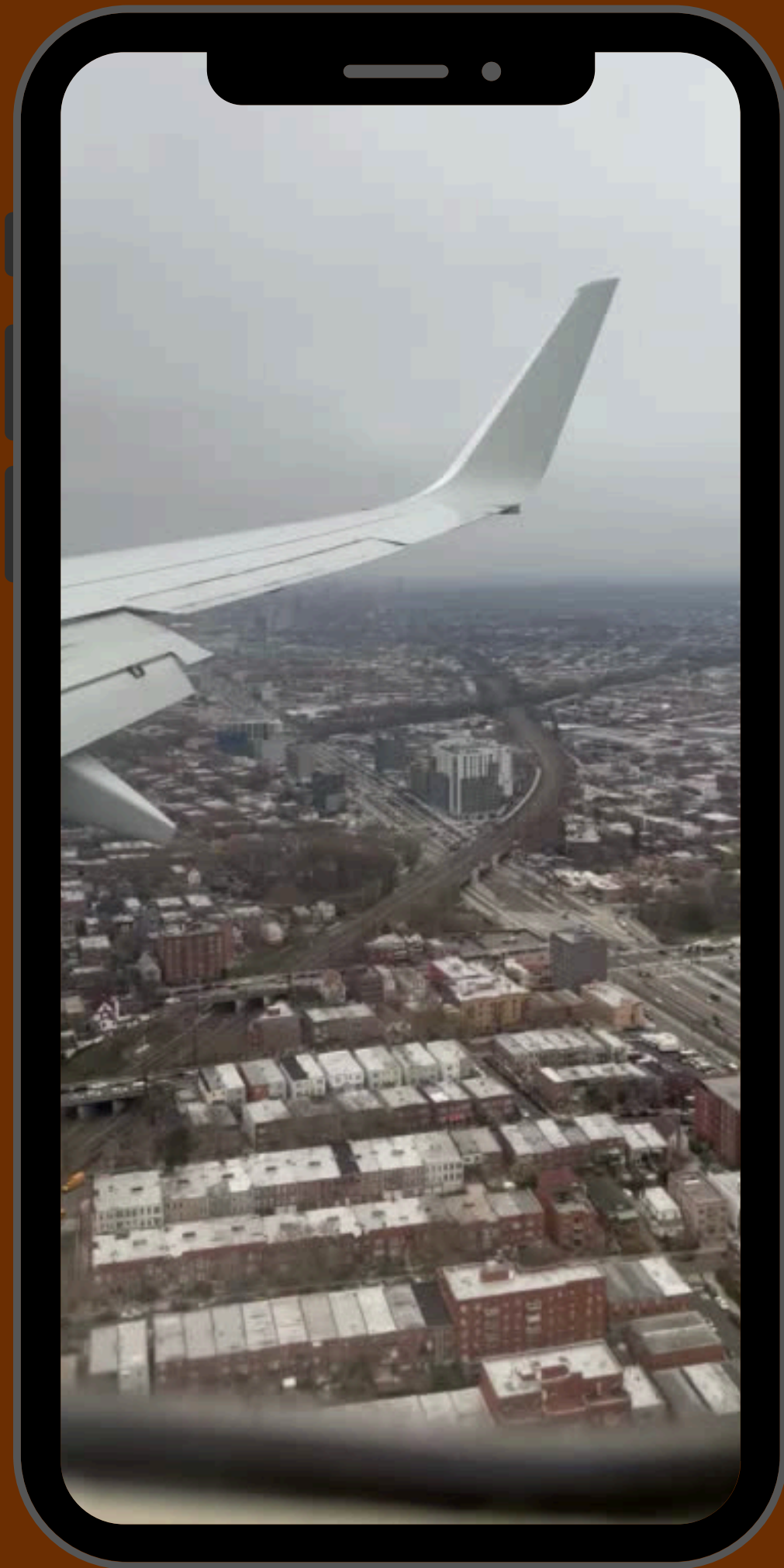


74TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

KERRI K.
PANEL 74, AREA 46 DELEGATE





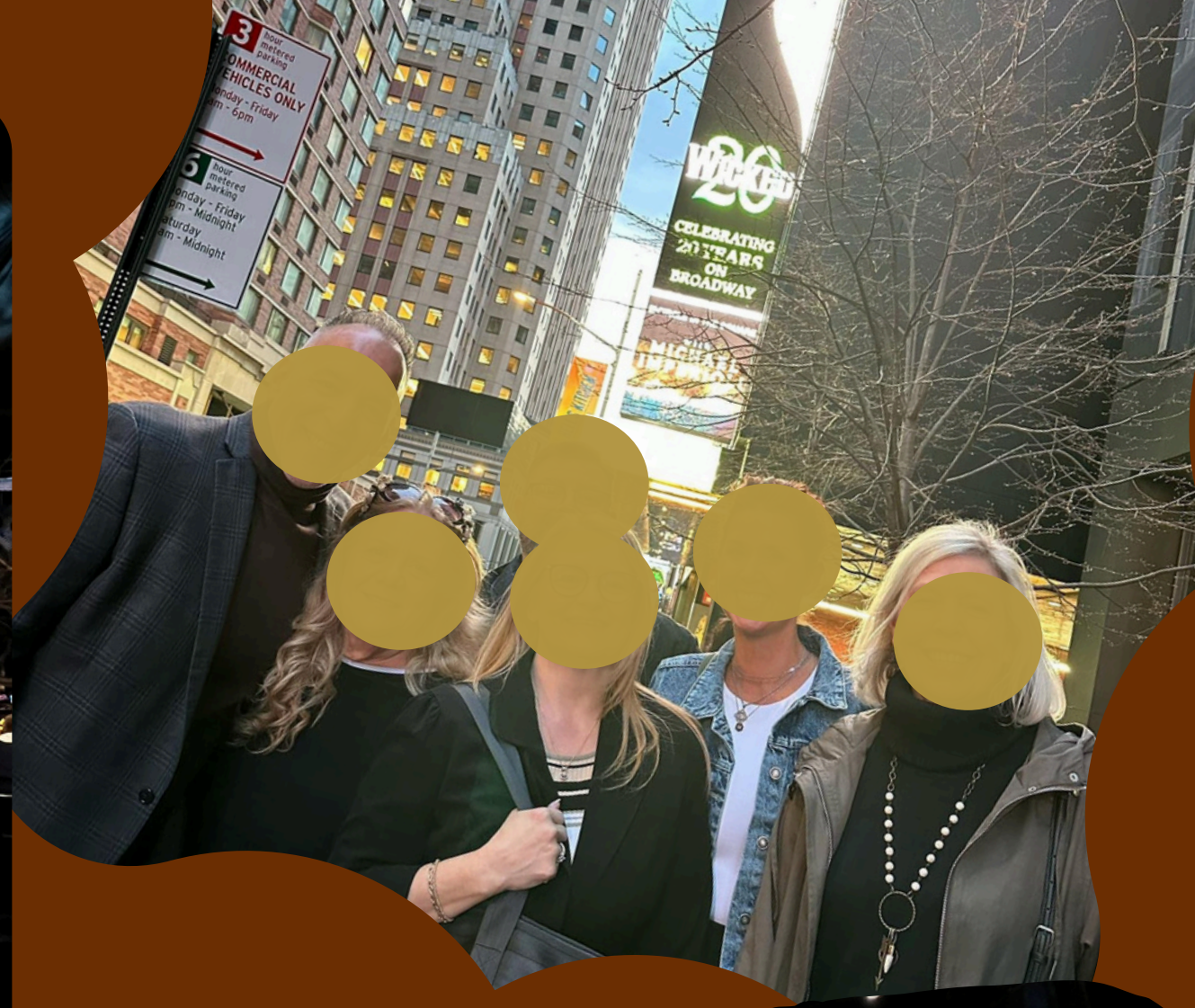
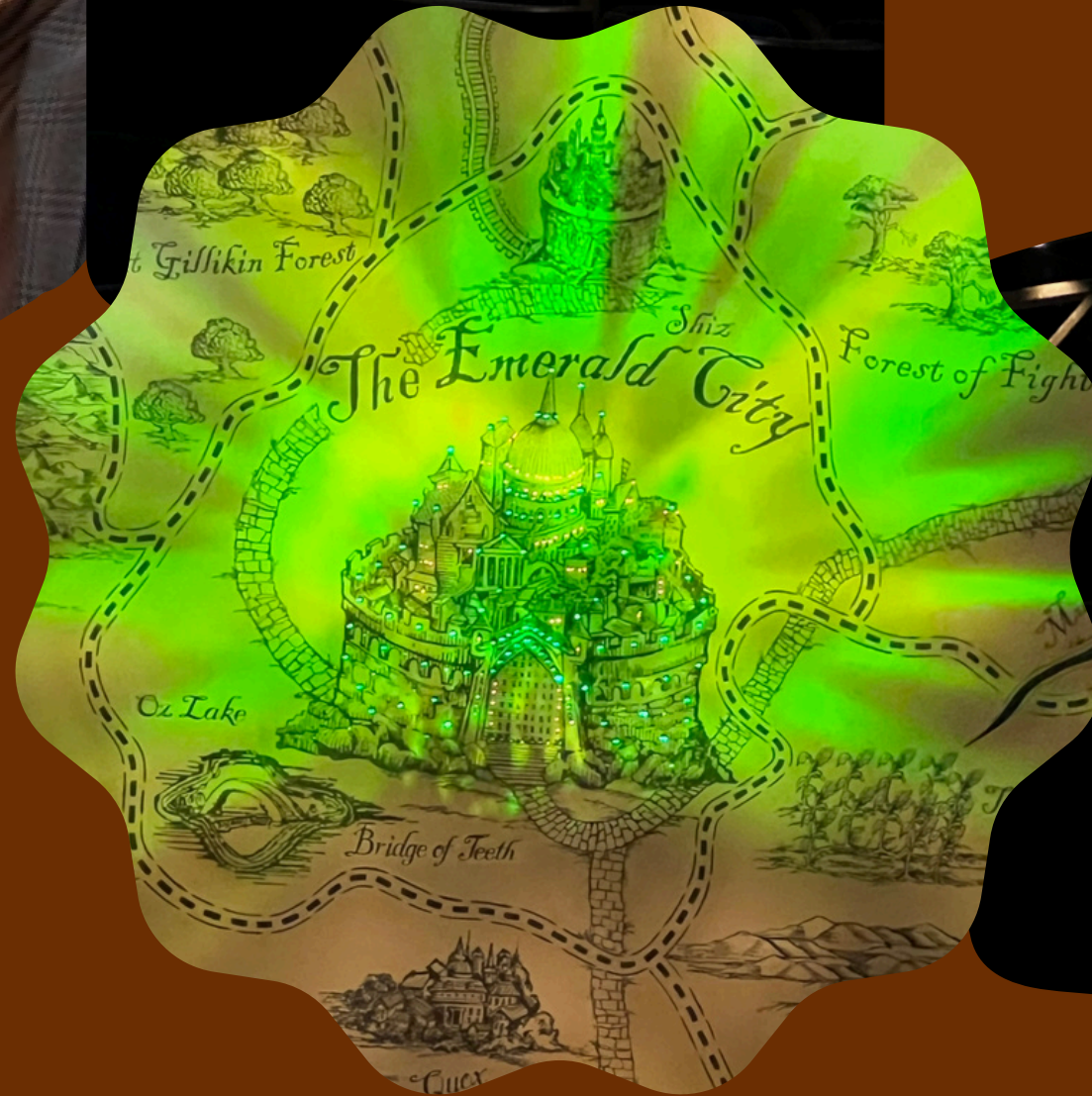
ON MY
WAY!



QUIET DINNER AT THE HOTEL



WICKED NIGHT OUT





EXPLORING NYC

911 MEMORIAL



OLE HOGAN,
MATTSON
N K

Survivor Tree

This Callery pear tree stands distinct from the hundreds of swamp white oak trees on the Memorial. It was discovered amidst the wreckage of the 9/11 attacks, its bark charred from fires at the site and many of its limbs reduced to stumps. Yet somehow, the tree, still bearing leaves, showed signs of life.

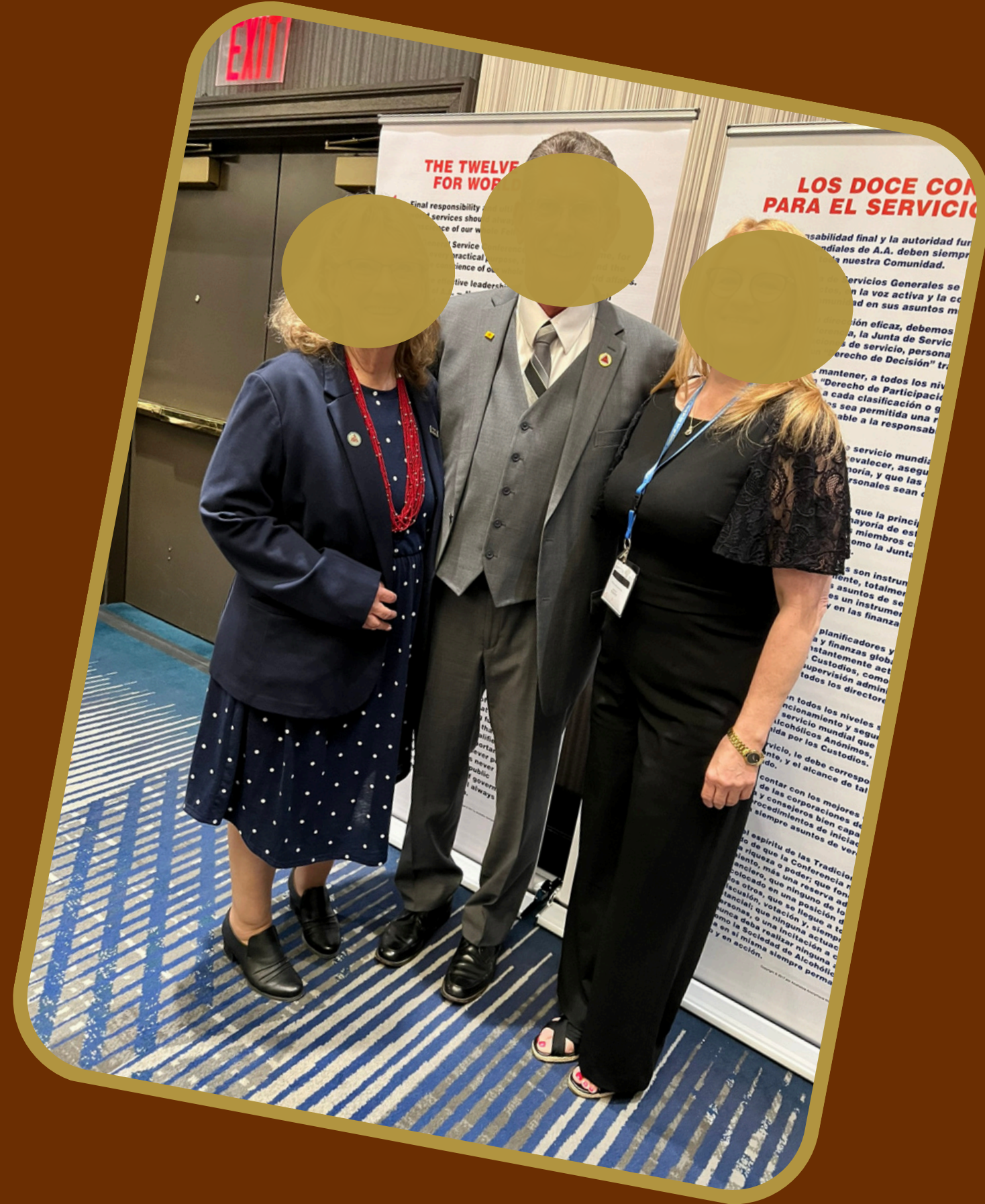
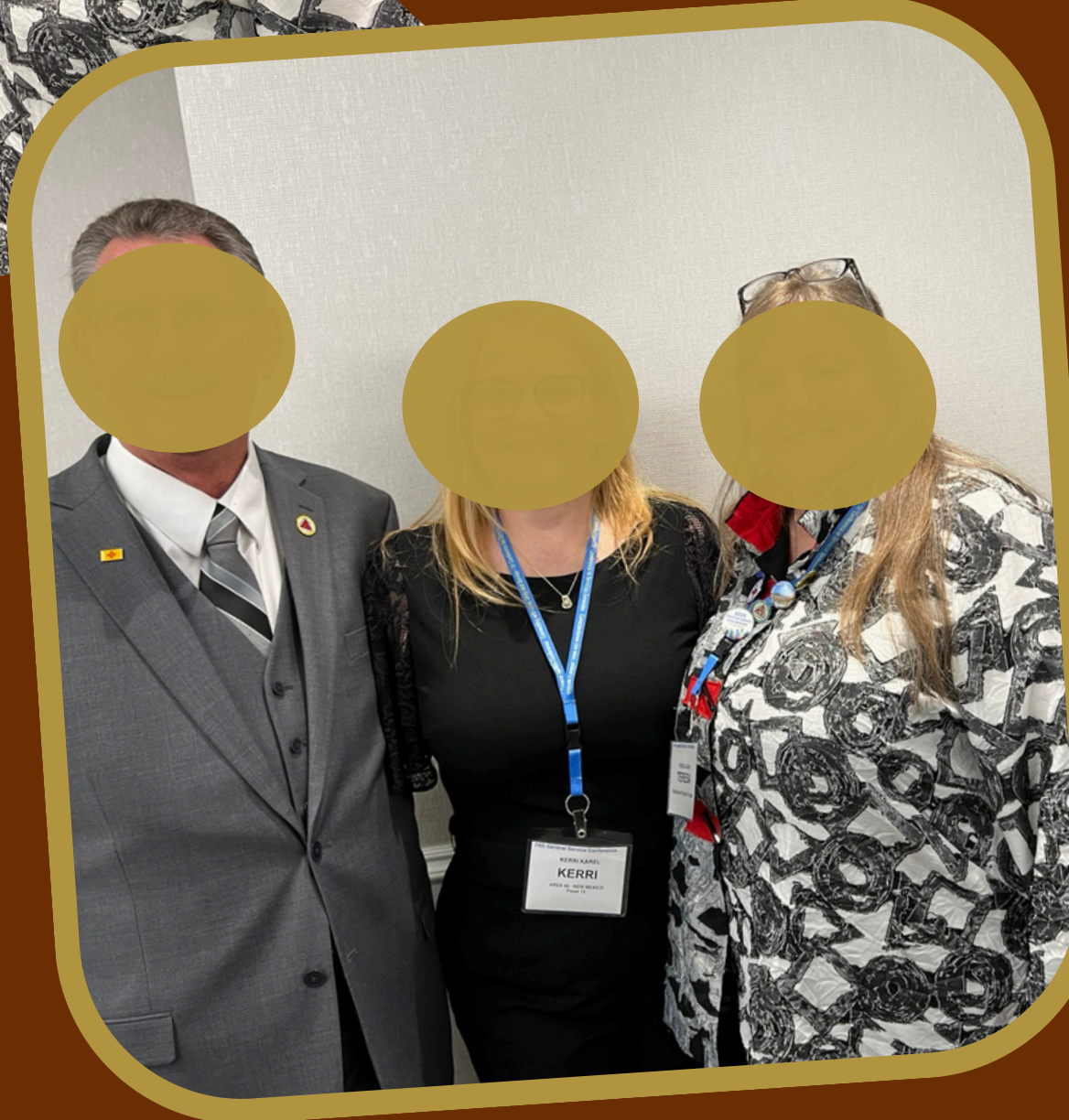
Recovery workers transported the tree to a nursery in the Bronx to be cared for by the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. With careful tending, the stumps of burned and gnarled bark gave growth to longer and smoother branches. Replanted at the 9/11 Memorial in December 2010, this Survivor Tree bursts into magnificent blossom each spring, embodying a living symbol of resilience.



ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER



LOOK WHO I FOUND!!



SOUTHWEST REGION

EXIT

EXIT

EXIT



READY
TO
SERVE



READY
TO
SERVE

Notes

Opening Session
→ Overkill on the pin labeling! ☹️
Land not in a little way!
Rule 62

Alcoholics
Anonymous®



74th General Service Conference

Statistics on Area Delegates

(93 Responses)

	<u>Years</u>
Average Age	58
Oldest	76
Youngest	28
Average Length of Sobriety	23
Longest Sobriety	49
Shortest Sobriety	7
Average Length of Service	18
Longest Service	46
Shortest Service	7

THE CONFERENCE BEGINS: KEYNOTE HIGHLIGHTS

- **134 of us are *blessed* to serve**
- **We are servant leaders with a great responsibility**
- **Let's roll up our sleeves and do our part**
- **Let's debate in loving discussion**
- **We are in this fellowship together**
- **We must learn to trust each other**

~ Irma Van de Bon Nicol, West Canada Regional Trustee

THE CONFERENCE BEGINS: FLOOR ACTION DURING PROCEDURE REVIEW

Whenever any changes are brought to the Conference floor to the Founders' writings,

the Conference must achieve a supermajority of 75%

Motion Tabled Until Literature Committee Report Back

THE CONFERENCE BEGINS: MOTION TO SUSPEND AREA HIGHLIGHTS

Motion from the Floor

The Conference Committee on Agenda caucused during the opening session of the General Service Conference to consider a motion from the floor regarding changing the Conference week schedule...

The committee recommended suspension of oral presentation of all Area Service Highlights during the 74th General Service Conference to allow for additional time on the agenda for general sharing and questions.

The motion failed.

BIG NEWS!



**We have reclaimed
AlcoholicsAnonymous.com!!**

73rd General Service Conference Advisory Action

In an effort to improve communication, ensure Board policies are reflective of our principles, and reestablish a relationship of trust between the General Service Conference, the General Service Board and the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, the General Service Board is asked to undertake an inventory prior to the 74th General Service Conference. To assist the Board in this endeavor, the 73rd General Service Conference will establish a working group to aid the General Service Board in formulating possible inventory questions.

There were also two other Advisory Actions that were aligned with reaching the goals of Board Inventory. They are:

- The Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee develop additional ways to report quarterly the fiscal performance of the AAWS, GSB and GV Boards throughout the year to the members of the General Service Conference for the purposes of transparency and assisting in the reporting to the A.A. Fellowship.
- To foster unity, trust, and transparency in the Fellowship, the members of the General Service Conference meet outside of the annual meeting for general sharing sessions at least two times per year utilizing virtual meeting technology.

BOARD INVENTORY REPORT: MIKE LEWIS, INTERIM BOARD CHAIR

Inventory Process:

- A consultant was hired to conduct the inventory
- Cross-functional group, that included some delegates, created the questions used in the board inventory
- 23 Questions total
- All board members were sent the questions. Responses were sent to the consultant for compilation.

January 2024 Board Weekend

- High-level review of survey results
- Split into 5 breakout groups
 - Each group was assigned 4 or 5 of the 23 questions
- Groups were tasked to review and identify key learning observations as well as possible solutions and actionable steps.

Conclusion:

“Following the resignation of the Board Chair, the communication from the General Service Board to the Fellowship was ineffective. This was made worse because we failed to anticipate the nature and volume of communications from those not on the General Service Board. Together this caused harm to our staff members, Non-Trustee Directors, and Delegates. On behalf of the General Service Board, I offer my sincerest apologies for the damage our poor communication has caused. The General Service Board is committed to changing how we communicate, but we going to need the help of General Service Conference for this to be effective.”

~Mike Lewis, Interim Board Chair

Changes implemented to date:

- At least two virtual sharing sessions in between conferences
- Quarterly financial reporting.
 - We have made some adjustments to the process and look forward to discussing how we can be more effective with this reporting.
- Progress on reviewing and updating
 - Code of Conduct Policy
 - Whistleblower Policy
 - Confidentiality Policy
- Held Board Huddles at the Quarterly Board Weekends to align our Board servants with the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts.

Changes yet to be implemented:

Identified in the inventory that we plan to implement include:

- Holding a Board Retreat to conduct leadership training and strategic planning.
- Implement a workload management plan to relieve the over saturated workload placed on the staff and Boards.

The item we will need help from the Conference on is:

- Create a cross-functional group of Conference members to identify improvements in our communication and reporting between the Boards and the Conference members.

HEALING BETWEEN THE BOARD AND THE DELEGATES: WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND

A Delegate asked: What have you learned about yourself serving as trustee?

The Positive Side

- Most board members came to mic to share
- Some healing did take place between trustees and delegates
- No overt amends (except for Mike in his report) but many shares alluded to it

The Down Side

- The trustees who shared early shared around 2 minutes
- As the time wore on trustees shared for 5, 6, 7 minutes. One trustee shared for 9 minutes.
- This was disrespectful to delegates and others who share during conference
 - EVERYONE is supposed to get two minutes

This unfortunately overshadowed some (not all) of the healing that did take place

What I learned from the committee process

- Our committee process is beautiful
- Standing for what you believe is the right decision is not always popular
- My area elected me to serve in this role - I will do it even if I do it afraid
- Just when you don't think you'll have enough time to get the work done, God works it out!

Policy & Admissions

Meeting Times

- Sunday 1-2 PM
- Monday 9AM-1PM
- Tuesday 8 AM - 1 PM

Intn'l Conventions and Regional Forums

Meeting Times

- Wednesday 3:30-5:45 PM
- Thursday 10 AM - 1 PM

**This is a secondary committee Assignment*

FOUNDER'S WRITINGS

Important to Remember:

- This was NOT a specific agenda item.
- Two Sharing sessions were held
 - a. Online the week before conference
 - b. During the Conference
- The Trustees Literature Committee took extensive notes on the sharing session

SHARING ON THE FOUNDER'S WRITINGS: WHAT I SHARED

As delegate, I provided multiple avenues for members of Area 46 to express their thoughts and feelings on this issue. I made it clear that every member's voice matters. We are assured this is true when trusted servants at all levels of the triangle honor our Traditions, Concepts and 6 Warranty's in Concept 12.

Overall, 32% of Area 46 believe the founders would embrace changes to their writings and 68% believe they would object. Of the 32% who believe they would embrace changes; a large percentage expressed the need to make changes carefully and sparingly. Of the 68% who believe they would object are extremely passionate in their belief. One unexpected viewpoint from the 68% majority is that a high percentage of them are in favor of the Plain Language Big Book project as a separate piece of conference approved literature – NOT a translation. They simply want the founders' writings left alone.

SHARING ON THE FOUNDER'S WRITINGS: WHAT I SHARED (CONT)

Many expressed the sentiment that outside issues are taking over aspects of our fellowship and are very concerned we may wind up with two fellowships. Like with many other areas, the issue of how to treat the Founders' Writings brings out passionate feelings from A.A. members. In my view, this is one of the three most important issues facing our fellowship today. Our unity and our fellowship as a whole are in peril. This cannot be taken lightly.

##

PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK

PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK: WHAT I SHARED DURING "WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND"

A poll was taken at our assembly asking this simple question: Based on the information you have, are you for or against the PLBB project? From the assembly poll, 62% are for the PLBB project and 38% are against the PLBB project. Of the 62% in favor of the project, many of them think it should be a workbook or a separate piece of conference-approved literature and NOT described as a translation of the Big Book. Even a handful of those who are against the project voiced these ideas as well.

Shared on Monday, April 15

THE CONFERENCE BEGINS: FLOOR ACTION DURING PROCEDURE REVIEW

Whenever any changes are brought to the Conference floor to the Founders' writings, considered by this motion to be:

- The book Alcoholics Anonymous
 - First 164 pages,
 - "The Doctor's Opinion
 - Forewords to the first and second editions, the
 - Appendices on Spiritual Awakening and
 - The Traditions
 - Dr. Bob's Nightmare
- The book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

the Conference must achieve a supermajority of 75% ... However, the General Service Board shall not immediately act upon the Conference's directions, and instead, shall request all Area Delegates to conduct further discussions in their respective Areas.

Motion Failed: 61 Yes | 69 No

Thursday at 7 PM

PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK: LITERATURE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

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 Committee’s Review Process

The committee started the conference a day early. They spent 12+ hours as a committee reviewing the entire manuscript. They read aloud for 20 minutes and then discussed the passage.

PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK: PROPOSED AMENDMENT #1 FROM THE FLOOR

Add Bill W. and Dr. Bob's original stories next to the plain language text.

- Amendment discussed for 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Ultimately the amendment failed

PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK: PROPOSED AMENDMENT #2 FROM THE FLOOR

Remove plain language explanation of the steps, traditions and concepts from the Plain Language Big Book.

- Amendment discussed for 1 hour.

Ultimately the amendment failed

PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK: DISCUSSION OF ORIGINAL MOTION

Discussion began at 10 PM

Original Motion:

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.

Discussion paused at 11:52 PM until the following morning

Mike Lewis Interim Board Chair commented:

This is the most important decision the conference has faced in 10 years.

PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK: MOTION PASSED

Motion Passed: 129 Total Votes: 91 Yes | 38 No (2/3 = 86 votes)

Original Motion:

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.

Important Note:

The Literature Conferences Committee submitted a memo to the Literature Trustees Committee with 23 additional notes/edits on the Plain Language Big Book project.

PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK: MY ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOU

If you are in favor of the book...

- Read it with an open mind, study it with an open mind, share it
- Look for errors that may need to be corrected
- Be respectful of those who do not share your enthusiasm for the book

If you are NOT in favor of the book...

- Read it with an open mind, study it with an open mind, share it
- Look for errors that may need to be corrected
- Be respectful of those who do not share your concerns about the book

FINANCES: 2023 GSO HIGHLIGHTS

- **7th Tradition of Self-Support – \$10.84 million up 2.8% from \$10.55 million in 2022**
- **Operating Expense: \$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**

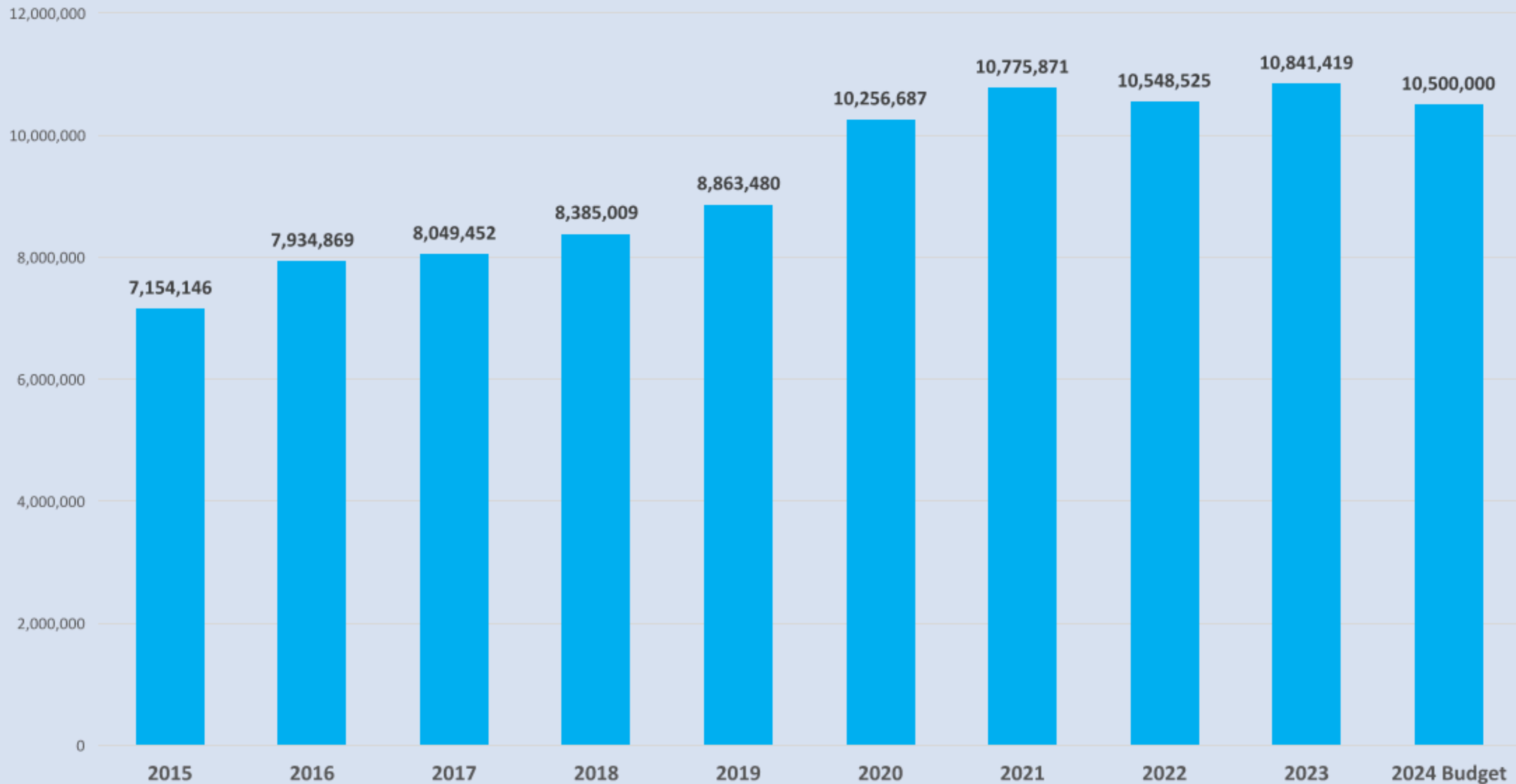
Cost of program services per individual – \$6.43

Birthday Plan - Send GSB \$1 for every year sober

FINANCES: 2023 GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA 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.
- GV Gross margins
 - Subscriptions \$601,088
 - Other GV Published Items \$562,746
- 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.

7TH TRADITION SELF-SUPPORT – 2015 – 2024

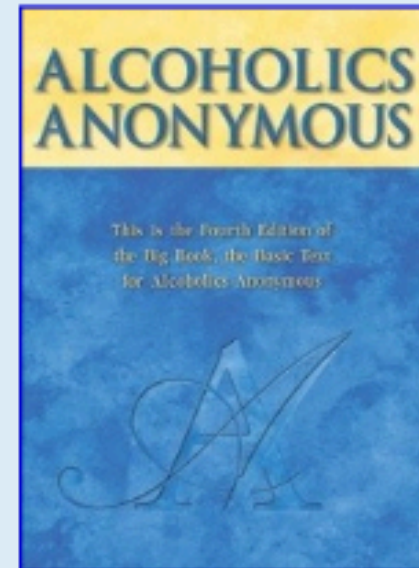
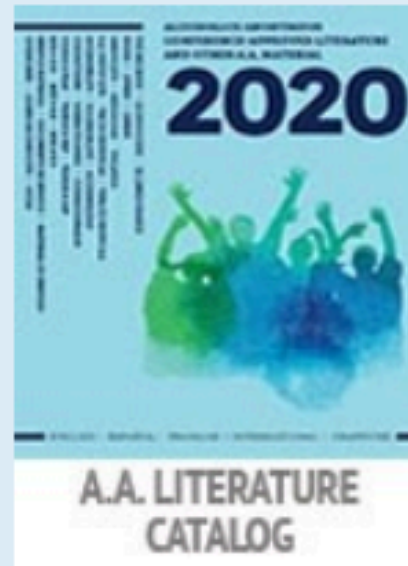


CONTRIBUTIONS STATISTICS 2023

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

G.S.O.'s TWO BASIC FUNCTIONS

• Publishing



• Services on Behalf of the G.S.B.



Fellowship Connection

Returning User
Required *

Email Address *

Password *

[Forgot password?](#)



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%)

FINANCES: NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

- Delegates are asking for more transparent financial reporting
 - We want to see the details of the “top line” numbers
 - We are starting to receive quarterly financial updates - this is a start!
-

Finance Agenda Item A:

Consider a request that the General Service Board develop supplemental reporting focused on the actual evolving costs of various services provided by the GSB.



Additional Committee
Consideration

- 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 reporting and it be brought back to the Conference Committee on Finance for review at the 75th General Service Conference.

➤ Include reporting on the following service items:

- Development of certain new literature titles
- Cost of capital projects such as software, app, and website development
- Maintenance cost of software, apps, and website

15 Floor Actions were introduced throughout the Conference

- First floor action was introduced during the review of procedures on the first day
- Last floor action was submitted shortly before the conference closed late Saturday night
- One additional floor action not counted in the 15
 - Motion for supermajority 75% which was tabled and then addressed before Literature Committee Report
- Only four of the 15 floor actions were addressed by the conference.
- We ran out of time and were not allowed to go past 11:59 on Friday night.
 - Reasons given were A/V and interpretation contracts

FLOOR ACTIONS: ADDRESSED

#1: It was recommended that:

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 A.A. members who have experienced homelessness be developed, and a draft or progress report be brought back to the appropriate 2025 Conference committee. **Declined to Consider**

#2: It was recommended that:

PAI's requesting censure and reorganization have no submission deadline and be forwarded directly to the Conference Committee on Trustees.

Motion Heard | Amendment Made & Failed | Original Motion Failed

FLOOR ACTIONS: ADDRESSED

#3: It was recommended that:

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

Note: This was a GV/LV agenda item. The committee took no action do to cost and current workload.

This floor action was discussed for two hours.

Motion Heard | Amendment Made & Failed |

Original Motion Passed Yes: 99 No: 27 2/3: 84 Total: 126

#4: It was recommended that:

All memorandums between Conference Committee and Trustees Committees or Boards be made available to all members of the Conference.

Declined to Consider | Yes: 119 No: 7 23/: 84 Total Votes: 126

FLOOR ACTIONS: FORWARDED FLOOR ACTIONS

The following floor actions will be forwarded to the appropriate Trustee Committee or the Corporate Board.

Floor Action #5: The conference affirm that La Viña continue to be published by the AA Grapevine and supported by the General Service Board as a service to the Fellowship.

Floor Action #6: The Grapevine Board develop a plan for a more effective La Viña subscription procedure, fulfillment process and customer service experience.

Floor Action #7: All non-offensive PAI's submitted for consideration of the 72nd, 73rd and 74th General Service Conferences regarding the change made to the AA Preamble by the 71st General Service Conference be grouped as one item, and forward to the appropriate 75th General Service Conference committee.

Floor Action #8: The additional feedback from the Conference Committee on Literature identified in their memo to the Publishing Department on sticking points for the Plain Language draft manuscript be implemented in the draft before printing.

FLOOR ACTIONS: FORWARDED FLOOR ACTIONS

Floor Action #9: Whenever any changes are brought to the Conference floor to the Founders' writings, considered by this motion to be: the Conference must achieve a supermajority of 75% in order for the General Service Board to act upon it.

Floor Action #10: The AA Grapevine Board develop a 5-year financial plan for the Grapevine with the goal to reduce shortfalls and increase revenue to be brought back to 2025 Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña.

Floor Action #11: Delegates should emphasize to the groups the effect that inflation has had on the contribution dollar and the necessity for adjusting contributions accordingly to support services provided by the General Service Board.

Floor Action #12: Delegates who require translation be provided with all documents, materials, reports, communications, etc., in their native language, with all necessary information to be able to fulfill their role as trusted servants, bearing in mind the traditional right of participation.

Floor Action #13: "A.A. At a Glance" > "Who can attend A.A. meetings?" > "Closed" discussion meetings are for alcoholics only" be changed to: "Attendance at a "closed" meeting is limited to A.A. members and persons who have a desire to stop drinking."

FLOOR ACTIONS: FORWARDED FLOOR ACTIONS: PLAIN LANGUAGE BB

Floor Action #14: The explanations of the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts be removed from the Plain Language Big Book.

Floor Action #15: Retitle the Plain Language Big Book to: “The Plain Language Guide to A.A.’s 12 Steps of Recovery”

STEPPING STONES



STEPPING STONES



MY CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

Challenging

Humbling

Amazing

Heart-Wrenching

Incredible

Inspiring

Frustrating

Heart Breaking

Wonderful

One-of-a-Kind

Humbling

WHAT I KNOW...

- A Loving Higher Power is still guiding our conference
- Our GSO Staff works VERY hard for us
- Our Grapevine/La Vina Staff works VERY hard for us
- Every Single Delegate loves Alcoholics Anonymous
- Every Single Trustee loves Alcoholics Anonymous
- Our Fellowship needs to stay focused on Unity
- You can disagree and remain agreeable and respectful
- I am so incredibly grateful for this experience!

THANK YOU, FOR PLACING
YOUR TRUST IN ME

I AM FOREVER CHANGED