

2025 FALL ASSEMBLY AREA 42 DELEGATE'S REPORT

Hello, everyone!

Slide 1:

Lyle, alcoholic, and I'm deeply honored and excited to serve Area 42 as the Panel 75 Delegate! I've been asked to serve as a member of the Conference Committee on Trustees and a secondary committee, the Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums.

- This is how the podium looks for the 75th Conference.

Slide 2:

Here we are heading to GSO for the Friday meeting and GSO tour with Matthew P74 07 (Cal Northern Interior) delegate and his wife Vicky, P66 07 delegate; Julie, P71 A42 delegate; and Mike, P75 A69 (Utah) delegate. Riding the subway with Scott H., General Service Board chair, who took the picture.

Slide 3:

- After the tour, we went to Matthew's and my favorite place to eat, Katz's Deli on the Lower East Side, a place I had lived long ago.
- Also, here are some gifts from our past Delegates to keep me going. Thank you very much—I needed them.

Slide 4: Pacific Reagon Buss Tour:

- This is the Calvary Episcopal Church, where Bill went to meetings with the Oxford Group with Ebby and Sam Shoemaker.
- The Clinton St. house where Bill and Lois lived in the early days.
- Towns Hospital, where Bill met Dr. Silkworth and had his spiritual experience.

Slide 5:

- Visting Time square
- Doing the history tour,
- and me freaking out on day one.

Slide 6:

Arriving:

- They restored the met and greet on Saturday night before the Conference which was held at the Hilton in Midtown
- Another gift from a thoughtful friend

Slide 7:

- The make-up of the 75th Conference
- The voting members of your Conference

Slide 8:

Delegate statistics

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Slide 9:

Roll Call, very exciting

Slide 10:

Changes to the Conference,

Slide 11:

The first order of business, *How the Conference Operates*. A letter was sent out right before the Conference, with changes to HTCO. One change was that floor actions would need to be at the discretion of the co-chairs and not in the opening session. A letter from some delegates requested HTCOs be changed back to the version we have in the Service Manual. Seventy-six delegates signed the letter and sent it to the Trustees Conference Committee. The floor action part was changed. However, not all the delegates were included in the letter and were not happy about not having a voice in that process.

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APPENDIX W:

HOW THE CONFERENCE OPERATES

Generally speaking, the General Service Conference follows Robert's Rules of Order, and proceeds on as informal a basis as possible consistent with the rights of all concerned. It is important to remember that the purpose of rules of order is to make it easier for the Conference to conduct its business; rules exist to allow the Conference to do what it needs to do to carry out the will of the Fellowship by reaching an informed group conscience. Over the years the Conference has adopted some exceptions to Robert's Rules, which help it to proceed more closely in accord with the spirit of A.A. Tradition.

The co-chairs was trying to avoid getting bogged down and working into the middle of the night when the best decisions are not made. Delegates were concerned about losing their voice. After everything was said, we used HTCOs from the Service Manual. It passed with substantial unanimity on Wednesday.

Slide 12:

Displays at 75th GSC. Some of the Literature tables

Slide 13:

75th General Service Conference Takes its Inventory

Slide 14:

Conference Inventory

- Trusted servant leadership rather than governance maintains focus on spiritual principles.

Communication Problems:

- Slow, inconsistent, and insufficient communication between the Board, GSO, Delegates, and Groups.

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- Delayed delivery of background information makes meaningful feedback from groups difficult.
- Not enough explanation behind decisions, causing distrust.
- Use of overly technical or confusing language

Participation Challenges:

- Low participation at Area assemblies and in the General Service structure overall.
- Disconnected groups and uninformed members weaken the process.
- Many groups lack GSRs, leading to gaps in representation.

Authority Imbalance:

- Concerns that the Trustees and Board control too much of what reaches the Conference.
- Some feel floor actions and PAIs (Proposed Agenda Items) are filtered or mishandled.

There will be a report with suggestions on the inventory. There is a committee made up like the conference to look at the inventory.

Slide 15:

75th General Service Conference. PACIFIC REGION DELEGATES

Slide 16:

This is the Financial Report

Slide 17:

Financial Presentation

- After dinner, the financial auditing firm we hired presented their audit report. A full version will be included in the 75th Final Conference Report, mid to end of September.
- They rated us as having “a good measure of financial health.”
- They reported that management and travel costs for 2024 decreased by \$1.2 million compared to the previous year. The auditors noted that management had listened to and acted upon last year’s audit recommendations, taking responsibility for the stability of our financial position.
- Key points:
 - Strong management
 - Good financial metrics in the financial statements
 - No finances were transferred inappropriately between the corporations — all transfers followed stated policy

Slide 18:

- 7th tradition up 3.8 %
- Operating up 6.9%
- Cost of program services per member: \$6.48 a year

Slide 19:

Expenses were better than budget by \$116,000

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Slide 20:

Here is the 2025 GSO Budget

Slide 21:

Here is the 2024 Grapevine Financials

- Subscriptions are up 25% for Online Grapevine, 3% for print and 17% increase in circulation for La Viña
- I like the app!

Slide 22:

Here is the 2025 Grapevine Budget

Slide 23:

Seventh Tradition - Your self-Support

Slide 24:

Group contributions. Please notice the small dollar amounts - they rock.

Slide 25:

Statistics

Slide 26:

Reserve fund at 6.40 months, not the 9-to-12-month goal.

Slide 27:

Pictures from trip to GSO

Slide 28:

Literature at GSO

Slide 29:

- These are some of what GSO does for us.
- Serenity prayer in different languages

Slide 30:

- GSO: Grant's tomb in the background, out of Bob's office. GSO building
- This is a non-profit building
- The retrofit is now budgeted at \$2.1 million and has begun. The office will be closed from Aug 11th through the end of the retrofit.
- We had a long discussion and decided not to stop since we were already too far into the process.

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GSO: Your PRDs (Pacific Region Delegates)

Slide 32:

PRDs 2 working lunches

1. Pacific Regional Forum 2028:
 - ✓ Area 09- Mid Southern California (Orange Co)
2. Trustee-at-Large Election by Region: (third legacy procedure)
 - ✓ 14 Area Candidates from the 15 Areas
 - ✓ Goes to the Hat: Roxanne R. and Jennifer B.
 - ✓ Jennifer B. (Area 06) - Pacific Region Trustee At Large Candidate
3. During the election...
 - ✓ Jennifer B. from the Pacific Region came out of the hat

Slide 33:

Voting at the Conference

Slide 34:

Conference Actions

1. Advisory Actions: Recommendations that are passed
2. Suggestions: Recommendations that reach a majority, but not substantial unanimity
3. Committee Considerations: Discussions without a recommendation

Slide 35:

Committee room

Slide 36:

Area 42 Roundtables

- Harmony & Effectiveness did not come out of committee
- Updating Living Sober passed

Slide 37:

SAGSC Roundtables

1. Policy & Admissions
 - The committee considered a request that a super majority of voting members be required to change or amend Founder's Literature and **took no action**. Super Majority here means a $\frac{3}{4}$ approval vote at the conference to become an Advisory Action. The committee expressed the importance of this topic but also noted that developing a policy on possible voting requirements and procedures may be preemptive prior to defining what would be categorized as co-founders' writings
 - To provide clarity on the nuances between similar PAIs on potential changes that were forwarded about the co- founder's writings to the Report and Charter and the Policy/Admissions committees, both committees met briefly during their

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Tuesday committee times to ensure the distinct function of these agenda topics and avoid potential overlaps or confusion.

- The committee noted that, prior to approving a defined procedure on future considerations for changes to co-founders' writings, a two-year process might be considered prior to a voting decision by the Conference to provide more opportunity for input from the fellowship.

2. Report and Charter

- The committee discussed the requests for a revision to Article Three of the Conference Charter in relation to changes to the co-founder's writings and **took no action**. The committee noted that further clarification was needed on the definition of co-founder's writings prior to considering changes in policy or to the Conference Charter.

CURRENT CONFERENCE CHARTER

Purpose: The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous is the guardian of world

services and of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Conference shall be a service body only, never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous.

- The Report & Charter committee recommended to the conference that the General Service Board classify all AAWS and AA Grapevine literature written prior to 1971 as Recovery, Service, or Archival/Historical; review existing policies and consider proposing additional policies as appropriate for updating each classification, and that a progress report be provided to the 2026 General Service Conference.

For historical context: From the Conference Charter, 1955: "But no change in the A.A. Tradition itself may be made with less than the written consent of two-thirds of all the A.A. groups."

- Updated by the 1969 Conference to include the words: "the Twelve Steps" and by the 2021 Conference to include the words "and the Twelve Concepts."

Slide 38:

NAGSC Roundtables.

- Discuss PLBB process: The committee recommended that proposals to rescind or revise the Plain Language Big Book be collected and deferred until the 77th General Service Conference to allow for a wider Fellowship experience.

Slide 39:

The following slides will be available on the website.

- Agenda Item A The committee recommended the 2026 GSC theme "Humility in Action"

Slide 40:

Committee Considerations.

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Slide 41:

CPC advisory actions and recommendations

Side 42:

CPC and Corrections. Committee Considerations

- They took no action regarding professionals and neurodivergent members

Slide 43:

Finance Advisory actions and recommendations:

- Item A1. A group may also decline to hear from a GSR at all will be removed.

Slide 44:

Finance Committee Considerations.

Slide 45:

Grapevine and La Viña Advisory actions and recommendations:

Slide 46:

Literature

- An update on the development of the Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous.
- The committee had a thoughtful discussion about the progress report and project timeline for the development of the 5th edition of the Big Book of AA. The committee requested that a manuscript or progress report be brought back to the 2026 conference committee on literature.
- We hope it's the book!

Slide 47:

Literature

- We did not approve the creation of a 12x12x12.

Slide 48:

Approved the animated Video for the 12 concepts illustrated

Slide 49:

Policy & Admissions

- We have already discussed the founder's writing

Slide 50:

Public Information

- The three Australian PSAs are on a later slide.

Slide 51:

Public Information

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PI had a lot of recommendations, and you can see many did not pass.

Slide 52:

Links to 3 new videos from Australia – we will need to format for us

Slide 53:

One of the videos will hopefully play. Are You a Danger to Your Family

Slide 54:

Report & Charter

- The committee recommended that the word “woman” be removed from the Concept Four essay, so that: “New volunteer corporate directors will ask why any paid staff member should also be a corporate director and thereby have a vote as good as their own.” There are as many men and women staff, so the wording is actually being corrected for accuracy

Slide 55:

The Service Manual is no longer included in GSR packets.

- Here is the cost and the cost of shipping for a Service Manual.
- Let me know if you think we should include the manual in the free packets?

Side 56:

Treatment & Accessibilities

- Review progress report on the update of service material with shared experience from neurodivergent alcoholics.
- Definition of neurodivergent: Someone whose brain processes information and experiences differently.
- I personally wanted Area 42 to review and consider neurodivergent people, and for me to gain more compassion for some of our members. There are many types of neurodivergence.
- The Treatment and Accessibilities Committee discussed including in the newly revised service piece, “*Making the A.A. Message Accessible*,” sharing from neurodivergent alcoholics, and suggested that the Accessibilities Checklist be updated with recommendations to support neurodivergent members.

Slide 57:

I got to vote for Julie C. as a N-T-D (Non Trustee Director) on AAWS!

Slide 58:

This is the Trustees Conference Committee

Slide 59:

Trustees Committee Considerations

Slide 60:

This is the International Conventions & Regional Forums Committee

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Slide 61:

International Conventions & Regional Forums advisory actions and considerations

- The committee stated its full support for the development of a Service Declaration.
- The committee requested that the trustees' IC/RF committee begin exploration regarding the inclusion of sovereign states to the Flag Ceremony at the International Convention, including reaching out to gather sharing from indigenous populations.
- And Julie is on that subcommittee!

Slide 62:

Vancouver

Slide 63:

More Vancouver

Slide 64:

Here are links to the new souvenir book, photo audio recordings and the mug for your purchasing pleasure! I sent out the Amends letter from GSO that Bob W. signed.

On behalf of the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, I am writing to offer my sincere amends for a grave error within the Souvenir Book.

That in the souvenir book on page 329 the name Jerusalem appears with the corresponding flag. The correct country listing should have been Israel with its flag.

Slide 65:

Floor Action #1

The 75th General Service Conference issues a censure, expressing formal disapproval for past behavior of the General Service Board for the following reasons:

- Contributing to an environment that lead to the resignation of experienced and trusted Board members;
- Ineffective, inconsistent, and non-transparent communication to the Conference;
- Unacceptable behavior by trustees including harassment, intimidation, and bullying;
- Undermining the spiritual handshake with the Conference, as described in Concept VI, by not following a Conference Advisory Action.

Accordingly, the Conference directs the General Service Board to:

- Continue to take its inventory, with specific focus on improving accountability to the Conference;
- Report to the Conference on inventory findings and the specific actions taken to address these concerns.

The Chairs of the Conference recused themselves and the entire General Service Board from voting, but stated that they still have a voice in the room.

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- A motion to decline to hear the censure motion was made, seconded, and voted on. The motion to decline to hear did not pass.
- The censure motion will be heard.
- We had a thoughtful three-hour conversation about the board's past deeds.
- Some comments regarding the effect a censure:
 - Could have on our Class A Trustees.
 - The behavior is years old and much of the board has now rotated.
 - Are we being punitive?

There was a motion to call the question and the chair declined in favor of continuing the conversation. Until everyone who wanted to be heard was heard.

- Motion Failed

Floor Action #11 Passed.

Slide 66:

THE END!!!!