \$229,732 for 2016, approximately \$10,000 greater than 2015 and \$4,000 more than the 2015 budget. The 2016 budget projects a shortfall of expense over revenue of \$152,607, to be funded by the General Service Board General Fund. The anticipated 2016 shortfall is \$6,200 greater than the 2015 shortfall of \$146,378. As noted above these shortfalls for this service activity is funded by the General Service Board General Fund. Net shortfall since inception (1995) to date is approximately \$1,947,048.

The chart above reflects the La Viña magazine circulation.

## 2016 La Viña Budget

Following the 1995 General Service Conference Advisory Action #7, the publication of the Grapevine magazine in Spanish was approved by both the Grapevine Board and the trustees' Finance Committee of the General Service Board. Recognizing this publication as a new venture, both boards were to review the financial impact on the Fellowship and the progress in circulation growth and to continue to monitor the viability of this new venture. In 2001, the General Service Board recommended, and the 2001 Conference approved, that the La Viña magazine continues to be published by the Grapevine and that any ongoing shortfall between revenues and operating expenses be funded by the General Service Boards' General Fund, instead of continuing to draw funds directly from the Reserve Fund.

## Calendar of Events

Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the General Service Office. For any additional information, please use the addresses provided.

**Please note that we cannot attest to the accuracy, relevancy, timeliness, or completeness of information provided by any linked site.**

### June

- 2-5—*Lahaina, Hawaii*. MauiFest. Write: Ch., Box 893, Kihei, HI 96753; [www.mauiifest.org](http://www.mauiifest.org)
- 3-5—*Mobile, Alabama*. Azalea City Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 9005, Mobile, AL 36691; [www.mobileaa.org](http://www.mobileaa.org)
- 3-5—*Denver, Colorado*. Add'l SW Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; [Regionalforums@aa.org](mailto:Regionalforums@aa.org)
- 3-5—*Bozrah, Connecticut*. Soberfest. Write: Ch., Box 1681, Meriden, CT 06450; [soberfest@ct-aa.org](mailto:soberfest@ct-aa.org)
- 3-5—*Dubuque, Iowa*. Area 24 Spring Conf. Info: [www.2016area24springconference.com](http://www.2016area24springconference.com)
- 10-12—*Akron, Ohio*. Founder's Day. Write: Ch., Box 12, Akron, OH 44309; <https://foundersdayregistration.akronaa.org/>
- 10-12—*Kenton, Oklahoma*. 40th Camp Billy Joe Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 944, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240
- 10-12—*Olympia, Washington*. Capitol Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 7205, Olympia, WA 98507; <http://capitoljamboree.org>
- 10-12—*Calgary, Alberta, Canada*. 35th Calgary Roundup. Info: [www.gratituderoundup.com](http://www.gratituderoundup.com)
- 24-26—*Pendleton, Oregon*. Pacific Northwest Conf. Write: Ch., 2777 SW 196th Ct., Aloha, OR 97003; [www.pnc1948.org](http://www.pnc1948.org)

### July

- 1-3—*New Orleans, Louisiana*. Road to Detroit. Info: [www.roadtodetroit.com](http://www.roadtodetroit.com)
- 8-10—*Thunderbay, Ontario, Canada*. Eastern Canada Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; [Regionalforums@aa.org](mailto:Regionalforums@aa.org)
- 15-17—*Leadville, Colorado*. Area 10 Summer Svc Assembly. Info: [www.coloradoaa.org/assembly](http://www.coloradoaa.org/assembly)

- 15-17—*South Bend, Indiana*. Svc. Comm. Colloquium. Write: Ch., Box 721, South Bend, IN 46624; [coloquium@sjcmd.org](mailto:coloquium@sjcmd.org)
- 22-24—*Rimouski, Québec, Canada*. 37ième Congrès du Bas-St-Laurent. Écrire: Prés., BP 651, Rimouski, QC G5L 4B0; [www.aa-quebec.org/region88/Congres.html](http://www.aa-quebec.org/region88/Congres.html)
- 29-31—*Jefferson City, Missouri*. 65th MO State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 7524, Columbia, MO 65205; [www.mostateconvention.org](http://www.mostateconvention.org)
- 29-31—*Baie-Comeau, Québec, Canada*. 46ième Congrès de Baie-Comeau. Écrire: Prés., C.P. 2052 Succursale, Mingan, Baie-Comeau, QC G5C 2S8

### August

- 3-7—*Palm Harbor, Florida*. 60th FL State Conv. Write: Ch., 632 Addison Dr., NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33716; <http://60flstateconvention.com>
- 5-7—*Oakhurst, California*. Serenity in the Sierras. Write: Ch., Box 1116, Oakhurst, CA 93644; [serenitysierras.com](http://serenitysierras.com)
- 5-7—*Springfield, Massachusetts*. MSCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 636, Enfield, CT 06083-0636; [www.msccypaa.com](http://www.msccypaa.com)
- 5-7—*Parkersburg, West Virginia*. 64th Area 73 State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 3033, Parkersburg, WV 26103-3033; [www.aawv.org](http://www.aawv.org)
- 12-14—*Kenai, Alaska*. 42nd Wilderness Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 1625, Kenai, AK 99611; [www.aakenaialaska.org](http://www.aakenaialaska.org)
- 12-14—*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*. PENNSCY-PAA 28. Write: Ch., 135 Abbeyville Road, #206, Pittsburgh, PA 15228; [www.pennscypaaxxviii.org](http://www.pennscypaaxxviii.org)

- 12-14—*Austin, Texas*. Capital of TX Conf. Write: Ch., Box 4946, Austin, TX 78785; [www.capitaloftexasconference.org](http://www.capitaloftexasconference.org)
- 12-14—*Oshawa, Ontario, Canada*. 44th Lakeshore Dists Conf. Write: Ch., 92 Fenning Dr., Courtice, ON L1E 3H2; [lakeshoredistrictsconference@hotmail.com](mailto:lakeshoredistrictsconference@hotmail.com)
- 12-14—*Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Québec, Canada*. 40e Congrès. Écrire: Prés., C.P. 8008, Cap-aux-Meules, QC G4T 1R3
- 19-21—*Joplin, Missouri*. Summer Hummer. Write: Ch., Box 2364, Joplin, MO 64803
- 19-21—*Reston, Virginia*. VAC Conv. Write: Ch., Box 230866, Centerville, VA 20120; [www.vac2016convention.com](http://www.vac2016convention.com)
- 19-21—*Reunion Flat, Wyoming*. 15th Teton Canyon Campout. Write: Ch., Box 2905, La Grande, OR 97850; [tetoncanyoncampout@gmail.com](mailto:tetoncanyoncampout@gmail.com)
- 19-21—*Elspeet, Netherlands*. 30th Netherlands Roundup. Info: [www.aa-netherlands.org](http://www.aa-netherlands.org)
- 26-28—*San Francisco, California*. Western Roundup Living Sober. Write: Ch., Box 14804, San Francisco, CA 94114; [information@livingsober.org](mailto:information@livingsober.org)
- 26-28—*Asheville, North Carolina*. SE Woman to Woman. Write: Ch., Box 5675, Asheville, NC 28813
- 26-28—*Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada*. Western Canada Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; [Regionalforums@aa.org](mailto:Regionalforums@aa.org)

## Planning a Future Event?

To be included in the *Box 4-5-9* Calendar, information must be received at G.S.O. four months prior to the event. We list events of two or more days.

For your convenience and ours — please type or print the information to be listed on the Bulletin Board page, and mail to Editor: Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 or [literature@aa.org](mailto:literature@aa.org)

Date of event: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

Name of event: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY STATE OR PROVINCE

Address to list: \_\_\_\_\_  
P.O. BOX (OR NUMBER AND STREET)

\_\_\_\_\_ CITY STATE OR PROVINCE ZIP CODE

Web site or E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
(NO PERSONAL E-MAIL ADDRESSES)

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME PHONE # AND E-MAIL

Cut along dotted line, and post this page on your group's bulletin board

## September

- 2-4—*Phoenix, Arizona*. AZ State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 21612, Mesa, AZ 85277; [www.area03.org](http://www.area03.org)
- 2-4—*Concord, California*. First Unity and Service Conf. Write: Ch., 827 Sean Place, Concord, CA 94518; [www.unityandserviceconference.org](http://www.unityandserviceconference.org)
- 2-4—*Saint Louis, Missouri*. 33rd Annual Fall Classic Conf. Write: Ch., Box 16872, St. Louis, MO 63105; [info@fall-classic.com](mailto:info@fall-classic.com)
- 2-4—*Westminster, Colorado*. CO State Conv. Info: [www.convention.coloradoaa.org](http://www.convention.coloradoaa.org)
- 2-4—*Addison, Texas*. 44 Conv. Nacional de E.U. y Canadá. Para Info: [www.44convencionhispanadeaasaycanada.org](http://www.44convencionhispanadeaasaycanada.org)
- 2-4—*Powell River, British Columbia, Canada*. 69th Powell River Rally. Write: Ch., 9408 Stittle Rd, Powell River, BC V8A 0J3
- 2-4—*Jonquière, Québec, Canada*. Congrès du Saguenay «Nouvelle liberté avec AA». Write: Ch., 3921, Des Passereaux, Jonquière, G7X-8A7, Québec, CA; [www.aa89.org](http://www.aa89.org)
- 9-11—*Meriden, Connecticut*. 58th Area 11 Conv. Write: Ch., 112 E. Main St., Meriden, CT 06450; [www.ct-aa.org](http://www.ct-aa.org)
- 9-11—*Dunnville, Ontario, Canada*. 50th Annual Dunnville A.A. Conv. & Campout. Write: Ch., Box 76, Smithville, ON L0R 2A0; [dunnvilleconvention2016@outlook.com](mailto:dunnvilleconvention2016@outlook.com)
- 9-11—*Kenora, Ontario, Canada*. 45th Sunset Country Roundup. Write: Ch., 522 9th St. N., #2, Kenora, ON P9N 2S8; [kenoraroundup@gmail.com](mailto:kenoraroundup@gmail.com)
- 16-17—*Duluth, Minnesota*. 71st Duluth Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 16771, Duluth, MN 55805-0771; [www.duluthroundup.org](http://www.duluthroundup.org)
- 16-18—*Wichita, Kansas*. Area 25 State Conf. Write: Ch., 3062 W. 8th St., Lawrence, KS 66049; [www.kansas-aa.org](http://www.kansas-aa.org)
- 16-18—*Medora, North Dakota*. ND State Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 521, Dickinson, ND 58602
- 16-18—*Vernal, Utah*. Area 69 Pre-Conf. Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 790241, Vernal, UT 84078
- 16-18—*Gatineau, Quebec, Canada*. 18e Congrès du Dist. 90-22. Écrire: 1194 Boul. St-René oust, Gatineau, QC J8T 6H3; [congre22@aa90.org](mailto:congre22@aa90.org)
- 16-19—*Vernal, Utah*. Area 69 Fall Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 790241, Vernal, UT 84078
- 23-24—*Olean, New York*. Day of Learning. Write: Ch., Box 421, Olean, NY 14760
- 23-25—*San Diego, California*. 65th So. CA Conv. Write: Ch., 12223 Highland Ave., Ste 106, PMB399, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739; [www.aasocal.com](http://www.aasocal.com)
- 23-25—*Sioux City, Iowa*. Sioux City Tri-State Roundup. [www.siouxcitytristateroundup.com](http://www.siouxcitytristateroundup.com)
- 23-25—*Harrisburg, Virginia*. Shenandoah Valley Roundup. Write: Ch., 618 N. Beverly Ave., Covington, VA 24426; [shenandoahvalleyroundup@comcast.net](mailto:shenandoahvalleyroundup@comcast.net)
- 23-25—*Wenatchee, Washington*. Wenatchee Valley Roundup. Write: Ch., 1320 Terr. Ct. NE, East Wenatchee, WA 98802; [www.wenatcheevalleyroundup.org](http://www.wenatcheevalleyroundup.org)
- 23-25—*Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India*. The National Conv. Write: Ch., Office No.116 (A, B & C) Bharat Shatrughna Com. Complex Ltd., Above Hotel Bhagat Tarachand, Sector-18 Sanpada, Navi Mumbai 400 703; [www.aagsoindia.org](http://www.aagsoindia.org)
- 30-2—*Waikoloa, Hawaii*. Pacific Reg. Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; [Regionalforums@aa.org](mailto:Regionalforums@aa.org)
- 30-2—*Spearfish, South Dakota*. Area 63 Fall Conf. Write: Ch., Box 644, Spearfish, SD 57783; [www.area63aa.org](http://www.area63aa.org)
- 30-2—*Colville, Washington*. Roundup of Recovery. Write: Ch., Box 355, Loon Lake, WA 99148; [www.area92aa.org](http://www.area92aa.org)