68th General Service Conference

Crowne Plaza Times Square
New York, NY

April 21 – April 28, 2018

John W.
Panel 67 Delegate
Area 49 ~ SENY

My Report Back

I - Overview of Conference Week

II - Structure of the General Service Conference

III - My Committee Experience

IV - Board Presentation

V - Conference Actions and Outcomes

I - Overview of the Conference Week

Saturday, April 21
Pre-Conference

* Meet & Greet with Conference Members
* 1728 Meeting (12x12x12)
* Remote Communities Meeting
* Delegates Only Meeting

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

Sunday, April 22
Conference Begins!

* Registration
* Opening Session
* Regional Lunches
* Presentations/Discussion
* First Conference Committee Meetings
* Opening Dinner and AA Meeting

Monday, April 23

* Conference Committee Meetings
* Board Presentations
* Area Highlights
* *What's On Your Mind* Sharing Session

Tuesday, April 24

* Conference Committee Meetings
* Presentations/Discussion
* Area Highlights
* *What's On Your Mind* Sharing Session
* Delegates Only Dinner and Meeting

Wednesday, April 25

* Area Highlights
* Committee Reports and Discussion
* Regional Lunches/Elections
* Secondary Committees Meet
* Presentations/Discussion

NERDs - Class of 68

Thursday, April 26

* Committee Reports and Discussion
* Secondary Committee Meeting
* Presentations/Discussion

Friday, April 27

* Committee Reports and Discussion
* Presentations/Discussion
* Floor Actions Heard
* Conference Adjourns

Saturday, April 28
Post-Conference

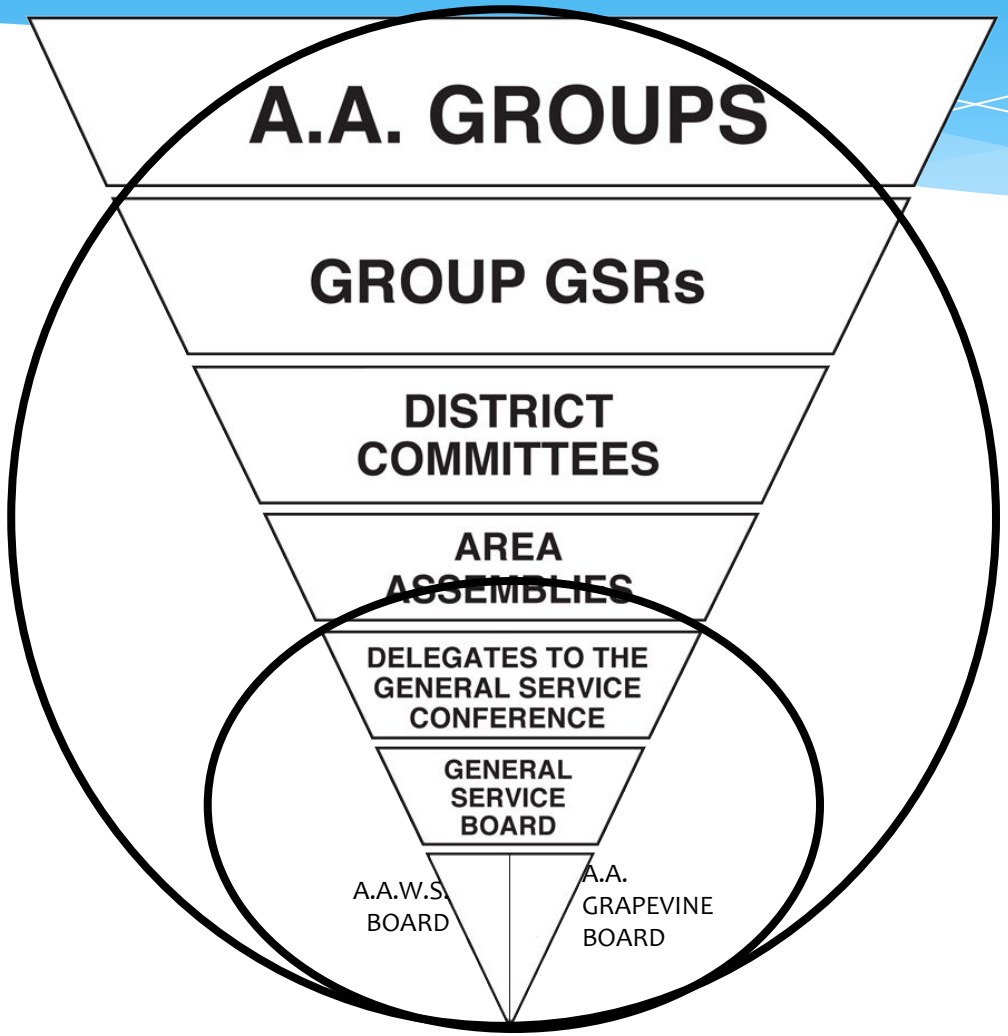
* Closing Brunch
* Farewells from Rotating Trustees
* Concept VII

II - Structure of the General Service Conference

Structure of the Conference

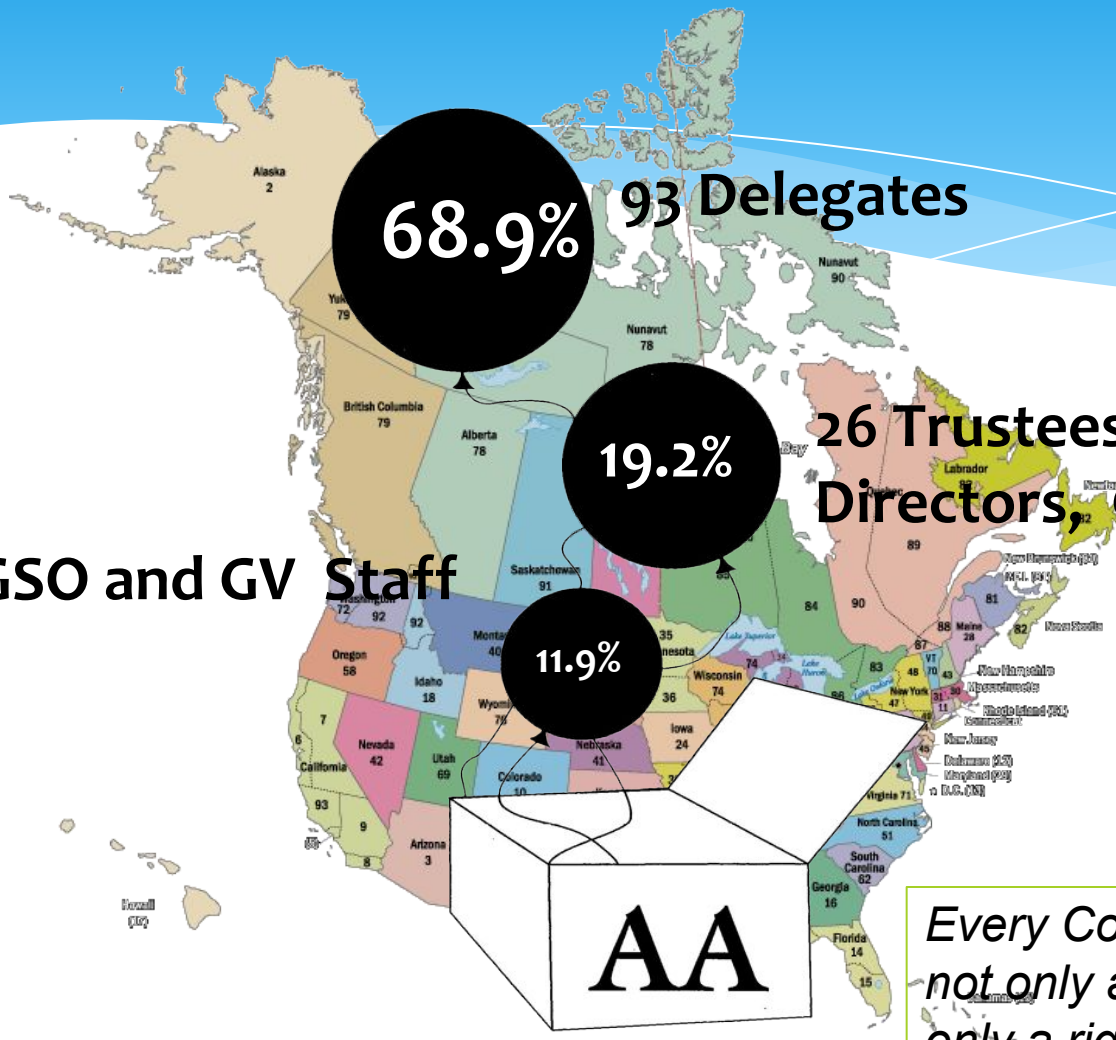
(U.S. and Canada)

Ideas
$



Services

135 Voting Members of Conference



Every Conference member has not only a vote but a voice; not only a right but a responsibility to express his or her views.

2018 STATISTICS for 93 DELEGATES

	Years
Average Age	59
Oldest	76
Youngest	35
Average Length of Sobriety	23
Longest Sobriety	38
Shortest Sobriety	8
Average Length of Service	18
Longest Service	38
Shortest Service	6

III - My Committee Experience

Literature Committee

* Conference Committee - Nine Members
* Panel 67

  Four members
* Panel 68

  Five members

Literature Committee

* Trustees' Committee on Literature
  * Three Class B Trustees
  * Three Non-Trustee Directors
  * Two Appointed Committee Members

Literature Committee

* Met three times over three days for a total of nearly 11 hours
* First vote: >50% versus 66.67%?
* Twenty-two agenda items
* Resulting in 14 Recommendations and 9 Committee Considerations

Archives Committee

* Conference Committee - Eight Members
* Panel 67

  Four Members
* Panel 68

  Four Members

Archives Committee

* Trustees' Committee on Archives
  * Four Class B Trustees
  * Two Class A Trustees
  * One Non-Trustee Director

Archives Committee

* Met twice
* First vote: >50% versus 66.67%?
* Four agenda items
* Resulting in One Recommendation and Three Committee Considerations

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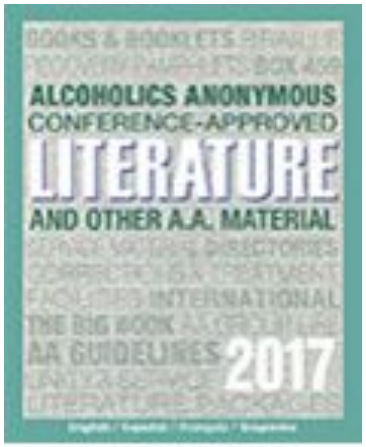
IV - Board Presentations

General Service Board Report

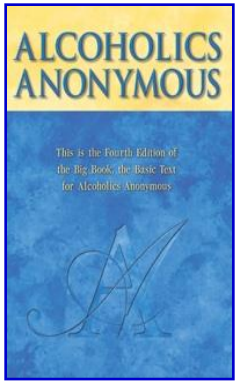
* Met quarterly since 2017 Conference
* Hosted five Regional & Local Forums in 2017
* Major focus on Supporting A.A. into the future
* Serving the Fellowship more efficiently
* Detroit 2020
* Big Book in Navajo
* Manuscript litigation

G.S.O.'s TWO BASIC FUNCTIONS

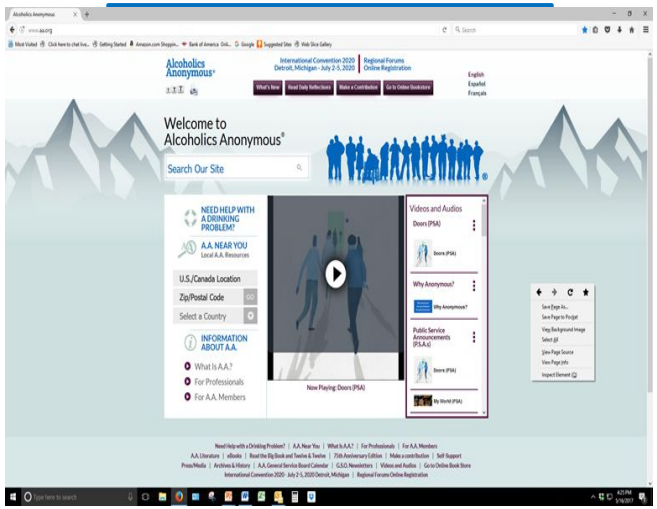
- Publishing

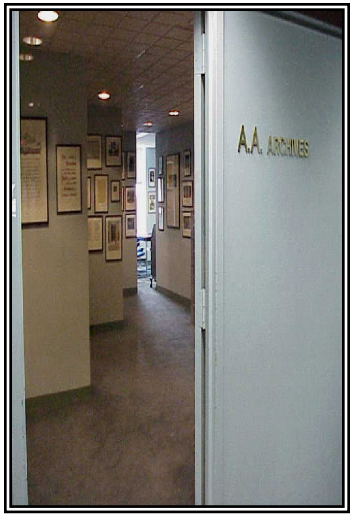


A.A. LITERATURE CATALOG



- Services on Behalf of the G.S.B.





BUDGET OUTLOOK AND TRENDS

GSO/AAWS

- Membership levels remain flat
- Contributions up in 2017
- Literature sales show slow to no growth
- Expenses grow slowly ~ 2% - 3% per year

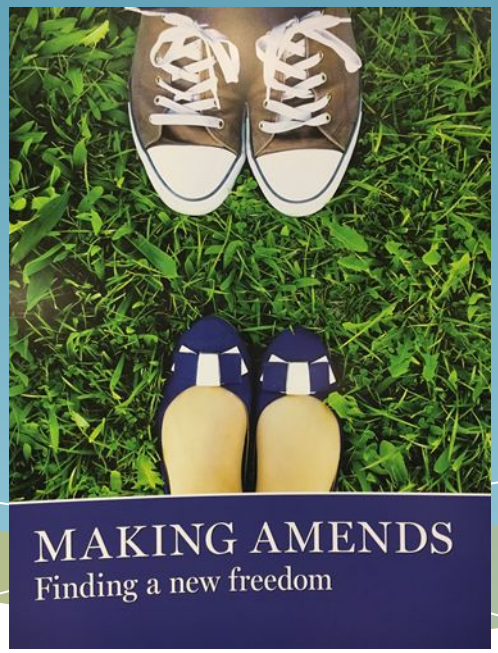
GRAPEVINE
AA'S MEETING IN PRINT
SEPTEMBER 2013
AAGRAPEVINE.ORG
KEEPING
SAFE
SPECIAL SECTION
Our common welfare:
ways we use the Steps,
Traditions and group conscie
in our meetings
GRAPEVINE
AA'S MEETING IN PRINT OCTOBER
AAGRAPEVINE.ORG
ATHEIS
& AGNOS
MEMBE
Alcoholics share how they get active,
in AA and stay sober one day a
SPECIAL SECTION
Also: Pause button & I'm gettin
GRAPEVINE
SPECIAL SECTION
AA
IN THE
MILITARY
Walking
the Wall
Stationed far
from home, and
with drinking
all around her, a
newcomer calls
up her AA tools
to stay sober
another day
GRAPEVINE
AA'S MEETING IN PRINT SEPTEMBER 2016
WWW.AAGRAPEVINE.ORG
ALSO
SADDLE UP &
NO WAY OUT
YOUNG
& SOBER
With his skateboard in one hand and a Big Book
in the other, a newcomer finds his crew

AA Grapevine Board Report

* Distributed 94,707 GV & La Viña books, CDs and other items
* 2 new books: “Making Amends” and “Voices of Women in AA”
* Circulation – GV: 69,249 La Viña: 9,996
* GV Online – 4,077 subscribers
* FREE !! Daily Quote – 41,990
* Financial: net income of $126,128, against budgeted net loss of $113,959

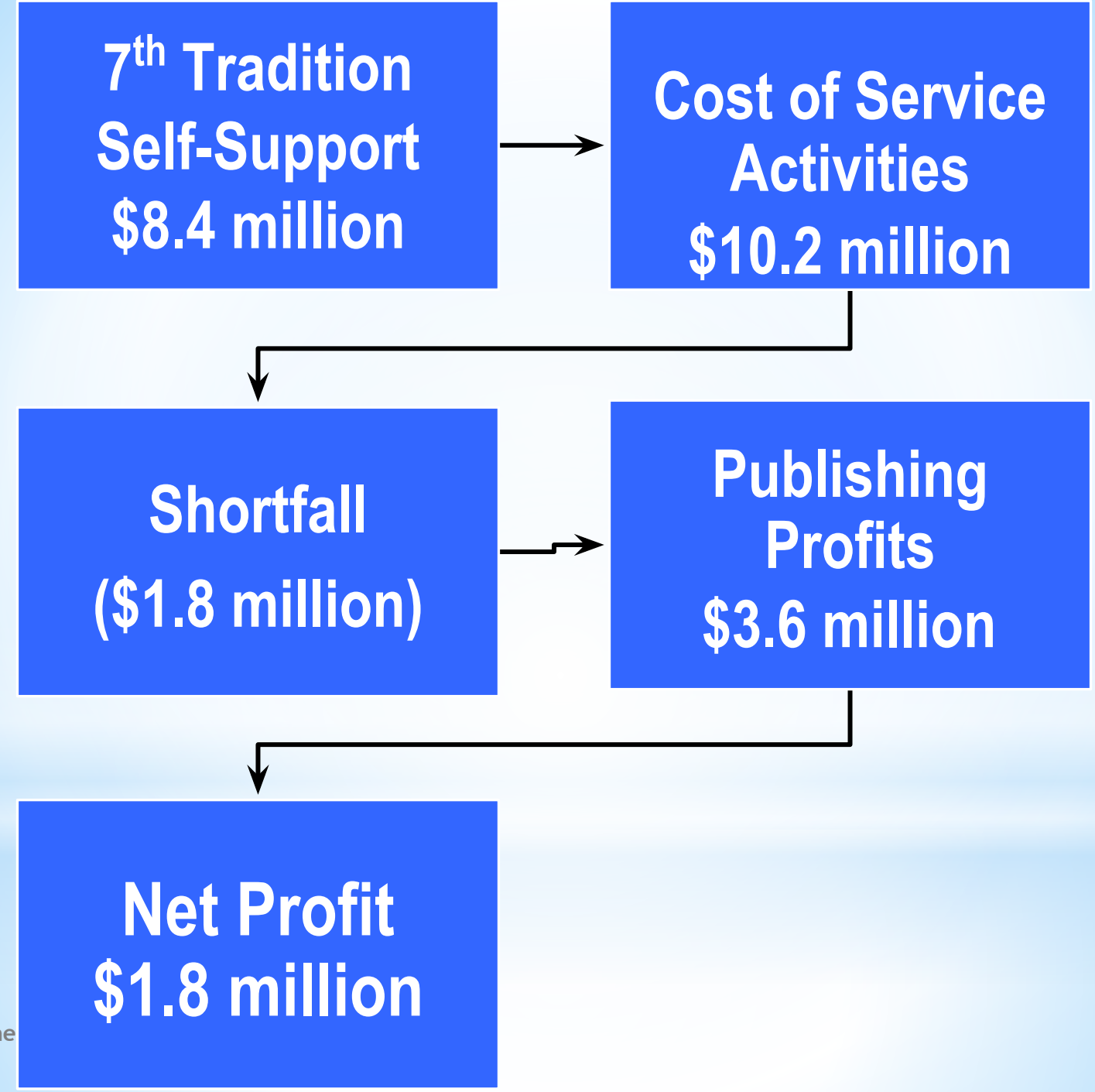
EXPLORE THE GRAPEVINE APP

only $1.99/month

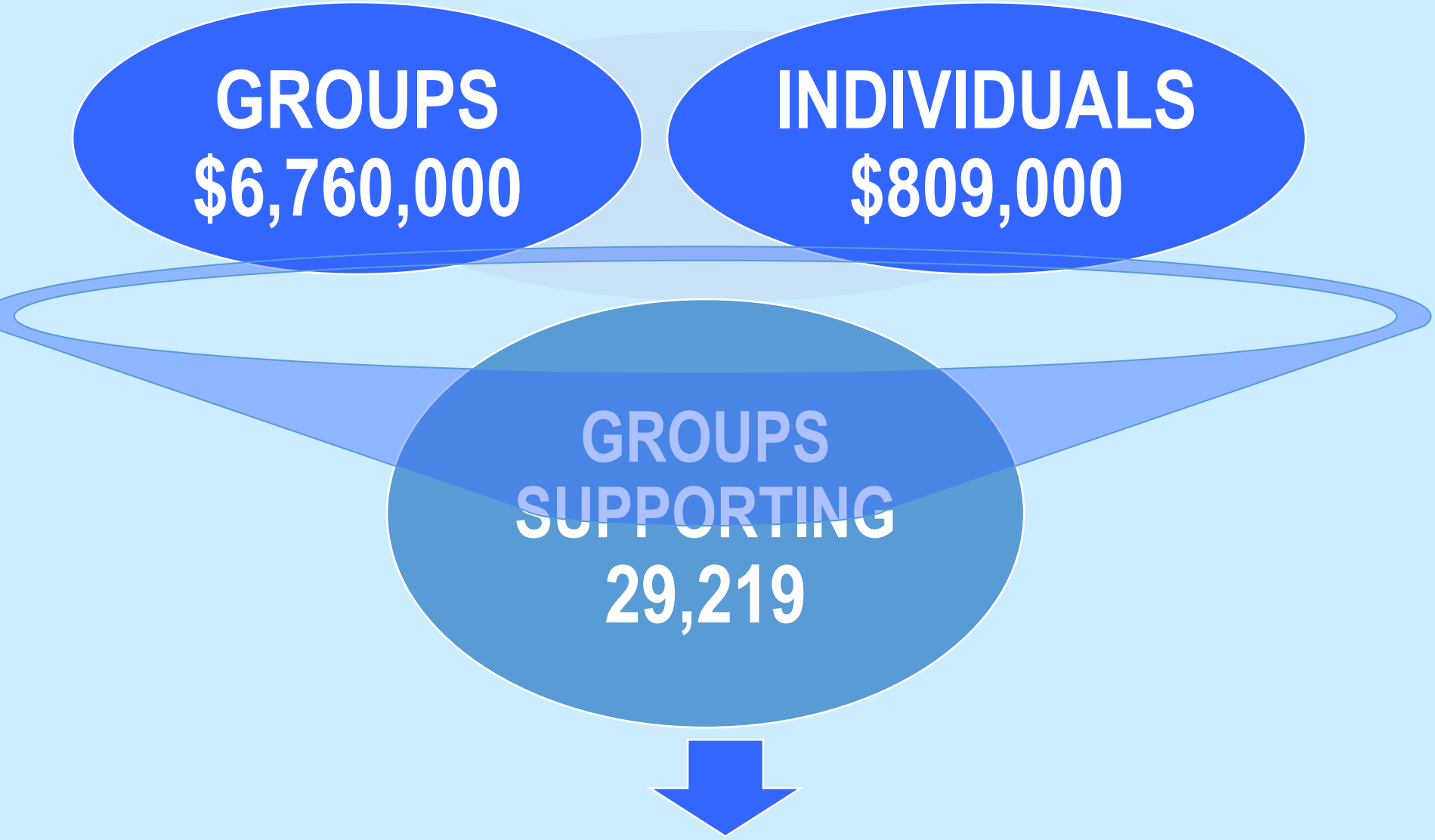


Finance Overview

- Ongoing communication to the Fellowship on the importance of supporting services we are requesting
- Spiritual value of contributing
- As print sales decline, vital the Fellowship continue to embrace the 7th Tradition
- Expenses climbing 2-3% per year
- Continue to get the word out to those who are not contributing
- Record support from 7th Tradition contributons
- Of the 43.7% of groups contributing, 80% contribute regularly


7th Tradition
Self-Support
$8.4 million
Cost of Service
Activities
$10.2 million
Shortfall
($1.8 million)
Publishing
Profits
$3.6 million
Net Profit
$1.8 million

7TH TRADITION SELF-SUPPORT – 2017 - $8.4 MILLION



RECORD SUPPORT

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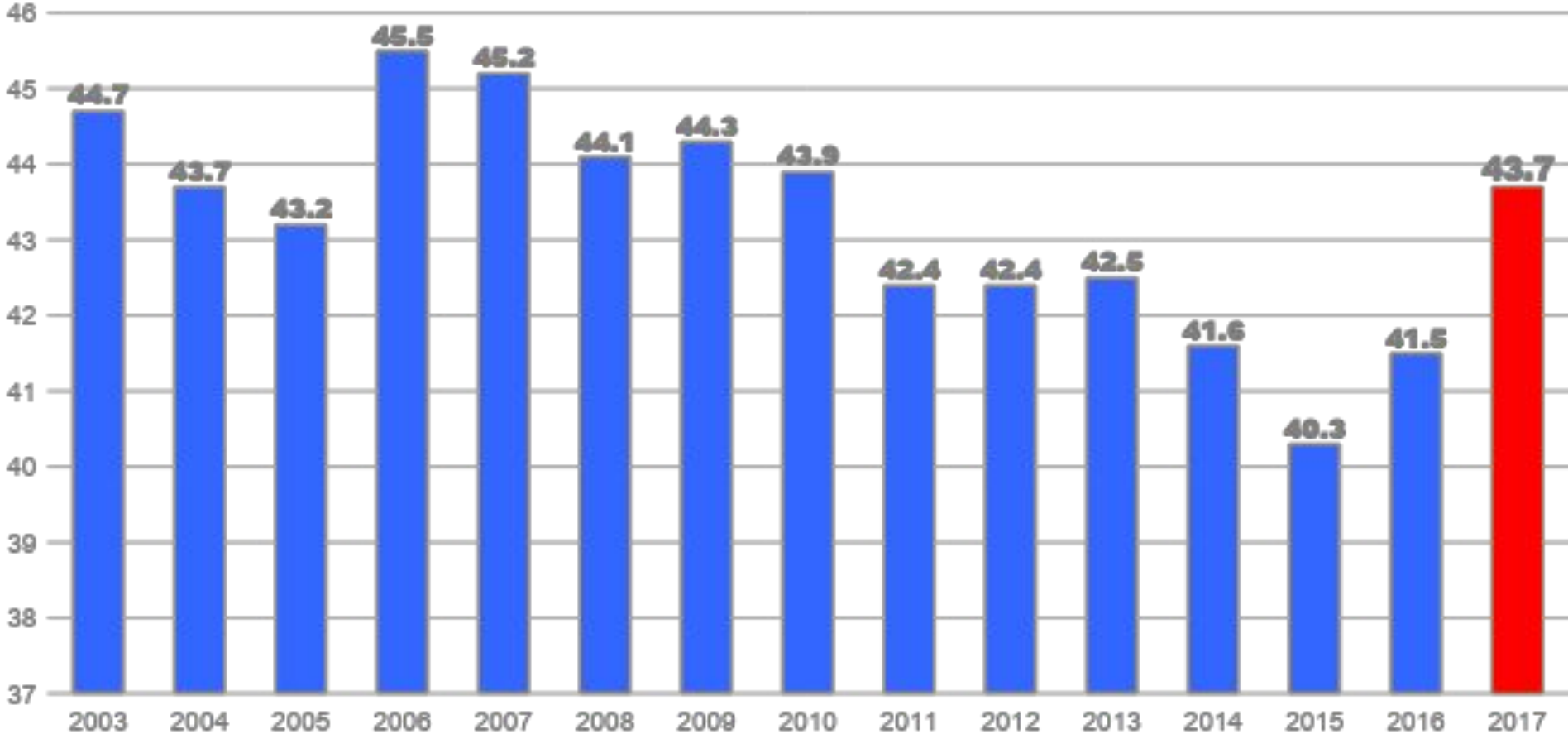
PERCENTAGE OF GROUPS CONTRIBUTING – 2003 – 2017



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
7th Tradition Self-Support Contributions per Member	**6.09**	5.82	5.31
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
7th Tradition Self-Support Contributions per Group	**125.78**	119.62	108.82
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
7th Tradition Self-Support Contributions of Groups that contributed – Slide 8 – S 1	**$231.34**	**$234.41**	**$225.40**

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/AAAWS	$1,759	**$502**	$155	($142)
Grapevine	126	**(271)**	(616)	(847)
La Viña	(126)	**(146)**	(169)	(181)
Total	1,759	**85**	(630)	(1,170)
Reserve Fund Ratio (months)	9.5	**9.7**	9.2	8.4

V - Conference Outcomes & Actions

What is an Advisory Action?

* 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 (2/3 vote)
* Advises the Trustees how “we” want them to serve the Fellowship

Additional Committee Considerations

* *Items discussed, but no action taken or recommendation made.*
* *Gives direction and flexibility to our Trustees' committees and our General Service office without binding them to an Advisory Action.*

AGENDA

Advisory Actions 3, 4 and 5:

Theme for the 2019 General Service Conference be:

Our Big Book – 80 Years, 71 Languages

* ***Presentation / Discussion Topics***
  * Yesterday's World – Our Legacies Begin
  * Today's World – Demonstrating Integrity, Anonymity and Service
  * Tomorrow's World – Courage to be Vigilant

  * "Clarity of Purpose – Addressing the Needs of Our Meetings"

ARCHIVES

Advisory Action 6:

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.

FINANCE

Advisory Action 14:

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.

GRAPEVINE

Advisory Action 15

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.

Advisory Action 18

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.

LITERATURE

Advisory Action 22:

The revised pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman," retitled "Experience, Strength and Hope: Women in A.A.," be approved.

LITERATURE

Advisory Action 23:

The revised pamphlet "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic," retitled "Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.," be approved.

LITERATURE

Advisory Action 24:

The revised pamphlet "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services" be approved.

LITERATURE

Advisory Action 25:

The draft pamphlet "Experience, Strength and Hope: A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues – and their sponsors" be approved.

LITERATURE

Advisory Action 26:

The trustees' Literature Committee revise the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" to include a section on anonymity, and bring back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature.

LITERATURE

Advisory Action 27:

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 Action 28:

The text (originally included in the 1998 edition of Living Sober) be added back to Living Sober following the section titled "Note to Medical Professionals."

LITERATURE

Advisory Action 29:

The trustees' Literature Committee undertake a comprehensive update to the video "Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure."

LITERATURE

Advisory Action 30:

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.

LITERATURE

Advisory Action 31:

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.

LITERATURE

Advisory Action 32:

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.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Advisory Actions 38, 39, and 41:

* The Young People's Video submission be approved.
* The pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity," with expanded content on Traditions Eleven and Twelve, be approved.
* Updated pamphlet "A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous" be approved.

TREATMENT & ACCESSIBILITIES

Advisory Action 51:

* The title of the pamphlet "Accessibility for All Alcoholics" be changed to "Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers."

8 FLOOR ACTIONS

Four were declined to be heard, one was withdrawn, and one failed.

Two passed:

* Update contact text p. 18 pamphlet "Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous"
* Area Highlights be published in their entirety, as submitted.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

* The Literature Committee considered a request to add the A.A. Preamble and Responsibility Statement to the book Alcoholics Anonymous and took no action. The committee noted that the A.A. Preamble and Responsibility Statement are adequately noted in other A.A. literature.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

* The Literature Committee considered a request to add an endnote to Bill W.'s story in the book Alcoholics Anonymous acknowledging co-founder, Bob S., and took no action. The committee noted that acknowledgement of Bob S. ("Dr. Bob") as cofounder is currently mentioned in two separate places in the book Alcoholics Anonymous.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

* The Trustees 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.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Corrections Committee discussed the request to create a pamphlet for inmates who will be released after long-term incarceration and took no action. The committee suggested that correction service materials be revised for this purpose.

DIDN'T PASS

An appendix be added to the book Alcoholics Anonymous, reflecting recognition received from the Library of Congress.

The trustees' Literature Committee develop a new book, combining Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions with Twelve Concepts for World Service.

DIDN'T PASS

In the spirit of A.A. parity, the process for election of the trustee-at-large/U.S. be revised so that the number of delegates voting from each region be equal to the number of delegates in the smallest region, and that the voting delegates in each region be drawn by lot.

DIDN'T PASS

A floor action to create a pamphlet for old, bald guys was defeated. :)

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DIDN'T PASS

Despite a CLEARLY expressed need...

THANK YOU FOR THE PRIVILEGE TO SERVE AS YOUR DELEGATE TO THE 68TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE