

# CONCEPTS

NORTHERN ILLINOIS AREA LTD AREA 20 SERVICE LETTER

**SUMMER 2024 VOL. XLVIII NO.2**



## IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Delegate's Corner
- 5 From the Chair
- 6 NIA20 Summer Assembly
- 7 Bridging the Gap News
- 8 Working with Others
- 9 Answering Service
- 10 Regional Forum Information
- 11 Michigan State Convention
- 13 Grapevine News
- 17 2024 Illinois State Conference
- 18 Box 459 News
- 19 AA International Convention
- 20 2024 NIA 20 Big Book Conference



# Delegate's Corner

May 18, 2024

## **Delegates Report – GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**

Hello Area 20:

Well, the General Service Conference is over! It was quite an interesting week in Brooklyn April 14-20. I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve our Area!

### **INTRODUCTION**

In preparing for the conference, our Area held 11 zoom breakout meetings and our PGSC Workshop on March 23. I would like to thank Lisa S., our Alternate Delegate once again for organizing, scheduling, and communicating the process. I also appreciate the input from multiple folks from our Area outside of these scheduled meetings and particularly the kind words of encouragement from our past delegates. I must also add that while I felt quite prepared going into the conference, the experience itself is really something you can't quite wrap your head around until you are there. The conference does seem to evolve over the course of the week and you are never quite sure how the discussions will flow.

### **INITIAL REACTIONS**

The experience of the conference was at times exciting, frustrating, tiring and hopeful. It was very nice to see some familiar faces from our East Central Region as well as some of the staff and board that I had met on previous occasions. However, to reduce the cost of the conference this year, a few things were deleted from the agenda, notably the delegate meet and greet on Saturday evening. I heard from many of the Panel 73 delegates that this change resulted in an abrupt start to the conference as we jumped right into the business at hand without much opportunity to fellowship before the conference started. To make those necessary personal connections, you kind of had to work the room and change your seat through the week to get to meet people, which I did. It was during our many meals that had the opportunity to chat with the other delegates. Additionally, I did enjoy working with my assigned committee (Agenda) as we spent several hours working together on our Agenda items. Incidentally, I was elected Chair of the Agenda Committee for the next conference.

### **FULL REPORT**

While I will be giving my full report at the Summer Assembly on June 22, I would like to share some highlights of the conference with you today, focusing particularly on the Financial report and the key takeaways from the conference. I will be covering the Advisory Actions and Committee Considerations in detail at the Summer Assembly.

### **Finance**

- Final audit of the 2023 numbers was completed and approved.



- 2023 Results:
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition of Self-Support – \$10.84 million up 2.8% from \$10.55 million in 2022
  - Gross literature sales for 2023 were \$14.64 Million (92% of budget).
  - Cost of goods sold for 2023 was \$7.73 Million, making the Literature Gross Margin \$6.76 Million (85% of budget). This is the primary contributor to the financial loss and the need to dip into the reserve fund.
- The Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee recommended that the General Service Board approve the 2024 AAWS/GSB Budget with Contributions Revenue of \$10,500,000, Gross Margin on Literature Sales of \$8.49 Million, Operating Expenses of \$19.0 Million, Support for La Viña of \$569,512 and a net income before depreciation of \$617K.

### **Board Inventory Report**

Our Interim General Service Board Chair, Mike L. gave a report on the Inventory the Board took following a 73<sup>rd</sup> GSC Advisory Action.

For a full copy of the report - [General Service Board Report](#)

As a reminder, this action of the board taking their inventory was a result of the communication around and handling of our previous board chair's resignation. I would say that not only did our board show great humility in taking and sharing their inventory, it was very reaffirming that our program works. In addition to acknowledging what went wrong, the board has developed a list of actions and follow-ups to improve communication and avoid this situation in the future.

### **Location Plus Report**

Relocation Studies of the General Service Office have been conducted approximately every ten years to determine if it is the most viable venue for its operations and provide recommendations on fact-based relocation analysis, as well as subjective considerations that could impact GSO's ability to effectively render services to the A.A. Fellowship.

The final conclusions and recommendation resulting from this most recent Study was:

1. The reduction in recurring costs that might be realized in another location (i.e., Indianapolis) is overshadowed by the substantial one-time costs associated with a move.
2. They looked at 116 other locations, narrowed it down to 11, then 5, and then the final three, Atlanta, Indianapolis, and Philadelphia.



3. The implications of moving GSO to another city, regardless of cost savings, are significant, considering the history of the office in New York. Based on these conclusions (and consistent with all previous studies), the recommendation was for the General Service Office to **remain in its present New York City location**. Based on their in-depth methodology, the consulting team recommended “a stay decision and renegotiation/ renewal of the 475 Riverside Drive lease.” Furthermore, the consulting team concluded that “On balance, the business case to move does not appear supportable at this time.” The final decision was to **stay at 475 Riverside Drive**, get rid of the 8th floor, renovate the 11th floor to accommodate the employees on the 8th floor. This renovation has been projected at \$1.4M.

### **Plain Language Big Book – A Tool for Reading the book Alcoholics Anonymous**

This item was discussed for well over 6 hours and seems to be of particular interest to our fellowship. In my full report I will detail the process the Conference took to discuss this item. I will simply say that the Literature Committee sent this item to the Conference for approval, and it was indeed approved. I voted Yes, in approval after hearing the discussion and primarily after reading the book myself. Suffice it to say, I believe this translation tool will help people get sober and I would encourage you to read it as well.

### **CALL to ACTION**

I do look forward to reporting back and have had the opportunity to share a little bit with a couple of Districts already. To All DCM's, please let me know when you would like to **schedule a presentation in your District**.

*This report was adapted from our delegates report – Editors.*

Love in service,

Erik L.  
Delegate - Area 20 - Northern Illinois, Panel 74

DelegateA20NoIllP74@gmail.com  
630-809-7789

# From the Chair...

Happy Summer NIA! I hope you're enjoying the nice weather!

We've had some time to dig into our new jobs and begin to do the work in NIA. We have some things coming up soon.

At the start of the rotation, I appointed an Ad Hoc Inventory Committee to find out where NIA can better inform and serve you. That committee consists of Larry S, Lorrie F, Jim T, Chris E, and Allen J. They have done an amazing job of putting together the questions. This inventory is for DCMs, District Service Committee Chairs, and GSRs, with sections for each. They will announce how this will work at the next Assembly (June 22<sup>nd</sup>). There will be a cut-off date on this in the Fall so that we can tabulate results and make needed changes in 2025. Please let us know what you think; we really want to serve you as best we can.

In August, at the Area Committee Meeting, Rich H, a Past Delegate, will give a short presentation on what happens at an Area Committee Meeting, what it is, and what it is not. There has been some mixing of Assembly elements and Area Committee elements, which I am attempting to separate during this rotation. Rich will go over these things for us so we're all clear on what we will be doing for the next year and four months.

I have attended some district meetings in person and on Zoom. I am looking forward to sitting in on many more in this rotation. I am here to help you with anything you might need; please seek me out.

Our Alternate Delegate, Lisa, and I have been encouraging districts to have service orientations, even short ones that explain the role of the GSR and Service Committees. Please contact Lisa if you are interested in these. We are always happy to make the trip to you!



**East Central  
Regional Conference,  
Michigan State  
Conference: June 7 to 9,  
Grand Rapids, MI**



**Summer Assembly:  
June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8 am  
fellowship, 9 am meeting,  
First Congregational  
Church, 461 Pierson St,  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014**



**[AA Service Manual](#)**

In Service,

Dawn B.

NIA 20 Panel 74 Chair





# **SATURDDAY, JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup> 2024 NIA20 SUMMMER ASSEMBLY**

Join us as we gather to hear details of our Delegate's time at the General Service Conference and conduct the business of NIA20.

**Hosted by District  
11**

**Bring a Friend**

**Lunch \$12 (orders  
in by 9AM)**

**Additional  
Questions Call:**

**224-605-1673**

**Dan**

**\*No Smoking on  
Church Property\***

**FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH**

461 Pierson St., Crystal Lake,  
IL 60014

8AM Fellowship

Assembly begins at 9AM

# Bridging the Gap NEWS

Hello Area 20!

The **new QR Code** we created to guide newcomers to our various District Answering Service phone numbers is working as planned. That QR Code is being distributed at correctional and treatment facilities across the Area, either through *self-stick labels* placed in AA books that are donated to the facilities or via *the business card version* of the QR Code handed to the newcomer.

Now people can scan that QR Code and find the Answering Service phone number nearest to their location. They can make a call to get connected to an AA Volunteer for help, to get a ride to a meeting, to get meeting info, or talk to an alcoholic about what AA does and how AA works.

Ask your District Treatment and Corrections Chairs to contact their Area counterparts to get a supply of these QR Code materials for your District.

We are looking at expanding the features that might be connected to the QR Code in the future, stay tuned for more info, and be sure to sign up for your District's Answering Service ***to keep the hand of AA always ready*** for the next newcomer!

Jim T.  
BTG Chair



# *A Walk through the Big Book*

## Working With Others

When working with others, Bill gives us some pretty clear instructions. The first one is about our attitude: “Don’t start out as an evangelist or reformer.” Our mission is NOT to save the world from alcohol. Nor is it to drag people into Alcoholics Anonymous. It is to help the suffering alcoholic who wants help. I believe that the who wants help is an important distinction. We CANNOT help someone who doesn’t want help.

Bill’s next instruction is “When you discover a prospect for Alcoholics Anonymous, find out all you can about him.” Like all of his instructions, I believe that this is critical and most of the time completely overlooked. I can tell you how many times that I have been at a meeting where a person identifies themselves as being at their first ever A.A. meeting. What usually happens is they are taken into another room and then forced to endure multiple people talking about their experiences with alcohol. By the time everyone is through telling their story the meeting is over and the newcomer hasn’t had the opportunity to say anything. I have to believe that Bill would be horrified with this. Bill’s instruction would indicate that the first thing we do is limit the number of members who take the person aside and then start with asking the newcomer why they felt the need to attend an A.A. meeting.

Bill’s next instruction goes on to clarify “all you can” “Get an idea of his behavior, his problems, his background, the seriousness of his condition, and his religious leanings. You need this information to put yourself in his place, to see how you would like him to approach you if the tables were turned.” If you find that the person is just there to avoid negative consequences or that they are likely to be a heavy drinker rather than a real alcoholic your approach will be completely different. “If he does not want to stop drinking, don’t waste time trying to persuade him. You may spoil a later opportunity.” If he is a real alcoholic the next instruction is: “Then let his family or a friend ask him if he wants to quit for good and if he would go to any extreme to do so.”

In our case, at an A.A. meeting, we would be asking this question not his family or friend, but it needs to be asked. If he doesn’t want to stop then you can talk about how you went through that and what happened to eventually bring you to a place to stop and let it go with that. The person obviously has some more drinking to do and consequences to suffer before wanting our help.

If he does want to stop drinking: “At first engage in general conversation. After a while, turn the talk to some phase of drinking. Tell him enough about your drinking habits, symptoms, and experiences to encourage him to speak of himself. If he wishes to talk, let him do so. You will thus get a better idea of how you ought to proceed. If he is not communicative, give him a sketch of your drinking career up to the time you quit. But say nothing, for the moment, of how that was accomplished. If he is in a serious mood dwell on the troubles liquor has caused you, being careful not to moralize or lecture. If his mood is light, tell him humorous stories of your escapades. Get him to tell some of his.” The “encourage him to speak of himself” is extremely important. Remember we want to know as much as we can about this person so that we can speak to him in a way to which he can relate.

To Bill it is important to be careful about what you say and how you say it. He goes on with: “If you are satisfied that he is a real alcoholic, begin to dwell on the hopeless feature of the malady. Show him, from your own experience, how the queer mental condition surrounding that first drink prevents normal functioning of the will power.” You can pull from the Doctor’s Opinion and reference the allergy of the body and obsession of the mind for this part relating how those two things operated in your experience. “If he sticks to the idea that he can still control his drinking, tell him that possibly he can—if he is not too alcoholic.” Never try to convince someone or argue with them about their condition. However: “But insist that if he is severely afflicted, there may be little chance he can recover by himself.” You might talk about how you once thought that you weren’t really an alcoholic but came to that realization over time.

Working with Others, cont.

If, however, the person believes, admits, or thinks maybe he is alcoholic “Continue to speak of alcoholism as an illness, a fatal malady. Talk about the conditions of body and mind which accompany it. Keep his attention focused mainly on your personal experience. “. . .you may talk to him about the hopelessness of alcoholism because you offer a solution.” Remember to encourage them to ask questions and take the time to answer their questions to their satisfaction before moving on. If they want to know how you overcame your problem then “Tell him exactly what happened to you. Stress the spiritual feature freely. If the man be agnostic or atheist, make it emphatic that *he does not have to agree with your conception of God*. He can choose any conception he likes, provided it makes sense to him. *The main thing is that he be willing to believe in a Power greater than himself and that he live by spiritual principles.*” “Outline the program of action, explaining how you made a self-appraisal, how you straightened out your past and why you are now endeavoring to be helpful to him.”

Lastly, before they leave, offer your phone number, and get theirs if they will give it to you. Then follow up with them within the next couple of days. Offer to take them to a meeting or meet them at one if they prefer. But do not ever force yourself on someone. “Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail. This is our *twelfth suggestion*: Carry this message to other alcoholics! You can help when no one else can. You can secure their confidence when others fail. Remember they are very ill. “Life will take on new meaning. To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends - this is an experience you must not miss. We know you will not want to miss it. Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives.” I hope that you can experience this Twelfth Step promise.

-Robert S.



## Answering Service Committee Chair

Hello my name is David T. and I have the honor to serve as the new area 20 answering service chair. My role is to answer questions and provide assistance to the districts in our area in order to help carry the message to an alcoholic in need. Purpose of answering service is to help Alcoholics in finding meetings in the area and help facilitate a 12 step call. Just like when Bill called Bob to stay sober we try to help others stay or get sober.

Recently I have been attending districts in our area and have explained about the QR code that is being provided to the districts in order for people to have an easy access to finding answering service phone number in their city/town. I have also been gathering information about the current state of the answering service in those districts and offering to help with any issues that they may have.

In the spirit of love and Service  
Best regards,  
David T.



# EVER ATTENDED A REGIONAL FORUM?

If you are interested, we welcome and encourage First Time Forum attendees! These Forums provide a unique opportunity for A.A. members and local trusted servants throughout the U.S. and Canada to exchange information and share experience with representatives of the General Service Board, A.A.W.S. and AA Grapevine, and the General Service Office. *There is NO registration FEE!* You can obtain more information at: [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org). *Hope to see you there!*



2024			2025		
Dates	Area	Event Location	Dates	Area	Event Location
May 10-12	Western Canada	Prestige Vernon Lodge Vernon, B.C., Canada	TBD	Northeast	TBD Rhode Island
July 12-14	Pacific	Westgate Resort & Casino Las Vegas, NV	August 22-24	East Central	Marriott Indy Place Indianapolis, IN
August 23-25	Eastern Canada	Delta Hotels by Marriott Ottawa, ON	September 19-21	West Central	Hilton Omaha Health Club & Spa Omaha, NE
December 6-8	Southeast	Golden Nugget Biloxi, MS	December 6-8	Southwest	Marriott Albuquerque Albuquerque, NM

# 71<sup>st</sup> Michigan State Convention

combined with the

## ECR Conference

**June 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Calvin University

3201 Burton S.E.

Grand Rapids, MI 49546



**CONNECTING WITH**

**LOVE**



**UNITY**



**SERVICE**

### Keynote Speakers:

Friday: *Rich H.*, Hebron, IL

Saturday: *Madonna V.*, Auburn Hills, MI

Saturday Al-Anon - *Maureen H.*, Dyer, IN

Sunday: *Barefoot Scott S.*, Hersey, MI

### CARRYING THE A.A. MESSAGE OF RECOVERY

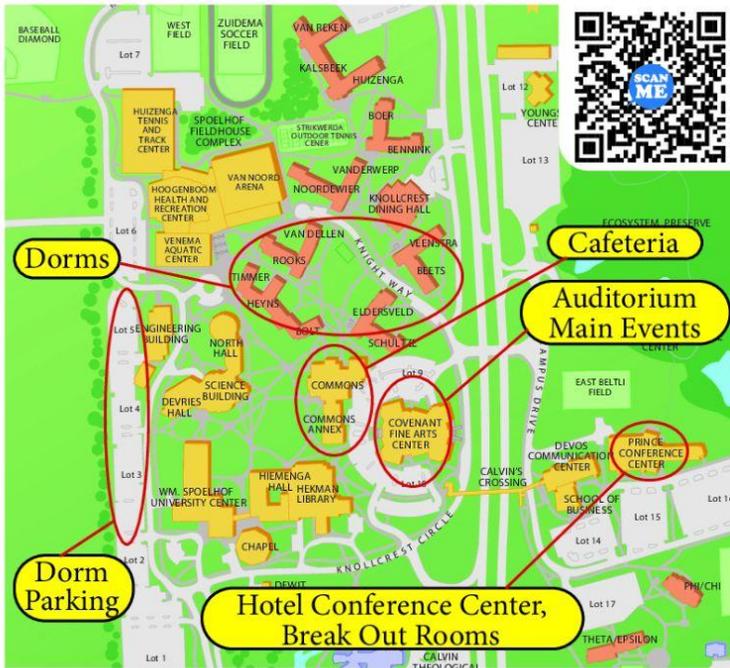
What makes an A.A. convention click for its participants?

It's probably not style or form that matters so much as the spirit and feeling behind it. As one member puts it, the best A.A. convention is "*just a darned good A.A. meeting blown up big.*" Just watch enthusiastic members at any A.A. convention and you'll get what he means. The atmosphere alone is worth the trip. Here you'll find fellowship, laughter, warmth, and understanding — "*heaped up, pressed down, and running over.*"

Mg-04 A.A. Guidelines, Conferences, Conventions, and Roundups

Please visit [area34aa.org](http://area34aa.org) for more information as it becomes available.

Co-Chair Contacts: **Linda B** 269.329.3159 ♦ [linbow421@gmail.com](mailto:linbow421@gmail.com) | **Brian S.** 616.366.5827 ♦ [digi@wmis.net](mailto:digi@wmis.net)



**GRAND RAPIDS AREA MAP**  
 Calvin University  
 3201 Burton Road SE  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49508  
 (800) 689-1422  
**DIRECTIONS:**  
 1. I-96 from Muskegon, use East Beltline exit.  
 2. US-131 from Kalamazoo, use 28th Street exit.  
 3. I-96 from Lansing, use Kentwood (28th Street) exit.  
 4. M-6 from Holland, use Brodmoor (M37) exit.

Register here, or online at: [area34aa.org](http://area34aa.org) Look for the 2024 State/ECR Button

**Registration** Early: \$30 per person (before 5/1/24), after 5/1, \$35 **Total Registration** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#1 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Area \_\_\_\_\_ Home Group \_\_\_\_\_  
 #2 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Area \_\_\_\_\_ Home Group \_\_\_\_\_

**Dorm Lodging #1**  6/7  6/8  Check if sharing with Registrant #2  Need a Roommate? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Roommate gender preference \_\_\_\_\_

- Choose one:**  Shared + Shared Bathroom \$30/night  Private Room + Shared Bathroom \$45/night  
 Shared + Private Bathroom \$40/night  Private Room + Private Bathroom \$70/night  
 Check for Mobility Accessible Room  
*For shared occupancy, list roommate if registering separately or a roommate will be assigned by committee:*

**Dorm Lodging #2**  6/7  6/8  Need a Roommate? \_\_\_\_\_ Roommate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Roommate gender preference \_\_\_\_\_

- Choose one:**  Shared + Shared Bathroom \$30/night  Private Room + Shared Bathroom \$45/night  
 Shared + Private Bathroom \$40/night  Private Room + Private Bathroom \$70/night  
 Check for Mobility Accessible Room

**Meals** 5-meal package-\$80 x \_\_\_ Sat. dinner only-\$18 x \_\_\_ Ice cream social-\$12 x \_\_\_ **Total Dorm Lodging** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total Meals** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Extra Contributions** \_\_\_\_\_ **Extra Contributions** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 If group contribution, provide group name **Grand Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**To Reserve a room on line: HOTEL ONLY**  
 Guests will need to go to [princecc.com](http://princecc.com)  
 At the bottom of the home page select Reserve A Room  
 Below the banner click on RATE OPTION  
 Type in the code: **DIGI**  
 This will take you to the block dates and rates. Select from the room types available and click on the picture and then click **BOOK IT!**

**Make Checks out to:**  
 2024 Michigan State Convention  
**Send Registration and Checks to:**  
 2024 Michigan State Convention  
 PO Box 319  
 Plainwell, MI 49080

If you encounter a problem, please contact, **Jim Nyhoff**  
**Hotel Operations Supervisor** at 616-526-0107 or  
 at [jln3@calvin.edu](mailto:jln3@calvin.edu) and he will assist you as soon as possible.

*Dorm lodging can be reserved until 5/24/24.*

**Register/Dorms/Meals On-Line**  
<https://tinyurl.com/vptsx77j>  
 or use the QR code

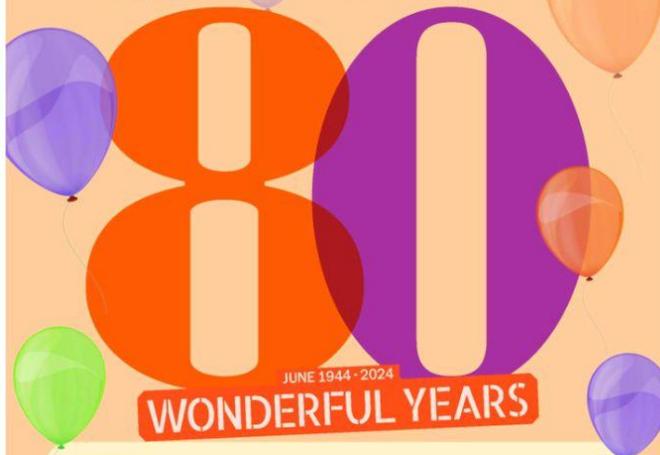


# GRAPEVINE News



What's New For June 2024

## Happy Birthday Grapevine!



JUNE 1944 - 2024

### WONDERFUL YEARS

HELP US CELEBRATE!

### Get your groups and areas involved...

- Tell everyone about our exciting new app!
- Subscribe to the app!
- Send us your story!
- Become a Grapevine Rep!
- Get your group or district to hold GV event!
- Use Grapevines in your AA meeting.
- Give your sponsee or a newcomer a GV subscription!
- Listen in and tell people about our fun, weekly Grapevine Podcast!
- Send us a beautiful photo for our Instagram account!
- Hold a Grapevine Workshop.
- Join our Carry the Message project!
- Get your group to support Grapevine!
- Subscribe to the Grapevine & La Viña YouTube Channel





**Special May Offer: Save 20% On 20 Selected Books!**

Use coupon code **20MAY20** at checkout through May 31.

To learn more or purchase please visit: [www.aagrapevine.org/2024-may-offer](http://www.aagrapevine.org/2024-may-offer)



**AA GRAPEVINE**  
Digital Publications

Website:  
[www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)

Instagram:  
[@alcoholicsanonymous\\_gv](https://www.instagram.com/alcoholicsanonymous_gv)

The App:  
AA Grapevine

YouTube:  
[@aagrapevine](https://www.youtube.com/aagrapevine)

**Subscribe to Grapevine [here!](#)**

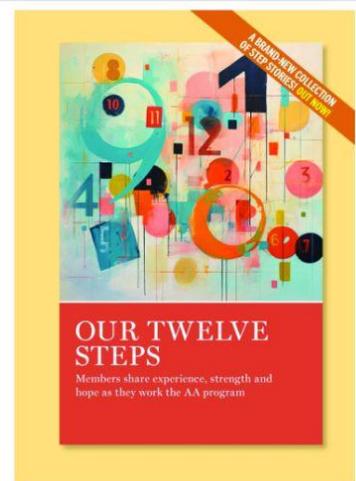


**Gift certificates for Digital/App and Complete subscriptions**

Now available on the website!

Give a subscription to a newcomer or a sponsee.

[www.aagrapevine.org/store/gift-certificates](http://www.aagrapevine.org/store/gift-certificates)



Out now...New book!  
**Our Twelve Steps**

## Area Chair / GVR Corner

Please let us know at [EA@aagrapevine.org](mailto:EA@aagrapevine.org) and [jdillon@aagrapevine.org](mailto:jdillon@aagrapevine.org) if your Area is planning any virtual or face-to-face events. [Click here](#) for more resources.

To request Grapevine complimentary materials, please [download the request form here](#), fill it out, and return it to [EA@aagrapevine.org](mailto:EA@aagrapevine.org). Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. For large events, please allow 4 weeks. Items are subject to availability.



### Grapevine Travel/Remote Events

June 2  
June 7 – 9  
June 8

Nassau Unity Breakfast  
Founders' Day  
Area 65 Grape-a-Thon

Uniondale, NY  
Akron, OH  
Lewisville, TX/virtual



If you attend area events we'd like to know!

Also, if you take anonymity-protected photos at events, we'd love to post them on the [GV Display Gallery](#).

Please send the information and photos to [EA@aagrapevine.org](mailto:EA@aagrapevine.org).

## DID YOU KNOW?

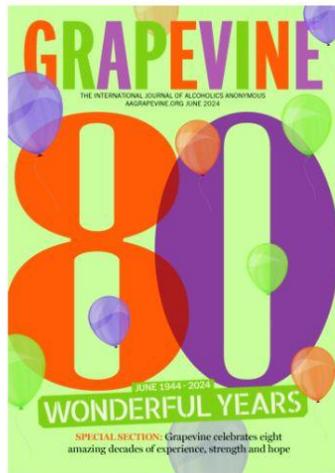
In 1955, the Grapevine Conference Committee “heartily endorsed” the appointment of a Grapevine representative at the group level as a method of getting the Grapevine into the hands of the members.

### Need help with Customer Service?

Subscribers to Grapevine and La Viña:  
If you or someone you know is experiencing delivery issues, please email or call 1.800.631.6025 or 1.800.640.8781 (Spanish).  
Email [CustomerService@aagrapevine.org](mailto:CustomerService@aagrapevine.org) for English or [Preguntas@aagrapevine.org](mailto:Preguntas@aagrapevine.org) for Spanish.

**We are happy to help!**

## What's New in Print and Online



### Grapevine: Current Issue Spotlight:

This month's issue is **"Happy Birthday Grapevine!"** To celebrate the magazine's 80th anniversary, this month we are featuring powerful stories by AA members about how much Grapevine has meant to them.

### Submit Your Story! Upcoming Topics...

**Remote Communities** — Do you live far from AA meetings? Are you a Loner? Stationed far away? Do you have a language or cultural barrier? Are you homebound? Do you use online meetings? Is it difficult to find AA meetings where you live? Tell us how you stay sober. Are you involved in Remote Communities service? (stories due June 15, 2024)

**Spiritual Awakenings** — Share your personal journey with Step Two! How did you find your Higher Power? Did you struggle with Step Two? What helped you? (stories due June 15, 2024)

**Long-time Members** — Let's hear from our oldtimers! What was AA like when you came in? What have you learned over the years? What have been your challenges and joys? (stories due July 15, 2024)

**More upcoming topics:** LGBTQ+, Atheist/Agnostic, Fun in Sobriety, Technology in AA!

**Important:** We're looking for stories of experience with each Step and each Tradition! We also need your jokes!



### La Viña: Current Issue Spotlight:

This month's Special Section is Relapse (Recaídas).

### Submit Your Story for Upcoming Issues:

**July/August** — Prisons (Prisiones)

**September/October** — Making amends (Reparaciones)

**We are always looking for** stories on individual Steps and Traditions!

### New Digital Gift Certificates

Now you can give, in addition to a Print subscription, a Digital subscription (Web and App), or a Complete subscription (print magazine, Web and App). Visit: [www.aalavina.org/tienda/certificados-de-regalo](http://www.aalavina.org/tienda/certificados-de-regalo)

### La Viña Workshop

Join us for our next Workshop on Tuesday, May 20, 2024, at 3 pm EST to learn more about Grapevine and La Viña. We invite you to be a part of our La Viña Community! **Meeting ID: 815 9593 1777**

### Do you need any help with your subscription?

Call La Viña Customer Service (Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. EST.)

**USA (800) 640-8781 | International: +1 (570) 567-0437**



### AA Grapevine.org

Make your plans and add your events to our online calendar at [www.aagrapevine.org/share](http://www.aagrapevine.org/share).

Grapevine is always looking for stories, photographs, and illustrations. Please visit [www.aagrapevine.org/share](http://www.aagrapevine.org/share) to learn more about how you can participate with Grapevine. To listen to a La Viña audio story (in Spanish), visit [www.aalavina.org](http://www.aalavina.org).



# 2024 ILLINOIS STATE CONFERENCE

LOVE • UNITY • SERVICE

## August 23rd - 25th

Hosted by Area 21  
District 19

Speakers	Activities	Hotel Info	Questions
<b>Friday Night AA Speaker</b> John H St. Louis, MO	Literature Archives Workshops Alcathon Panels	<b>Northfield Inn and Suites</b> 3280 Northfield Drive Springfield, IL 62702 217-523-7900	<b>Email:</b> Michael R Mjreeves23@gmail.com or istc2024@gmail.com
<b>Saturday AA Speaker</b> Matt M Norman, OK	Entertainment Fellowship Hospitality Room Fun	Double queen or King \$92 +tax and fees	<b>To register and pay online</b> 
<b>Alanon Speaker</b> Malenie D Springfield, IL	Ice Cream Social (\$5 at door)	<b>Cut off Date July 24, 2024</b> Reference Conference when reserving	
<b>East Central Regional Trustee</b> Cathi C			
<b>G.S.O. Speaker</b> James H			

### REGISTRATION (One Person per Form)

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Group \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify:  AA  Alanon  Guest

Registration \$32

Banquet Dinner \$40  Roast Strip Loin of Beef  Tuscan Parmesan Chicken  Vegetarian

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** 600 South 2nd Street. Ste 400 Springfield, IL 62704 ( Attn: Illinois State Conference)

**Make checks payable to:** Illinois State Conference ( Mail in must be received before 08/07/24)

To register AND pay online, use QR code above or go to website:  
<https://istc2024.wixsite.com/registration>

**PRINT**



# NOW DIGITAL ONLY

To: GSRs, DCMs, Area Officers and Committee Chairs, Delegates, Alt Delegates, Appointed Committee Members, Nontrustee Directors, Trustees, GSO Employees, Intergroups and Central Offices

Dear friends,

Over the last several years we have greatly reduced the distribution of the newsletter Box 459 in print format. Not unlike at other organizations, this transition began in 2020 largely due to the need to cut costs. Previously, we printed more than 100,000 copies of each issue and mailed more than 50,000 to members in service. Currently, about 3,000 copies per issue are printed and mailed to approximately 200 members in service. In addition, the total number of paid subscriptions has fallen to under 50. Due to escalating costs, the annual cost to print and mail four issues per year is nearly \$35,000.

At its March 2024 meeting, the A.A. World Services Board voted to discontinue the print edition, effective immediately. This decision was made after a careful and thorough review of the costs related to printing and mailing, the current number of print subscribers, and our ongoing efforts to reduce expenses in addition to the broad reach of the digital version.

Making Box 459 more widely available digitally through email, subscribers, [aa.org](http://aa.org), and the Meeting Guide App has significantly expanded its reach and distribution. However, it remains essential to ensure members who prefer or rely on hard-copy materials can still access Box 459. We trust that those serving at the Group level are well-attuned to the needs of their members and will continue to provide hard copies as necessary. Please be assured that Box 459 will continue to be published digitally and can be accessed on [aa.org](http://aa.org). Here, members can sign up to receive the newsletter via email. Each issue is also available in PDF format that you can print and share. If you're already receiving Box 459 via email, your subscription will continue without interruption, and there's no need to sign up again.

Those who have paid for print subscriptions for this year will be refunded. We will reach out to paid print subscribers in a separate communication with refund details.

We are also taking a fresh look at Box 459 to better serve the Fellowship and make the digital version more reader and mobile friendly. To this end, we received over 5,000 responses to the Box 459 reader survey and will be incorporating your feedback into future issues. Thank you for your continued support of this newsletter and we hope it continues to help you and your groups to carry out our primary purpose.

Warmly,

Carolyn W.  
Chair, AAWS Board

Bob W.  
General Manager, GSO

A.A. International Convention  
*90 Years - Language of the Heart*  
July 3 - 6, 2025  
Vancouver, BC, Canada



## Save the Date for the 2025 International Convention in Vancouver, B.C.!

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. A.A. members and their families and friends from around the globe attend the event. At the International Convention people attend meetings, workshops, dances and events. A highlight is the traditional flag ceremony to celebrate sobriety worldwide. Vancouver will welcome A.A. members from around the world for the 2025 International Convention. This will mark the 90th anniversary of the beginning of our Fellowship's founding. The International Convention will take place from July 3 – 6, 2025, at the Vancouver Convention Centre and BC Place Stadium. As the Convention approaches, they (AAWS) will update the website with registration information. Let's celebrate sobriety together in Vancouver in 2025!

For more information about the 2025 A.A. International Convention:



**SCAN ME**

Visit the AA World Services website for more details:

<https://www.aa.org/international-convention> or



# "The Way Out"

**NIA 20**

**2024 Big Book Conference**

Hosted by Area 20

**November 09, 2024**



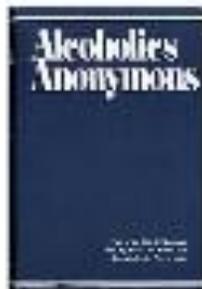
**First Covenant Church**  
**316 Wood Rd**  
**Rockford IL 61107**

**9:00 Am - 3:30 Pm**

(Doors open at 8 am for registration)

**\$15 Admission**  
**Card/Cash**

**Box Lunch Available for \$15**  
**(Pre-Order by Oct. 15)**



Spanish Interpretation available

**Registration Opens April 1, 2024**



[aa-nia.org/bigbookconference](http://aa-nia.org/bigbookconference)