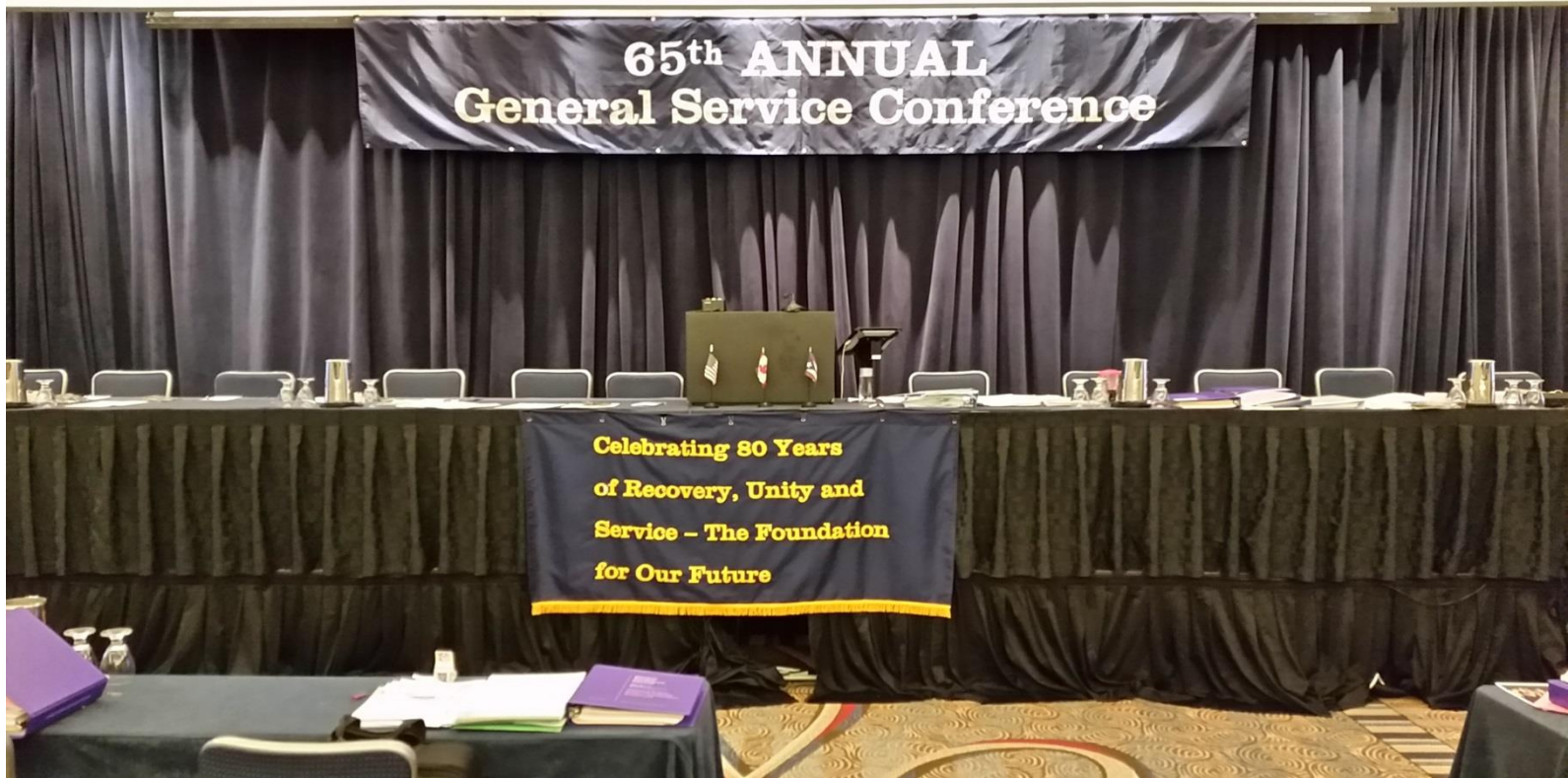
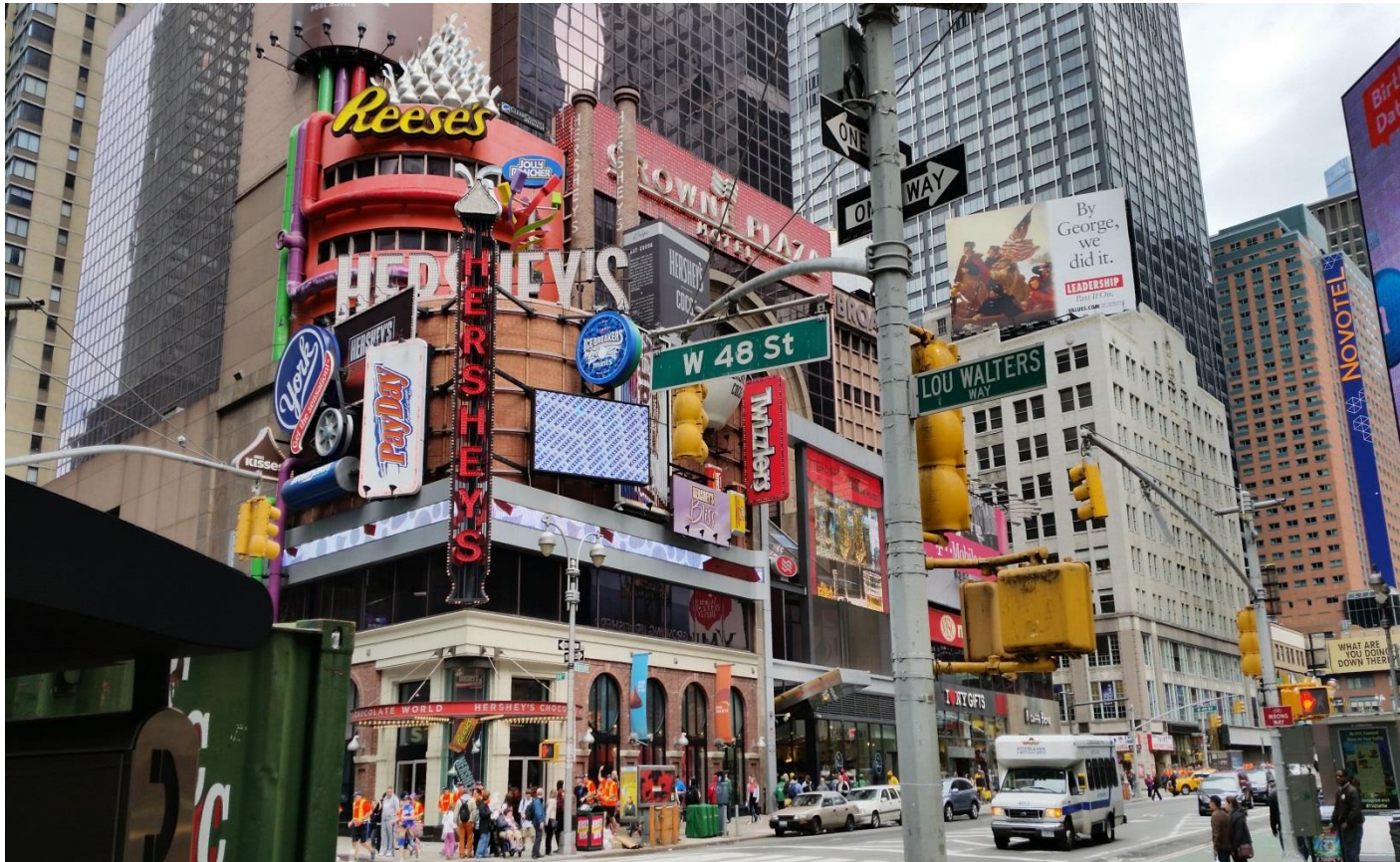


# *Delegate's Conference Report*

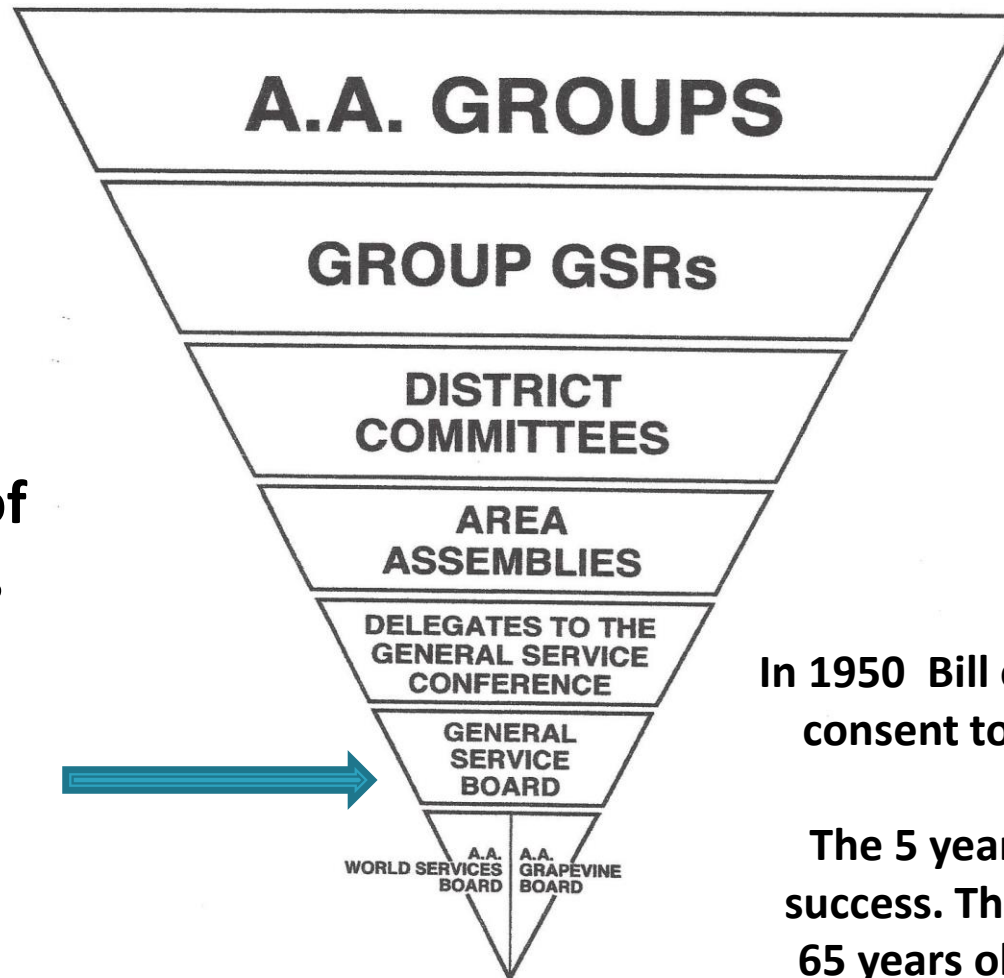


**65<sup>th</sup> Annual General Service Conference**  
**April 19 – 25, 2015**



**Crowne Plaza Hotel**  
**1605 Broadway, New York, NY 10019**

## STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE (U.S. and Canada)



**1<sup>st</sup> group of  
delegates  
Panel 01  
(1951)**

**In 1950 Bill obtained Dr. Bob's  
consent to try the conference.**

**The 5 year experiment was a  
success. The Conference is now  
65 years old and going strong.**

## Area Map of U.S. & Canada

This map represents a general outline of Areas

### Outline of 8 Regions

- Northeast
- Southeast
- Southwest
- West Central
- East Central
- Pacific
- Western Canada
- Eastern Canada

General Service Office Located in New York, NY

containing  
93 Areas



# Conference *Voting Members*

- **Area Delegates – USA & Canada**  
**93 = 69.4%**
- **Trustees, A.A.W.S. & Grapevine Directors**  
**26 = 19.4%**
- **General Service Office & Grapevine Staff**  
**15 = 11.2%**
- **Total: 134 Voting Members**

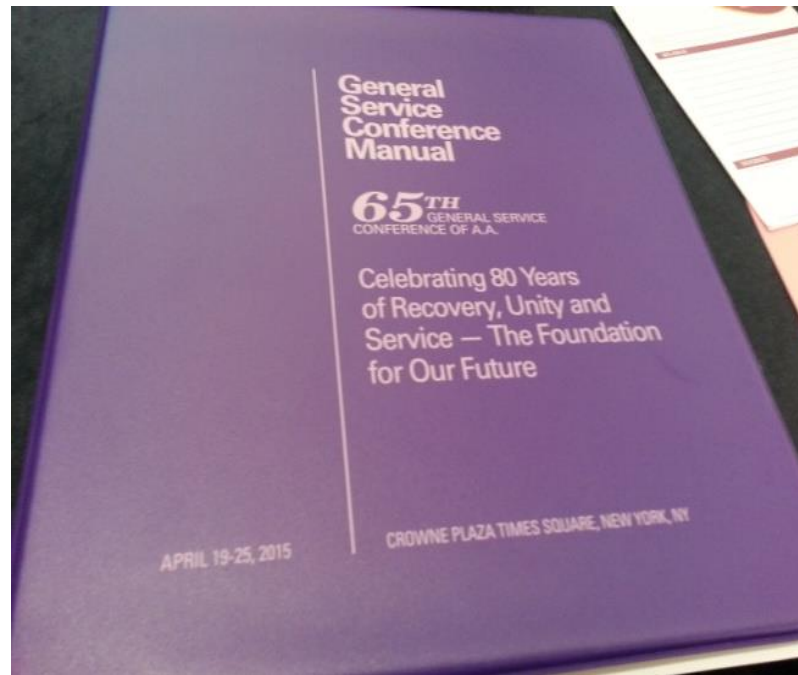
# 93 Area Delegates

## *Statistics*

<b>Average Age</b>	<b>57 years</b>
<b>Oldest</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Youngest</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Average Sobriety</b>	<b>22 years</b>
<b>Longest</b> “	<b>42</b>
<b>Shortest</b> “	<b>8</b>
<b>Average Service</b>	<b>18 years</b>
<b>Longest</b> “	<b>37</b>
<b>Shortest</b> “	<b>5</b>

# DOWN TO BUSINESS –

## *The work we did on your behalf*



# Weekly Schedule (9am-9pm+)

## Early Session – Saturday

- ▶ 1728 Meeting
- ▶ Remote Communities
- ▶ Delegates Only Meeting

## Opening Day – Sunday

- ▶ Roll call
- ▶ Keynote addresses
- ▶ Trustees & committee
- ▶ GSB Dinner

## Monday – Friday

- ▶ Committee meetings
- ▶ Presentations
- ▶ Election of New Trustees
- ▶ Committee report-backs

## Closing Day – Saturday

- ▶ Closing Breakfast
- ▶ Rotating Trustees

# ***Opening Presentations***

- Presently approximately 1.4 million alcoholics in A.A in U.S. and Canada
- Presently approximately 750,000 A.A members in other countries
- Approximately 2.1 million A.A. members worldwide

## ▶ **International Translations:**

- ▶ Presently there are 68 translations of the Big Book with 13 new translations pending
  - 53 countries are licensed to print and/or distribute 1,710 publications in 53 languages
  - A.A.W.S. has published literature in an additional 34 languages – for a total of 87 languages
- ▶ 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Big Books was a success.
  - 178,000 copies were distributed in 2014

# **23<sup>rd</sup> World Service Meeting:**

## **Bob W., U.S. Trustee-at-Large**

**The World Services Meeting meets every other year and this year they met in Warsaw, Poland this past October. There is report at my display if anyone is interest in seeing what happened there.**

**This year they admitted four new countries:**

**1)Romania**

**2)Czechoslovakia**

**3)Hong Kong**

**4)Iran**

**I. Have to meet outside**

**II. Call themselves Nameless Sobers**

**III. The members have translated Big Book into Farsi**

# **Panel 64 Delegate Presentations:**

- **Diversity in AA – Our Heritage of Inclusion**
- **Safety & Respect – Practicing the Principles Begins in Our Home Groups**
- **Safeguarding Our Traditions Through the Evolution of Technology**
- **Inventory – Looking Back to Move Ahead**

# Advisory Actions

**Trustees' Literature Committee develop literature for the alcoholic with mental health issues. [99-11]**

**The trustees' Literature Committee develop literature for the alcoholic with mental health issues. The committee requested that a wide range of A.A. recovery experience be gathered from members with mental health issues, and from those who sponsor such members for inclusion in literature on this topic. The committee requested that a progress report be brought to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature. Passed**

## DISCUSSION:

- **70% of the population will experience mental health issues**
- **Not only for new members – helpful for those already in the program**
- **Consider having a professional define mental issues**
- **This issue has been discussed for the last 3 years.**
- **Some delegates spoke about their own personal experiences, which was very moving.**
- **There is so much misinformation in the medical field about alcoholism-huge need for professionals. Should get medical input.**

# TUESDAY 2 MINUTE AREA HIGHLIGHTS



# *Literature Committee*

- Revise/update the current pamphlets
  - “Inside AA: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services”

A comprehensive revision to the retitled pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services,” be undertaken by the trustees’ Literature Committee, to better reflect the full range of A.A. services, and that a fully revised draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2016 General Service Conference. **Passed**



# ***Literature Committee***

## **Revise/update the current pamphlet**

### **“AA and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic”**

The trustees' Literature Committee update the pamphlet “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic” to include a wider range of A.A. recovery experience from members who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and gender nonconforming, especially regarding being a newcomer and sponsorship. The committee requested that the title of the pamphlet be revised to reflect this broader scope and that a draft revised pamphlet or progress report be brought to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature. **Passed**



# ***Literature Committee***

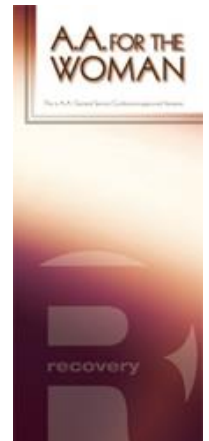
## **Revise/update the current pamphlet**

### **“AA for the Woman” –**

The pamphlet “A.A. for the Woman” be revised by gathering current sharing from women in A.A., and suggested inclusion of stories from women in the military, single mothers, and women of diverse backgrounds. The committee requested that a draft revised pamphlet or a progress report be brought back to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature. **Passed**

This was discussed at length. The last time this pamphlet was updated was in 1986. Needs to be revised with today’s language. Perfect example is on page 5 of the pamphlet where 15 questions were in a column from Ann Landers. I am sure some of the younger ones here don’t even know who Ann Landers is.

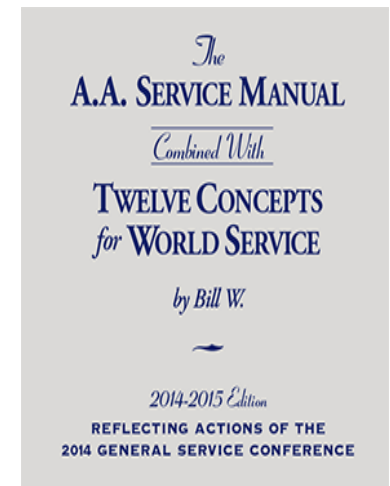
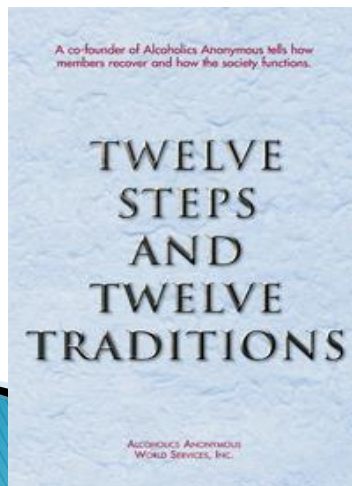
**In 2013 - 77,000 copies of the pamphlet were distributed.**



# Literature Committee

## ▶ Committee Considerations

- Reviewed the suggestion to produce a book combining “*Twelve Steps an Twelve Traditions*” with the “*Twelve Concepts for World Service*” and **took no action**. The committee noted the “*Twelve Concepts for World Service*” are suitably placed with “*The A.A. Service Manual*” and in a stand alone volume.
- **Too costly, bulky and won’t inspire members to get active in service. Already a book on the Concepts.**



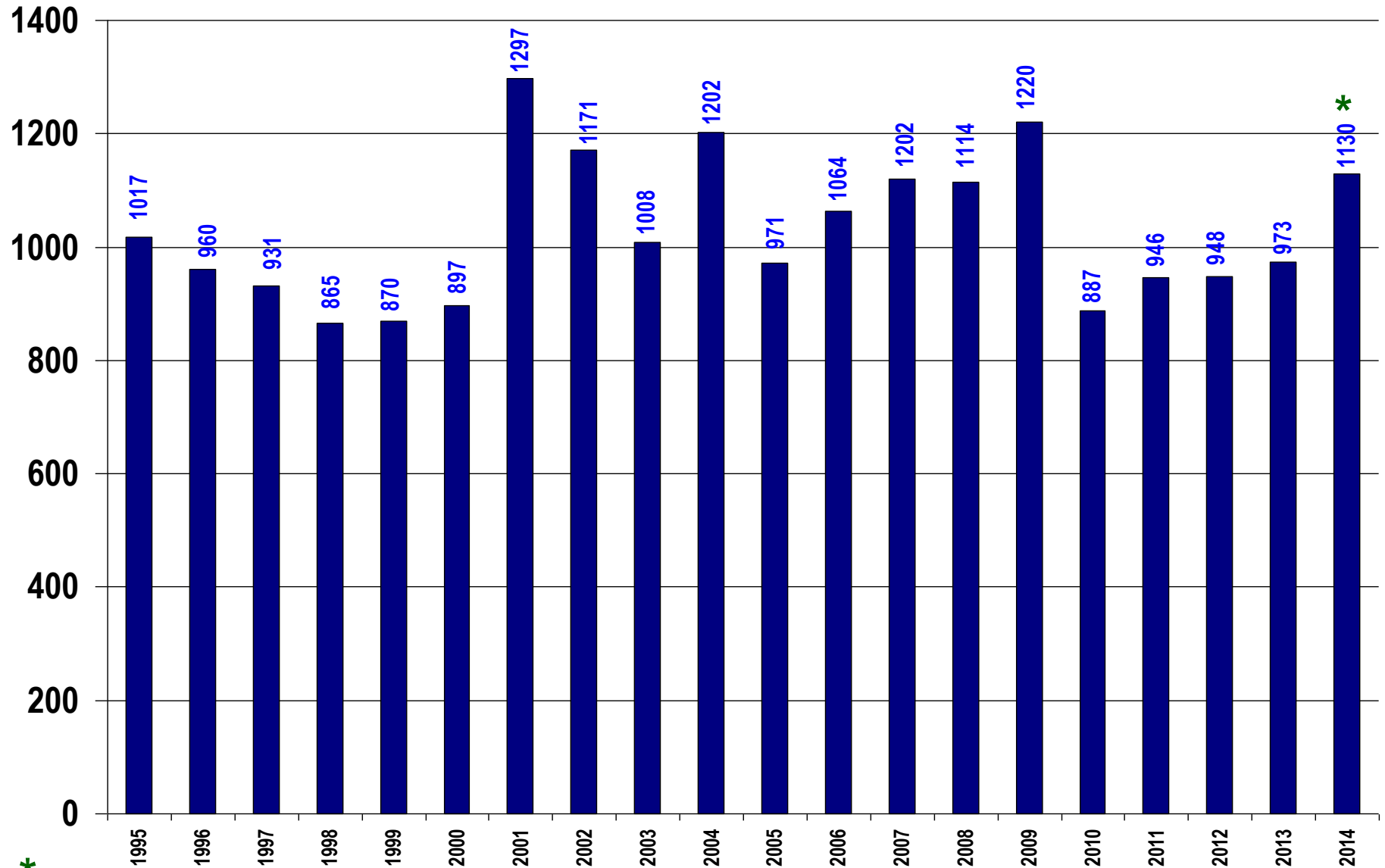
The Big Book was first published in 1939 by Works Publishing.



# BIG BOOK PRICING

		Year Published	Original Price	2015 Inflation Adjusted Price
First		1939	\$3.50	\$58.84
Second		1955	\$4.50	\$39.24
Third		1976	\$5.65	\$23.22
Fourth		2001	\$6.00	\$7.92

# BIG BOOK UNIT SALES: 1995—2014



\*

Excludes 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition

# Seven Big Book translations in the '50s & '60s.



**1952** Spanish **1954** German **1958** Finnish  
**1959** Norwegian

**1961** Afrikaans **1963** French **1969** Portuguese

**In the '70s & '80s there were thirteen Big Book translations.**



**1977 Icelandic 1979 Japanese 1980 Italian 1984 Dutch 1985 Maltese Korean  
1986 Marathi (India) 1987 Arabic 1988 Croatian Swedish  
1989 Hungarian Polish Russian**

# Twenty-two Big Book translations in the '90s.



**1952 Spanish 1954 German 1958 Finnish 1959 Norwegian 1961 Afrikaans 1963 French  
1969 Portuguese 1977 Icelandic 1979 Japanese 1980 Italian 1984 Dutch 1985 Maltese  
Korean**

**1986 Marathi (India) 1987 Arabic 1988 Croatian Swedish 1989 Hungarian Polish Russian  
1990 Farsi 1991 Vietnamese Turkish 1992 Swahili Slovenian Tagalog (Philippines) Danish  
Lithuanian 1993 ASL Romanian 1994 Czech Thai Estonian Kannada (India) Ukrainian  
1995 Armenian Nepali Hindi 1996 Bulgarian Tamil (India) 1997 Malayalam (India)  
1998 Greek**

# Sixteen Big Book translations in the last 15 years.



- 2000** Mongolian Slovak Punjabi (India)
- 2001** Bengali Gujarati (India) Telugu (India)
- 2002** Urdu (Pakistan)
- 2003** Khmer (Cambodia) **2004** Latvian **2005** Indonesian Zulu
- 2007** Hebrew Sinhala (Sri Lanka)
- 2009** Tibetan **2010** Saami (Lapland)
- 2011** Xhosa (South Africa)

# Sixty-three Foreign General Service Offices



Argentina • Australia • Austria • Belarus • Belgium (French) • Belgium (Dutch) • Bolivia • Brazil • Chile  
 China • Colombia • Costa • Rica • Cuba • Czech • Republic • Denmark • Dominican • Republic  
 Ecuador • El Salvador • Estonia • Faroe • Islands • Finland • France • Germany • Great • Britain  
 Guatemala • Honduras • Hungary • Iceland • India • Iran • Ireland • Italy • Japan • Latvia • Lithuania  
 Malta • Mexico • Mongolia • Netherlands • New • Zealand • Nicaragua • Norway • Panama •  
 Paraguay Peru • Poland • Portugal • Romania • Russia • Slovakia • Slovenia • South • Africa • South  
 Korea  
 Spain • Sweden • Switzerland • Taiwan • Trinidad and Tobago • Turkey • Ukraine • Uruguay •  
 Venezuela

# **SUMMARY - 75TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK**

- ❖ **The printing of the 75th Anniversary Commemorative Edition reflects the group conscience and Advisory Action of the 63rd General Service Conference and celebrates the history and message in our Big Book.**
- ❖ **The 75th Anniversary Commemorative Edition has most importantly provided us with the opportunity to share our history and excitement for the message of A.A. as was experienced and shared by our founding members.**
- ❖ **The write-off in 2014 of the 75th Anniversary Commemorative Edition was done in accordance with good accounting practices and is being reported to the Fellowship.**

# 75TH ANNIVERSARY BIG BOOK–2014

177,888 Books Sold: Gross Revenues	\$1,888,880
Costs of Books sold & shipping	<u>904,032</u>
Gross Profit	984,848
Early reorder created an overstock situation & required an Accounting write-off of 125,000 Books	<u>823,152</u>
Net Profit on 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book	161,696

- ❖ 40,000 Books on hand are budgeted and expected to be sold in 2015
- ❖ 125,000 Books were written-off for Accounting purposes, but remain in physical inventory and are available to be sold.

# *Trustees Committee*

## New Trustees

## ▶ Class A [Non-Alcoholic] Trustees

- **Leslie S. Backus, B.A.**
- **Peter Luongo, Ph.D., LCSW-C**

▶ **Class B [Alcoholic] Trustees** **[Third Legacy Elections]**

- **Canadian Trustee-At-Large.....Scott H.-Area 78**  
**BC/Yukon**
- **Northeast Regional .....Richard P.**
- **Southwest Regional.....Yolanda F.**

# *Trustees Committee*

## **Rotating Trustees**

### ▶ **Class A [Non-Alcoholic] Trustees**

- **Frances L. Brisbane, Ph.D.**
- **Corliss R. Burke, B.Ed.**

### ▶ **Class B [Alcoholic] Trustees**

- **Canadian Trustee-At-Large.....Barbara K.**
- **Northeast Regional .....J. Gary L.**
- **Southwest Regional.....Clayton V.**

***Thank you for your dedication and service!***

# *Trustees Committee*

## Advisory Action

- The Bylaws of The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., **as amended to comply with New York State nonprofit law**, be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in April 2015.

## Committee Consideration

- Reflecting on the importance of Concept XI, the committee encouraged the General Service Board and the Fellowship to identify, attract and recruit in a timely manner, a diverse, competent and qualified pool of candidates to serve as Class A (nonalcoholic), Class B (alcoholic) trustees, nontrustee directors and appointed committee members on trustee committees.

# Finance Committee



## ► Advisory Actions

- Proceed with Phase 1 of the G.S.O. plan to translate conference material into Spanish and French beginning with the 66<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. The estimated cost is \$80,000 to \$120,000. [104-25]
- **Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference** will create a plan to translate all conference material and provide a progress report at the 66<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference.

# *Finance Committee*

## ▶ Committee Considerations

- Took no action on *increasing the area contribution* [currently \$1,600] for the delegate expense to the Conference.

## ▶ Failed Recommendation

- Increase the limit for annual individual contributions from \$3,000 to \$5,000.
- [67–59, substantial unanimity required 84 to pass]
- Only 20 members contributed \$3,000 in 2014
- Should encourage more members to contribute in basket rather than annual contributions
- May make those feel who don't have that kind of money to feel less than
- Special class of AA Members who can afford to do so.



# A DOLLAR IS NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE

**1945 - \$1.00**



**2015 - \$13.00**



# INFLATION CALCULATOR

**\$1.00**

**in**

**1945**

**has the buying power of**

**\$13.00**

**in**

**2015**

**\$ .08**

**In**

**2015**

**has the buying power of**

**\$ 1.00**

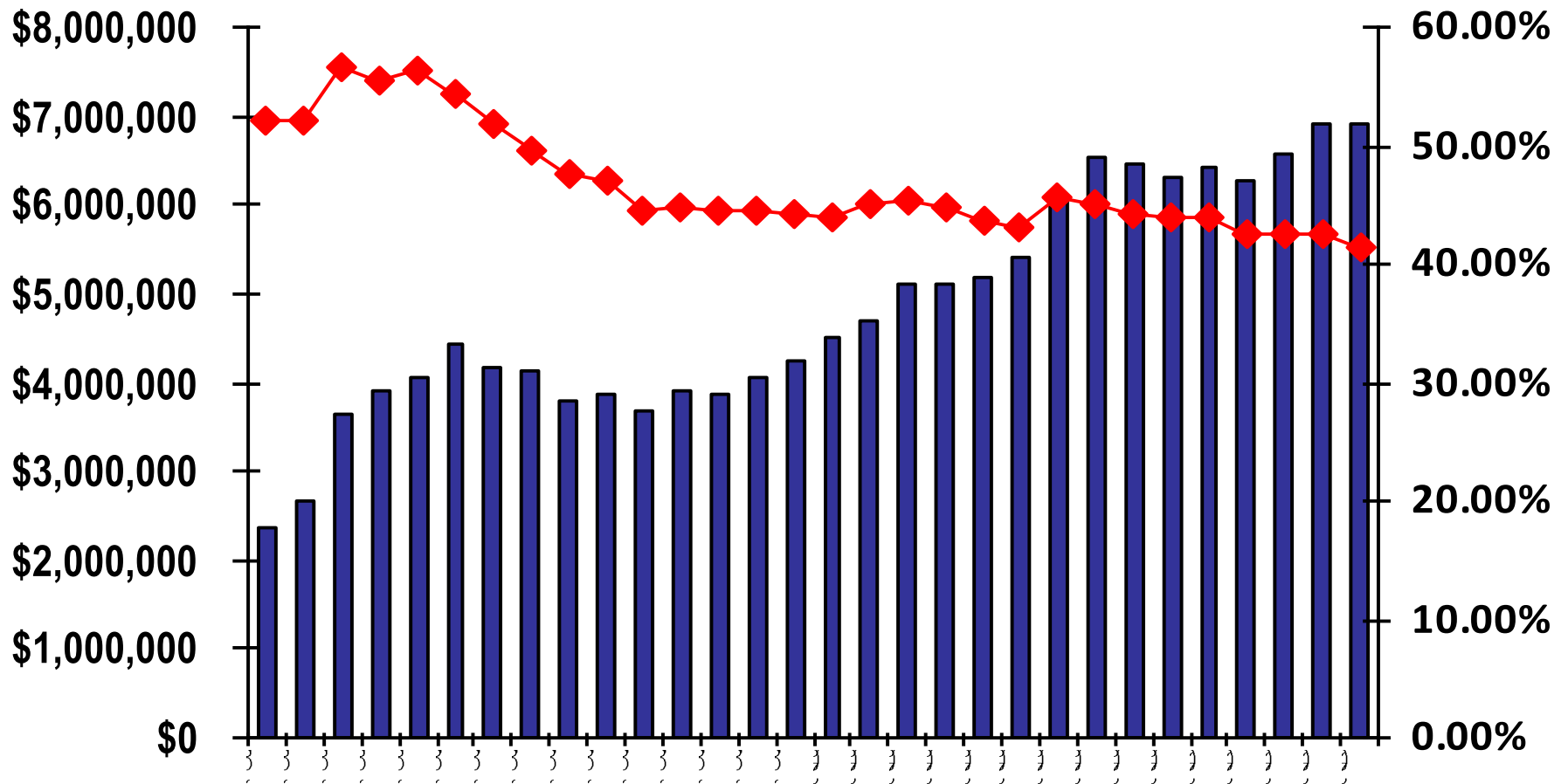
**In**

**1945**

## **Financials– What actionable items can we do to insure our financial future?**

- **Buy another subscription of the GV or LaVina and give it to a prison meeting, sponsee, Dr. Office, etc**
- **Ask your group to buy a subscription and donate it**
- **Put some of your gratitude in the basket**
- **Remind your group to contribute to the different A.A. entities (even if it is a very small amount and tell them what that money pays for)**
- **We are responsible when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help....**

# CONTRIBUTION HISTORY: 1985—2014



■ Total Contributions —◆— Total Percentage of Groups Contributing

# *Agenda Committee*

## *The 2016 General Service Conference –*

- ▶ **Theme:** “Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concept”
- ▶ **Presentations:**
  - A) Connecting with the Newcomer
  - B) Connecting with Each Other
  - C) Connecting with A.A. As a Whole
- ▶ **Workshop:** “Anonymity – The Spiritual Foundation”

# Agenda Committee

## Committee Considerations:

- ▶ Asked the Trustees to explore ways to *include the Conference [delegates] in selecting conference agenda items.*
- ▶ *Provide delegates who are conference committee chairs with full background materials* for the last quarterly board weekend prior to the General Service Conference.

# *Public Information Committee*

## Advisory Actions:

- ▶ Approved “Doors”, a video Public Service Announcement (PSA), providing that a dialog voice-over using professionals, not to exceed \$24,000. The PSA will be centrally distributed.
- ▶ Approved the 2014 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey pamphlet.
- ▶ Discontinued the video PSAs “A Force of Nature” and “Testimonials”
- ▶ Authorized the A.A.W.S., Inc. Board to produce and post audio/video service material on the aa.org website.

# *Public Information Committee*

## Committee Considerations:

- ▶ **Need guidance on the use of social media** by A.A. members. Distribution of literature should correspond with the launch of the Anonymity Resource Page.
- ▶ **Explore new forms/channels of presenting and distributing content** using platforms such as *Twitter, Instagram and Google+.*

# GRAPEVINE

AA'S MEETING IN PRINT  
MAY 2015  
AAGRAPEVINE.ORG

*SPECIAL SECTION*  
*Cooperation with*  
*professionals*

## OPERATION: COOPERATION

A sponsor  
and sponsee join  
forces to help carry  
the AA message to doctors

ALSO  
FIVE DRINKS MAX &  
BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME

MAYO/JUNIO 2015

# LA VIÑA

NUESTRA REUNIÓN IMPRESA DEL GRAPEVINE DE AA  
aagrapevine.org/español

SECCIÓN ESPECIAL:

## AA ALREDEDOR DEL MUNDO

NUEVOS:  
CON LA CABEZA CALIENTE

# ***Grapevine Committee***

## **Committee Considerations:**

- ▶ *La Vina* is published as cost effectively as possible.
- ▶ Implement a communication plan to the Fellowship clarifying
- ▶ *La Vina's* **unique status as a service that strives to be**
- ▶ **self-supporting**.
- ▶ Encouraged purchase of **Subscription Gift Certificates** by local service committees, groups and members to provide magazines to people in prisons, treatment centers and nursing homes.
- ▶ Suggested the AA Grapevine Board produce two books:
  - **Armed Forces Members AA Stories** (working title)
  - **Voices from Early AA** (working title)

# *Policy/Admissions Committee*

## Advisory Action:

Audio recordings of the General Service Conference **presentations** published in the GSC Final Report and audio recordings of the **trustees' farewell talks** given at the closing brunch be made **available in accordance with the Archive's Policies**. Access to all other GSC sessions will continue to be prohibited.

**[Substantial unanimity, no vote count required]**

# ***Policy/Admissions Committee***

- The committee reviewed a request for a representative from the General Service Board of A.A. in the Czech Republic to attend the 65<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference as an observer. In light of a recent communication from the General Service Board of the Czech Republic that their group conscience had come to a decision not to send an observer to the 65<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference, **no action was necessary.**
- The committee considered a request that a recording of the A.A. meeting at the opening dinner of the General Service Conference be provided to each member of the General Service Conference and took no action. The committee agreed that the A.A. talks at the Opening Dinner of the Conference are enjoyable and reflect the A.A. stories of the speakers, but are not specifically focused on A.A. service. Some instances where last names were used.
- **As a committee we listened to all the Opening Dinner talks before we arrived at this decision.**

# *Report & Charter Committee*

## Advisory Action:

- ▶ Print a limited number of A.A. Regional Directories (Canadian, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.) annually for purchase upon request. [121-12]

## Committee Consideration:

- ▶ Took no action on a request to include a chart in the section “Working with Local Intergroups” noting that since local intergroups and central offices are not part to the general service structure, a chart could be misleading.

# *Other Committee Considerations*

## Cooperation with the Professional Community:

Review the pamphlet “The Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W., Co-Founder of A.A.” for outdated language.

## Corrections:

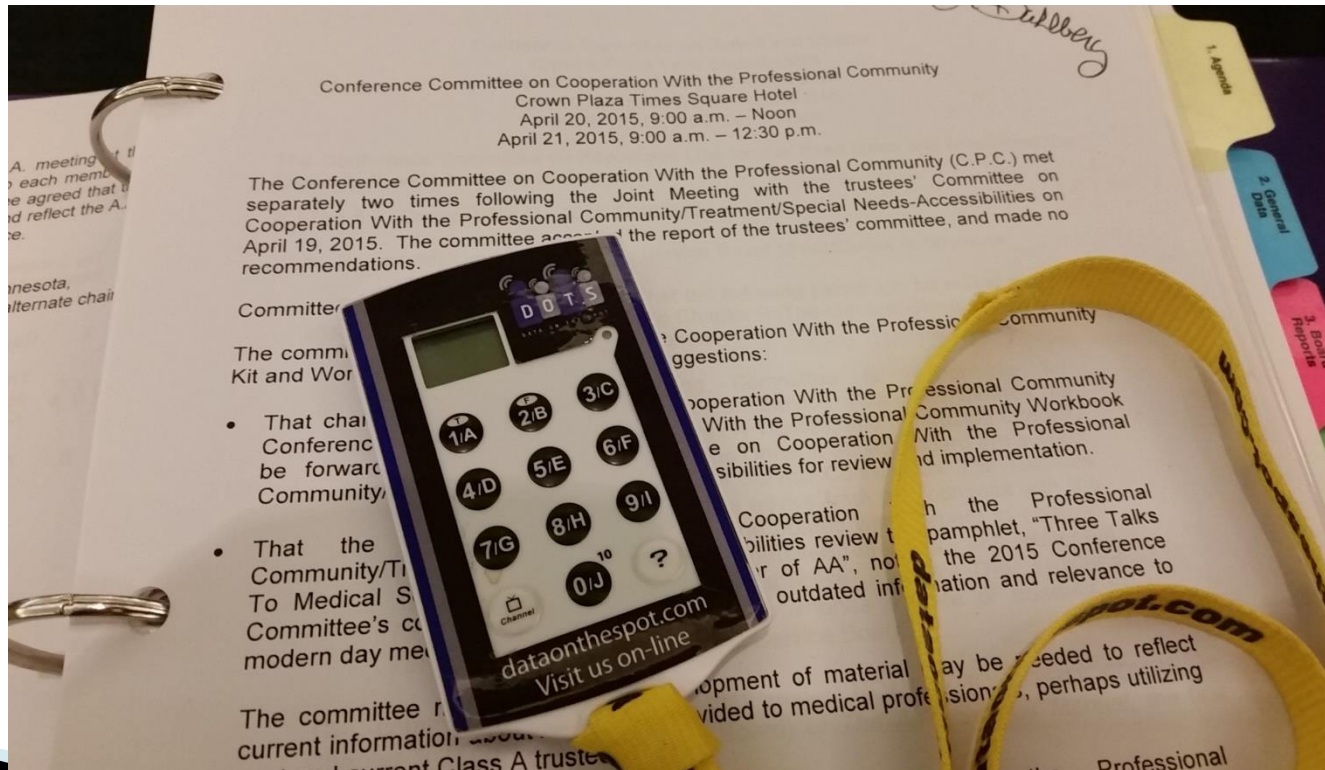
Discussed the Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.) and requested the trustees’ Committee on Corrections **consider the effectiveness of the criteria** used in linking alcoholics behind the walls with volunteers. One specific concern was the distance requirement for participants in the C.C.S.

## Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities

- Asked trustees to consider posting content of AA literature in audio format on aa.org
- Expressed appreciation for AAWS, Inc. to consider publishing the Twelve Concepts in ASL.
- Suggested changing all references of “Special Needs–Accessibility” to “Accessibilities.”

# ***The General Service Conference Uses Electronic Voting for First Time –The choices were either “Yes” or “No” . Did not show abstentions.***

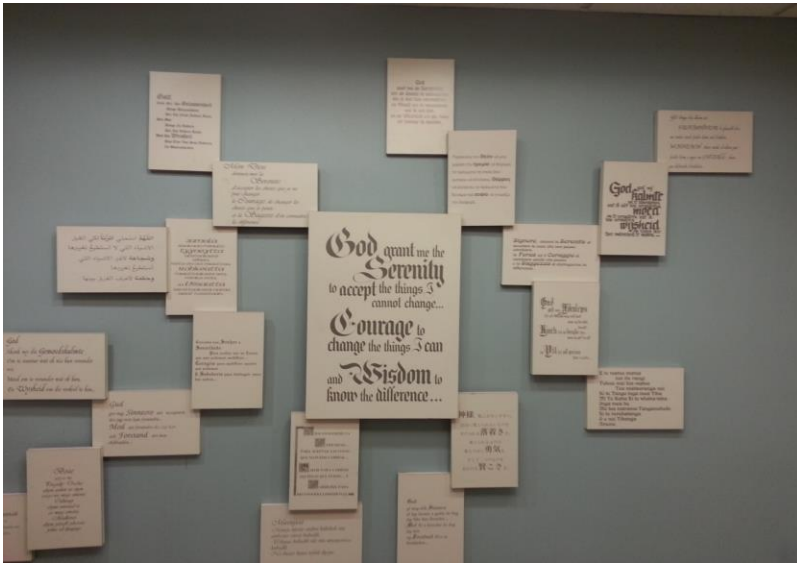
***THIS YEAR ON THURSDAY – NEXT YEAR ON FRIDAY***



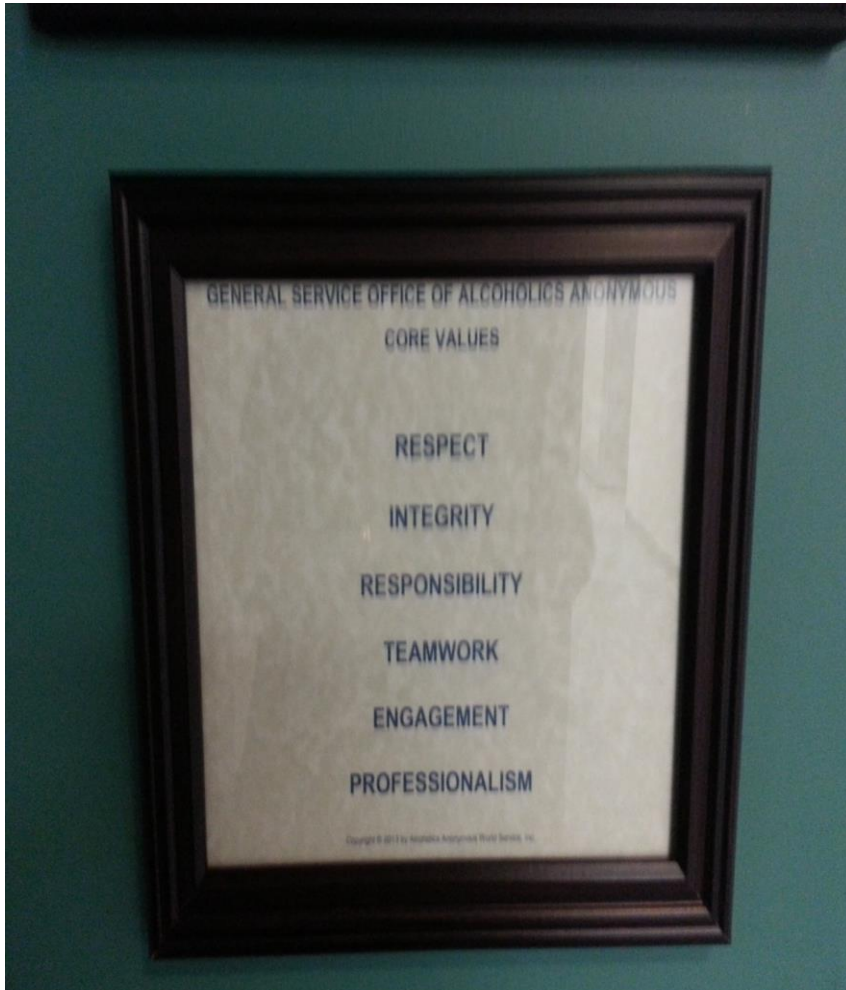
# *The 3-Year GSC Inventory Process*

- ▶ **The General Service Conference completed a three year process by where delegates, trustees and staff met together in small groups to discuss pre-determined questions.**
- ▶ **A bound report will be printed and distributed later this year along with the final conference report.**
- ▶ **The value of the inventory process will be determined by how the Fellowship follows up on the responses.**
- ▶ ***Stay tuned!***

# ***Your General Service Office***

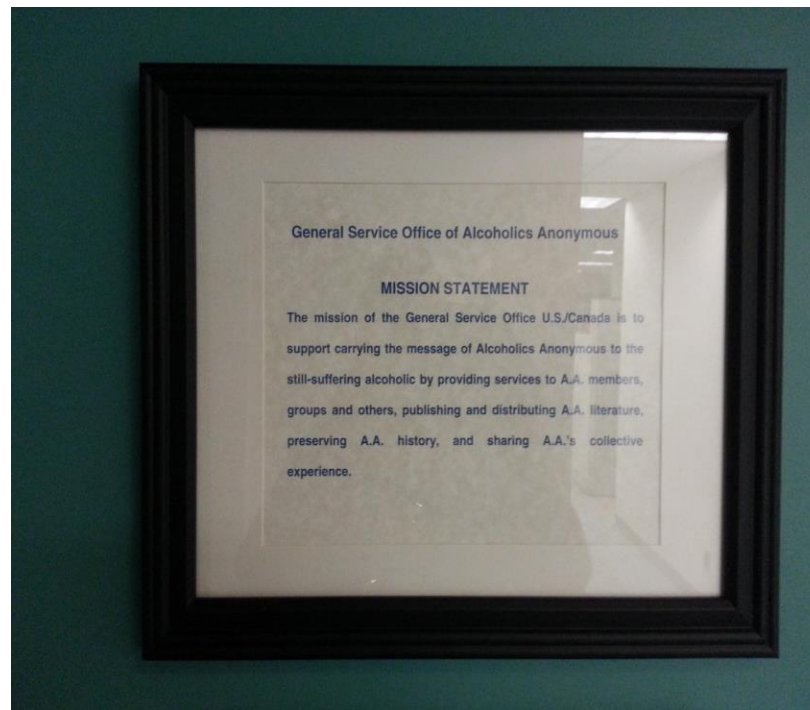


# GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS



## CORE VALUES

- **RESPECT**
- **INTEGRITY**
- **RESPONSIBILITY**
- **TEAMWORK**
- **ENGAGEMENT**
- **PROFESSIONALISM**



# **GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**THE MISSION OF THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE U.S./CANADA IS TO SUPPORT CARRYING THE MESSAGE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS TO THE STILL-SUFFERING ALCOHOLIC BY PROVIDING SERVICES TO A.A. MEMBERS, GROUPS AND OTHERS, PUBLISHING AND DISTRIBUTING A.A. LITERATURE, PRESERVING A.A. HISTORY AND SHARING A.A.'S COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCE**

# MAIL



**This looks like ordinary mail, but it is  
a box full of life-saving literature.**

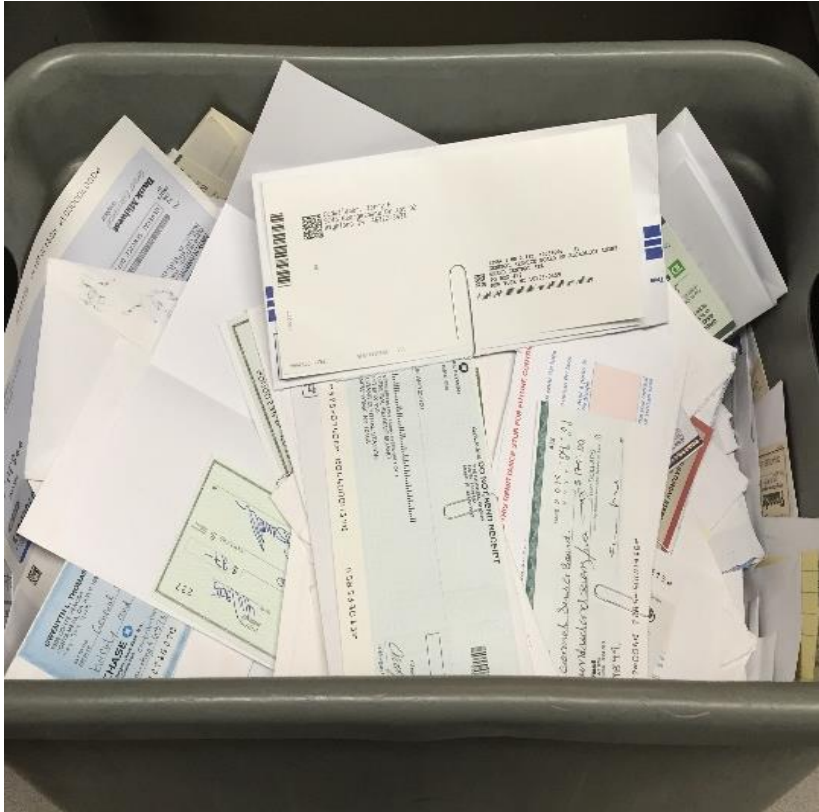


# Literature waiting to be picked and shipped.

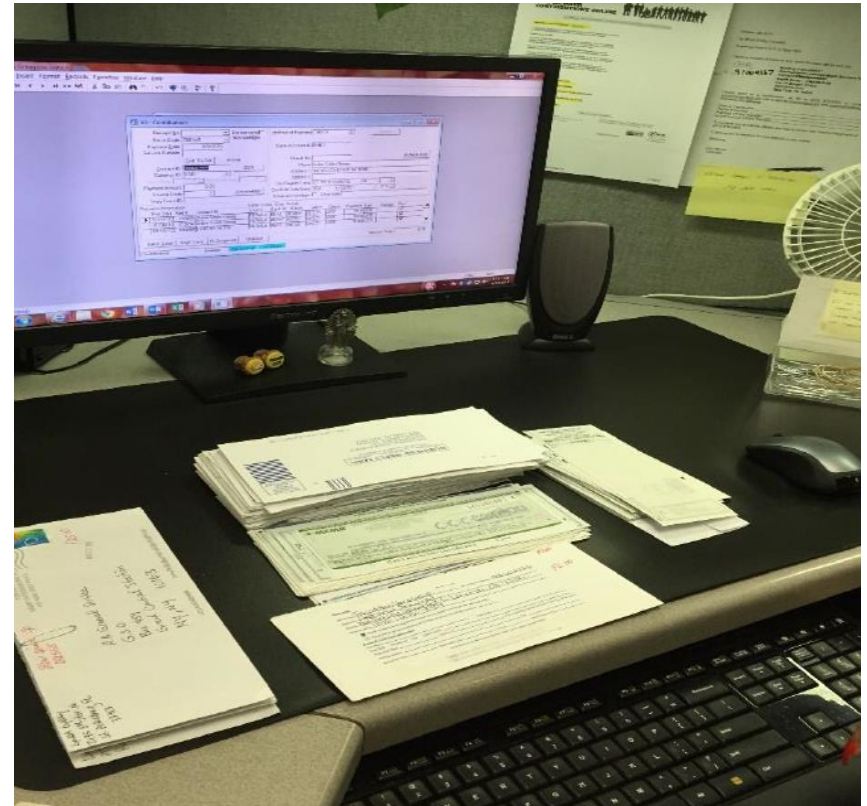


**Every Contribution is treated with the same respect, regardless of the amount.**

**From the Mailroom**



**Contributions received being Processed**



## Processed Contributions



## Contributions' Processed & ready for storage





# ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS



**GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE**  
**NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES- 11 ARE ALOHOLICS**

<b>Records/Files</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>A.A. Support Services</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Archives</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Publishing</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Inventory Control</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Order Entry</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Mail &amp; Shipping</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Contributions</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Human Resources</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Finance</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Staff &amp; Administration</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Information Services</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Office Services</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>

# Each Year, A.A....



## ARCHIVES

Receives

**1,500 requests**

&

Publishes

**3 Markings**

eNewsletters



## SHIPPING

Distributes

**8 million**

books,

pamphlets &  
audio materials



## CONTRIBUTIONS

Receives

**85,000 pieces of mail**

&

*G.S.O. received ~12,000  
contribution letters in the  
month of December alone*

# Each Year...

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

The Corrections desk answers over **6,500 letters**—that's **18 letters per day**, every day.

There are over **400 Alcoholics in extremely remote areas** and the General Service Office coordinates and connects them to each other through a newsletter,  
***Loners-Internationalists Meetings (LIM)***

