

**Special Meeting**  
**General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.**

February 26, 2025, 6:00 p.m. EST  
via videoconference

The trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., upon the call of the Chair of the Board for a special Board meeting, met on February 26, 2025, with chair, Scott Huyghebaert presiding.

Chairperson Scott Huyghebaert called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. EST.

Present: Cathi Clark; Charlie Hanna; Scott Huyghebaert; Teresa Jacks; Reilly Kalles; Sister Judith Ann Karam; Dawn Klug; Deb Koltai; Robert Lalonde; Hon. Kerry Meyer; Al J. Mooney M.D., FAAFP, FASAM; Andie Moss; Molly Oliver; Gail Patterson; Paz Preciado; Kevin Prior; Marita Rhinehart; Joyce Saunders; David Steward; Ken Taylor; and Carolyn Walsh.

Also Present: Bob Wilcox, General Manager, General Service Office (GM GSO); Chris Cavanaugh, AA Grapevine (AAGV) Publisher; Racy Joseph, assistant secretary; and Jacob Diaz, recording secretary.

Chair's Remarks: The chair welcomed all attendees and thanked participants for their availability to convene. The chair then informed those in attendance that the Southeast Regional Trustee, Tom H., was not able to attend the meeting as he had been traveling to Cuba in service of the Fellowship; and opened the meeting with an overview of the agenda and background provided to the attendees prior to the meeting.

Review of Board Statement to Past & Current Trusted Servants: The chair opened discussion on a statement drafted by a working group of the board and geared toward past/current trusted servants, which had been provided as background prior to the meeting. The statement serves in response to the recent GSB Inventory, General Service Conference discussions, communications sent to the GSB, and review of other communications distributed on social media or through alternate channels.

The trustees of the board expressed gratitude for the hard work of the working group and felt that the statement positively reflected the sentiments of the board. Following a thorough discussion and editorial revisions, the board chair opened the meeting for a vote to approve the amended statement.

Following a motion and second, the Board unanimously approved the statement as amended.

Compliance Committee: The chair introduced the next item of business pertaining to the establishment of a Compliance Committee. The chair noted that the formation of an ad hoc compliance committee has been agreed upon by the trustees to begin their work following the 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference, however, it was agreed that it would be

prudent for the the board to form an ad hoc compliance committee to begin working prior to the rotation of trustees at their annual meeting at the Conference.

Utilizing random selection generator technology, the board then selected the following five ad hoc committee members, with a sixth member of the board to serve as an alternate: Deb Koltai, Molly Oliver, Gail Patterson, Paz Preciado, Carolyn Walsh, and Dawn Klug (alternate).

Distribution of GSB Policies: The chair began by informing the board of requests for the recently adopted Conflict of Interest & Code of Conduct/Confidentiality Policies, noting that at their previous meeting, the board agreed that the policies would serve as internal documents and were not meant for wider distribution. However, considering the upcoming election of trustees, the chair remarked that the policies will be provided to trustee candidates and opened the meeting for a discussion on the distribution of the documents to a wider audience.

In their discussion, it was mentioned that a wider distribution of the policies would not only provide transparency of GSB procedures to the Fellowship but would also aid prospective candidates in better understanding of what their service role would entail. The chair then opened the meeting for discussion on the best method to distribute the documents. It was mentioned that it would be beneficial for the policies to be distributed amongst the members of the General Service Conference who may then relay the information “up the triangle” and throughout the service structure as requested. The board then agreed that once translated, the policies will be posted via the OnBoard platform so that they may be made available to all Conference members.

Following a motion and second, the special meeting of the General Service Board adjourned at 7:13 p.m. ET.

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### **A Statement from the General Service Board of A.A.**

Approved February 26, 2025

*In response to the recent GSB Inventory, GSC discussions, communications sent to the GSB, and review of other communications distributed on social media or through alternate channels the GSB makes the following statement:*

We, the General Service Board (GSB) of Alcoholics Anonymous, reaffirm our commitment to unity and accountability in our service to the Fellowship. In fulfilling our fiduciary duty and our spiritual responsibilities as outlined in our A.A. principles, we must ensure accurate communication.

Recently, we have observed harm caused when some individuals who have held past leadership roles have engaged in sharing misleading, defamatory, and harmful information on social media, in letters, during informal discussions, made attempts to

bypass the Conference process and in some cases used their influence to pressure or threaten Conference members. Conference members have reported that these actions have caused difficulties for them in their service to Alcoholics Anonymous. These actions undermine our conference process in its purpose of expressing the group conscience of our entire Fellowship.

We call upon all trusted servants, past and present, to refrain from spreading misinformation, false information, or engaging in harmful conduct, as these cause harm to the Conference, the Fellowship, and the GSO and AAGV staff and employees. These actions threaten A.A. unity and diverts us from our Primary Purpose.

We encourage open and constructive dialogue that reflects the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous, including where there are difficult conversations on divisive matters. Our experience has taught us that such dialogue can, and must, occur in alignment with A.A. principles, and absent of efforts to exert influence or drive by mandate. Together, we can preserve the integrity and unity of A.A., upon which depend our lives and the lives of those to come.