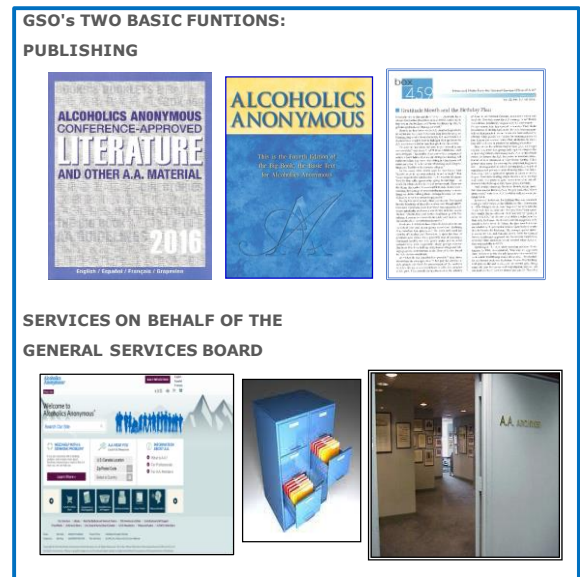


# 67<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference - Highlights

## April 22-29, 2017 – Hilton Westchester, Rye, NY

### AAWS Update (General Service Office)

- Last year the General Service Office (GSO) responded to more than 90,000 emails and letters.
- The Contributions area received over 73,000 pieces of mail.
- The Corrections desk answered over 6,400 letters (17 letters per day, every day).
- Archives received over 1,450 requests for information and research.
- 7.6 million books, pamphlets & audio materials were shipped.
- 1,020 new AA groups in the U.S. and Canada were listed at GSO.
- The website (www.aa.org) received over 1,000 visits a day for "Need Help With A Drinking Problem" and 3,000 online requests per month for media and press information about AA.
- The website received over 13 million visits last year.



### Grapevine, Inc. Update

- Last year, AA Grapevine, Inc. produced 12 issues of Grapevine; six issues of La Viña; two new books and ebooks; a wall calendar; a pocket planner; and an app.
- AA Grapevine initiated a Fellowship-wide "Grow Your Grapevine" outreach effort intended to involve the Fellowship and raise awareness of all things Grapevine.
- A Grapevine subscription app was introduced to the Fellowship after the Conference in 2016. The first phase was for iOS, followed by Android, Microsoft 10 and Amazon Kindle.
- La Viña continued a digital community effort, which now comprises over 1,000 members.
- AA Grapevine, Inc. collected 263 audio stories.
- The AA Grapevine website continues to expand and in 2016 received an average of 41,000 unique visitors each month.
- Grapevine and La Viña magazines also continued the Carry the Message project in an effort to inform members and groups about an option to purchase subscription gift certificates to give to area chairs or local committees for distribution to members in need.



Statistics on 93 Delegates to the General Service Conference

Average Age	59	Average Years Sober	23	Average Years Service	19
Oldest	75	Longest Sobriety	51	Longest Service	50
Youngest	37	Shortest Sobriety	10	Shortest Service	8

## Key Conference Actions

### Technology-Related Actions

- The Conference recommended that AA Grapevine create a Google for Nonprofits account (i.e. YouTube Channel), with use of the account limited to the YouTube Nonprofit Program and with a guarantee that comments not be shown on the AA Grapevine YouTube pages.
- The Conference recommended that AAWS create a Google for Nonprofits account (i.e. YouTube Channel), with use of the account limited to the YouTube Nonprofit Program and with a guarantee that comments not be shown on AAWS YouTube pages.
- The CPC Committee discussed development of a LinkedIn page for CPC efforts and asked for continued exploration and a report back to the 2018 Conference Committee.
- The Grapevine committee discussed A.A. Grapevine, Inc.'s continued exploration of an Instagram account and requested A.A. Grapevine, Inc. continue exploration and develop a plan to bring back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Grapevine for consideration.
- The Grapevine committee discussed A.A. Grapevine, Inc.'s continued exploration of a Facebook page and requested AA Grapevine, Inc. continue exploration and develop a plan to bring back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Grapevine for consideration.
- The PI committee discussed implementation of a Twitter account, but took no action. The committee requested further exploration of how social media could be used to carry AA's message to the public.

### Actions Regarding Safety

- It was recommended that Question 10 in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" in the section "A.A. Group Inventory" that currently reads, "Are we doing all we can to provide an attractive and accessible meeting place?" be changed to read: Are we doing all we can to provide a safe, attractive and accessible meeting place? (Advisory Action)
- It was recommended that the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" be revised to add the following text from "Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare" to the section "Principles Before Personalities": Safety and A.A.: Suggestions to Consider (*several paragraphs related to safety*) (Advisory Action)
- It was recommended that the trustees' Literature Committee develop language regarding safety to be incorporated in current and new recovery literature, where appropriate, along with a plan for implementation. The committee requested that the draft language and proposed plan or progress report be brought back to the 2018 General Service Conference. (Advisory Action)

### Actions Regarding Translation of Background Material

- It was recommended that GSO strive to provide Conference background materials in English by February 15 and Spanish and French by the first week in March, beginning with the 68th General Service Conference. (Advisory Action from the Floor)

## Conference Actions by Committee

### Definition of Advisory Actions & Additional Committee Considerations

- Conference Advisory Actions represent recommendations of the Conference committees, or floor actions that have been approved by the Conference body as a whole with substantial unanimity (2/3rds vote). Advises the Trustees how “we” want them to serve the Fellowship
- Additional Committee Considerations are items discussed, but no action taken or recommendation made, as well as committee recommendations which are not adopted.

### Archives

Advisory Action: It was recommended that a new publication titled, “Unity in Action: Bill W.’s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970 (working title) be produced with a draft or progress report to be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Archives for review.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee suggested that a section be added to the “Archives and History” portal of the GSO website, [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org), to include any updates from GSO Archives at the discretion of the Archivist.

### Cooperation with the Professional Community

Advisory Actions: It was recommended that:

- The pamphlet “Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.” be retired.
- The title of the pamphlet “Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?” be changed to “Is There a Problem Drinker in the Workplace?”
- That text be developed to include information for professionals who come in contact with veterans and active members of the Armed Services and that text be added to the pamphlets, “If You Are a Professional”, “Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous”, and “AA as a Resource for the Health Care Professional,”

Additional Committee Consideration: The Committee discussed development of a LinkedIn page for CPC efforts and asked for continued exploration and a report back to the 2018 Conference Committee.

### Corrections

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee suggested that a letter to be sent to corrections professionals in Canada raising awareness about the Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS) in Canada.
- The committee suggested adding the CCS form for “inside” members to the corrections committee page on GSO’s AA website.
- The committee suggested the GSO corrections coordinator explore ways to offer “inside” and “outside” members the option of participating in the CCS via email when possible.

### Finance

Advisory Actions: It was recommended that:

- The suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference be increased from \$1,600 to \$1,800.
- Review of the suggested Area contribution for delegates’ expenses, bequests, and maximum annual contributions to the Conference be every other year.

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the Conference-approved level of \$5,000 for individual bequests and agreed that this was an appropriate amount at this time.
- The committee requested that GSO consider research on how AA might use an app to further increase carrying the message of recovery and self-support.
- The committee requested that Publishing add language regarding online and recurring

contributions to all appropriate service pieces as timely as possible and report changes made to the 2018 Conference Finance Committee.

- The committee requested that Publishing simplify the Self-Support Card

## Grapevine

Floor Action: It was recommended that: AA Grapevine create a Google for Nonprofits account, with use of the account limited to the YouTube Nonprofit Program and with a guarantee that comments not be shown on the AA Grapevine YouTube pages.

### Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reconsidered the 2010 Conference Advisory Action regarding La Viña and took no action.
- The committee reconsidered the 2004 Conference Advisory Action on outside sales and suggested that the Grapevine Board create a plan for review.
- The Grapevine committee discussed A.A. Grapevine, Inc.'s continued exploration of an Instagram account and requested A.A. Grapevine, Inc. continue exploration and develop a plan to bring back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Grapevine for consideration.
- The Grapevine committee discussed A.A. Grapevine, Inc.'s continued exploration of a Facebook page and requested AA Grapevine, Inc. continue exploration and develop a plan to bring back to the 2018 Conference Committee on Grapevine for consideration.
- The committee agreed to forward to the AA Grapevine Board the suggestion that Grapevine, Inc. produce in 2018 or later: 1) Stories of Recovery from Hispanic Women in AA, 2) Writing Together: Stories from LV Workshops, and 3) Carrying the Message to the Alcoholic Who Still Suffers.

## Literature

Advisory Actions: It was recommended that:

- Text about young people's conferences be added to the pamphlet "Young People and AA"
- Text regarding meeting place accessibility and safety in the rooms be added to "The AA Group"
- Develop language regarding safety to be incorporated in current and new recovery literature, where appropriate, along with a plan for implementation.

### Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee considered a request to retire the pamphlet "Too Young?" and took no action. *Note that a Floor Action was approved to revise this pamphlet.*
- The committee reviewed progress reports and/or drafts of the following pamphlets: "Young People and AA", "AA for the Woman", "Finding Acceptance: AA for the LGBTQ Alcoholic", "alcoholics with mental health issues", "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated", and "Inside AA: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services."
- The committee considered requests for the development of new literature regarding safety in AA and took no action. The committee agreed that the new service piece, "Safety and AA: Our Common Welfare," has been helpful in providing experience on challenges, resources and possible solutions pertaining to the safety of groups or individual members.

Big Book Prices	Orig'l Price	2017 Inflation Adj Price
First Edition (1939) 	\$3.50	\$ 61.34
Second Edition (1955) 	\$4.50	\$ 40.90
Third Edition (1976) 	\$5.65	\$ 24.19
Fourth Edition (2001) 	\$6.00	\$ 8.25

## Policy/Admissions

Advisory Actions: It was recommended that:

- The 2018 General Service Conference move ahead with electronic voting to be used for all Conference voting except in elections for regional trustees and trustees-at-large.

- A plan be developed for the equitable distribution of the workload of Conference committees by combining and/or creating committees for review.
- Starting with the 67th General Service Conference, an anonymity-protected, digital Final Conference Report be published in addition to the current print version.

Additional Committee Consideration: The committee discussed a request to add a "YPAA Subcommittee" to the service structure and took no action. The committee recognized that YPAAs are AA entities and encouraged young people to continue their participation at all levels of service.

## **Public Information**

Advisory Actions: It was recommended that:

- A new video public service announcement be developed for a cost not to exceed \$40,000.
- "Understanding Anonymity" be rewritten to include material covering Tradition Eleven and to expand on the discussion of humility in Tradition Twelve as it relates to anonymity.
- AAWS create a Google for Nonprofits account, with use of the account limited to the YouTube Nonprofit Program and with a guarantee that comments not be shown on AAWS YouTube pages.

Additional Committee Considerations:

- After reviewing the report on Carrying the Message Online and on Social Media, the committee requested that the trustees' committee continue to develop their ideas on a video on anonymity and the Internet; and a daily text message.
- The committee suggested the development of service material to address frequently asked questions regarding anonymity and a wallet card or bookmark addressing anonymity online and in social media.
- The committee suggested continued research on the feasibility of AAWS using Google AdWords and Google Grants.
- The committee reviewed the report from the trustees' PI committee on the implementation of a Twitter account and took no action, but requested to continue pursuing options for carrying the AA message to the public on social media.

## **Treatment and Accessibilities**

Advisory Action: It was recommended that the pamphlet "AA for the Alcoholic with Special Needs" be approved with suggested editorial changes and be retitled "Accessibility for All Alcoholics."

## **Floor Actions**

It was recommended that:

- That GSO strive to provide Conference background materials in English by February 15 and Spanish and French by the first week in March, beginning with the 68th General Service Conference.
- The pamphlet "Too Young?" be revised to reflect more current collective experiences of young alcoholics.
- AA Grapevine create a Google for Nonprofits account, with use of the account limited to the YouTube Nonprofit Program and with a guarantee that comments not be shown on the AA Grapevine YouTube pages.

## Financial Highlights

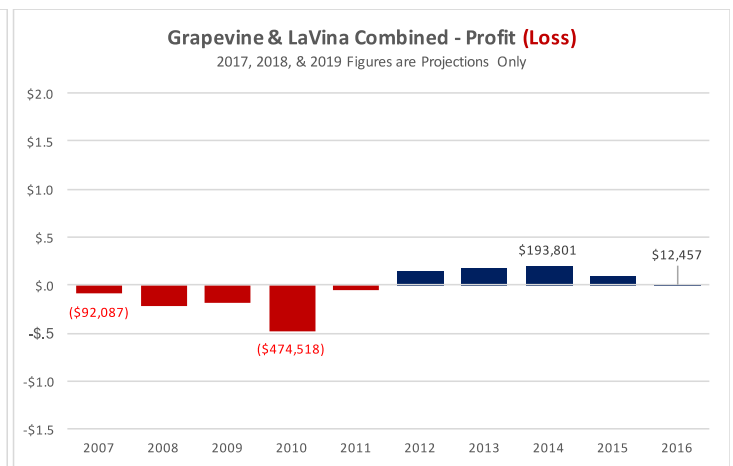
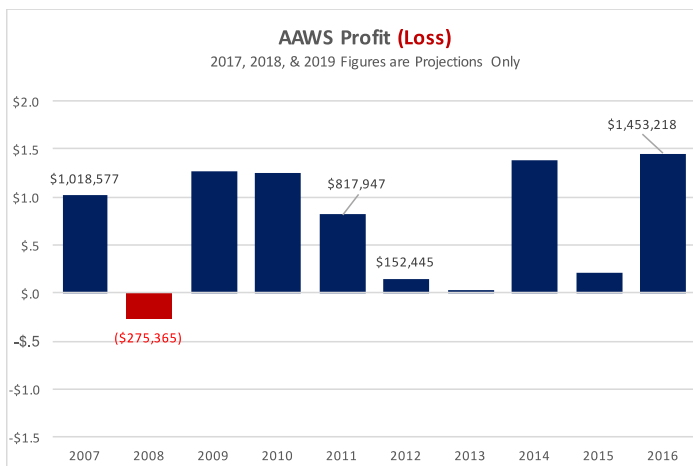
Seventh Tradition contributions increase 11% from 2015 to a record \$7.9M in 2016.

Combined AAWS/Grapevine/ La Viña profit was \$1.5M, driven by increases in contributions and expense reductions at AAWS and Grapevine, Inc.

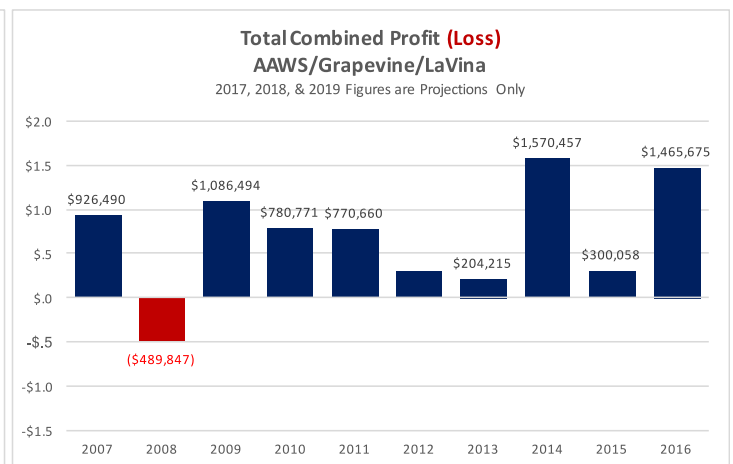
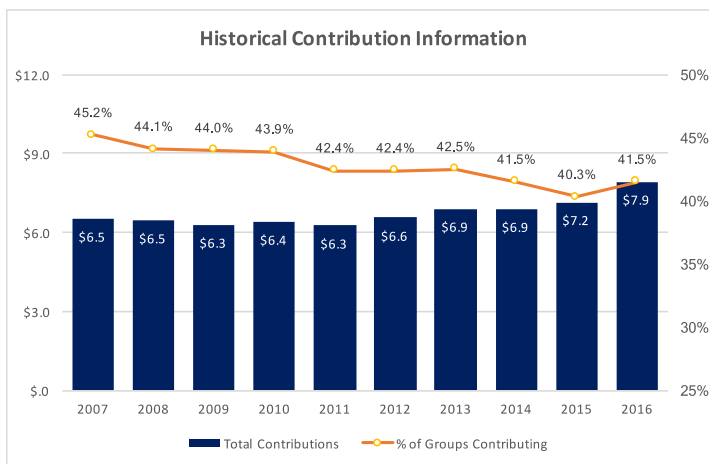
Cost of services provided to the Fellowship were \$9.9M, which was about \$2.0 less than the \$7.9M in contributions.

Net income from AAWS literature sales was \$3.4M, which covered the shortfall between contributions and the cost of services, while also resulting in a \$1.4M profit for AAWS.

Combined Grapevine and La Viña ended with a small \$12K profit. Grapevine ended the year with a \$164K profit, while La Viña ended with a \$152K loss.



**Did you know that AA Groups and Individual Members Can Now Make Contributions Online? Just go to [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) and click on the "MAKE A CONTRIBUTION" button.**



*Questions or Comments?*

Feel free to contact Annie C. Panel 67, Area 15 South FL Delegate at [delegate@area15aa.org](mailto:delegate@area15aa.org)