

■ Department Reorganization at GSO Aimed at Improving Vital Services

A recent reorganization at the General Service Office (GSO) to create two new departments — Language Services and Legal, Licensing and Intellectual Property — is bringing more focus to their important services, including the licensing of literature to AA structures around the world, new translations of books and pamphlets, translation of documents and background for the General Service Conference, and protecting intellectual property rights related to literature and the AA name. Many of these services previously were provided under the Publishing Department.

General Manager Bob W. sees this change as a way to provide employees at the General Service Office “with the best support to be successful” as they deliver these vital services more efficiently and effectively. “The whole point is to make better Twelfth Step work possible, and I think that’s what we’re doing with this reorganization,” Bob says.

Legal, Licensing and Intellectual Property: A centralized portal

With AA active in more than 180 countries, GSO has seen a steady surge in requests being made each year to license translations of AA literature, from the Big Book and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* to other AA classics like *Living Sober*. Until recently, these requests were directed to the Publishing Department, which holds more than 1,300 copyrights for various AA writings, videos, audios, and the like.

“Since I joined the office in early 2014 as licensing manager,” says Publishing Director David R., “we have been working across departments toward best serving the international Fellowship in carrying the message in 100 local languages ... and counting. We consolidated a Licensing and Translations Policy and Process, translated it into several languages, and spread the word at zonal meetings and World Service Meetings. As a result, year over year, we experienced an exponential surge in translation projects crossing the finishing line. Yet, we also experienced increasing numbers of backlogs in



meeting the growing demand of these requests.”

To address the backlog and meet this increasing demand, a key component of the new Legal, Licensing and Intellectual Property Department is a centralized portal known as the Translation Licensing Connection (TLC), which the international Fellowship will be able to access when it goes live. TLC is in the final stages of development and will be fully operational this spring. “What this portal will do is streamline the user side of the experience,” says Beverly Jones-King (nonalcoholic), who joined GSO last year as executive legal administrator. “If a country’s service structure has translated, say, *Living Sober*, into their language, they can go into this portal, select the book they are looking for, and select the language they’ve translated it into. We see their request and can respond to it or ask for clarifications, if necessary. They also can check the status of their request in the portal. Once all the needed documents [for licensing] are in, we can send them documents to sign, then we sign it and return to them.” Further streamlining the procedure, the documents can now be signed digitally.

One other seemingly small but important innovation: The new department has set up regular virtual meetings for anyone from the international AA community

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Note on anonymity: From time to time in this publication full names and/or pictures of G.S.O. employees, Class A trustees and other nonalcoholics are used. The anonymity of A.A. members is maintained, as they are identified throughout by first name and last initial only.

who would like to discuss licensing concerns. “That way, they put a face to a name and in the future, they’ll know exactly who to contact,” says Beverly. “And we can ask them directly, ‘What document would you like? What’s your most important goal?’”

Among Beverly’s other responsibilities, she reviews vendor and other GSO contracts and addresses intellectual property requests to use AA literature. “For example, there are alcoholics in recovery who want permission to use the Twelve Steps in a play. Or filmmakers want to display the Big Book at an AA meeting.” In all, Beverly and two nonalcoholic full-time staffers, Licensing Administrator Rosa Rodriguez and Licensing Coordinator Gesi Cinari, are working to clear the translation and licensing backlog. The department also recently welcomed Drew Deetz (nonalcoholic), Intellectual Property Administrator, as well as two temporary employees.

Language Services Department meets the challenge

In February, the new Language Services Department simultaneously delivered all General Service Conference background material to delegates in three languages — English, French and Spanish — which had never been accomplished that far in advance of Conference, which took place April 23-29.

Stéphanie Bozino-Routier (nonalcoholic), who serves as manager of the new department, has a background in project management in addition to her translation skills, so she knew how to approach the challenge. “I worked closely with Conference Coordinator Diana L., who had already crafted a detailed tracker for the Conference background,” she says. “We collaborated on the process, timeline, quality control, and more. There was already a team of translators in place, one team for French, another for Spanish, and we were able to do this. It was quite a learning experience. It helped us understand from our vantage point in Language Services how we can do everything better and what kind of processes are needed. I now have sent an evaluation to all stakeholders involved in the Conference background from the production team to leadership, which will serve to collect data. In the next few weeks, the Language Services Department will draft a project closeout report and start mapping out Conference background guidelines, in collaboration with all stakeholders.”

The Language Services Department is responsible for the translation of the literature and thousands of documents GSO produces each year in several languages. The department also coordinates interpretation services to allow for direct communication with other AA service structures around the world. “There’s a lot to handle,” Stéphanie says, “but my attitude is more on the optimis-



tic side — When it's a challenge, I think, 'What is the opportunity there?'"

Stéphanie and her team are also seeking ways to optimize the translation process to best respond to the ongoing numerous translation requests—Conference documents, staff correspondence, Fellowship services, the newsletters, service materials, and the many language services tasks that arise in the daily service that GSO provides to the Fellowship. After meeting with the different departments, says Stéphanie, "I decided to create a request form using software created for project and task management so we can centralize all our requests. I also designed a nine-month timeline that allows us to determine, 'What is the rationale for this project or initiative? Who are the stakeholders? What is the priority, etc.?"

The streamlined system facilitates the workflow for Juliette L., French editor/translator, and full-time consultant Hernán M., Spanish editor, translator, and interpreter, both of whom translate or assign and edit the work of freelancers. Stéphanie also is seeking to recruit two new translators for her team. With the added help, she would like to improve the French- and Spanish-language versions of aa.org as well as the French- and Spanish-language translations of AA history books, older pamphlets, and service material needing updating, grammar, and typographical corrections and sometimes full retranslating, gradually eliminating errors, and standardizing AA writing style and glossary.

"Ultimately," Stéphanie says, "my goal is to grow Language Services, delivering the highest quality translations and other language services, including interpretation and audio, in Spanish and French simultaneously with the English. The best reward for our team would be to hear positive feedback from the hispanophone, francophone, and anglophone members of the Fellowship."

Meanwhile, the reorganization has allowed the Publishing Department to focus more directly on its many ongoing projects related to literature. Currently, these include the plain language Big Book, the Fifth Edition Big Book, the Fourth Edition Spanish-language Big Book, pamphlets, and the digital distribution of e-books and audiobooks through multiple vendor platforms, including to Corrections vendors via tablets.

According to Bob W., the successful launch of the Legal, Licensing and Intellectual Property and Language Services Departments is an example of how AA can address the challenges of change and growing complexity of services. "We learn a lot from bumps in the road," he says. "We say, 'Let's maneuver around it, let's learn by doing.' And we're able to move forward, not taking ourselves too seriously, but keeping going and finding a solution."

■ New Department Leaders Bring Experience and Expertise to GSO

Overseeing the departments of Language Services and Legal, Licensing and Intellectual Property are two new employees who recently joined GSO: Language Services Manager **Stéphanie Bozino-Routier** (nonalcoholic) and Executive Legal Administrator **Beverly Jones-King** (non-alcoholic).

Born in the north of France, Stéphanie was nearly 25 when she moved to the United States to learn English.



Stéphanie Bozino-Routier

She earned a B.A. in foreign languages, literature and linguistics at Hunter College and started working at the United Nations in 2003. Her first position at the UN was providing translations as a verbatim reporter of their proceedings. This experience inspired her to attend City College of New York, where she received a master's in international

relations while pregnant with her daughter, Kimaya (Sanskrit for "divine"). She returned to the UN in 2012, serving in various positions until she moved to the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as a human rights officer. Before joining GSO last year, she was an operations officer at a Canadian human rights organization assisting Afghan refugees following the Taliban takeover in 2021.

As her contract there ended, Stéphanie came across a promising lead for a job as a senior project manager. "I applied to the position through a recruiter," she says. "AA was not mentioned. When I had an interview and they told me this was AA, I thought, 'this is so interesting.'" At the time, Stéphanie had been tutoring a student in French who told her that he had been in AA for more than 30 years. She learned from him about the Twelve Steps and the Big Book and how AA had changed his life. They began translating the *Daily Reflections* into French each day as part of their lessons.

Stéphanie started at GSO on October 25, 2022 — a year to the day that her father had died from complications of alcoholism. "To me that was so meaningful, so serendipitous," she says. Given her background, she had wanted "to work for an organization that had a mission that resonated with me. What I got from my interview with Bob [GSO general manager] was this sense of service. As I broaden my knowledge of the organization and move ahead with this new department,

approaching my work with the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, I'm really looking forward to being of service to AA."

Beverly, the new executive legal administrator for Legal, Licensing and Intellectual Property, who joined GSO in August, was born and raised in Brooklyn and currently lives in Queens. She spent a lot of her childhood in the South — her family is originally from North Carolina — where she became familiar with AA because her father was a sober alcoholic. After attending St. John's University in Queens, where she majored in government and politics with a minor in theology, she worked in the legal field for more than 25 years. She has been employed at various startups, creating their litigation support departments, as well as at large law firms as a project manager in litigation support. She also worked for a litigation support company based in Virginia on numerous government contracts, some of which involved, as she says, "working with the Feds" on various investigations. "I listened to a lot of wiretaps," she adds. "It was actually quite fascinating!"



Beverly Jones-King

How did she find her way to GSO? "I was working as the office manager and senior paralegal for a law firm involved with commercial real estate," she says. "The firm represented landlords who owned shopping centers across the country; I actually did that for a number of years, and I realized that I wasn't doing anything that was fulfilling to my heart and my soul. At this time, I was doing social work and outreach for the sorority I'm affiliated with, and I just wanted to give back more than I had been doing in my career at that point."

Beverly saw the GSO position posted online and realized: "That's me, I can do this." She remembers being asked at her interviews, "Why do you want to work here?" and replying, "I hadn't known I was coming to AA until I got here, and then I realized this was the place I wanted to be."

Her experience at GSO so far has deepened her understanding of AA. "When my Dad was in the Fellowship," she says, "I used to think, 'Oh, AA — you go into a building a couple times a week.' But to see that there is so much more to AA than that building, and to know that this is the organization that helped my father, and that I'm giving back in some way to a place that assisted him, it's a great feeling. And it's such a pleasure to come into work every day."

GSO Welcomes New Staff Members

The General Service Office (GSO) welcomed three new staff members recently — AA members who are coordinating and providing services through their work on staff member assignments.

At GSO, there are 12 Staff Member Assignments, or "Desks," that are filled by a rotating group of professionals who are also AA members. With the help of staff assistants, staff members provide services specific to their desk, which cover a broad range of areas related to AA, while responding to thousands of inquiries from the Fellowship and from people from around the world.

Staff members are expected to undertake responsibilities that may include coordinating the development of books and pamphlets, corresponding with incarcerated individuals, informing the public about the Fellowship, and organizing one of the largest international conventions in the world. Staff members must be both versatile and flexible; their assignments rotate every two years, and they are required to make a smooth transition from, for example, working with Loners and AAs in treatment facilities to organizing the annual General Service Conference, or from han-

dling public information to coordinating the work of the staff itself.

Meet our new staff members

Three new staff members have recently joined GSO, stepping into service assignments and taking over regional correspondence for specific geographic areas within the U.S. and Canada. Michael R., Karina C., and Misha Q. each share excitement and gratitude for the opportunity offered by their new roles.

Michael R. joined GSO in September on the Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) assignment. He previously worked as a freelance information technology and business development consultant. "I'm beyond grateful to work at GSO," he says. "When I walk into work each morning, I pass the GSO Archives and take a look at the historical photos on the wall and reflect on just how important the work we do here is."

Reflecting on his journey to sobriety, Michael says: "I started at a young age, drinking heavily by 11, and all through my teens into my middle-aged years. The final 14 years of my drinking was daily, and the final three

years were more or less around the clock. I would shake between drinks at times.

“When I was out of options and couldn’t stop drinking, couldn’t live with booze or without booze, and sincerely wanted to stop, but couldn’t, I took the suggestion to go to AA and ask for help – something I hadn’t done before. They told me I never had to drink again. And although *I* wasn’t so sure, *they* believed it, and that gave me hope.”

Noting the privilege to be able to work for the Fellowship that saved his life, Michael adds: “My first home group was what I call ‘the AA meeting from central casting’ – a group of gentle old-timers who called me ‘kid’ despite my being 47 when I came in. And they showed me how to put the Twelve Steps into action to live a sober, productive, happy life.”

Service came easily to Michael, providing a solid foundation for his future work at GSO. “I learned by example from my first home group: welcome the newcomer, direct your shares and your leads as if the audience is hearing a speaker for the first time. Share what keeps me coming back. I have sponsored men, taken them through the Twelve Steps, and it is cliché, but that’s the gift, giving it away to another.”

Before joining GSO, Michael worked as an operations manager for a small startup company in New York City. “The experience I gained in that job was in fact helpful

in my role now at GSO,” Michael says. “I started as an office manager, and that led to me being the operations manager when I got sober. It was a tremendous responsibility but getting sober allowed me to meet the challenge. Every day was a new task, a new report, a new customer, a new logistical problem to solve, and in many ways that is similar to the work as CPC coordinator. While I have guidelines and shared experience to draw from, every day can be something new.”

During his drinking days, Michael also worked for a while in the music industry. “I was exposed to some wild times,” he remembers. “In some way, it was okay to drink and use substances at times. In other situations, which at the time I couldn’t understand, there were sober artists, on sober tours, with no partying allowed in the studio or backstage, but that didn’t bother me at the time, I just figured they couldn’t handle their booze.”

Today, among his responsibilities at the CPC desk, Michael supports local CPC committees and Treatment committees throughout the U.S. and Canada, provides CPC and Treatment service material, coordinates AA exhibits at national conferences for professionals, and helps to produce the digital newsletter *About AA* for professionals. He also responds to numerous inquiries from professionals who want to learn about AA so they can help their patients or clients. Michael recalls a doctor in the Pacific Northwest who wrote to GSO for information on AA to help patients. “I contacted the Area CPC chair and shared the doctor’s information, and then I replied to the doctor that someone would be in touch with their office soon,” he says. “Minutes later, I looked at my email inbox and the Area CPC chair informed me they had reached out to the doctor and scheduled to meet in the coming days for coffee, to share about AA, and then go to an open meeting together so the doctor could see how AA works and learn more about us. That was incredibly rewarding. And it happens week in and week out. I cannot thank our local CPC committee members enough who are so eager to help.”

Karina C. also joined GSO in September, taking on the Group Services assignment. At this desk, she serves as a liaison to AA groups, as well as to intergroups/central offices, and to other Twelve-Step fellowships.

No stranger to AA service and the Fellowship, prior to becoming a GSO staff member, Karina was the associate editor of *La Viña* for more than three years, leading editorial projects in Spanish and supervising and managing the editorial team for the magazine. Born and educated in Costa Rica, Karina is bilingual, with ESL classes and college courses in international relations. Drinking heavily throughout her college years, Karina eventually went to live with her parents on Long Island and ultimately made her way to New York City.

■ REMINDER

OUR CONTRIBUTIONS ADDRESS HAS CHANGED

We now have a separate post office box that has been established for Seventh Tradition contributions only. Please send contribution checks payable to “General Service Board” to:

**Post Office Box 2407
James A Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407**

This dedicated PO box enables us to process contributions much more efficiently and at a significant savings to the Fellowship. You also can continue to make contributions online at www.contribution.aa.org using a major credit card or PayPal.

For more information or assistance, contact our Member Services team at **memberservices@aa.org** or **212-870-3023**.

Recognizing there wasn't much of a market for her in international relations, Karina says her career path was marked by a series of false starts, with time spent in marketing for struggling nonprofits, interning at an art gallery, and working as a waitress just to make ends meet. It was then that an old drinking buddy offered to take her to an AA meeting.

"I was 26, living in NYC, and it had never occurred to me to get help before that," she recalls. "For a long time, I didn't know what was wrong with me, and would question my drinking against my uncle's drug use (It's not *that* bad!)" and would try to numb out and internalize the feelings of shame and guilt around disappointing my parents and brother repeatedly, not to mention the overwhelming isolation of not wanting to share with anyone what I was going through."

But Karina took to sobriety and the Fellowship right away. "I was fortunate enough to get right into the work with a sponsor a couple of weeks into my sobriety," she says. "We went through the Steps while I got busy getting service commitments at my home group, making phone calls, and then a few months later getting to sponsor others in turn. It really is an honor to be able to work with others and earn their trust in such a vulner-

"I was fortunate enough to get right into the work with a sponsor a couple of weeks into my sobriety."

able process that we go through. I love watching people come in and light up through the process of recovery."

Thanks again to strong sponsorship, she got involved in service right away. "I learned so much in the first couple of years about the different types of service at the group level, New York Intergroup, district meetings for Area 49 Southeast New York, assemblies, share-a-days, conventions, and corrections and treatment facilities. It felt honestly overwhelming for the first few years, but I can see now how I learned so much about all the different ways we carry the message in AA, and it was 100 percent worth it."

Using her language skills and experience working in bookstores and art galleries in early sobriety, Karina took a job as outreach coordinator at Grapevine in 2018 and eventually became the associate editor of *La Viña* in 2019, receiving a professional studies certificate in magazine copyediting that same year from a major university in New York City.

Of her seemingly circuitous career path, Karina says,

Young People's Video Project is ongoing and there is not a deadline for submissions! Please send in your new content videos.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S VIDEO PROJECT

We want video submissions from A.A. members. WHY? To carry A.A.'s message to young people in high school and college settings.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE!

Submissions should be 2-3 minutes in length and reflect and adhere to the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, especially A.A.'s anonymity traditions. When filming A.A. members make sure no one is identifiable.

Focus on the experience of getting sober young and reflect the diversity of the Fellowship. Use members stories to help alcoholics identify.

Share experiences that would relate to the "young" alcoholic who has yet to come to A.A.

BE CREATIVE AND HAVE FUN!

Individuals submitting videos must be at least 18 years of age and must reside within the boundaries of the U.S. and Canada A.A. General Service Structure. Submissions should be in English, Spanish or French.

For more information, contact the Public Information Coordinator at publicinfo@aa.org.

www.aa.org

“Whether it was wrangling a team, or getting marketing copy together, or learning how to order slabs of marble for sales offices in the gallery, the diversity of experience helped me get to a common ground of kindness and respect for all levels of interaction. The last few years I continued to pursue jobs in nonprofit cultural organizations, while working on maintaining my bilingual fluency, and waiting tables. All of it was useful, enriching, and beneficial because it taught me to accept all kinds of situations and be compassionate to people’s needs, whether it be a grumpy boss with a hard hat or a hungry customer with a flight to catch.”

When a GSO staff position opened in 2022, Karina was moved to put in an application. “I am so inspired by the dedication of the Fellowship at all levels of service, in different languages, and all over the world,” she says. “A consistent spirit of love for AA shines through in the way we navigate disasters and uncertainty. When there are differences, I’ve learned to appreciate each point of view. I know very well today I am not the director but am grateful to be given a role to help move the play forward. As I told a friend at an event I was just at, I am grateful to have been handed a shovel to get to work. There is an indescribable joy in being able to speak with members on the phone or meet them in person at events that exceeds the limits of what I used to think was possible for a jaded drunk like me, to have faith in the spirit of very human humans working together.”

Misha Q. joined GSO in October and serves on the Accessibilities/Remote Communities staff assignment. Among her responsibilities, she supports development of accessibilities-related literature, provides shared experience on working with remote communities, including the military, and coordinates the *Loners-Internationalists Meeting*, a confidential bimonthly bulletin that is circulated among Loners, Homers, Internationalists, Port Contacts, and Loner Sponsors.

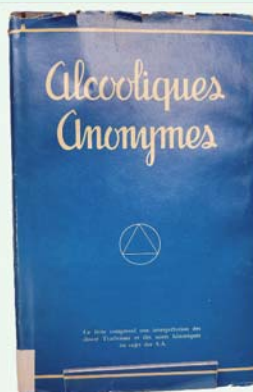
“Fundamentally, the work we do is to make Twelfth Step work possible,” Misha says. “So, when we get a call or an email from someone needing help, the best thing we can do is make a connection and turn that person over to members of the Fellowship from that local area.”

For Misha, joining the GSO staff meant moving from Iowa, where she was a college professor, to New Jersey with her partner and their three dogs.

“I have had the opportunity to do a lot of different kinds of professional work,” she says. “In sobriety, I went back to school, earned a bachelor’s degree, then a master’s and a Ph.D. Most recently, I worked as a professor and before that, in nonprofits and in public broadcasting. I have been privileged to be able to ask myself, ‘What is the next right thing? What does my HP want for me? How can I use what I have been given to be of maximum service?’”

■ Happy 60th Anniversary to the Big Book in French!

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the first unabridged edition of the Big Book in French.



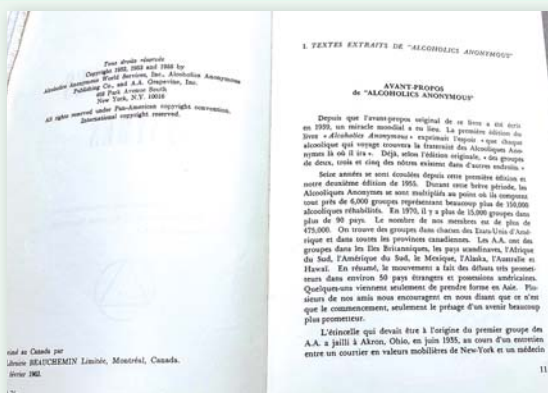
French, which was officially released on March 2, 1963, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. This edition included 11 stories from the Big Book in English and eight stories of members from Quebec, France, Belgium, and Switzerland. The book also contained excerpts from *Alcoholics*

Anonymous Comes of Age and co-founder Bill W.’s essays on the Twelve Traditions.

The book was the culmination of efforts going back to the early 1950s to make A.A. literature available in French. These included a shorter version of the Big Book in French with only the first 11 chapters, which was available as mimeographed copies for sale. Fast-forward to 1959 when the A.A. Office in Quebec created a literature committee (renamed Les Éditions Françaises A.A. in 1961) to translate and publish A.A. literature in French. In 1959, the AAWS Board of Directors agreed to explore the possibility of translating the Big Book into French — and subsequently the French Big Book project was launched.

The Area 87 (Southwest Quebec) Archives Committee held a hybrid event to celebrate the anniversary.

Joyeux anniversaire!



Misha started drinking at an early age, “but didn’t really get going until freshman year of high school. Drinking pretty quickly had a real impact on my life. I went from being a straight-A kind of student to one who regularly failed classes and who regularly got suspended. In fact, I barely graduated from high school.

“Instead of going right to college, I moved to Boston with a friend, and immediately got two jobs: in a liquor store and in a bar. I had arrived! In the 10 years that followed, I started and dropped out of more than a few colleges, worked in bars, and moved from coast to coast. By the time I was 27, I was broke, homeless, jobless and friendless.”

But, getting sober was never a sure thing and toward the end of her drinking when her family offered to help her, “I told them I was fine.” She did, however, eventually accept their offer to help her get into treatment, and there was introduced to AA and had her last drink on Jan. 7, 1996. Misha remembers having that last drink “without a single thought about the consequences, which really scared me – scared me enough to get a sponsor, to surrender, to begin to live life one day at a time.”

Service became a cornerstone of her sobriety from the beginning. “I learned to put myself in the middle of AA, and to show up by having a service commitment (my first one was cleaning those giant coffee pots at the Sunday speaker meeting). My sponsor regularly took me on Twelfth Step calls. I learned to answer the AA phones, bring people to detox, and work with other newcomers. I also got involved: first as a GSR and other general service roles, then with the local Central Office/

Intergroup. I had a wonderful service sponsor.”

Misha’s own experience with service and connecting with other members as a “Loner” in the program informs her work today. “Stepping into this role that has had such a powerful impact on people’s sobriety is humbling,” she says.

One powerful experience Misha relates from her assignment is an email she received from a woman who wanted to remind GSO that she is available as an AA contact in Zanzibar and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. “Her name jumped out at me: She was an online friend when I was a Loner. In 2011-2012, I was living in Bangladesh. The internet in my village was spotty at best. Online meetings were virtually impossible, but I could do email, and the email contact I had with other Loners and AA members stateside sustained me.

“So, when in my capacity as a GSO staff member I received an email from someone who had been a voice of sanity and serenity when I really needed one, I was reminded of the power of this program, which can be shared face-to-face, as well as by phone call, video chat, letter, and email.”

Attentive to her own spiritual growth, Misha attends the International Women’s Conference, a closed AA conference for women that has been happening annually since 1965. “It moves to a new city each year,” she notes, “and as a result I have AA friends in almost every corner of the U.S. and Canada. I think of attending each year as an investment in spiritual growth and a way of reminding myself that AA is so much bigger than my small town or home group.”

■ AAWS Literature Price Increases Go into Effect April 3

As of April 3, 2023, prices will increase on English, Spanish, and French books, booklets, and pamphlets. The new pricelist is available at https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/Price%20List%20Effective%204_3_23.pdf and the increase will be reflected on the online bookstore at <https://onlineliterature.aa.org>

The reduced shipping charges schedule and the mixed-title quantity discount schedule that were adopted in 2022 will remain in effect.

Read more about the price increase here: <https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/Price%20Increase%202023.pdf>

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

**THE HOME GROUP:
HEARTBEAT OF AA**, the 30th Anniversary Edition is a collection of previously published stories from AA Grapevine, the International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. AA members share moving experiences about the importance and joys of

belonging to an AA group. This updated anniversary edition includes extra stories and a brand-new chapter on meetings using technology, showing how members have adapted to meet new challenges. A great way to start an AA meeting.

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To order this item or any other product from our collection, visit us at **www.aagrapevine.org**

and click on store or call **(800) 631-6025**
US/Canada **(847) 559-7237** International
or fax us at **(847) 564-9453**.



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:

■ Appointed Committee Member on Trustees' Literature Committee

The trustees' Literature Committee has an opening for an appointed committee member (ACM). The committee is searching for an appropriate individual to fill this position and would appreciate any recommendations.

Among the qualities most desirable for this ACM opening are:

- Expertise in and/or familiarity with the use of current technology and communications tools.
- Availability for meetings of this committee held during General Service Board weekends (usually the last weekend in January, July and October), as well as one meeting during the annual General Service Conference. Available time for participation in subcommittees of the trustees' committee, as appointed.
- At least five years of continuous sobriety.
- The ability to work within the committee structure.
- Experience in AA service and in carrying the message to the Spanish-speaking alcoholic (bilingual preferred).

In seeking applications for all vacancies in Alcoholics Anonymous, the Fellowship is committed to creating a large applicant pool of qualified persons who reflect the inclusiveness and diversity of AA.

To obtain a resume form for this opening, please contact the Literature desk at GSO: 212-870-3019, or literature@aa.org.

Resumes should be returned to the General Service Office by May 15, 2023.

CALL FOR STORIES:

■ A.A. for the Native North American Alcoholic Pamphlet

The trustees' Literature Committee has opened a call for recovery stories in response to the 2021 General Service Conference advisory action regarding the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American Alcoholic." The advisory action stated that the pamphlet be updated to include current stories of recovery and a new title that is respectful and inclusive. The committee is seeking stories of recovery from all Indigenous communities in the AA structure in the United States and Canada.

Stories of recovery may include but are not limited to:

- Experience, strength, and hope
- Steps, Traditions, Concepts
- Ethnic, cultural, gender and LGBTQ diversity
- Diversity of social status
- Sponsorship
- AA service
- Safety & racism
- Military
- Sobriety and mental health
- Experience in AA meetings
- Atheist/Agnostics
- Newcomer experiences
- Cultural reconnection

The suggested format for typed manuscripts is 500-1,000 words, double spaced, in 12-point font. Handwritten manuscripts should be approximately 5 to 8 pages. Please include your complete name, address, and email/phone information on the first page of your manuscript. A copy of your manuscript should be retained for your files. The anonymity of all authors will be observed whether their story is selected for publication or not.

Deadline: October 31, 2023

Please submit via email to: pamphletstories@aa.org.

Use the subject line:

"A.A. for the Native North American Alcoholic"

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SPRING IS A GREAT TIME TO VISIT GSO IN NEW YORK CITY!

Visitors are welcome to GSO, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tours are scheduled at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 2 p.m., and last about 45 minutes.

On Fridays, GSO hosts an open A.A. meeting at 11 a.m.
There is also a guided tour offered after the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT TO GSO

All visitors must register in advance to gain access to the building in accordance with the building policy. Accordingly, we strongly recommend that individuals contact us prior to your visit so that we can enter you into the building's security system.

We're located at 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY (building entrance at 61 Claremont Avenue).



Groups of 10 or more must contact us ahead of time to schedule their visit so that we can best prepare for your time at the General Service Office.

To schedule your visit, email gsotours@aa.org or call **212-870-3430**.

To learn more about visiting GSO, including location details, our COVID-19 policy, and information about purchasing literature, please visit <https://www.aa.org/visiting-the-gso>.

Please note, the building will be closed to visitors April 7, May 29, June 19, and July 3 and 4.



Mark Your Calendars and Make Plans to Attend the 2025 A.A. International Convention

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

July 3-6, 2025

Vancouver will welcome A.A. members from around the world for the 2025 International Convention. This will mark the 90th anniversary of our Fellowship's founding.

Please check the Convention webpage at www.aa.org/international-convention for more information, the latest news, and FAQs. As the Convention approaches, the page will be updated with registration information.

Taking place once every five years, the A.A. International Convention marks the anniversary of Bill W.'s first meeting with Dr. Bob and the birth of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935. At the Convention, members and their families and friends from around the world attend meetings, workshops, dances, and events. A highlight is the traditional flag ceremony to celebrate sobriety worldwide.

Let's celebrate sobriety together in Vancouver in 2025!

box 459 BULLETIN BOARD

Items and Ideas on Area Gatherings for A.A.s — Via G.S.O.

Spring 2023

NOTE: Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, events may be canceled or moved to online formats. Please contact the event coordinators as listed before making your plans.

Calendar of Events

Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the General Service Office. Please note that we cannot attest to the accuracy, relevancy, timeliness, or completeness of information provided by any linked site. For any additional information, please use the event contact information provided.

April

- 7-9 — *Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.* 51st Annual North Shore Round Up. Write: Ch., Box 91086, West Vancouver, BC V7V 3N3; Info: www.northshorroundup.com
- 14-16 — *Erie, Pennsylvania.* Swing Into Spring Conference. Write: Ch., Box 1357, Erie, PA 16512-1357; Info: www.aeriepa.org; Email: erieconf@aol.com
- 20-23 — *Eureka Springs, Arkansas.* Springtime in the Ozarks. Write: Ch., Box 1913, Bentonville, AR 72712; Info: www.springtimeintheozarks.com
- 20-23 — *San Jacinto, California.* IEAAC (Inland Empire Convention). Write: Ch., Box 189, Colton, CA 92324; Info: www.ieaac.org
- 21-23 — *Manchester Village, Vermont.* Area 70 Vermont 57th Annual Convention. Write: Ch., Area 70 Convention, Box 382, Arlington, VT 05250; Email: area70convention@gmail.com
- 21-23 — *Saint Louis, Missouri.* 15th Annual Spring Fling Convention. Write: Ch., Box 22002, St. Louis, MO 63126; Info: www.springflingstl.com
- 27-30 — *Kona, Hawaii.* Big Island Bash. Write: Ch., Box 390727, Keauhou, HI 96739; Info: www.bigislandbash.com
- 28-29 — *Ardrossan, Alberta, Canada.* District 61 12th Annual AA Roundup; Email: d61roundup@gmail.com
- 28-29 — *Manhattan, Kansas.* The Week That Was 46th Anniversary. Write: Ch., Box 1283, Manhattan, KS 66505.
- 28-30 — *London, England.* London International Convention. Write: Ch., St Katherine's Way, London, England E1W 1LD; Info: <https://londonaaconvention.com/>

May

- 4-7 — *Grants Pass, Oregon.* 47th Annual Rogue Roundup — "Banded Together". Write: Ch., Box 1741, Grants Pass, OR 97528-0148; Info: www.rogueroundup.com

- 5-6 — *Grand Rapids, Minnesota.* Iron Range Get Together. Write: Ch., Box 855, Hibbing, MN 55746; Info: <https://aaminneapolis.org>
- 5-7 — *Lake Jackson, Texas.* 27th Annual Mouth of the Brazos Conference. Write: Ch., Box 1641, Clute, TX 77531; Email: corey.c@aa-seta.org
- 19-20 — *Magog, Quebec, Canada.* 39e Congrès AA — District 88-11. Write: Ch., 192-3, Rue Ruisseau Rouge, Magog, Quebec, Canada J1X 5J6; Info: <https://aaregion88.org/accueil/nos-districts/district-88-11-magog/>
- 19-21 — *Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation, Ontario, Canada.* Manitoulin Island and Espanola Rainbow Roundup. Write: Ch., 46 Breton Road Sault Ste Marie, Ontario. P6B 5W3; Info: www.rainbowroundup.ca
- 19-21 — *Burns Lake, British Columbia, Canada.* Burns Lake Round Up. Write: Ch., 5040 Babine Lake Road, Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0; Email: BLROUNDUP@outlook.com
- 19-21 — *Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.* Area 57 (OK) 2023 State Conference. Write: Ch., Box 18996, Oklahoma City, OK 73154; Info: conf_chair@aaoklahoma.org
- 26-28 — *Dallas, Texas.* LX Asamblea Hispana del Estado de Texas; Write: Ch., Box 803716, Dallas, TX 75380.
- 26-28 — *Bloomington, Minnesota.* Gopher State Roundup 48. Write: Ch., Box 390533, Minneapolis, MN 55439-2026; Info: www.gopherstateroundup.org.

June

- 2-4 — *Burlington, Massachusetts.* Northeast Regional Forum Write: General Service Office, Regional Forums Desk, 475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10115; Info: regionalforums@aa.org
- 2-4 — *Newark, Vermont.* Northeast Kingdom Men's Retreat. Write: Ch., NEK Retreat, Box 261, East Burke, VT 05832.
- 9-11 — *San Antonio, Texas.* 76th Annual Texas State AA Convention. Write: Ch., 5431 Timber Canyon, San Antonio, TX 78250; Info: <https://txaaconvention.org/>
- 9-11 — *Saint John, US Virgin Islands.* Camp EZ Duz It. Write: Ch., Box 151 St Thomas, US Virgin Islands 00804; Info: SpecialeventsD14A15@gmail.com
- 9-11 — *Tallahassee, Florida.* Founders Day Florida Style. Write: Ch., 1700 N. Monroe Street, Ste. 11221, Tallahassee, FL 32303; Info: www.foundersdayflorida.org
- 23-25 — *Portland, Oregon.* Pacific Northwest Conference. Write: Ch., Box 1988 Waldport, OR 97394; Info: www.PNC1948.org

- 23-25 — *South Bend, IN.* 70th Indiana State Convention and East Central Regional Conference; Write: Ch., Box 926, Griffith, IN 46319. Info: stateconvention@area22indiana.org

July

- 7-9 — *Auburn, Alabama.* Area 1 Assembly. Write: Ch., 2135 Interstate Dr., Box 209, Opelika, AL 36801; Info: www.aaarea1.org
- 20-23 — *Waynesville, North Carolina.* 76th North Carolina Convention. Write: Ch., Box 41451, Raleigh, NC 27629; Info: www.aanconvention.com
- 21-23 — *Bonita Springs, Florida.* Florida Conference of Young People in AA. Write: Ch., Box 272, Estero, FL 33928; Info: www.SW239Bid.com
- 21-23 — *Carrabassett Valley, Maine.* Area 28 — 44th Maine Area Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2892, Waterville, ME 04093; Info: www.MaineRoundup.org
- 21-23 — *Fishtail, Montana.* Beartooth Mountain Conference. Write: Ch., Box 23406, Billings, MT 59104; Info: www.beartoothmountainconference.com
- 28-30 — *Hot Springs, Arkansas.* 83rd "Old Grandad" Arkansas State AA Convention. Write: Ch., Box 7245, Little Rock, AR 72217; Info: www.oldgrandadconvention.com
- 28-30 — *Jefferson City, Missouri.* 73rd Annual Missouri State Convention. Write: Ch., 1525 Hampton Hall Drive #6, Chesterfield, MO 63017; Info: <https://mostateconvention.org>
- 28-30 — *Kenai, Alaska.* 47th Wilderness Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 1625, Kenai, AK 99611; Info: www.aakenaipeninsula.org
- 28-30 — *Pinedale, Arizona.* Promises in the Pine Campout. Write: Ch., Box 1167 Show Low, AZ. 85901.

August

- 4-6 — *Hunt Valley, Maryland.* 51st Annual Area 29 Maryland State Convention. Write: MGS Convention Box 9879, Towson, MD; 21284; Info: Stateconvention@marylandaa.org
- 10-13 — *Tampa, Florida.* 66th Florida State Convention. Write: Ch., Box 422 Lutz, FL 33548; Info: <https://66.floridastateconvention.com>
- 11-13 — *Fairborn, Ohio.* 67th Annual Ohio State Convention. Write: Ch., Box 684 Dayton, OH 45401; Info: www.aaarea56.org
- 18-20 — *Summerville, South Carolina.* 27th Annual Southeast Woman To Woman Conference. Write: Ch., SEWTW 2023, Box 61, Ladson, SC 29456; Info: www.sewomantowoman.org