Alcoholics Anonymous®

General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

www.aa.org

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To: GSRs, DCMs, Trustees, Non-trustee Directors, Area Officers and Committee Chairs, Delegates, Appointed Committee Members, Intergroups and Central Offices, Group Contacts, GSO and Grapevine Employees

Dear A.A. Friends,

Last month your area delegates, trustees, and staff came together in unity as members of the 75th General Service Conference. As I reflect on this incredible week of service, there is so much that comes to mind: the wonderful work of the committees, the debate and sharing on the Conference floor, and the camaraderie among us all. Simply, this was love and service in action. Our Conference is the very best expression of our Second Tradition and the group conscience of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Our member employees, the GSO Staff, with support from all departments and employees of GSO, are hard at work coordinating the implementation of the group conscience of the General Service Conference. This is taking place in the form of various orientations of trustee and conference committee chairs to ensure there is common understanding of committee work and process for the year ahead. The Staff are also organizing the many Advisory Actions and committee considerations to be included in that work. This is very significant work and is being done with grace and in the best spirit of A.A.

Meanwhile, reporting back to the Fellowship is in full swing throughout our service structure, and I encourage all to take advantage of the opportunity to attend various events where your delegate provides their reports. Your local area website will likely include details to help you find any Conference reporting in your area.

I also want to provide a few updates about what's happening at your General Service Office. Many of you already may be aware that as a result of the work of the Location Plus Committee of the General Service Board, it was decided that we will continue office operations from our current location at 475 Riverside Drive in New York. This committee completed its work last year with the assistance of an outside expert who performed an objective assessment of our location with comparison to several other possible locations throughout our structure. Included in the committee's report was the recommendation to consolidate our operations on the 8th and 11th floors on the 11th floor only. This will not only realize a savings in occupancy costs but also allow for better collaboration and effectiveness among all departments and services we provide. This consolidation will require modifications to our office space in order to accommodate our Publishing and Communication Services Departments, which now are on the 8th floor.

Over the last several months, we have spent considerable time and effort planning for the retrofit of our space. In order to keep associated costs at a minimum and minimize disruption to services, the office will be operating remotely for the duration of the project, which is expected to be about 10-12 weeks. Please know that we have made provisions for our mail and shipping operation, and our phones will be operational throughout. Unfortunately, visiting the office during this time will not be possible, but GSO tours will resume when the project is completed. Once we have a definitive timeline for the project, I will communicate that widely including on aa.org, aagrapevine.org, the Meeting Guide App, as well as the Grapevine and La Vina apps.

I also want to share my enthusiasm and excitement for the upcoming <u>International</u> <u>Convention</u> that will be held July 3-6 in beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. There's still time to <u>register</u>, so I hope all members who are able will consider attending. My attendance at several prior International Conventions have been some of the most impactful experiences in my sobriety. Many members I've met over the years have shared similar sentiments. You can register <u>here</u> or on site when you arrive at the Convention. You may also find it helpful to review our <u>frequently asked questions</u> (FAQ's) to learn more about Convention, including information regarding options to experience segments of the event virtually for those who aren't able to attend.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in Vancouver, woohoo!

Also significant throughout the year, your office provides planning and support for Regional Forums, General Service Board weekends, AAWS board meetings, and the General Service Conference. Our GSO Staff members also attend many of your assemblies, conventions, and roundups as well as welcoming many of you when visiting your General Service Office here in New York. In addition, they respond to the many daily inquiries from members and groups and provide them with shared experience from other groups and literature or service material that help them carry the A.A. message. All of this distills directly to the essence of our Fellowship and program of recovery; the magic of Alcoholics Anonymous that happens when one alcoholic comes together with another to share their experience, strength, and hope.

With gratitude for your continued service to Alcoholics Anonymous,

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Bob W. General Manager, GSO

