



Delegate Report on the 74th General Service Conference

Area 31 Western Massachusetts



**74th ANNUAL
General Service Conference**

2024

Connecting with Love, Unity and Service

Des liens basés sur l'Amour, l'Unité et le Service

Conectándose con amor, unidad y servicio

Preconference Activities

- Delegates Only Meeting 2/15/2024 – Background Info, Conference Manual, Tips
- Conference Sharing Session Q1 2/27/2024
- Delegates Only Meeting 3/12/2024- Literature Item J Background Info Incorrect
- Cofounders Writings Discussion 3/20/2024 – 15 no, 2 yes, 1 new process
- Pre 74th GSC Virtual 1728 Meeting 3/21/2024 – Discuss Step, Tradition, & Concept 3
- Remote Communities Meeting 3/30/2024 – Not What You Think
- Delegates Only Meeting 4/3/2024- Distribution of Board Minutes
- Vote Alt Delegates into GSC and EDW Feedback 4/9/2024 – Floor Action Made and Not Addressed, Voted Two Alts into GSC –Area 80 and Area 82- Only One Needed to Be Voted In

Preconference Committee Activities

- Trustees Committee Chair Q&A Prior to Attending January Board Weekend 1/16/2024- Could Not Attend Due to Conflict
- Trustees Committee Housekeeping Meeting 3/11/2024 – Was not even aware of the meeting
- Joint Committee – Trustees 3/26/2024 – Pamphlet- 20 Stories, 6 Copyrighted, \$4K-\$10K, Types of Stories, Distribution

The 74th General Service Conference

- April 13th – April 20th
- New York Marriott at Brooklyn Bridge



Conference Makeup

- 68.89% : 93 Delegates
- 19.26%: 26 Trustees, AAWS Directors, GV Directors
- 11.85%: 15 General Service Office and Grapevine Staff

74th General Service Conference Statistics on Area Delegates

Years

(93 responses)

Average Age	58
Oldest	76
Youngest	28
Average Length of Sobriety	23
Longest Sobriety	49
Shortest Sobriety	9
Average Length of Service	18
Longest Service	46
Shortest Service	7

Sunday April 14th

- Registered for the Conference
- Conference Co-Chairs
 1. Mike L. - Interim GSB Chair
 2. Judith Ann Karam – Second Vice-Chairperson GSB
 3. Bob W. – General Manager GSO
 4. Mary A.- Delegate Chair, Area 14 North Florida
- Coordinator
 1. Diana L. – Secretary, Trustee’s Committee on Conference

Sunday April 14th

- Conference Opens at 9:00 am
- Vote on Admitting Visitors From United Kingdom
- Vote Unnecessary Due to Previous Advisory Action
- Hand Poll Taken, Two Members Opposed, Visitors Admitted
- Name Called at 9:28Am
- 134 Members Present, One absent
- Vote to let two more past members observe the conference

Conference Operations

1. Phones Must Be Silenced
2. Devices Must Not Be Used for Recording
3. -
4. No Communication of Conference Business Outside of Conference
5. Follow Reading Room Guidelines
6. No Photos While Conference is in Session
7. Non English Speakers Allowed a Three Minute Timer
 - Motion to Decline Requires a 2/3 Majority

Conference Operations

- Floor Action: Motion to require a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority for any votes on Plain Language Big Book
- Seconded
- Discussion
- Motion to Table
- Seconded
- First Vote: More votes than delegates
- Second Vote: For 105, Opposed 29, I opposed

Conference Operations

- Floor Action: Motion to suspend oral area highlight reports during conference proceedings to better use the time for workload, communication, and fulfillment of the conference responsibility.
- Seconded
- Discussion
- Motion to Recommit
- Seconded
- Motion Declared Out of Order
- Motion Found to Be in Order
- Agenda committee will caucus now and we will get an answer immediately following the break
- Vote: 114 for, 18 opposed, voted for

Conference Operations

- The conference agenda committee recommended to suspend the oral presentation of the area highlights.
- Spoke against
- Motion to call with comment. Out of order
- Motion to call the question
- 132 voted. 44 for 88 against motion does not pass

Discussion on Cofounder's Writings

- Majority appears to be against but not with substantial unanimity
- Super majority and two year process mentioned at least twice

General Service Board Report

- Inventory
- Need the help of the conference to fix the board
- Overload of work
- Conference needs to ask for fewer items per year
- Don't want to be the gatekeeper but end up overloaded

General Service Board Report

Communication and Unity

Goal: Unified Comms Strategy.....Consistent Messaging

1. Establish **clear communication protocols** and **define terms**
2. Foster an environment of trust and inclusivity among board members
3. Encourage engagement with the Fellowship

General Service Board Report

Leadership Development

Goal:effective leadership developmentspiritual principles.....communication

1. Leadership training away from board weekends
2. Address toxic relationships and inappropriate behavior

General Service Board Report

Support and Engagement

Goal: Provide support to foster a healthy and inclusive environment

- 1. Cross-functional group of conference members** to identify problems and solutions
- 2. Prioritize workload effectively**
- 3. Zero-tolerance policy for mistreatment**

Apology Given for Poor Communication Surrounding the Board Chair Resignation

AROUND THE PICNIC TABLE



Kevin Prior, CFA, CPA
Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustee
General Service Board Treasurer

PART I: 2023 AUDIT RESULTS



- New Audit Firm for 2023 – Per 5-year RFP/Rotation Policy Adopted by Trustees Finance and Implemented by Trustees Audit, GSB, AAWS and AAGV boards
- Introduce Matthew Becker, CPA, Lead Engagement Partner at BDO

2023 AUDIT RESULTS

- Unmodified or “clean” audit opinion on the Consolidated Financial Statements
 - The financial statements are fairly stated in all material respects.
- All records and information requested were freely available for inspection.
- BDO noted that they received full access to all information requested while performing the audit, and acknowledged the excellent cooperation extended by all levels of GSO and GV personnel throughout the course of the work.
- Recognition of Value of Donated PSA airtime -- \$33 million in 2022, \$17 million in 2023. To be recognized annually going forward. Not recognizing the value was considered a significant deficiency.
- 1 control deficiency (100 contributions occurring in 2024 were recorded in 2023)
- 6 recommendations (1 HR, 3 GV, 1 Intercompany, 1 GSB) compared to 5 in 2022

Q&A For Auditors



PART II: GSB TREASURERS REPORT

2023 **GSO** FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ 7th Tradition of Self-Support – \$10.84 million up 2.8% from \$10.55 million in 2022
- ❖ Operating Expense before Depreciation - \$17.47 million up 9.9% from \$15.90 million in 2022
 - ❖ Program Service Expense - \$9.00 million up 46.5% from \$6.14 million in 2022
 - ❖ Supporting Services Expense - \$8.47 million down 13.1% from \$9.76 million in 2022
- ❖ Self-Support - covered 62% of operating expense
- ❖ Cost of program services per individual – \$6.43
- ❖ AAWS publishing gross profits – \$6.76 million up 38.2% from \$4.89 million in 2022
- ❖ Operating surplus before depreciation of \$581,907; operating cash increase of \$358,588

GSO EXPENSES UNDER BUDGET IN 2023

- ❖ Under Budget Categories represent 90% of total operating expense

EXPENSE	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Payroll and Benefits	10,349,012	10,561,688	(212,676)
Professional Fees	1,841,628	1,860,409	(18,781)
Printing, Postage, Supplies, and Subs	575,949	613,676	(37,727)
Data, Automation, & Website	573,591	642,844	(69,253)
Insurance	70,884	78,015	(7,131)
Travel & Meetings	2,147,709	2,170,916	(23,207)
Total Operating Expense	17,474,874	17,754,154	(279,280)

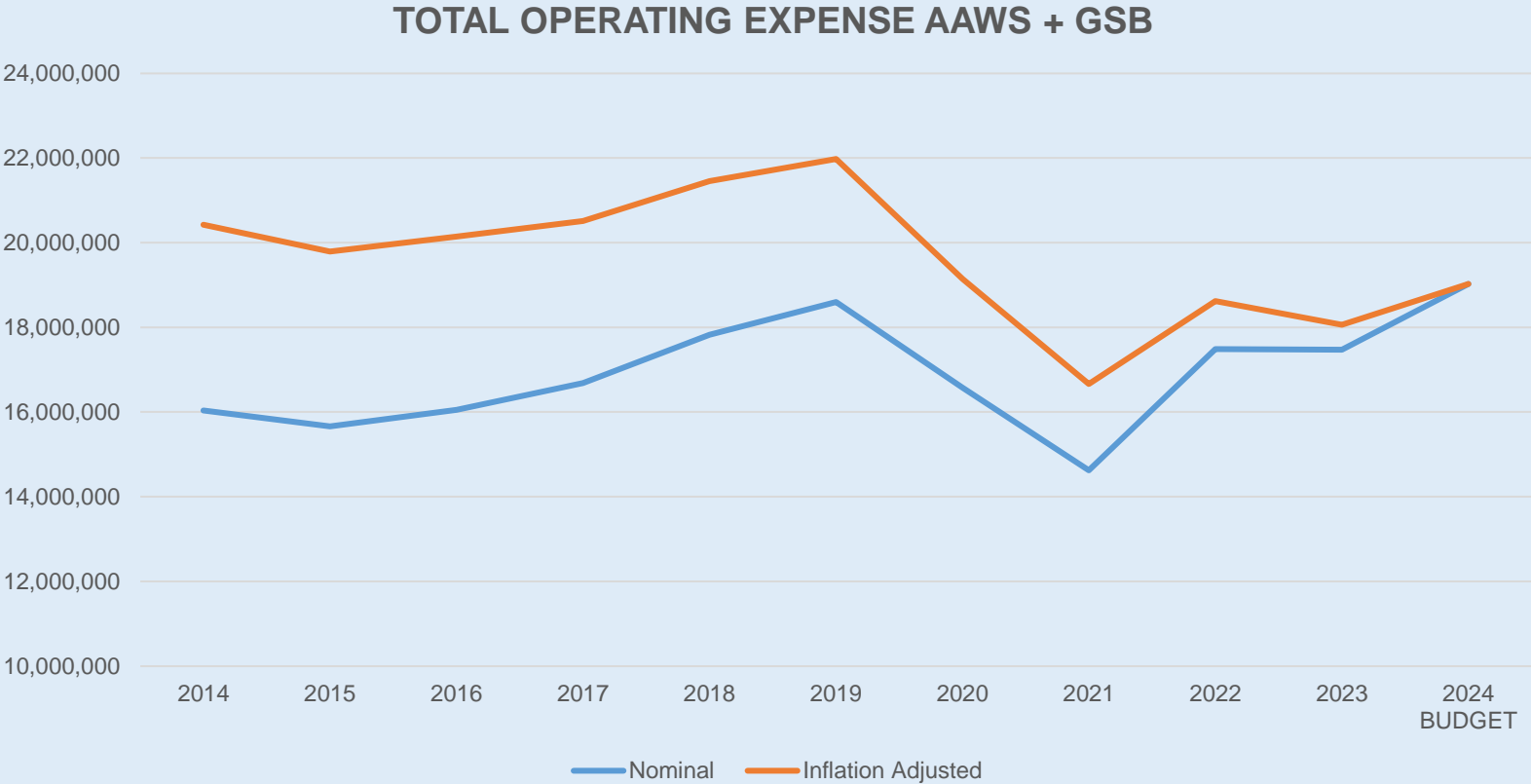
GSO EXPENSES OVER BUDGET IN 2023

- ❖ Over Budget Categories represent 10% of total operating expense

EXPENSE	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Payroll Taxes	692,343	659,745	32,598
Facility and Equipment	1,223,760	1,166,861	56,899

INFLATION ADJUSTED **GSO** EXPENSE HISTORY

❖ In 2023, operating expense was lower than inflation adjusted operating expense in 9 of the past 10 years.



2023 **GRAPEVINE** FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ App launch – September 1, 2023
- ❖ Grapevine paid print subscription income decreased 12% in 2023. Subscription income for the online, complete and mobile app magazine increased 72% due to the mobile app and increased Complete subscriptions.
- ❖ 2023 Grapevine results were a gross margin on subscriptions of \$601,088 and a gross margin of \$562,746 on other published items. Operating expenses of \$2,059,058 resulted in an operating loss of \$888,465 compared to a loss of \$404,940 in 2022.
- ❖ General Fund support of La Viña service activity was \$753,376 in 2023, compared to \$636,604 in 2022.
- ❖ La Viña magazine circulation decreased by 3.0% in 2023 compared to a 4.3% increase in 2022.

2024 **GSO** BUDGET

- ❖ Operating revenue \$19,642,359 compared to \$18,056,782 in 2023.
 - ❖ Contributions \$10,500,000 compared to \$10,841,419 in 2023.
 - ❖ Literature gross margin \$8,492,759 compared to \$6,763,226 in 2023.
- ❖ Total operating expense \$19,024,414 before \$1.02M depreciation compared to \$17,474,874 before \$1.06M depreciation in 2023.
- ❖ Operating surplus of \$617,945 before depreciation compared to \$581,907 surplus in 2023.

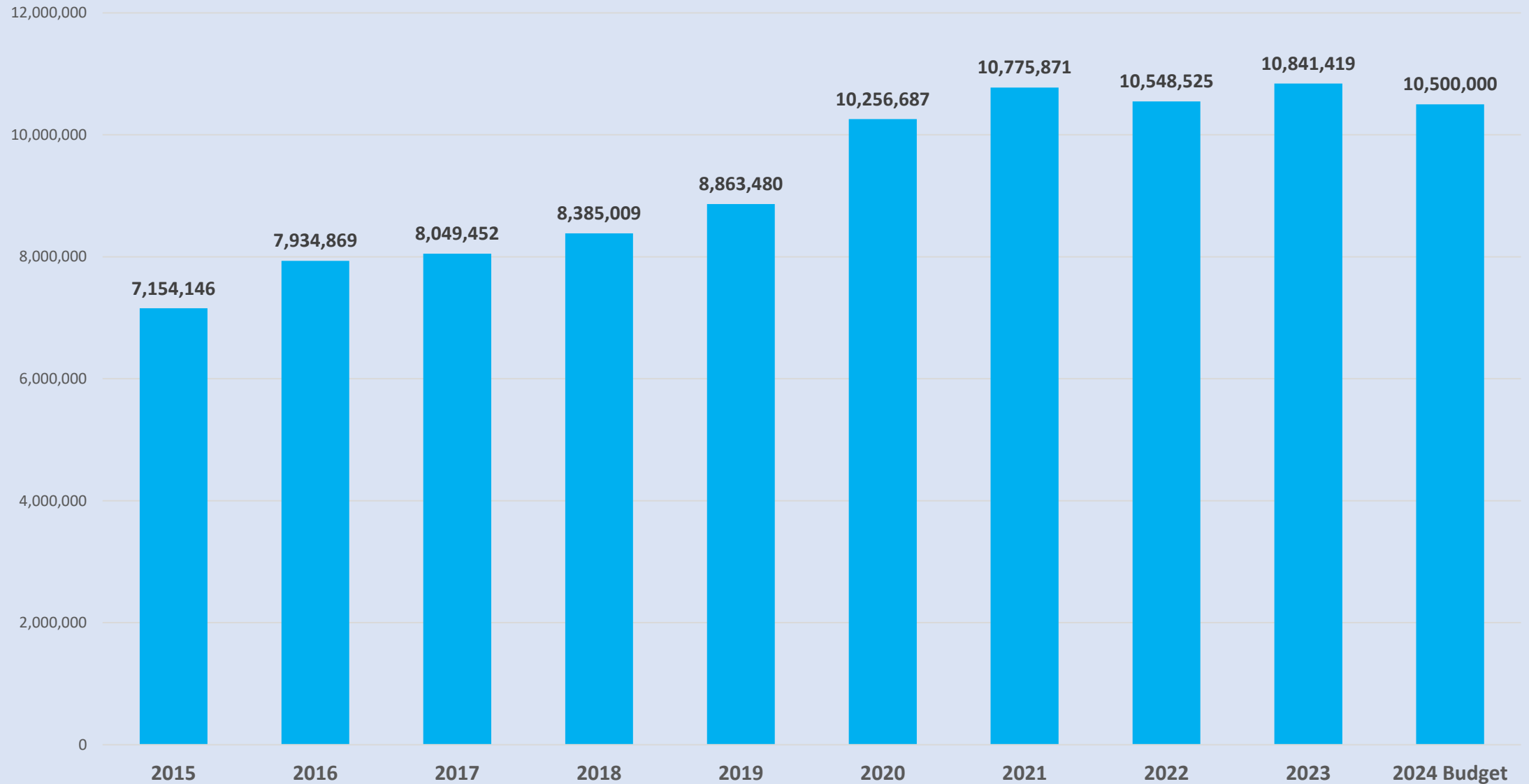
2024 **GRAPEVINE** BUDGET

- ❖ Print magazine circulation expected to decrease to 46,969 from 49,296 in 2023.
- ❖ Online and Complete circulation to increase to 4,625 from 3,002 in 2023.
- ❖ 10,069 new app subscribers compared to 3,400 in 2023.
- ❖ Gross margin on subscriptions \$1,147,021 compared to \$601,088 in 2023.
- ❖ Grapevine net deficit of \$582,572 compared to a net deficit of \$888,465 in 2023.
- ❖ La Viña magazine circulation to increase to 6,782 compared to 6,484 in 2023.
- ❖ General Fund La Viña support of \$569,512 compared to \$753,376 in 2023.

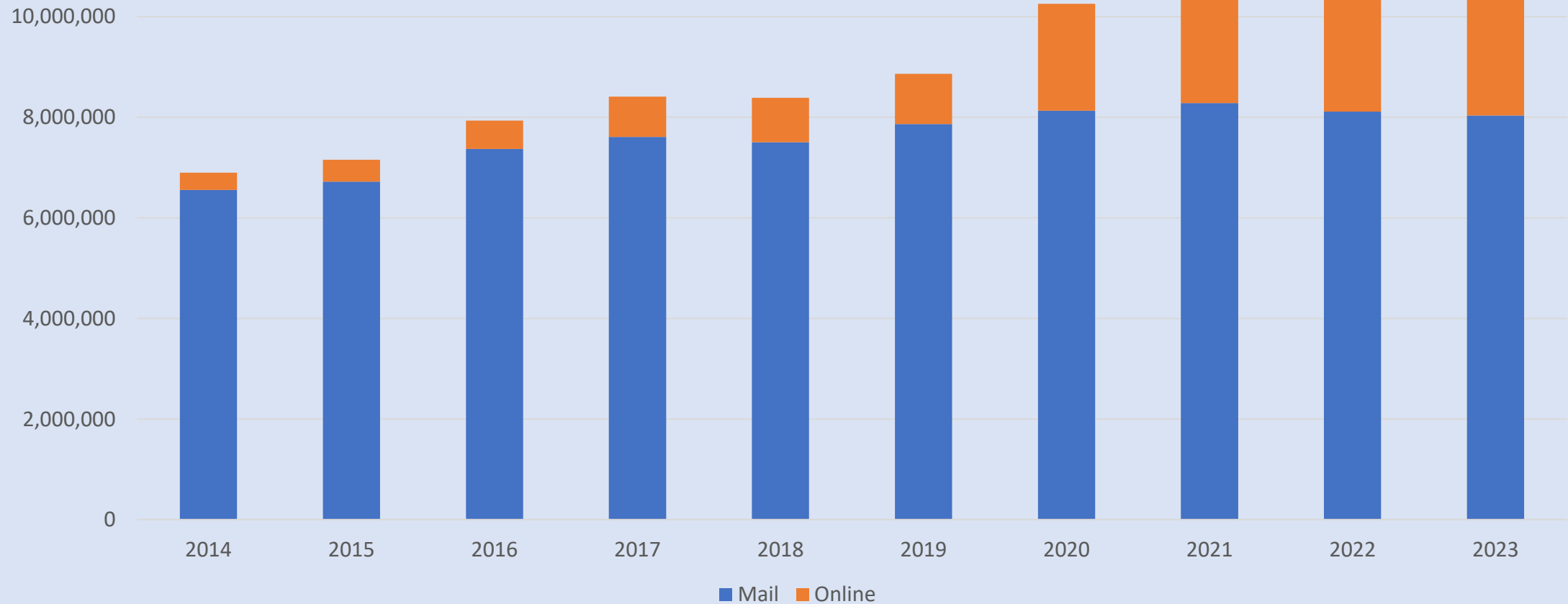
GRATITUDE – 7TH TRADITION



7TH TRADITION SELF-SUPPORT – 2015 – 2024

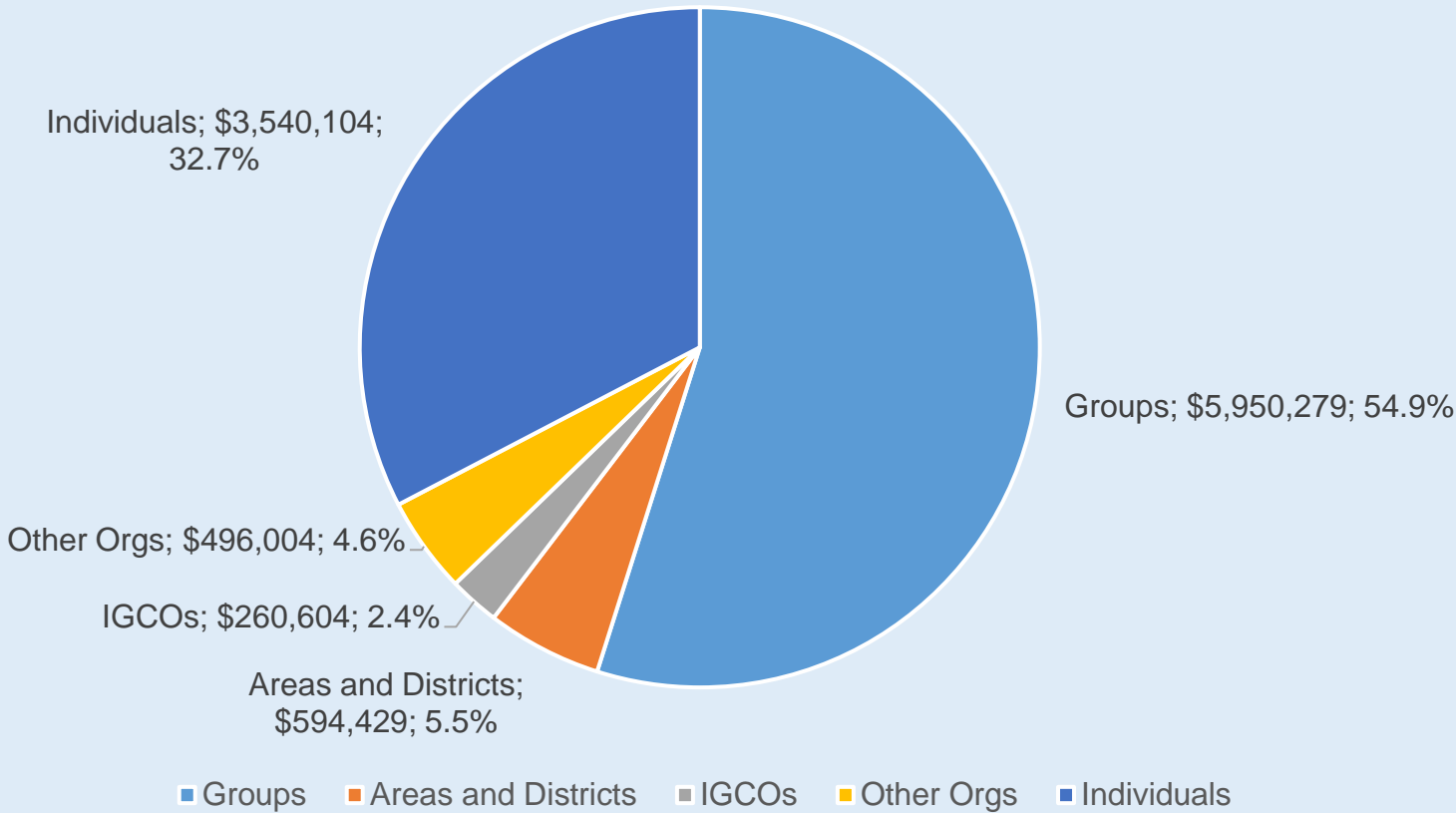


GROWTH OF ON-LINE CONTRIBUTIONS 2014 – 2023



A mail contribution costs \$5.60 to process. An online contribution costs \$2.93 to process, a \$2.67 savings.

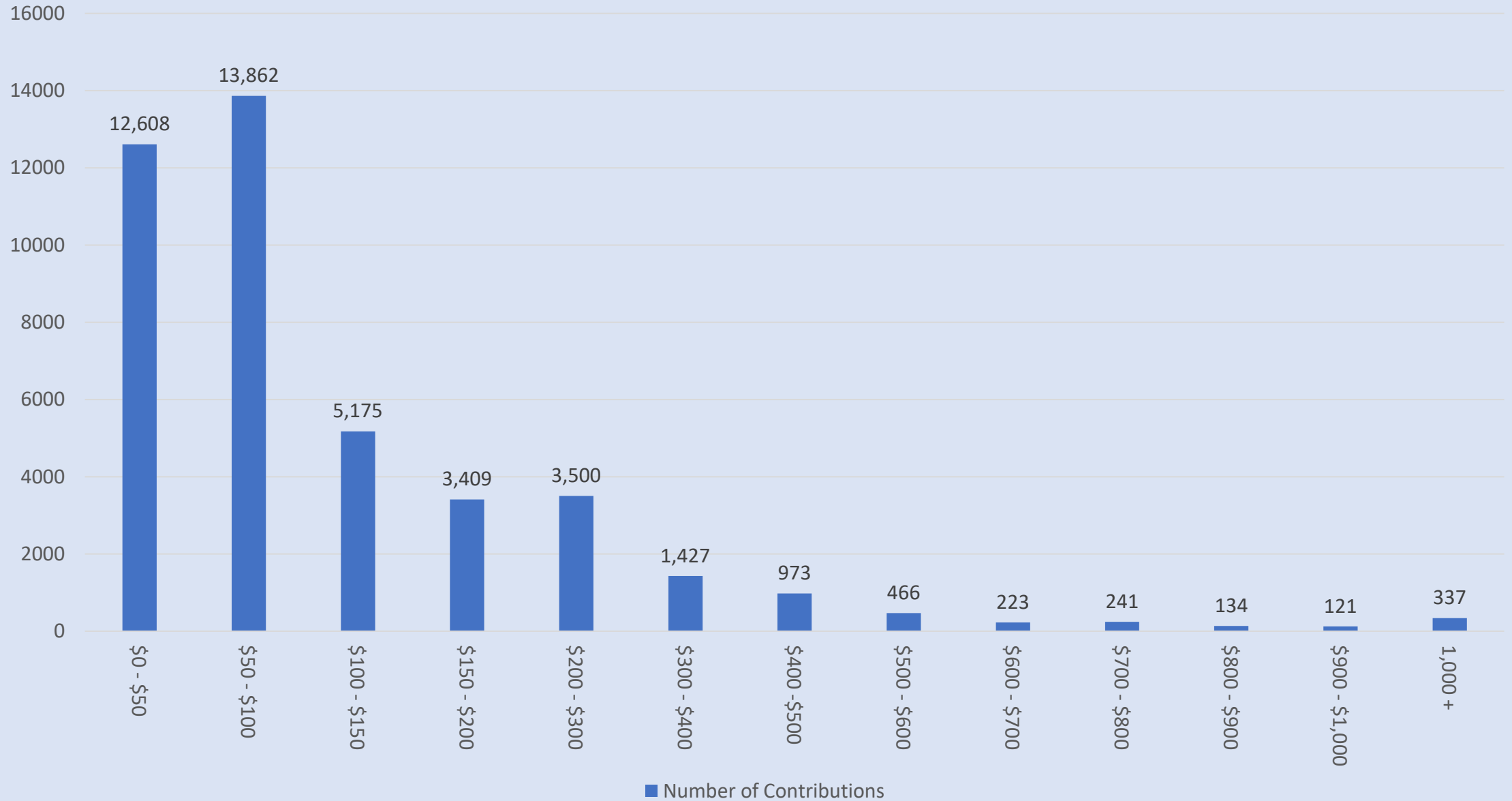
CONTRIBUTIONS BY TYPE OF CONTRIBUTOR 2023



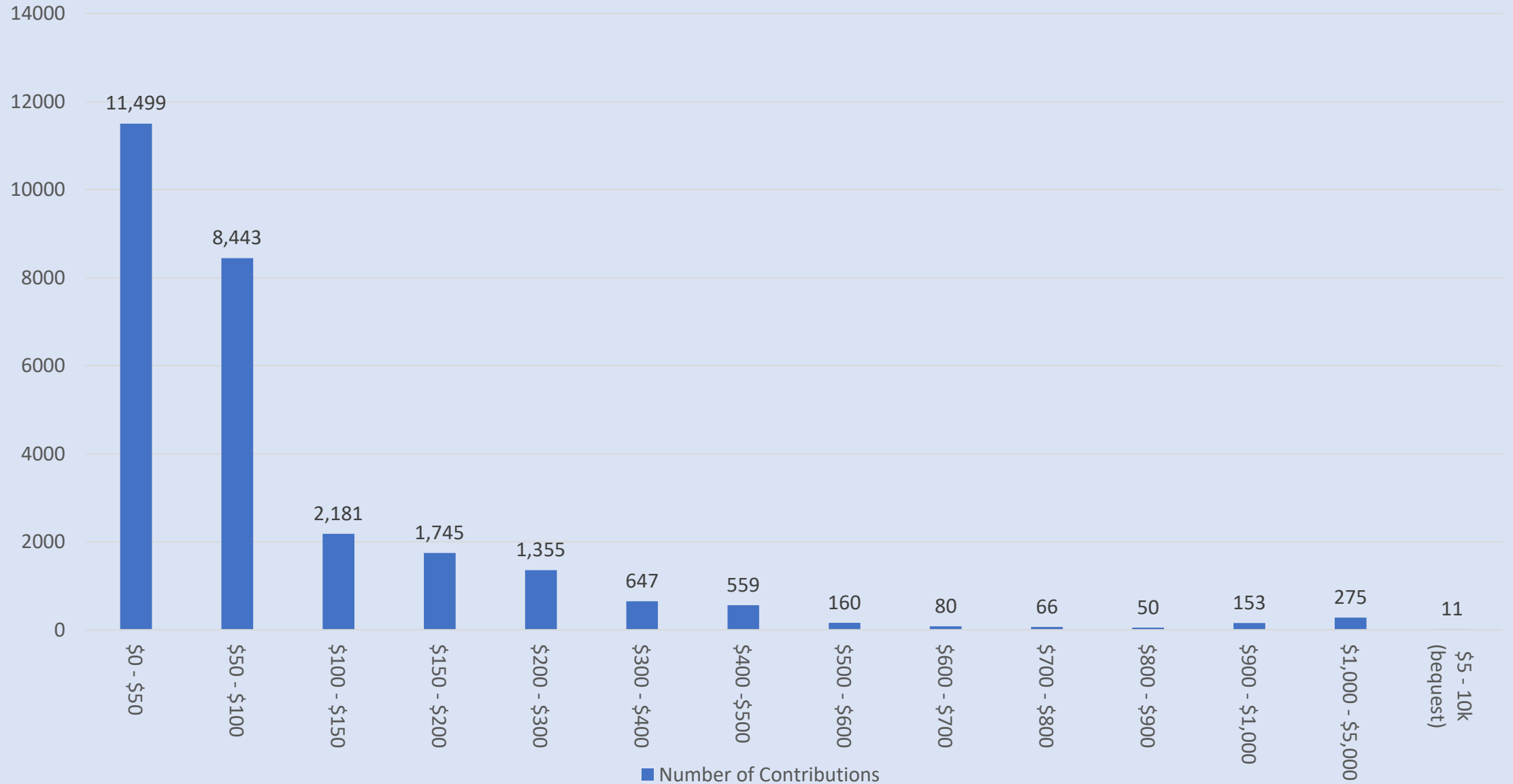
CONTRIBUTIONS STATISTICS 2023

INDIVIDUALS	
7 th Tradition Self-Support Contributions	3,540,104
Average Contribution	129.88
Most Common Contribution	50.00
Number of Contributions	27,235
GROUPS	
7 th Tradition Self-Support Contributions	5,950,279
Number of Active Groups	57,222
Number of Groups Contributing	18,105
Percentage of Groups Contributing	31.64
Average Contributed by a Group During the Year	328.65

Number of Group Contributions by Dollar Value 2023



Number of Individual Contributions by Dollar Value 2023

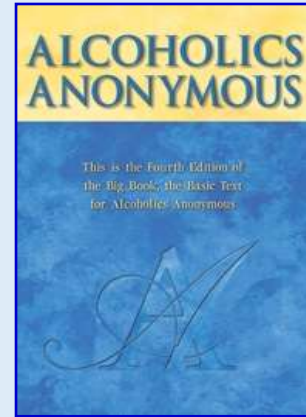


THROUGH OUR OWN SELF-SUPPORT

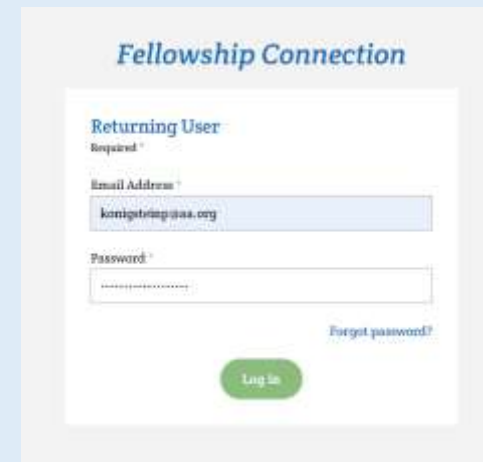


G.S.O.'s TWO BASIC FUNCTIONS

• Publishing



• Services on Behalf of the G.S.B.



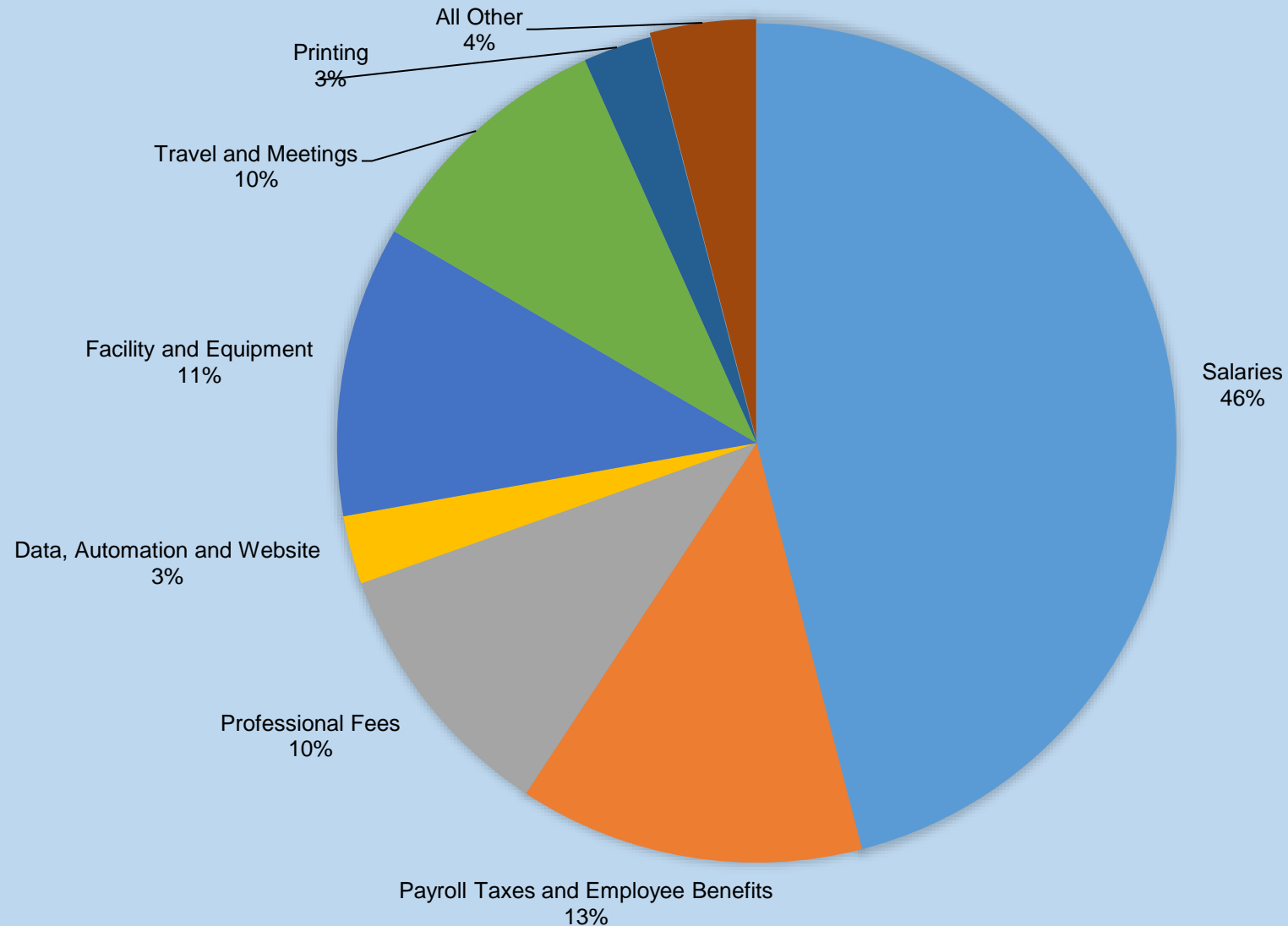
AAWS – PUBLISHING – 2023 ACTUAL vs 2023 BUDGET

	2023 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET	INCREASE (DECREASE)
Gross Sales – Literature	14,641,118	15,900,000	(1,258,882)
Discounts	(453,706)	(715,500)	(261,794)
Shipping Charges	302,805	397,500	(94,695)
Net Sales - Literature	14,490,217	15,582,000	(1,091,783)
Cost of Literature Sold - Printing	7,726,991	7,632,000	94,991
Gross Profit	6,763,226	7,950,000	(1,186,774)
Gross Profit Percentage	46.2%	50.0%	(3.8%)

CONSOLIDATED (GSO + GV) OPERATING EXPENSES – 2023

FINANCIAL STATEMENT EXPENSE CATEGORIES

PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN



2023 PRUDENT RESERVE

Beginning Balance January 1, 2023	12,924,561
Investment Earnings	206,301
Drawdowns	(500,000)
Additions	0
Ending Balance December 31, 2023	12,630,862

Composition of Ending Balance	
Cash	2,706,106
Certificates of Deposit (CDARs)	10,449,356
Accrued Interest	48,413
Less Grapevine subscription liability	(573,012)
Ending Balance	12,630,862

Number of Months Expenses Held	Based on 2023 expenses	Based on 2024 expenses
January 1, 2023	7.35	6.98
December 31, 2023	7.18	6.82

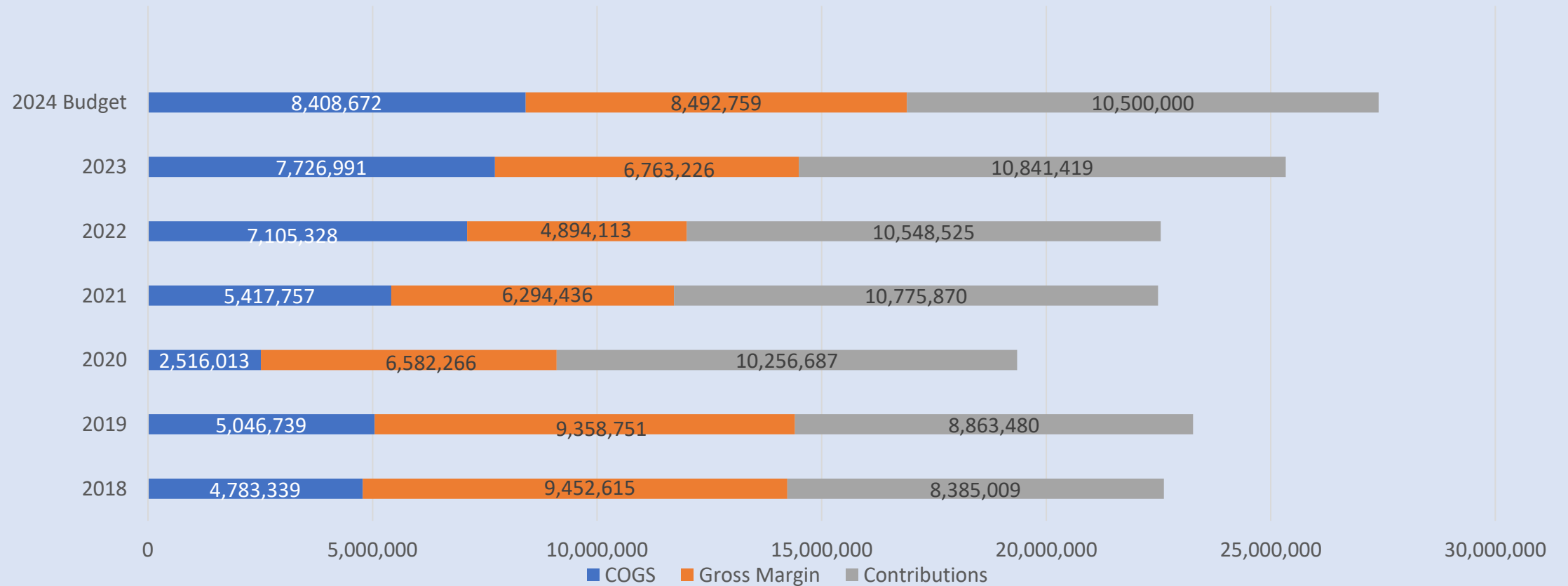
USES OF GSB's RESERVE FUND

- ❖ Concept of GSB's Prudent Reserve – not same as in your Home Group's reserve
- ❖ GSB's Reserve Fund covers much more
- ❖ In 1967, the General Service Conference issued the Advisory Action that “The GSB make use of investment income from the Reserve Fund for whatever purpose the Board may authorize”.
- ❖ Broadly, this could include, whether planned or unplanned:
 - ❖ Operating Deficits of AAWS or Grapevine
 - ❖ Periodic expenditures such as an office renovation or major technical upgrade
 - ❖ Extraordinary expenses outside of “normal” operations

RESERVE FUND POLICY

- ❖ 1977 Advisory Action established the upper limit of the reserve fund as 12 months of operating expense of GSB, AAWS, and GV combined
- ❖ A 1981 Advisory Action specified that a lower limit not be provided. However, a 9 month lower limit appears in Conference Finance Committee reports throughout the history of the reserve.
- ❖ Policy adopted by GSB in 2022 includes:
 - ❖ a 9 to 12 month goal range
 - ❖ At least 50% of the portfolio available within one year
 - ❖ GSB must authorize transfers into and withdrawals from the Reserve Fund
 - ❖ In the event of emergencies such as a bank failure or inability to meet payroll, Trustees Finance and Budgetary Committee may authorize a withdrawal. If the Committee is unable to be gathered within the needed timeframe, two officers of the GSB may authorize.

GSO REVENUE TREND



THANK YOU

- ❖ Paul Konigstein, Chief Financial Officer
- ❖ Zenaida Medina, Controller
- ❖ Donna Chahal, Grapevine Controller
- ❖ Diana L, Conference Coordinator, for her patience
- ❖ All of the employees of both A.A.W.S. and Grapevine
- ❖ Members of Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee, along with members of the Finance Committees of A.A.W.S. and Grapevine and the Conference Finance Committee
- ❖ Our Independent Auditors – BDO USA
- ❖ Our outsourced accounting support – Your Part-time Controller

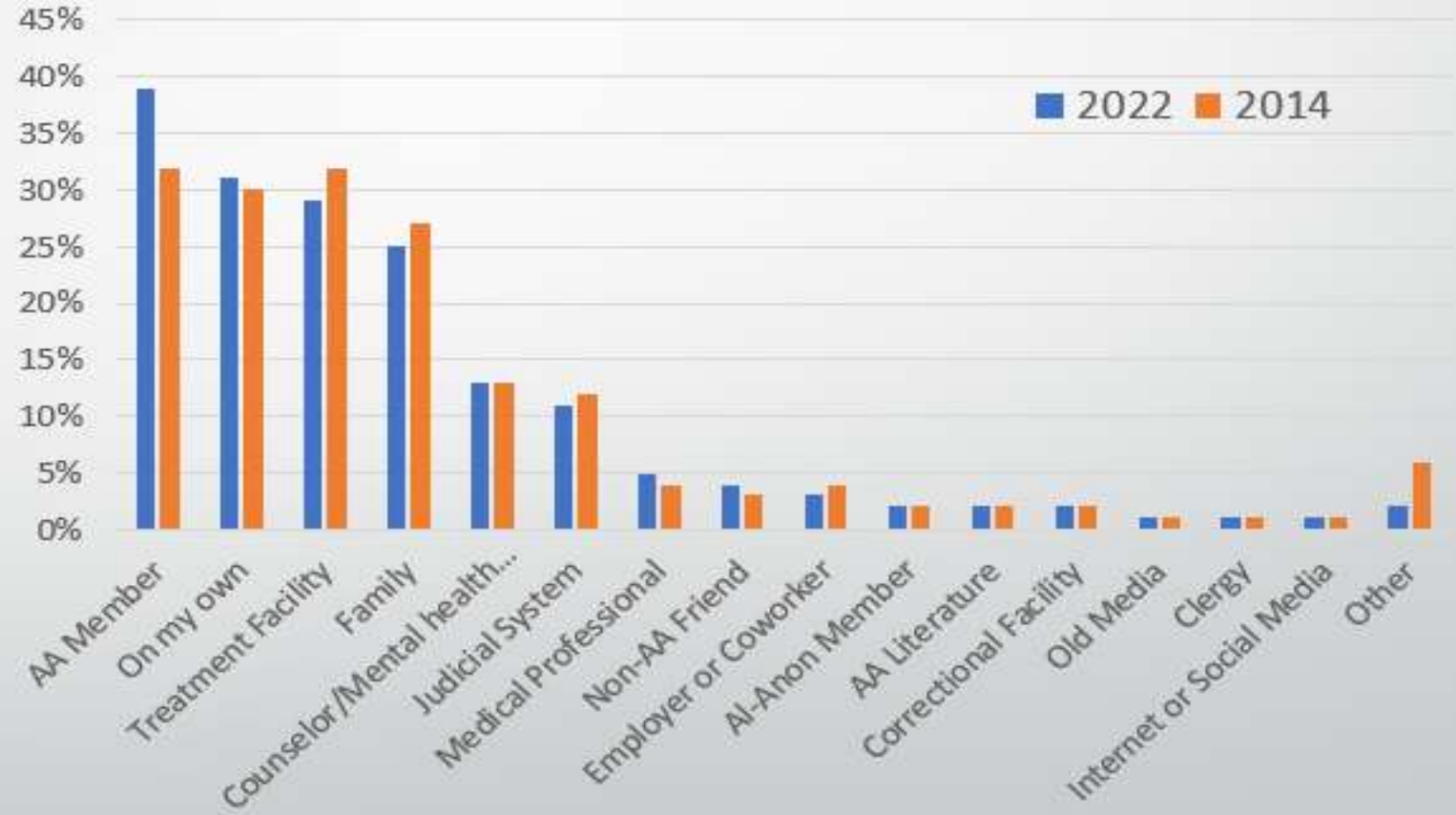
Any questions – Please feel free to contact me at – kevin@kevinjprior.com

Membership Survey Data

(More than 1 response allowed)

	2022	2014
AA Member	39%	32%
On my own	31%	30%
Treatment Facility	29%	32%
Family	25%	27%
Counselor/Mental health Professional	13%	13%
Judicial System	11%	12%
Medical Professional	5%	4%
Non-AA Friend	4%	3%
Employer or Coworker	3%	4%
Al-Anon Member	2%	2%
AA Literature	2%	2%
Correctional Facility	2%	2%
Old Media	1%	1%
Clergy	1%	1%
Internet or Social Media	1%	1%
Other	2%	6%

What Got You Here



North East Regional Delegate (NERD) Lunches

- NERD 2026 Area 12 Delaware
Wilmington, DE
- NERAASA 2027 Area 49 Southeast New York
Tarrytown, NY
- NERF 2027 Area 50 Western New York
Niagara Falls, NY

Regional Trustee Elections

- West Central Regional Trustee – Charles H., Area 41 (Nebraska)
- Western Canada Regional Trustee – Gail P., Area 79 (British Columbia / Yukon)

Location Plus Report

- Hired a Consulting Firm to Assist with the Analysis
- Investigated 116 Metropolitan Areas to Relocate
- Finalist Were: Philadelphia, Atlanta, Indianapolis
- Expected Cost of Move :\$7 million
- Final Recommendation is to Remain at the Current Location
- In Negotiations With the Landlord for a Renewed Lease
- Will be Vacating the 8th Floor Office Space
- Will Be Renovating the 11th Floor to Accommodate the Personnel Departing the 8th Floor

Plain Language Big Book Reading Room

Original: We asked for his protection and care with complete abandon

Translation: We asked for protection and care with all the honesty we have

Original: Cunning, Baffling and Powerful

Translation: Complicated, Tricky and Difficult

Pg 17

Original: Steerage to Captain's table

Translation: Rich or poor, young or old, with families or totally alone

Plain Language Big Book Reading Room

Pg 47 of PLBB

Original: Strange mental blank spot

Translation: My brain turned itself off

Pg 46 BB

Original: We looked askance at many individuals

Translation: Felt we couldn't trust them

Pg xxxviii BB The Doctor's Opinion

Original: Weight and depth

Translation: Logical and powerful

Plain Language Big Book Reading Room

Original

Step 2: Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity

Translation or Explanation

Step 2: Then we start to believe that a higher power can help us stop drinking and guide us to a clearer state of mind

Conference Committee Recommendations

- A Conference Committee Recommendation Has the Same Weight as a Made and Seconded Motion
- Committees May Take No Action on An Agenda Item
- A Floor Action Can Resurrect an Agenda Item That a Committee Took No Action on

Cooperation With the Professional Community

- Agenda E: Develop a Pamphlet for the Unhoused Alcoholic – Took No Action

Corrections

Agenda Item A: The committee recommended that the Singleness of Purpose description in the pamphlet "A Message to Correctional Professionals," which currently reads:

"Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency." but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings."

"Some professionals refer to alcoholics and drug addicts as a single group when using professional terminology." but attendance at closed meetings is limited to persons who have a desire to stop drinking."

Voted yes, 123 yes, 6 no

Corrections

Agenda Item B: The committee recommended that the video "Carrying the Message Behind the Walls" be discontinued.

Voted yes, 121 yes, 10 no

Agenda Item C: The committee recommended that a pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in A.A. be developed.

Question called. Voted yes, 86 yes, 41 no, 2/3 majority passed.

Vote no, 86 yes, 40 no, motion carries. Gave minority opinion

Motion to reconsider 62 yes, 68 no, motion does not carry

Motion passed

Trustees

A. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc

The committee recommended that the following slate of trustees of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 20, 2024, following presentation at the 2024 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Trustees

Class A Trustees+

Sr. Judith Ann Karam, C.S.A.
Dawn Klug
Hon. Kerry Meyer
Al J. Mooney, M.D., FAAFP, FASAM
Anadora (Andie) Moss
Molly Oliver
Kevin Prior, MBA, CFA, CPA

+Nonalcoholic

Class B Trustees

Cathi C
Tom H
Scott H
Teresa J
Reilly K
Deborah K
Robert L
Paz P
Marita R
Joyce S
David S
Ken T
Carolyn W
West Central R-Trustee-elect
Western Canada R-Trustee-elect

Trustees

Motion to separate the list: considered out of order.

Motion to appeal the chairs decision of an out of order decision. Seconded.

Discussion, Trustee at large Canada had us sit silently with his three minutes.

Simple majority to appeal the decision of the chair.

Voted yes, Yes 32, No 93

Motion to appeal does not carry.

Back to the voting on the slate.

Voted no, Yes 102, No 23

Slate is approved.

Trustees

The committee recommended that the following slate of officers of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board on April 20, 2024, following presentation at the 2024 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Trustees

Chairperson:

Scott H

First Vice-Chairperson: (**)

Deborah K

Second Vice-Chairperson: (**)

David S

Treasurer:

Kevin Prior, MBA, CFA, CPA

Secretary (**)

Teresa J

Assistant Treasurer:

Paul K*

Assistant Secretary:

Racy J*

+ Nonalcoholic

(**) Elected by Third Legacy procedure.

*GSO employees

Trustees

Item A: Slate of Officers. Voted yes, Yes 114, No 11
Slate is approved by substantial unanimity.

Trustees

B. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.

The committee recommended that the following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board on April 20, 2024, following presentation at the 2024 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Trustees

Vera F

Ken T

Racy J*

Carolyn W

Reilly K

John W

Deborah K

Bob W*

Clinton M

*GSO employees

Trustees

Item B: Slate of directors for AAWS. Voted no, Yes 110, No 12

Slate is approved by substantial unanimity.

Trustees

C. Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.

The committee recommended that the following slate of directors be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the AA Grapevine Corporate Board on April 20, 2024, following presentation at the 2024 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Trustees

Teddy B

Molly Oliver

Morgan B

Paz P

Chris C*

Joyce S

Teresa J

David S

Nikki O

*Grapevine employee

Trustees

Item C: Slate of Directors for AAGV. Voted no, Yes 116, No 6

Slate is approved by substantial unanimity.

Trustees

D. The committee recommended the following change to the Scope of the Conference Committee on Trustees' Composition, Scope, and Procedure:

Currently reads:

2. The committee reviews the resumes of all ~~newly nominated~~ Class A and Class B trustees of the General Service Board and nontrustee directors of the corporate boards (AAWS and the AA Grapevine).

Revised to read:

2. The committee reviews the resumes of all Class A and Class B trustees of the General Service Board and nontrustee directors of the corporate boards (AAWS and the AA Grapevine).

Trustees

Item D: Change in CSP of the CCT

Discussion

Voted Yes, Yes 69, No 55

Motion failed

Minority Opinion

Motion to reconsider

Voted yes, 75 yes, 47 no

Motion passes, discussion open again

Amendment made requires second, no second

Voted yes, yes 67, no 53

Motion does not carry

Grapevine/La Vina

A. Discuss the cost effectiveness of continuing to print La Viña.

The committee recommended that the AA Grapevine Board develop a 5-year financial plan for La Viña with the goal to reduce shortfalls and increase revenue to be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.

Grapevine/La Vina

Spoke against

Question has been called and seconded

Vote on calling the question Voted yes, yes 93, no 32

Question is called

Vote on the motion. Voted no, yes 108, 18 no

Motion to reconsider, voted yes, yes 63, no 64

Motion does not carry

Original motion carries

Grapevine/La Vina

ITEM B: Consider the list of suggested AA Grapevine book topics for 2025 or after.

1. Prayer & Meditation II
2. Sober Holiday Stories
3. Dating & Relationships
4. Lo Mejor de La Viña III (Best of LV III)
5. En las prisiones (Jails and institutions)
6. La derrota (Surrender)

Grapevine/La Vina

The committee agreed to forward to the AA Grapevine Board the suggestion that AA Grapevine, Inc. produce in the year 2025 or later:

1. Prayer & Meditation
2. Sober Holiday Stories
3. Dating & Relationships
4. Lo Mejor de La Viña III (Best of LV III)
5. En las prisiones (Jails and institutions)
6. La derrota (Surrender)

Grapevine/La Vina

The committee considered a request to develop a pamphlet on the Asian and Asian-American alcoholic in A.A. and took no action.

Finance

A. Review Self-Support Packet.

The committee recommended that the following change to the language in the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" be implemented:

At the bottom of page 9 where it currently reads:

Q: Who manages GSO's share of your group contributions?

Finance

A: The General Service Board's Finance Committee meets quarterly to review and approve GSO's budget and the audited financial accounts. The A.A. World Services Board meets monthly and maintains direct control of income and expenditures. The annual General Service Conference reviews A.A.'s finances through its own Finance Committee. A.A.'s financial affairs are an "open" book. A summary is published in each Quarterly Report and a full accounting is in the Final Conference Report. The account books themselves are available at the General Service Office for scrutiny at any time.

Finance

Be revised to read:

Q: Who manages GSB's share of your group contributions?

A: The General Service Board's Finance Committee meets quarterly to review **and approve the financial reports of the General Service Board, inc., A.A. World Services, Inc., and AAGrapevine, Inc. In addition, the committee reviews and approves the budgets two times per year.** The General Service Board's Finance Committee meets quarterly to review and approve GSO's budget and the audited financial accounts. The A.A. World Services Board meets monthly and maintains direct control of income and expenditures. The annual General Service Conference reviews A.A.'s finances through its own Finance Committee. A.A.'s financial affairs are an "open" book. A summary is published in each Quarterly Report and a full accounting is in the Final Conference Report. **These reports are available at aa.org and at the General Service Office for review at any time.**

Finance

Item A: Many issues with wording that would be edited

Motion to recommit, seconded

Motion recalled

Motion to table until the end of the report

Voted yes, yes 120, no 7

Finance

Back to original question

Question called and seconded, Voted yes, yes 116, no 10

Original motion Voted No, Yes 23, No 101

Minority opinion: none motion does not carry

Reconsidering Item A: Wording will be on onboard (Issue with reports on demand at GSO)

Voted Yes, 115, no 4, Motion carries

Minority opinion, none, motion carries

Finance

B. The committee recommended that the maximum annual contribution from an individual A.A. member to the General Service Board be increased from \$5,000 to \$7,500.

Voted yes, yes 95, no 28

Motion carries

Minority opinion

Motion to reconsider, voted no, yes 51, no 73

Motion does not carry

Item B carries

Finance

C. The committee recommended that the General Service Board hold one Quarterly Board weekend a year virtually when possible. The committee is respectful of the General Service Board Bylaws, and Concept 3, Right of decision of the General Service Board Chair.

Discussion

Voted yes, yes 18, no 106

Motion does not carry

Minority opinion: no change

Finance

D. The committee recommended that the Trustees Emeriti of the General Service Board be invited to the Annual General Service Conference and to the General Service Board weekends at their own expense.

Discussion

Voted No

Amend motion attend GSC and GSB at own expense for next two years

Voted no on amendment, yes 22, no 98

Minority opinion

Motion does not carry

Finance

Additional Committee Considerations:

- The committee reviewed the video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” for effectiveness and relevance and took no action.
- The committee reviewed the progress report reflecting shared experience from the Fellowship on possible future changes to literature written by A.A.’s founders and took no action.

Finance

Finance Agenda Item A

- The committee discussed a request that the General Service Board develop supplemental financial reporting focused on the actual costs of the various service items we provide. The committee requested that the Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee produce an initial draft of the supplemental financial reporting based on projects and that a draft be brought back to the Conference Committee on Finance for review at the 75th General Service Conference.

Treatment & Accessibilities

The committee recommended that the draft pamphlet “Bridging the Gap” (P-49) be approved with minor editorial revisions.

Discussion

Voted Yes, yes 116, no 10

Minority Opinion: none

Motion carries

Treatment & Accessibilities

The committee recommended that the flyer “Where Do I Go from Here?” (F-4) be updated with current inclusive language and information on how to find A.A. both in person and online. The committee requested that a progress report or draft flyer be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

Discussion

Voted yes, yes 121, no 5

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Literature

The committee recommended that the pamphlets "It Happened to Alice" (P-39) and "What Happened to Joe" (P-38) be retired.

Discussion

Voted yes, yes 114, no 11

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Literature

The committee recommended that the draft of the revised pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic" (retitled "Black in A.A.: Experience, Strength and Hope") be approved with the following minor editorial changes:

- Generalize terminology surrounding drug and addiction references.
- Removal of one story.
- The removal of the political commentary within two stories.

Discussion

Voted yes, yes 121, no 3

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Literature

The committee recommended that the draft manuscript [Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous](#) be approved with minor editorial changes to include:

- Relocation of the “A.A. Steps Table” to constitute an Appendix (on the Twelve Steps) at the back of the new publication.
- Replace the references to “addiction” and “addicted” with language related to alcoholism.

Literature

Tabled Motion to require a 75% super majority to approve the PLBB

Motion to remove tabled motion from the table

Voted yes, yes 61, no 69

Motion stays on the table

Proceed with item C:

Voted to extend time to 90 seconds at the microphone, yes 68, no 58

90 seconds at the microphone

Discussion

Amendment: Include original stories of Bill and Dr Bob side by side with the new text,
seconded

Literature

Question is called

Vote on the amendment, voted no, yes 16, no 112

Motion does not carry, minority opinion: none

Motion fails

Back to Item C:

Discussion

Amendment: Removal of the plain language explanations of the steps, traditions, and concepts, seconded

Discussion

Voted yes on amendment, Yes 32, no 97

Motion does not carry

Minority opinion:

Motion to reconsider, second, voted yes, yes 55, no 74

Motion does not carry

Literature

Back to item C:

Discussion

Amendment put disclaimer on the cover, no second

Return to discussion

Vote to change time to one minute, voted no, yes 92, no 29

Comment time now one minute

Motion to recommit, second

Discussion

Suspended meeting at 12:00 am

Literature

Called the question, voted yes, yes 113, no 18

Motion carries

Motion to recommit, voted no, yes 35, no 95

Motion does not carry

Back to original recommendation

Question called and seconded, voted yes on call, yes 99, no 31

Motion to call carries

Vote on Item C, voted no, yes 91, no 38

Motion passes

Minority opinion: motion to reconsider, voted yes, yes 58, no 71

Item C carries

Literature

The committee recommended permanently suspending the “Too Young?” video adaptation project.

Voted yes, yes 117, no 10

Motion carries

Minority opinion: none

Literature

E. Consider a request that the words “Donation” and “Contribution” be swapped under Warranty One in “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated” pamphlet.

The committee recommended that the word “donation” be utilized to state that A.A. does not accept donations from outside entities; and that the word “contributions” be utilized when referring to Seventh Tradition contributions from A.A. members, in AAWS literature as it comes up for reprint.

Voted yes, yes 115, no 11

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Agenda

The committee recommended the following theme for the 2025 General Service Conference:
“Working Together, Increasing Trust.”

Discussion

Voted yes, yes 120, no 3

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Agenda

The committee recommended the following presentation theme and topics for the 2025 General Service Conference:

1. "Delegating: It is okay to ask for help."
2. "Bridging the Gap: How do we make the voice of every Group count?"
3. "Our Financial Responsibility to carry the message."

Agenda

Discussion

Amendment #2 "bridging the gap" to "Closing the Gap", seconded

Discussion

Voted yes, yes 98, no 27

Motion carries

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Discussion on Item B resumes

Amendment regarding item #3. Change "to carry" to "in carrying", seconded

Voted no, Yes 75, no 50

Motion does not carry

Agenda

Minority opinion: Motion to reconsider, seconded

Voted no, yes 70, no 55

Motion carries

Discussion open

Question called, seconded

Voted yes, yes 119, no 9

Motion carries

Vote on amendment

Changed vote to yes, yes 101, no 27

Motion carries

Agenda

Vote on Item B

Voted yes, yes 119, no 5

Motion carries

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Agenda

Final presentation theme and topics for the 2025 General Service Conference:

1. "Delegating: It is okay to ask for help."
2. "Closing the Gap: How do we make the voice of every Group count?"
3. "Our Financial Responsibility in carrying the message."

Agenda

The committee recommended the following workshop topic for the 2025 General Service Conference: "How do we address the new financial reality facing our spiritual movement?"

Discussion

Voted yes, yes 113, no 9

Motion carries

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Agenda

The committee recommended that the General Service Conference Inventory Plan be approved and that an inventory summary (not to exceed eight pages), be included in the 2025 Final Conference Report.

Discussion

Voted yes, yes 123, no 4

Motion carries

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Agenda

The committee recommended that a comprehensive summary of the 2025 General Service Conference Inventory be developed and distributed as an electronic version only.

Discussion

Amendment, seconded

Out of order

Amendment, seconded, withdrawn

Discussion

Voted yes, yes 108, no 16

Motions carries

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Report & Charter

The committee recommended that the section "The (Typical) Area Assembly" in the Area Assembly and its Activities chapter of The A.A. Service Manual be amended to add a text reference in addition to the color reference in order to address readability for members that are color blind.

Discussion

Voted yes, yes 124, no 4

Motion carries

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Report & Charter

The committee recommended that in the section “Board’s Custodial Oversight” in the “The Board’s Operating Corporations” chapter of The A.A. Service Manual be amended from:

“To facilitate the board’s custodial oversight, there are three corporate mechanisms: electing directors, approving budgets, and authority to make changes to corporate bylaws). These are used for the primary in the management of the principal assets of the General Service Board: the trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee, the General Service Board Reserve Fund, and the many trademarks, copyrights and logos maintained on behalf of A.A. as a whole.”

to:

“To facilitate the board’s custodial oversight, there are three primary corporate mechanisms to manage the principal assets of the General Service Board: electing directors, approving budgets, and authority to make changes to corporate bylaws.”

Report & Charter

Discussion: none

Voted yes, yes 123, no 6

Motion carries

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Report & Charter

The committee recommended that the order of the chapters in The A.A. Service Manual be amended from:

Chapter 8: The General Service Board

Chapter 9: The Board's Operating Corporations

Chapter 10: The General Service Office

Chapter 11: A.A. World Services, Inc.

Chapter 12: AA Grapevine, Inc.

to:

Chapter 8: The General Service Board

Chapter 9: The Board's Operating Corporations

Chapter 10: A.A. World Services, Inc.

Chapter 11: AA Grapevine, Inc.

Chapter 12: The General Service Office

Report & Charter

Discussion

Voted no, yes 123, no 6

Motion carries

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Report & Charter

The committee recommended that in Article 9, "The General Service Conference Meetings," a footnote be added to the Current Conference Charter with the following text:

"In 2023 an Advisory Action was passed by the General Service Conference outlining a process for polling the General Service Conference body between annual meetings using virtual technology."

Report & Charter

Discussion: none

Voted yes, yes 127, no 0

Motion carries

Unanimous

Report & Charter

The committee reviewed the current format for reporting on simple majority items in the Conference Final Report. The committee recommended that the items that receive simple majority be included in the Final Conference Report under the heading “Recommendations that achieved Simple Majority – These items did not receive the two-thirds majority required to pass as a Conference Advisory Action.”

Discussion

Voted yes, yes 119, no 3

Motion carries

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Public Information

1. Review the 2023 report on the “Relevance and Usefulness of Video PSAs.”

The committee recommended that the :30 English language version of the Public Service Announcement (PSA) “Since Getting Sober I Have Hope” be discontinued.

Discussion: none

Voted yes, yes 110, no 8

Motion carries

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Public Information

The committee recommended that the :60 English language version of the Public Service Announcement (PSA) "Since Getting Sober I Have Hope" be discontinued.

Discussion: none

Voted yes, yes 117, no 7

Motion carries

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Public Information

The committee recommended that the radio Public Service Announcement (PSA) "We Know How You Feel" :15 English language version be discontinued.

Discussion: none

Voted yes, yes 119, no 6

Motion carries

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Public Information

In addition to the work of local committees, the committee recommended that two Public Service Announcements be distributed on broadcast media, tracked and evaluated at a cost of \$17,000 which would be in addition to the \$48,000 that is planned to be spent to track the Value of Donated airtime on PSAs in 2024 per the audit requirement. The total expenditure should not exceed \$65,000 and that the information gathered from the process be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Public Information.

Discussion: none

Voted yes, yes 118, no 8

Motion carries

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Public Information

1. Review progress report on the Young People's Video Project.

The committee recommended that the 18 interviews recorded to date as part of the project be approved, giving the General Service Office (GSO) the latitude to edit and distribute the videos in the style of "I Thought Drinking Made me an Artist (working title)" and "The World has Color Now (working title)" The videos can be produced in various formats and made available on our communication channel platforms. The committee requested that an Page 2 of 8 update report be provided to the 2025 Conference Committee on Public Information.

Discussion

Voted yes, yes 122, no 4

Motion carries

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Public Information

1. Discuss Public Information pamphlets and other publications.

The committee recommended that the revised draft of the flyer "A.A. at a Glance" (F-1) be approved with minor edits.

Discussion: none

Voted yes, yes 121, no 6

Motion carries

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Public Information

The committee recommended that the revised pamphlet "Speaking at Meetings Outside of A.A." (P-40) be approved.

Discussion

Voted yes, yes 121, no 4

Motion carries

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Public Information

The committee recommended that the flyer "A Message to Teenagers" be retired.

Discussion

Voted yes, yes 92, no 33

Motion carries

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

Public Information

The committee recommended that a social media policy be developed for all current and future social media channels and requested that a draft be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Public Information.

Discussion

Called the question, voted yes, yes 101, no 23

Return to Item D

Voted no, yes 36, no 90

Motion does not carry

Minority opinion

Motion does not carry

Public Information

The committee recommended that to better provide equality in availability and messaging, starting with the July 2024 General Service Board Meeting, that unedited but anonymity-protected minutes, including trustees' committee reports in English, Spanish, and French, be provided to all Conference members within three weeks following quarterly Board Weekends. Minutes should retain the current format and scope.

Public Information

Discussion

Motion to amend to remove the words "in three weeks", seconded

Discussion

Question called and seconded, voted no, yes 96, no 28

Vote on the amendment, voted no, yes 56, no 72,

Amendment does not carry

Minority opinion: none

Resume discussion on the original amendment

Question called and seconded, voted yes on call, yes 98, no 25

Motion carries

Vote no on the original recommendation, yes 34, no 90

Motion does not carry

Minority opinion

Motion does not carry

Public Information

The committee discussed the revised proposal for Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. to establish an Instagram account and took no action, noting that a social media policy should be established before additional social media platforms are added.

Policy/Admissions

A. Discuss report on the Equitable Distribution of Workload process.

The committee recommended that the Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) process be adopted and implemented.

Policy/Admissions

Discussion

Amendment to extend EDW trial for one year, withdrawn

Motion to recommit and seconded

Discussion

Motion to call the question and second, voted yes, yes 112, no 13

Motion carries

Motion to recommit, voted no, yes 20, no 106

Motion does not carry

Resume discussion on Item A1

Question called and seconded, voted yes, yes 111 , no 14

Motion called

Voted yes on Item A1, yes 93, no 35

Motion carries

Minority opinion

Motion carries

Policy/Admissions

The committee recommended that the Proposed Agenda Item (PAI) submission date deadline for the 2025 General Service Conference be moved to a date no earlier than September 30, 2024.

Discussion

Question called and seconded, voted yes, yes 119, no 2

Motion is called

Vote yes on item A2, yes 114, no 12

Motion carries

Minority opinion

Motion carries

Policy/Admissions

Recommendations approved by video conference April 9, 2024, at a Pre-General Service Conference meeting.

The committee recommended that Alice G, who currently serves as the Area 80 Alternate Delegate and has been selected by the Area to replace Lawrence P, serve as a 2024 Conference Member during Conference Week. The Area has communicated that Lawrence P will continue to serve as the Area 80 Delegate.

The committee recommended that Dwayne M, (who is replacing Gerry W as Area 82 Delegate) serve as a 2024 Conference Member.

International Convention/Regional Forum

A. Discuss an anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony to be taken at the 2025 International Convention.

The committee recommended that an anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2025 International Convention.

Discussion: none

Voted yes, yes 124

Motion carries

International Convention/Regional Forum

B. Discuss an encrypted, anonymity-protected, delayed Internet broadcast of the Convention Flag Ceremony for the 2025 International Convention.

The committee recommended that an encrypted, delayed anonymity-protected Internet video of the 2025 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved and that the video be placed on appropriate communication channels.

Discussion: none

Voted yes, yes 122, no 1

Motion carries

International Convention/Regional Forum

D. Discuss options for closing the Big Meeting at the International Convention.

The committee recommended providing five options for closing the Big Meetings at an International Convention: the Serenity Prayer, Responsibility Statement, Declaration of Unity, Third Step Prayer, or the Seventh Step Prayer.

International Convention/Regional Forum

Amendment to add the lord's prayer, seconded

Discussion

Question called and seconded, voted yes, yes 115, no 12

Motion carries

Return to the amendment of adding the Lord's prayer, voted no, yes 41, no 83

Motion does not carry

Minority opinion

Motion does not carry

Amendment to add a moment of silence to the list, seconded

Discussion

International Convention/Regional Forum

Voted yes, yes 106, no 19

Motion carries

Minority opinion: none

Amended motion for discussion

Called the question and seconded, vote yes, yes 120, no 7

Question called

Vote on the original amended recommendation, voted yes, yes 115, no 11

Motion carries

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

International Convention/Regional Forum

E. Discuss the production of anonymity-protected videos of other highlights of the Convention as a way of sharing the spirit and enthusiasm of the 2025 International Convention with A.A. members.

The committee recommended that anonymity-protected video footage with highlights of the 2025 International Convention be produced for maintaining archival footage of the Convention, as well as for sharing the spirit and enthusiasm of the 2025 International Convention.

Discussion

Voted yes, yes 121, no 4

Motion carries

Minority opinion: none

Motion carries

International Convention/Regional Forum

F. Discuss the production of a delayed, anonymity protected, digital access video product offering of the three big meetings at the 2025 International Convention.

The committee recommended that a delayed, anonymity protected, digital access stand-alone product offering of the three Big Meetings be created.

Discussion

Voted yes, yes 117, no 5

Motion carries

Minority opinion

Motion carries

Floor Actions

It was recommended that:

- A pamphlet on the Asian and Asian-American alcoholic in A.A. be developed.

That a draft or progress report be brought to the 2025 General Service Conference.

- A pamphlet for the unhoused person that specifically addresses alcoholism, what A.A. is and is not, who is welcome at A.A. meetings, and includes stories from AA members who have experienced homelessness be developed and a draft or progress report be brought back to the appropriate 2025 Conference committee. (***Conference declined to consider***)

Floor Actions

- PAIs requesting censure and reorganization have no submission deadline and be forwarded directly to Conference Committee on Trustees. **(Not Approved)**
- All memorandums between Conference Committee and Trustees Committees or Boards be made available to all members of the Conference. ***(Conference declined to consider)***

Motion passed to recommit Floor Actions #5-#15 to the appropriate trustees' Committee or Corporate Board



Questions?