

## ■ 58th General Service Conference

The 134 members who make up this year's General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in the United States and Canada convened in New York City, April 27–May 3, for the 58th annual meeting of what many consider A.A.'s business meeting.

The theme of this year's Conference was "Communication and Participation — The Key to Unity and Self-Support." Conference members were the delegates from the 93 service areas of the U.S. and Canada, Class A (nonalcoholic) and Class B (alcoholic) trustees, and directors and staff members of the two corporate boards—A.A. World Services, Inc. and The A.A. Grapevine Inc.

Registration for the weeklong event took place Sunday morning, when Conference members lined up to eagerly receive their copy of the Conference Manual. The Opening Session began with a welcome from chairman of the General Service Board Leonard Blumenthal. Then the Conference was officially opened with the roll call, by Greg M., G.S.O.'s general manager.

France J., of Northeast Québec, was the delegate chairperson, and though French-speaking, she delivered her greeting in English: "I stand before you at the mike to welcome you in the language of Shakespeare. I hope my pronunciation is correct..."

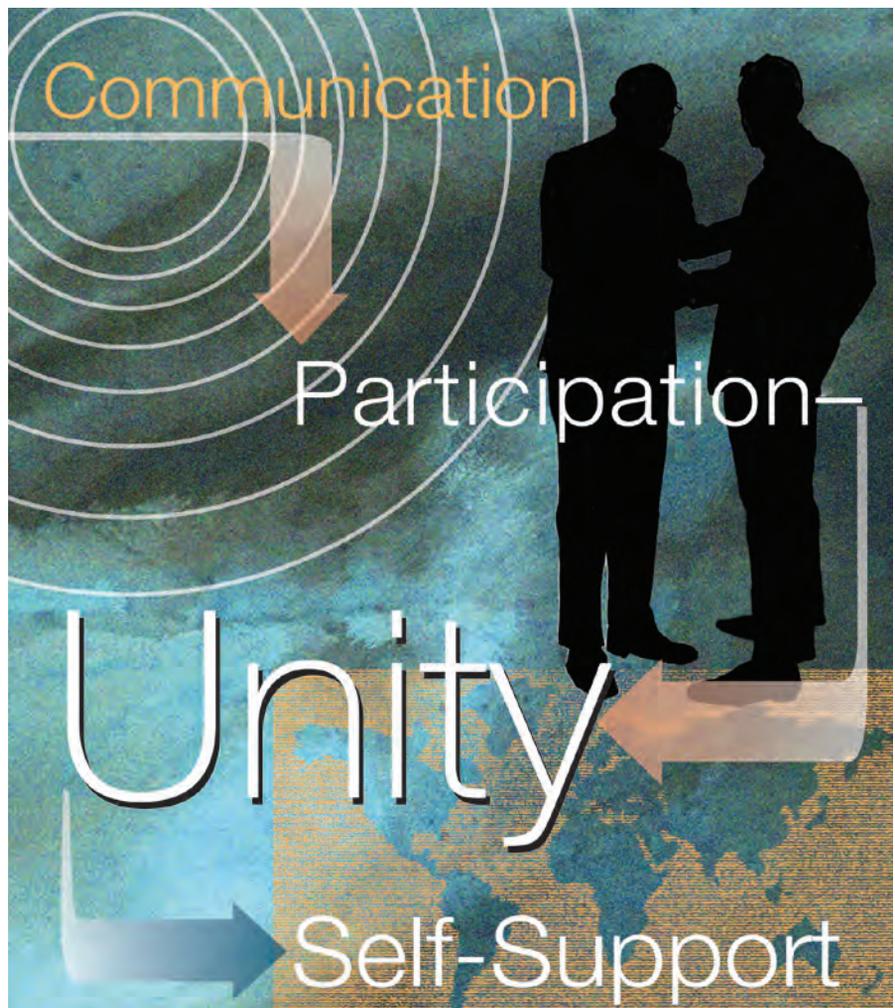
Chuck B., West Central regional trustee, delivered the keynote address, in which he said, "we must strive to keep our primary purpose first and foremost as we progress through the week and to do what is best for Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole."

That evening was the opening dinner, a time of fellowship and seeing old friends. Many past delegates and former trustees attended. Tim D. (Alabama/NW Florida), chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee, chaired the open A.A. meeting that followed the dinner. Bill F. (Colorado), alternate chairperson, led the meeting. Speakers were Janet H. (Western Pennsylvania), Andy T. (Grapevine director), Mike D. (Nevada), Mary D. (G.S.O. staff), and John S. (trustee).

Presentations and sharing sessions at the Conference, which met at the Crowne Plaza Times Square, addressed such subjects as how to keep A.A. strong, the importance of service, leadership, and contempt prior to investigation. Kiki R., dele-

gate from the District of Columbia, touched on how the message of unity expressed in the First Tradition leaves room for a divergence of opinion in our Fellowship. Bob C., Southeastern Michigan, noted in his presentation that in the give and take at the Conference, "we trust that a democratic process engaged in by people acting in good faith will be in the best interest of our Fellowship, even though we may not agree with all the decisions made."

Four observers attended the Conference at the invitation of the General Service Board: Ann N., general secretary of G.S.O. in York, England (equivalent to our general manager); Louise Foxcroft, a nonalcoholic trustee on the G.S.B. of Great Britain; and Elfido Q. and Jose R.,



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two regional trustees from Mexico.

Spaced throughout the week, new delegates presented their Area Highlights. There were four “What’s On Your Mind” sharing sessions in which Conference members come to the mike to ask questions, present concerns of their areas on issues that did not appear on the committee agendas, or simply speak on any A.A. business they choose.

The agendas of the 13 Conference committees consist of items forwarded to them by the corresponding trustees’ committees. After deliberation on agenda items each committee reports its recommendations to the entire Conference for discussion, approval, or rejection. Beginning Wednesday evening, the delegate chairperson of each Conference committee presented its recommendations. Conference members were then free to go to the floor mikes to ask questions, disagree, make suggestions or changes, and share the concerns of their area on any given issue. This process continued for the next day or more before some items resulted in Conference Advisory Actions. (Highlights of Actions appear on page 3.)

Among the agenda items at this year’s Conference, the Public Information Committee reviewed the results of the A.A. Membership Survey, which is produced every three years. The Treatment Facilities Committee assessed sample footage of the revised video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous.” Another agenda item was a review by the Conference Literature Committee of the revised version of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.”

The work of the Conference goes on 365 days a year—in the groups, in the districts and areas, at the General Service Office, and in the constant work of committees, from the local areas to the trustees’ committees. However, it is during Conference week that it all comes together. Doug R., G.S.O. staff member, was the Conference coordinator. Working behind the scenes, staff and support personnel from the General Service and Grapevine offices made the week run seamlessly.

The work of chairing the Conference was shared by Leonard Blumenthal, (nonalcoholic) chairman of the board, Greg M., G.S.O. general manager, and France J., the delegate chairperson.

Each morning at 7:30 the G.S.C. Serenity Group met for an open A.A. meeting, with topics taken from A.A. litera-

ture. Sharon F., Central Southeast Ohio, was the chairperson. Secretary/treasurer was Ted K., of Virginia.

New York Intergroup hosted a hospitality suite for early arrivals Saturday afternoon. Throughout the week local A.A. and Al-Anon members planned a variety of activities for the family and friends of delegates.

Tuesday afternoon there was a trip to G.S.O. and Grapevine offices. Conference members and the family and friends who accompanied them to New York had the opportunity to tour the offices and visit G.S.O.’s Archives.

At the Delegates Only Meeting Tuesday evening Joe B., Mid-Southern California, was elected delegate chair for the 59th Conference; John T., South Dakota, will be alternate chair.

Wednesday afternoon the Conference elected three new trustees: Ken B., Nebraska, will be the new West Central regional trustee. The new Western Canada trustee will be Vic P., of Olds, Alberta. Terrance Bedient will replace Vince Keefe as Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee.

Friday afternoon, following closing remarks by Leonard Blumenthal, the Conference officially closed with the Serenity Prayer in English, French, and Spanish.

On Saturday morning, members of A.A.’s 58th Conference came together for the last time at the closing brunch. Rotating Class B trustees Chuck B. and Tom K., and Class A trustee Vince Keefe addressed the gathering.

Then it was off to Stepping Stones, the home of Bill and Lois W. Conference members were especially interested in visiting “Wit’s End” a small cement block studio in the woods behind the house where Bill spent hours, “just sitting,” thinking and writing.

## ■ Estimates of Groups and Members as of January 1, 2008<sup>1</sup>

	<b>Groups</b>	<b>Members</b>
United States	53,595	1,220,993
Canada	4,745	93,559
Sub-Total	58,340	1,314,552
Correctional facilities <sup>2</sup>	2,359	60,912
Internationalists		37
Lone Members		97
Total	60,699	1,375,598
Outside U.S.& Canada <sup>3</sup>	52,469	669,057
Grand Total	113,168	2,044,655

1. The General Service Office does not keep membership records. The information shown here is based on reports given by groups listed with G.S.O., and does not represent and actual count of those who consider themselves A.A. members.

2. U.S. and Canada only.

3. We are aware of A.A. activity in more than 180 countries, including 60 autonomous general service offices in other lands. Annually we attempt to contact those G.S.O.s and groups that request to be listed in our records. Where current data is lacking we use an earlier year’s figure.

## ■ 2008 Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations

Conference Advisory Actions represent recommendations made by the standing committees and approved by the Conference body as a whole; or recommendations discussed and voted upon by all Conference members during general sessions. Some Advisory Actions and a few additional committee considerations appear below in condensed form. A complete list will be published in the *Final Conference Report*.

### Advisory Actions

**Agenda**— that the theme for the 2009 General Service Conference be: “Our Commitment to Carry A.A.’s Message — Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action.”

**Cooperation With the Professional Community**— that the video segments directed to professionals in the legal/criminal justice and health care fields to be streamed on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site be approved with suggested changes and that the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities oversee these changes.

**Finance**— that the trustees’ Finance and Budgetary Committee gather input from the Fellowship on the benefits and liabilities, both spiritual and practical of fully funding G.S.O. Services to the Fellowship (G.S.O. functional expenses) by the voluntary contributions of A.A. members and groups and that this information be forwarded to the 2009 Conference Committee on Finance.

**International Conventions/A.A. Regional Forums**—that the following four cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2020: Detroit, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Vancouver; that up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2010 International Convention at A.A.’s expense.

**Policy/Admissions**— that representatives from other National A.A. service entities be granted admission as observers upon their request to the annual General Service Conference of the United States and Canada; that admission is not to exceed three countries and two representatives per country; that the request for admission be made through the General Service Office in New York; and that decisions regarding responsibility for guest observer expenses be at the discretion of the General Service Board.

**Public Information**—that the 2008 television public service announcement, “I Thought,” developed by the trustees’ Public Information Committee be approved, and that reference to newspapers be added to the tag line; that the Conference Committee on Public Information annually review current television public service announcements for

relevance and usefulness, retiring a P.S.A. only when it is no longer relevant and/or useful to the Fellowship.

**Report and Charter**—that a section titled “District Information” and an illustration of the District Information Change Form (F-43) be added to Chapter Three of *The A.A. Service Manual*, after the section on redistricting; that the Online Intergroup of A.A. (OIAA) be listed in a new section titled “Online Intergroups” under the section “International Correspondence Meetings” in the A.A. Directories above where “Online Meetings” appear; the listing will include the online intergroup Web site and e-mail addresses.

**Treatment Facilities**— that the revised video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” be completed with minor changes and brought back to the 2009 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities for review.

**Trustees**—that the slate of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the General Service Board at the May 2008 meeting; that the slates of directors of the A.A.W.S. and Grapevine Corporate Boards be elected at the annual meeting of the boards, May 2008.

### Additional Considerations

**Archives**— requested that the G.S.O. Archives’ “Statements of Policy” related to accessing the Archives, as well as the “Sound and Video Access Policies,” be added to the next printing of the Archives Workbook; discussed various ideas for creatively making A.A.’s archives and history more readily available to the Fellowship in the future.

**Corrections**—reviewed the Corrections Kit and Workbook and the Corrections A.A. Group Handbook and made several suggestions to both.

**Grapevine**— agreed to forward to the A.A. Grapevine Board the suggestion that the A.A. Grapevine produce in the year 2009 or later two CDs of stories from La Viña on Traditions One — Twelve; discussed the Grapevine’s legacy of self-support and encouraged the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. to uphold that legacy; suggested several ways that the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., and the Fellowship could increase awareness of the Grapevine and La Viña’s roles in A.A.

**Literature**—that a draft of the revised pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American,” taking into consideration the committee’s suggested changes, be returned for review to the 2009 Conference; that a draft of the revised pamphlet “The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs” be brought to the 2009 Conference for review.

# ■ Reports From G.S.O., the General Service Board, and Trustees' Committees

## ■ General Service Board Report

**Trustees' Report:** Once again we come together to conduct our annual Conference, our 58th. The theme, Communication and Participation—The Key to Unity and Self-Support, is particularly relevant.

On January 1, 2008, Bob Pearson, who served as G.S.O.'s general manager from 1975 to 1984, died peacefully in Bellevue, Idaho. Bob is remembered as a mentor and a role model, both as a sober alcoholic enjoying life to the fullest and as a devoted and extraordinarily effective trusted servant in his role as director, trustee and general manager.

This year we welcomed five new Class B trustees to the board: Conley B., Southwest regional trustee; John K., northeast regional trustee; Jo-Anne L., trustee-at-large/Canada; and two general service trustees, Dorothy H. and John S. Last year I asked Tom K. to serve as acting Eastern Canada regional trustee, concurrent with his duties as Western Canada trustee. Tom will rotate off the General Service Board at the close of this Conference. I have also appointed Jo-Anne to serve as acting Eastern Canada regional trustee until the 2009 General Service Conference. She will serve in this interim position in addition to her role as trustee-at-large/Canada.

The board met in executive session, July 29, 2007, and discussed an additional consideration forwarded by the 2007 Conference Committee on Trustees that an "Appeal to the General Service Conference dated April 11, 2007 concerning the decision made in the January 2007 Executive Session of the General Service Board not to begin a search for a new General Manager of the General Service Office be given a full hearing at the next scheduled Executive Session of the General Service Board." The board had a full hearing of the appeal and matters related to the terms of employment of the general manager.

In February of this year, I was advised by Greg M. that it was his intent to retire as the general manager of the General Service Office by Dec. 31, 2008. This marks the conclusion of a ten-year period of outstanding service and commitment to Alcoholics Anonymous by Greg. The General Service Board, on behalf of all A.A. members in the U.S. and Canada, is grateful for his dedication over this time and for assisting in the transition process to his successor. A search committee for a new general manager began its work immediately.

The board, in response to an additional consideration from the 2007 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions, initiated a discussion of the inventory questions in February 2008. We will continue the discussion in August and expect to forward a summary of our discussions to the 2009 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions.

Some trustees, G.S.O.'s general manager and various staff members traveled this past year to a number of countries, at their invitation, including: Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, Kenya, Malta, Mongolia, Namibia, Oman, Poland, Russia, Sweden and Ukraine.

At the close of this Conference, three trustees will rotate: Chuck B., Tom K., and Vince Keefe (nonalcoholic).

In October we will be hosting the 20th World Service Meeting in New York. The theme is "Service: Gratitude in Action." Once again, delegates from around the world will share their experience, strength and hope in carrying the A.A. message to alcoholics everywhere.

*Leonard M. Blumenthal, LL.D.,  
(nonalcoholic) chairman*

## ■ Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

**Directors' report:** Each year directors serving on Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. report to the General Service Conference on A.A. publications, group services provided by the General Service Office and other activities linked directly to A.A.'s primary purpose. A.A.W.S. directors and G.S.O. employees agree that our purpose, expressed through requested services and publication of A.A. literature, is to enable members and groups to enlarge their Twelfth Step work and share A.A.'s solution with each suffering alcoholic.

The A.A.W.S. Board met seven times since the 57th Conference to receive reports from G.S.O. management and staff, review updates on group services activity and track progress on implementation of Conference and board recommendations, review financial reports, price new and revised publications, consider publishing operations and G.S.O. administrative matters, discuss requests from A.A. members and non-A.A.s seeking permission to reprint A.A.-copyrighted literature, and to address other pertinent matters.

The board approved the Quarterly and Annual Web Site Activity Reports, and forwarded them to the Trustees' Committee on Public Information. The board also approved the A.A.W.S. Services Committee's recommendation that G.S.O.'s Intra-Office Web Site Committee be authorized to add any Conference-approved pamphlet designated as a "service" pamphlet or as a "unity" pamphlet to G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site without the need for further approval by the Services Committee or the board.

**Financial** — An unaudited summary of 2007 year-end financial results shows net sales of \$12,394,000 for the year, approximately \$744,000 (6%) more than budgeted. Gross profit from literature was \$7,046,700, approximately \$487,900 (7.4%) over budget and \$171,400 greater than at December 31, 2006;

contributions received of \$6,526,000 were \$326,000 (5.3%) more than budgeted and \$457,800 (7.5%) greater than the total for 2006. For more details please consult the "Report of the Trustees' Finance & Budgetary Committee" in this issue.

**Publications** — The Third Edition Spanish-language Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, was published earlier this year. Based on the precedent of complimentary distribution of the 4th Edition of the English Big Book, each Spanish-language central or intergroup office was sent a case of 20 books at no charge. Total distribution of all books for the year 2007 was 2,105,628, up 8% from the 2006 total of 1,951,938. In 2007, total A.A. purchases amounted to 1,697,035 units, while non-A.A.s accounted for 408,593 units, which was 19% of the total. We distributed 1,127,310 Big Book units in 2007, compared with 1,067,191 in 2006. The conversion of audio/or video A.A. publications to CD/or DVD format was completed in April. All audio and video products, with the exception of the American Sign Language Big Book and Twelve and Twelve, have been converted to digital format and are available in either CD or DVD format.

**Translation Projects Completed:** *Alcoholics Anonymous* in Hebrew, *Alcoholics Anonymous* in Amharic (for Ethiopia), *Alcoholics Anonymous* in Greek—revised, Conference Charter (U.S./Canada) in Mongolian, Conference Charter (U.S./Canada) in Polish.

**G.S.O. Archives:** Laserfiche software has proven invaluable in preserving and utilizing the many thousands of documents stored in G.S.O.'s Archives. Test software was installed for use by five G.S.O. staff members who will participate in a 90-day trial to determine whether direct access will ease processing time for the growing number of requests for archival research.

*Howard L., chairperson*

## ■ Archives

**Trustee's report:** The new sound and video access policies have been implemented, allowing individuals to receive copies of our recordings on a limited basis. These policies permit us to share some of our thousands of audio recordings with the Fellowship, while abiding by copyright laws. The trustees' Committee also approved new language designed to help foster awareness of copyright issues relevant to A.A.'s archival collections, for inclusion in the Archives Workbook. The committee approved extensive revisions to the Archives Workbook, the Archives Guidelines, and the pamphlet "The A.A. Archives." In order to continue our efforts to increase security in the Archives, we have implemented digital video surveillance of our Archives exhibit areas.

*Chuck B., chairperson*

**Archivist's report:** In 2007 we responded to nearly 2,000 individual requests for research and information, an increase of almost 30% over the previous year. We enhanced our exhibit area in the Archives in several ways: we installed a digital listening station, allowing visitors to listen to excerpts of A.A.'s founders and pioneers sharing their stories; we installed two new exhibit cases so that we can display more of our treasures; and we created a self-guided tour here in the Archives, so our visitors now pick up a tour script when they enter the room and walk through A.A.'s history, learning about the significance of the objects and images on display.

Several new rotating exhibits were mounted in the Archives in 2007; we highlighted A.A.'s connections to Hollywood, and A.A.'s associations with the military. Our traveling exhibit was on the move, traveling from Florida to Canada, Illinois to Texas.

*Amy Filiatreau, (nonalcoholic) archivist*

## ■ Audit Committee

**Trustees' Report:** The trustees' Audit Committee, formed by the General Service Board in 2003, is composed of a minimum of three and a maximum of five trustees. The Committee reports to the General Service Board and reviews such items as audit process, audit results, internal controls, best accounting practices, and management integrity.

*Herbert Goodman, (nonalcoholic) trustee*

## ■ Compensation Committee

**Trustees' report:** This committee, formed in 2006 by the General Service Board, consists of six trustees. It was created to assist the General Service Board in its fiduciary obligation of Prudent Corporate Governance. The committee reports to the General Service Board and reviews and advises A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. on such items as overall compensation philosophies and policies, annual salary increase process, best compensation practices, and executive compensation.

*Herb Goodman, (nonalcoholic) chairperson*

## ■ Conference

**Trustees' report:** We reviewed the Advisory Actions pertaining to the 58th Conference, including the theme, the Evaluation Questionnaires, and a Post-Conference Sharing Session. The committee developed and approved the schedule for the 2008 Conference. The committee recommended that Conference committee agendas and background material be made available on an Online Dashboard on an experimental basis for two years, beginning with the 2008 Conference, in addition to the hard copies and CDs currently available.

*John S., chairperson*

**Staff report:** The Conference coordinator is the G.S.O. contact for General Service Conference members. The Conference process

continues throughout the year and the coordinator corresponds regularly with delegates and alternate delegates. The coordinator is also the contact for area and district committee members, as well as past delegates, in the 93 areas in the U. S. and Canada. The coordinator also serves as secretary to the Conference Agenda Committee and the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference; assembling suggestions for the Conference theme, presentation/discussion and workshop topics; working with the G.S.O. staff and general manager on planning and coordinating each phase of the Conference; scheduling and assembling reports and other information for the Conference Manual; and, with the guidance of the Publications Department, the Early Bird edition of Box 4-5-9 and the Conference Final Report.

*Doug R.*

## ■ Cooperation With the Professional Community/ Treatment Facilities

### **Trustees' report:**

*C.P.C.* — A primary committee focus is assisting local C.P.C. committees in providing A.A. information to professionals who, through their work, come in contact with the still-suffering alcoholic. Among its work, the committee reviewed the final report on exhibit correspondence and created a sample C.P.C. PowerPoint presentation for inclusion in the C.P.C. Kit. The committee also reviewed the sharing, received by the C.P.C. staff, on local C.P.C. committee guidelines on dress, punctuality, etc. for A.A. members staffing a booth at a national level conference. The committee agreed that the current guidelines included in the "For the Volunteers Staffing an A.A. Exhibit" letter are sufficient. The committee worked with the Publications Department on video segments directed to professionals and recommended that they be forwarded *only* to the members of the 2008 Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community prior to the 2008 General Service Conference for their consideration. The total cost is not to exceed \$60,000.

*Treatment Facilities* — Responding to a 2007 Conference Advisory Action that, "the video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous* be revised, retaining only the script, and that sample footage or a progress report be brought back to the 2008 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities," the committee began its work of overseeing the development of the new video. A progress report, including suggestions for minor script changes along with sample footage of the proposed new video, was forwarded to the 2008 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities.

*Bob M., chairperson*

### **Staff reports:**

*C.P.C.* — The staff member on the C.P.C. assignment, along with a capable assistant, provides information about A.A. and facilitates

communication with those outside A.A. who have direct contact with the still-suffering alcoholic through their professional work. In 2007, 535 requests for information from professional were associated with visits to G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site. Other requests arrived by letter, e-mail, fax and phone. More than 22,333 professionals receive About A.A., our newsletter for professionals, two issues of which were published in 2007. The C.P.C. assignment arranged for displays at 45 national or international conferences of professionals in 2007. Also, the C.P.C. staff member greets students from Cornell University Medical Center who visit G.S.O. throughout the year.

*Mary D.*

*Treatment Facilities* — The purpose of the Treatment Facilities assignment is to share experience and information with committees that carry the A.A. message into a variety of treatment settings. G.S.O. lists 93 Area Treatment Facilities (T.F.) committee chairpersons, plus 393 district and other T.F. chairpersons, as well as 29 Area Bridging the Gap (BTG) and 18 Area Hospitals and Institutions (H&I) committee chairpersons; 136 BTG and H&I district and other chairpersons are also listed. The total list comprises 640 T.F. related trusted servants. Each is involved in one or more facets of providing A.A. meetings and/or information in treatment settings. Periodically, we share highlights from the trustees' meetings and activities from the T.F. staff assignment with area, district and other T.F. chairs.

*Warren S.*

## ■ Corrections

**Trustees' report:** The committee reviewed the final changes to the DVD "A.A. in Correctional Facilities" and approved the DVD for production, translation and distribution. Committee members discussed avenues of possible distribution of the DVD to get it in the hands of relevant professionals. We also reviewed recommended changes in the service piece *A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Information for A.A.s on the Inside*.

*Madeleine P., chairperson*

**Staff report:** The Corrections assignment is responsible for helping A.A. members and local committees carry the A.A. message to alcoholics confined in a variety of correctional settings. Around 600 pieces of mail a month arrive from inmates, many requesting free literature, others asking to participate in our Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.) or for help in making contact with A.A., either by asking for a meeting in their facility or for a prerelease contact. We try to facilitate these requests, primarily through our network of area, district and local Corrections committees. The newsletter, *Sharing From Behind the Walls*, containing excerpts of sharing from inmate letters sent to G.S.O., is also a responsibility of this assignment.

*Gayle S. R.*

## ■ Finance and Budgetary

**Trustees' report:** At last year's Conference we reviewed the proposed budget for 2007 and reported that the G.S.O. expected a profit from operations of approximately \$237,450, which after Conference actions resulting in mid-year budget adjustments, was reduced to \$89,450. Actual results for 2007 were significantly higher than both the original and adjusted budget; in fact, a net profit of \$1,018,600 was realized. While expenses for the year were approximately \$110,000 (less than 1%) under budget, total revenue was approximately \$820,000 better than expected thanks to strong sales and contributions. At the end of 2007, the Reserve Fund balance represented approximately 9 months of operating expenses.

Our revenue essentially comes from two sources: profit from literature sales and contributions. We should all be encouraged that contributions in 2007 were again higher than the previous year, in this case by about \$457,800 (7.5%). This represents the tenth year in a row that contributions have increased over the previous year.

Contributions of \$6,381,600 received from groups and members were \$330,700, or 5.5%, greater than budgeted, and \$459,200 (7.8%) more than in 2006. The \$6,381,600 in contributions came from 26,389 groups, individuals, and service entities. That, for comparison, represents 45.2% of the 58,340 groups registered with G.S.O., just slightly lower than the 45.5% reported last year.

Beginning in 2002, we were obliged to record funds received on behalf of the World Service Meeting International Literature Fund as Contributions to G.S.O. Total contributions of \$6,526,000, reflected in our 2007 financial statements, include approximately \$144,400 received to help carry the message around the world from those participating countries. The comparable comparisons for prior years were: 2006, \$145,000; 2005, \$135,000; 2004, \$128,357; 2003, \$102,900; and 2002, \$108,000.

While total contribution dollars were higher again this year, the number of groups listed at G.S.O. was slightly less (199 groups fewer), and as noted above the percent of groups contributing declined ever so slightly (three tenths of one percent). It is important to remember that the statistics we discuss concerning number of groups, membership and averages are only a reflection of the information we capture on "our systems." We report to you what you report to us.

The other major component of our income, net sales of literature, was \$12,393,800, which was \$743,800 (6%) greater than budgeted, and \$713,000 higher than 2006 as well. During 2007, with minor exceptions all books sold more units than in 2006. (During 2007, the total number of Big Books sold increased by approximately 56,000—5.3%—than in 2006.)

In total, printing and other manufacturing costs, shipping expenses and royalty payments were more than budgeted by a considerable margin. This increase is a direct result of

greater-than-expected sales as well as the effect of inflation and pass-along of fuel surcharges by the trucking industry. Gross profit of \$7,046,700 was \$487,000 greater than budgeted.

The combination of contributions and net literature sales resulted in total G.S.O. revenue of \$13,582,600, some \$820,000 greater than originally budgeted. Total operating expenses for G.S.O. during 2007 were \$12,564,000, approximately \$110,000 less than budgeted.

When compared with budget, the increased revenues combined with expenses under budget resulted in a 2007 operating profit of \$1,018,600. This profit was significantly greater than both the budget for 2007 and the 2006 results.

In 1994, G.S.O. lowered prices and increased discounts on literature. These changes were undertaken to lower the Reserve Fund, which was at that time was approaching the upper limit of 12 months of combined operating expenses established by the General Service Conference. In subsequent years, it became necessary to restore the revenue stream with pricing adjustments. At December 2007, the calculation produces about 9 months of operating expenses. The adjusted balance used for the calculation at December 31 of \$10,909,850 amounts to about \$187 per listed A.A. group. The balance used for the Reserve Fund calculation has increased approximately \$900,000 from last year and is prior to any transfers in 2008. Dividing total Contributions received (\$6,526,000) by the 58,340 groups registered gives us an average of about \$112, while expenses to support services to those groups amounted to approximately \$146.

Turning to 2008, the G.S.O. budget, anticipates approximately level sales when compared with the prior year. In 2005, after reviewing financial matters, your responsible trusted servants recommended an increase in prices of books and booklets (except the Big Book), as well as an imposition of a small shipping charge effective July 1, 2005. This followed by one year the restoration of the price of the Big Book on July 1, 2004. You may remember that the price of the Fourth Edition was set at \$5.00 (a \$1.00 per book reduction from \$6.00), specifically reducing the expected Gross Profit with a goal of reducing the Reserve Fund. Projections at that time anticipated that, depending on contributions, the price would be restored in a few years.

Prudence dictated that even though Contribution revenue has seen favorable upward movement during the last several years, restoration of the overall revenue stream was appropriate.

This year's budget anticipates about a 2.3% increase in contributions. The budget envisions approximately a 5.6% increase in costs when compared with 2007 actual results, and a 4.7% increase when compared with the 2007 budget. It should be remembered that 2008 is a World Service Meeting year, and the costs of that meeting not cov-

ered by participating countries falls to G.S.O. U.S.A. Without those costs the 2008 budget would increase over the 2007 budget by only approximately 3.7%. Based on these preliminary assumptions – approximately even dollar sales; a 2.3% increase in contributions; and a slight increase in total operating expenses—the projection for 2008 is for an excess of revenue over expenses of \$240,800, approximately even with the 2007 budgeted profit before adjustments for Conference actions.

In 2007, we spent \$8,528,100 on services to the Fellowship, approximately \$256,000 more than spent in 2006. This compares with \$8,272,000 in 2006; \$7,443,300 in 2005; and \$7,622,288 in 2004. Contributions provided 76.5%, and 23.5% came from the profit from literature sales. (This compares with 73% and 27% in 2006 and 2005; 68% and 32% in 2004; 72% and 28% in 2003; 71% and 29% in 2002; 70% and 30% in 2001; and 73% and 27% for 2000.)

The 2007 service dollar was spent on the following activities: Group Services 33% (which includes the Group Services assignment; Box 4-5-9; A.A. Directories; records and files; contributions processing; and French services); the General Service Conference, 12.3%; Loners, Internationalists, and Overseas Services, 9.8%; trustees' and directors' activities, 6.8%; Regional Forums, 7.1%; Archives, 9.6%; C.P.C., 5.6%; Public Information, 5.4%; Correctional Facilities, 4.5%; and Treatment Facilities, 2.2%; Special Needs; 1.4%; Nominating 1.8%; other various 0.5%.

At the Grapevine, magazine income was approximately \$55,000 greater than the prior year, with average circulation approximately 2,200 copies higher as well. Average print circulation during 2007 was 106,099. This compared with 103,878 for 2006, 104,356 for 2005, 108,426 for 2004, 112,614 for 2003, 115,753 for 2002, 115,000 in 2001, 115,700 in 2000, 115,900 for 1999, 117,300 for 1998, 120,679 for 1997, and 128,360 during 1996. Gross profit on the magazine of \$1,182,770, was \$31,000 greater than last year but \$18,000 less than budgeted. Other publishing income was \$45,000, greater than budgeted and \$153,000 higher than the 2006 as well. Excluding *La Viña*, *The Grapevine* reported a loss from operations of \$25,047, which was approximately \$23,000 less than the 2006 loss of \$48,872. See the *Grapevine* directors' report in this issue for details.

*La Viña* had a 2007 average circulation of 10,979. This compared with a 2006 average of 10,223, a 2005 average of 9,453, a 2004 average of 9,316, a 2003 average circulation of 9,222, and 2002 circulation of 9,000, 8,600 in 2001, 8,500 in 2000, 8,000 in 1999, and 8,400 in 1997. During 2007, subscription income was \$102,152 and direct costs of publishing were \$66,917, resulting in a \$35,234 gross profit. The overall loss on *La Viña* for the year was \$67,040 compared with a loss for 2006 of \$72,000. Since inception of the magazine, approximately \$1,134,000 has been invested in *La Viña* in excess of revenues

generated. In 2001, the General Service Board recommended that La Viña continue to be published and agreed to provide the necessary funding.

The subcommittee concluded that, overall, the General Service Board has been well served by the investments made in the Reserve fund and the decisions made by those charged with maintaining this fund.

The outlook for this year appears to be favorable, and we continue to have the financial wherewithal to carry our message.

*Vincent Keefe, (nonalcoholic) treasurer*

## ■ General Sharing Session

**Trustees' report:** The topic of the July 2007 session was "A.A. and Controversy—Tradition 10." The October topic was "A.A. Grapevine, Inc.—Challenges and Opportunities of Fulfilling Our Mission in the Electronic Age." In February 2008, the session focused on "Special Needs—A New Frontier."

*Dorothy H., chairperson*

## ■ Group Services

**Staff report:** The group services coordinator responds to all inquiries and concerns of A.A. members and other individuals regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site, and manages G.S.O.'s Intra-Office Web site committee. The responsibilities of the group services coordinator also include serving as G.S.O.'s liaison for Intergroups/Central Offices and supervising the updating of service material. Examples of service material include: Group Handbooks; G.S.R. and D.C.M. Kits; and A.A. Guidelines. The Group Services coordinator works closely with the digital media manager to update and improve G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.

*Mary Clare L.*

## ■ International/ World Service Meeting

**Trustees' report:** This committee is responsible for suggesting policies and actions to ensure that the A.A. message is available around the world, especially in areas where there is no established service structure. We provide shared experience, support translations of A.A. literature in other languages, and encourage the expansion of regional or zonal meetings. The committee is the primary link between the international A.A. community and the U.S./Canada General Service Board of Trustees. The 20th World Service Meeting will be held October 26-30 in New York City, with the theme "Service—Gratitude in Action." We are anticipating approximately 50 delegates representing over 30 countries or zones.

*Dorothy W., chairperson*

**Staff report:** The International desk receives correspondence from groups, individual A.A.s and professionals interested in obtaining information about A.A. in countries outside of the U.S. and Canada. The staff member also

corresponds with 60 international general service offices and/or literature distribution centers. Other responsibilities on the assignment are: serving as coordinator for the biennial World Service Meeting and maintaining contact with WSM delegates and their offices throughout the year; and maintaining close communications with our publications department on requests for new translations of literature, and the beginnings of new general service or information offices that may be able to distribute literature to local members and groups.

*Julio E.*

## ■ International Conventions/ A.A. Regional Forums

### **Trustees' report:**

*International Conventions* — The committee recommended that the "San Antonio—75 Years" design for the 2010 International Convention logo be approved. The committee recommended that during the Convention only vendors under contract to Convention management be permitted to operate in Convention facilities.

*Regional Forums* — Since the 2007 General Service Conference, Regional Forums have been held in the Northeast, West Central, Southwest, East Central, and Western Canada Regions. In addition, there were two Special Forums held in northern Canada, one in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and the other in Rimouski, Quebec.

*Herb Goodman, (nonalcoholic) chairperson*

### **Staff reports:**

*International Convention* — The International Convention assignment entails coordinating the details involved in producing the A.A. International Convention, held every five years. Working with four committees—Trustees, Conference, G.S.O. Planning and Host—the International Convention coordinator is responsible for bringing the Convention to life and ensuring that thousands of A.A.s can share and celebrate A.A.'s Anniversary. Plans are under way for the next International Convention in San Antonio, Texas, July 1-4, 2010. Big meetings will be held in the Alamodome, and other meetings will take place in the San Antonio Convention Center and local hotels.

*Regional Forums* — The staff member handling Regional Forums is responsible for coordinating all arrangements necessary for holding Regional Forums and Local Forums in the U.S. and Canada. These sharing weekends help foster wider communication and understanding. Regional Forums are organized by the General Service Board and held at the invitation of a particular region every two years; currently there are four Regional Forums annually. The staff member serves as secretary of the trustees' and Conference International Conventions/Regional Forums Committees.

*Rick W.*

## ■ Literature

**Trustees' report:** Projects completed: the pamphlets "The A.A. Group" and "Can A.A. Help Me Too?" Projects forwarded to the 2008 Conference Literature Committee for consideration: revised introduction and selected stories for the revised "A.A. For the Native North American" pamphlet; and a progress report on the "The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs" pamphlet.

*Bill Clark, (nonalcoholic) chairperson*

**Staff report:** The Literature coordinator works with the editors, writers and illustrators on all new recovery pamphlets, books and audiovisuals, in accordance with recommendations from the General Service Conference. The Literature desk handles correspondence from A.A. members and groups about A.A. literature. There are currently 75 area, 400 district and 320 other literature chairpersons listed with G.S.O. The assignment is also responsible for Box 4-5-9.

*Eva S.*

## ■ Loners, Internationalists, Homers

**Staff report:** The Loners/Internationalists Correspondence Service is a method of sharing for about 97 Loners in 58 countries, plus 35 Internationalists, and 100 Homers. Loners are members who are unable to attend A.A. meetings because there are no A.A. groups within a reasonable distance. Internationalists are members working or serving on a seagoing vessel for lengthy periods, and Homers are A.A.s housebound due to illness or physical incapacity. Members share with other A.A.s around the world through letters, tapes and/or e-mail. Each new Loner, Homer or Internationalist receives a Loners, Internationalists, & Homers Directory, a subscription to Box 4-5-9, and the *Loners/Internationalist Meeting-by-Mail (LIM)*, a bimonthly publication of excerpts of letters from LIM members to the General Service Office. As with any directory or list distributed by G.S.O., LIM is confidential to insure the anonymity of LIM members.

*Warren S.*

## ■ Nominating Committee

**Trustees' report:** The committee prepared a report on nominating procedure No. 9 and the length of service of the general manager of G.S.O. in response to a 2007 additional committee consideration. The committee unanimously recommended that Terrance M. Bedient be invited to serve as Class A (nonalcoholic) treasurer starting May 2008. The committee accepted the October 2007 Final Report of the "General Service Board Unexpected Vacancy Scope and Procedures" Subcommittee and recommended to the General Service Board approval of adding language to the committee's procedures to clarify the process for filling unexpected vacancies for general service trustees, trustees-at-large and regional trustees.

*Tom K., chairperson*

**Staff report:** This assignment's staff member is responsible to the trustees' Nominating Committee, as well as to the Conference Committee on Trustees, serving as secretary to these committees as well as to trustees' subcommittees. This assignment also serves as a resource point for Special Needs/Accessibilities Committees within the Fellowship, sending out welcome letters, Special Needs Kits, and shared experience to area and district committee chairs in addition to responding to Special Needs correspondence.

Valerie O.

## ■ Public Information

**Trustees' report:** The committee recommended that the concept "I Thought" be developed as the proposed 2008 TV public service announcement, a rough cut of which was forwarded to the 2008 Conference P.I. Committee. The committee reviewed the text and format of the Annual Anonymity Letter to the Media and suggested that this year's letter be sent by e-mail only. The committee also oversaw the 2007 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey and reviewed a rough draft pamphlet of the results, which they forwarded to the 2008 Conference P.I. Committee.

Ward Ewing, (nonalcoholic) chairperson

**Staff report:** This assignment is charged with assisting the A.A. members who carry our message to still-suffering alcoholics through such public outlets as schools, health fairs, libraries, and all forms of the media. The assignment communicates with over 800 P.I. committee chairpersons at the area, district and intergroup/central office or group level and also responds to inquiries that come to the office from the media. In addition, the staff member provides P.I. committees with information on the production and distribution of television and radio public service announcements. Coordinating the triennial A.A. Membership Survey is part of the assignment.

Irene K.

## ■ Staff Coordinator

**Staff report:** Services to A.A. groups and members are provided through 11 staff assignments; in addition, staff members correspond with groups and members in a specific region. Staff members rotate assignments every two years; assignments are assisted by the staff coordinator. In 2007 staff received 37,993 pieces of mail (including faxes and e-mail). As assistant secretary of the General Service Board, the staff coordinator is responsible for scheduling meetings, distributing advance material, preparing the minutes of the board meetings and also serves as editor of the *Quarterly Report*. In the past year, G.S.O. welcomed 1,477 visitors.

Adrienne B.

# ■ Reports from the A.A. Grapevine

**Directors' report:** One of the operating arms of the General Service Board, A.A. Grapevine, Inc., publishes the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous in print and in audio, along with collections of Grapevine magazine articles in books, CDs, and on its Web site. With the financial support of the General Service Board, A.A. Grapevine, Inc., also publishes *La Viña*, the Spanish-language journal of Alcoholics Anonymous, and collections of *La Viña* stories in CDs and other formats.

The directors of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., met eight times since the 57th Conference — three times during General Service Board weekends; four times as a Planning Committee; and once in October at a joint dinner meeting with the Editorial Advisory Board.

The Publishing Operations committee monitored publication of books and CDs in 2007; previewed the redesign of [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)'s home page; and approved the Grapevine's publication plan for 2008. This includes publication of two audio-books (*Spiritual Awakenings*, Vols. I & II, in both English and Spanish, and *Emotional Sobriety*, Vols. I & II); a trilingual Grapevine wall calendar and pocket planner; and a book of Grapevine stories for beginners.

Circulation of the print magazine averaged 106,099 a month in FY2007, 3,099 higher than budget and 2,221 higher than last year. Subscriptions to the AudioGrapevine brought average monthly circulation of the magazine up to 107,242. For the twelve-month period ended December 31, 2007, the A.A. Grapevine Corporation realized a loss of \$25,047 in comparison to a budgeted loss of \$81,332. This was ahead of budget by \$56,286.

Total A.A. Grapevine income, including cash flow interest and interest from the Reserve Fund, was \$1,740,174 or \$33,986 ahead of budget. Total magazine income was \$1,950,233 and direct costs of the Grapevine magazine were \$767,463, resulting in a gross profit on the magazine of \$1,182,770. This was \$31,405 more than last year. Other Grapevine publishing income of \$770,242 was \$45,564 ahead of budget and \$153,259 ahead of last year. Cost of goods and delivery was \$285,617. Gross profit on related items was \$484,625. This is \$46,143 over budget and \$116,985 ahead of last year. Editorial costs of \$543,904 were over budget by \$9,455. Circulation and business expenses of \$1,041,095 were less than budget by \$38,266. General and administrative expenses of \$180,222 were \$6,511 over budget. Total gross profit was \$1,667,395. This was \$148,390 ahead of 2006.

Last year, the A.A. Grapevine saw significant increases in the circulation of both the Grapevine and *La Viña* magazines and in the distribution of its stories in books and CDs. Average monthly circulation of the Grapevine print magazine alone rose 2.14%; with the addition of the audio version, average monthly

circulation rose 3.24%. *La Viña* circulation increased 7.4%. In 2006, the Grapevine distributed 68,108 books; this year, it distributed 86,350. The corporation distributed 9,511 Grapevine CDs in 2007, versus 6,771 in 2006. In 2007, 4,945 *La Viña* CDs were distributed, versus 2,371 in 2006.

Much of the Board's work this year was devoted to strategic planning — looking at ways the Grapevine might meet challenges and cover costs over the next few years. Among the threats cited were the Grapevine's thin financial cushion, an aging readership; readers' information overload; changes in publishing driven by new technologies; and potential challenges to A.A. growth, such as resistance to change or a decline in Twelfth Step work.

Bimonthly circulation for *La Viña* averaged 10,979 for 6 issues in FY 2007. This was 7.4% more than last year. Magazine income was \$102,152, which was over budget by \$6,880. Direct costs were \$66,917, which were \$3,098 under budget. Gross profit on the magazine was \$35,234. This was \$9,977 ahead of budget and \$14,774 ahead of the same period in 2006. Income from the sale of *La Viña* CDs and the first *La Viña* book totaled \$44,520, which was \$6,580 ahead of budget. Gross profit on related items was \$32,547. Costs and expenses were \$134,821. This is \$8,642 over budget. Net Loss for *La Viña* for FY 2007 was \$67,040. The net loss for 2006 was \$72,004. We have seen extraordinary growth in *La Viña* — 11% in 2006 and 7.4% in 2007.

Ray M., chairperson

**Staff report:** This past year the Grapevine published twelve issues of the Grapevine magazine, six issues of *La Viña*, and two books of selected stories from the magazines: *In Our Own Words: Stories of young A.A.s* and *Lo mejor de La Viña (The Best of La Viña)*. The Grapevine also published a large-print edition of *The Language of the Heart*, and recorded *The Best of Bill* in Spanish and English on CD. It also produced four new CDs: *Old-Timers*, *Attitude Adjustment*, and *Powers of Example*, remastered from Grapevine audiocassettes, and *Historia de A.A.*, a Spanish-language translation of the English-language CD *The Story of A.A.* The A.A. Grapevine wall calendar and pocket planner came out in August.

The Grapevine's chief goals in 2007 were to expand the number of people it reaches and to balance its budget. It met both. This growth was the result of a multidepartmental effort.

The editorial and the Internet department continued to update the look of the website, electronic newsletter, and magazines; to explore the use of new media; and to publish more stories by and for young readers and newcomers. The new section, "Alcoholism at Large" has drawn a hearty response from readers, as has the issue on Dating Sober.

Robin B., executive editor

# The Budget Highlights

## 2008 G.S.O. Budget

These budget highlights describe the "OPERATIONS" of the General Service Office — A.A. World Services (the Publishing operation) and the General Fund (Service activities) and the Grapevine Operations. It excludes any activities reported separately in the Reserve Fund, Convention Fund, Post Retirement Fund or the Capital Projects Fund.

**Income:** The 2008 budget projects gross sales of \$12,700,000, approximately flat when compared with the 2007 actual results of \$12,730,000, which were \$730,000 greater than the \$12,000,000 estimated for the 2007 budget. While reviewing and recommending the 2008 budget, the A.A.W.S. Board considered that revenue and expense assumptions made for the G.S.O. budget ultimately affect the long-term health of the General Service Board's Reserve Fund.

Manufacturing costs are budgeted approximately 3.8% higher than 2007, because we are anticipating higher paper and manufacturing component costs. Royalties are budgeted at \$52,000 this year. There are only two remaining recipients.

Shipping and warehousing costs are budgeted approximately 3.6% higher than the 2007 results.

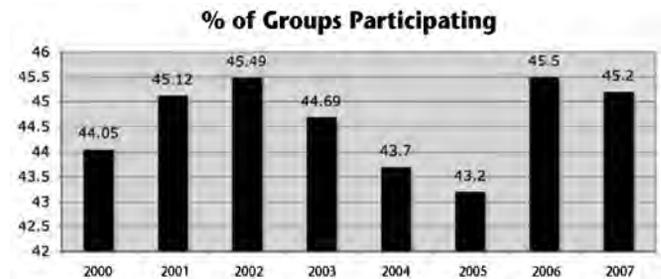
After subtracting manufacturing costs, royalties, and shipping expense, gross profit is budgeted at \$6,822,500, or 55.2% of net sales. Gross profit has been budgeted about \$225,000 less than 2007. The 55.2% gross profit percentage anticipated for 2008 compares with 56.8% for 2007. It should be remembered that as we strive to have literature available in Spanish and French as well as English for our Service Conference, lower print runs in those languages usually result in higher production costs. Because we strive to have similar selling prices regardless of our manufacturing cost, lower gross profits for individual items may occur that affect the overall gross profit. Thus price increases may become necessary as things progress.

Gross Profit Percentage has fallen from 58.8% in 2006, to 56.8% in 2007, and to 55.2% for the 2008 budget.

Even though contribution revenue has seen favorable upward movement over the last several years, prudence dictates that actions have been necessary to control costs and reinforce the revenue stream to provide sufficient funds to continue providing services. Trusted servants continue to explore methods to reduce the costs of operations as well as assess the services supplied.

**Contributions:** Contributions for 2007 were over budget by \$326,000 (5.2%). Total contributions for 2008 have been budgeted at \$6,675,000, an increase of approximately 2.3%. During 2007, contributions from groups and individuals of \$6,381,600 were \$330,700 (5.5%) greater than budget and \$459,200 (7.8%) greater than 2006. Contributions received from World Service Meeting countries toward the World Service Meeting International literature fund amounted to \$144,400, approximately \$1,400 less than 2006. In total, contributions received for 2007 were just over \$6,526,000. In addition to the work trusted servants are doing to carry the message of the necessity for voluntary contributions, historical evidence suggests that usually in the year following an International Convention we enjoy a healthy increase in contributions. Afterward the rate of growth declines somewhat.

The chart to the right reflects the approximate percentage of the A.A. groups listed with the General Service Office that have participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition by contributing to the General Service Office.



**Total Operating Revenue** for 2008 is anticipated at \$13,507,500, just slightly less than the 2007 results of \$13,582,000.

**Total Operating Expenses** for 2008 have been budgeted at \$13,266,700, approximately \$703,000 or 5.6% more than 2007 and \$593,200 or 4.7% more than the 2007 budget as well. The 2008 budget includes expenses for the G.S.O. U.S.A. net expense for the World Service Meeting. Absent the W.S.M. costs, the increase in the 2008 budget over the 2007 budget would be approximately 3.7%.

The 2008 G.S.O. budget anticipates an excess of revenue over expense of \$240,796. This compares with an actual income of \$1,018,600 for 2007 and the \$89,450 net income budgeted for 2007 (including midyear adjustments). The large variance from budget to actual results is due to higher than anticipated revenue from both sales and contributions. The expected 2008 operating income, the 2007 actual income, as well as other transfers, assist in maintaining the Reserve Fund. However, during 2008, the A.A.W.S. Board will be carefully considering future actions.

## 2008 Grapevine Budget



The 2008 Grapevine Budget calls for an average circulation of 107,000, approximately 4,000 greater than the 2007 budget and approximately 900 greater than the 2007 paid circulation of 106,099. Circulation for the last several years is depicted in the chart below.

**Income:** Magazine income of \$2,089,461 is expected, \$139,000 greater than 2007. Other Publishing Income from books, cassette tapes, and miscellaneous items is budgeted at \$812,700, \$42,500 higher than 2007.

**Total Gross Profit:** Combining the magazine and other publishing items, a gross profit of \$1,825,966 is budgeted for 2008. This compares with \$1,667,395 for 2007 and the 2007 budget of \$1,639,059.

**Total Operating Expenses:** Total Operating Expenses for 2008 are budgeted

at \$1,895,500, \$130,300 more than the 2007 expenses of \$1,765,200.

**Net Income:** For 2008 the Grapevine anticipates a profit of \$3,200. This compares with a 2007 budgeted loss of \$81,300 and an actual loss from operations of \$25,000.

## 2008 La Viña Budget

For 2008 La Viña expects a gross profit on the magazine of \$34,858, compared with \$35,234 in 2007. Circulation for 2008 is estimated at 11,000, about equal to the 10,979 average for 2007. Other Publishing income is estimated at \$40,800, which after deducting cost of product of \$10,500, expects to contribute \$30,300 to revenue. Total costs and expenses are estimated at \$132,529 for 2008, just \$2,300 less than 2007. The 2008 budget projects a net loss of \$67,371, even with the 2007 loss of \$67,040.

The chart to the right reflects the La Viña magazine losses since inception (1995). To date losses of approximately \$1,134,000 have been incurred.



## Calendar of Events

Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the General Service Office. For any additional information, please use the addresses provided.

### June

- 6-7—*Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, Canada.* Tri-Cities Spring Rally. Write: Ch., 4005 Young Rd., Belcarra, BC V3H 4P8
- 6-8—*Flagstaff, Arizona.* 25<sup>th</sup> Flagstaff Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 22148, Flagstaff, AZ 86002
- 6-8—*Tallahassee, Florida.* Founder's Day Florida Style. Write: Ch., Box 38034, Tallahassee, FL; [www.foundersdayflorida.org](http://www.foundersdayflorida.org)
- 6-8—*Kansas City, Kansas.* VII Encuentro Hispano de Kansas. Inf. Com. Org., 723 Osage Ave., Kansas City, KS 66105
- 6-8—*Metairie, Louisiana.* 40<sup>th</sup> Big Deep South Conv. Write: Ch., 638 A. Papworth Ave., Metairie, LA 70005; [bigdeepsouthconvention@cox.net](mailto:bigdeepsouthconvention@cox.net)
- 6-8—*Springfield, Missouri.* Heart of the Ozarks Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 1607, Springfield, MO 65801
- 6-8—*Ruidoso, New Mexico.* 51<sup>st</sup> Area 46 NM State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2538, Alamogordo, NM 88311; [www.newmexicoaa.org](http://www.newmexicoaa.org)
- 6-8—*Liverpool, New York.* CNY Area 47 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 271, Syracuse, NY 13211; [www.aacny.org](http://www.aacny.org)
- 6-8—*Akron, Ohio.* 73<sup>rd</sup> Founder's Day. Write: Ch., Box 12, Akron, OH 44309-1200; [www.shop.aafoundersday.org](http://www.shop.aafoundersday.org)
- 6-8—*Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada.* 56<sup>th</sup> Prince Albert Gateway Round-up. Write: Ch., RR #5, Site 32, Comp. 2, Prince Albert, SK S6V 5R3; [www.princealbertroundup.ca](http://www.princealbertroundup.ca)
- 12-15—*Indian Wells, California.* Desert Pow Wow. Write: Ch., Box 10128, Palm Desert, CA 92255; [www.desertpowwow.com](http://www.desertpowwow.com)
- 12-15—*Hagerstown, Maryland.* 38<sup>th</sup> MD State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2201, Hagerstown, MD 21741; [www.marylandaa.org](http://www.marylandaa.org)
- 13-15—*Alamosa, Colorado.* Serenity In The San Juans. Write: Ch., Box 7, Mosca, CO 81146
- 13-14—*Richmond, Québec, Canada.* 26<sup>ème</sup> Congrès 88-10. Écrire: Prés., C.P. 63, Windsor, QC J1S 2L7; [webmestre88@aa-quebec.org](mailto:webmestre88@aa-quebec.org)
- 13-15—*Mobile, Alabama.* Azalea City Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 9005, Mobile, AL 36691; [www.mobileaa.org](http://www.mobileaa.org)
- 13-15—*Sioux Center, Iowa.* Area 24 '08 Spring Conf. Write: Ch., Box 91, Lemars, IA 51031
- 13-15—*Odessa, Texas.* TX State Conv. Write: Ch., 6201 E. Business Loop 20, P.O. Box 14755, Odessa, TX 79768; [www.aadistrict13.org](http://www.aadistrict13.org)

- 13-15—*Nanose Bay, British Columbia, Canada.* 48<sup>th</sup> Parkville/Qualicum Rally. Write: Ch., Box 4618, Stn A, Nanaimo, BC V9R 6E8
- 13-15—*Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, Canada.* Nova Scotia Provincial Round-up. Write: Ch., 1627 King St., Bridgewater, NS B4V 1C4
- 19-22—*Houma, Louisiana.* Area 27 50<sup>th</sup> State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 744, Houma, LA 70361; [www.aa-louisiana.org](http://www.aa-louisiana.org)
- 20-22—*Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada.* Eastern Canada Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coord., Box 459, Grand Central Station, NY, NY 10163; [Regionalforums@aa.org](mailto:Regionalforums@aa.org)
- 20-22—*Sept-Iles, Québec, Canada.* 20<sup>ième</sup> Congrès 89-10. Écrire: Prés., C.P. 1242, Sept-Iles, QC G4R 4X7
- 27-29—*Moodus, Connecticut.* Soberfest '08. Write: Ch., 112 E. Main St., Meriden, CT 06469
- 27-29—*Pendleton, Oregon.* 60<sup>th</sup> Pacific NW Conf. Write: Ch., Box 611, Hood River, OR 97031; [www.pnc1948.org](http://www.pnc1948.org)

### July

- 4-6—*San Francisco, California.* Western Round-up 2008. Write: Ch., Box 420974, San Francisco, CA 94142; [www.livingsober.org](http://www.livingsober.org)
- 4-6—*Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada.* Abbotsford Round-up. Write: Ch., 2589 Magnolia Cres, Abbotsford, BC V2T 3N1; [abbotsfordrally2008@hotmail.com](mailto:abbotsfordrally2008@hotmail.com)
- 11-13—*Tehachapi, California.* Tehachapi Mtn Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 1164, Tehachapi, CA 93581; [www.tehachapiroundup.com](http://www.tehachapiroundup.com)
- 11-13—*Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.* PENNSCY-PAA XX. Write: Ch., Box 254, New Cumberland, PA 17070; [www.pennscypaa20.com](http://www.pennscypaa20.com)
- 17-20—*Atlanta, Georgia.* 33<sup>rd</sup> Atlanta Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 957136, Duluth, GA 30095; [www.atlantaroundup.com](http://www.atlantaroundup.com)
- 17-20—*Lubbock, Texas.* Lubbock Caprock Conv. Write: Ch., Box 6511, Lubbock, TX 79493

- 18-20—*San Ramon, California.* 61<sup>st</sup> NCCAA Summer Conf. Write: Ch., 2416 Inglewood Dr., Lodi, CA 95242
- 18-20—*Carrabassett Valley, Maine.* 31<sup>st</sup> Area 28 Round-Up. Write: Ch., Box 2155, Biddeford, ME 04005
- 18-20—*Madison, Minnesota.* 32<sup>nd</sup> Freedom Fest Campout. Write: Ch., 409 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Milan, MN 56262
- 18-20—*Omaha, Nebraska.* Conv. Hispana de NE. Write: Ch., Box 7187, Omaha, NE, 68107
- 18-20—*Logan, New Mexico.* Ute Lake Round-up. Write: Ch., 113 Torreon Dr., Clovis, NM 88101
- 18-20—*Deadwood, South Dakota.* 4<sup>th</sup> Paha Sapa Mtn Conf. Write: Ch., Box 1212, Spearfish, SD 57783
- 18-20—*Princeton, West Virginia.* Area 73 '08 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 2103, Beaver, WV 25813; [www.aawv.org](http://www.aawv.org)
- 18-20—*Rimouski, Québec, Canada.* 29<sup>ième</sup> Congrès du Bas St-Laurent. Écrire: Prés., CP 651, Rimouski, QC G5L 7C7
- 24-27—*Copper Mountain, Colorado.* Fellowship of the Spirit Conf. Write: Ch., Box 480642, Denver, CO 80248; [www.fots.com](http://www.fots.com)
- 25-27—*Jefferson City, Missouri.* 57<sup>th</sup> MO State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 187, Reeds Spring, MO 65737
- 25-27—*Tarrytown, New York.* 40<sup>th</sup> NY State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1, Malverne, NY 11565; [www.aasenyo.org](http://www.aasenyo.org)
- 25-27—*Westlake, Ohio.* 28<sup>th</sup> East Central Regional Conf. & 52<sup>nd</sup> OH State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 22156, Beachwood, OH 44122-2156; [www.area54.org](http://www.area54.org)

### August

- 1-3—*Savannah, Georgia.* 13<sup>th</sup> SE Regional Woman to Woman Seminar. Write: Ch., Box 5195, Ocala, FL 34478-5195; [www.sewomantowoman.org](http://www.sewomantowoman.org)

## Planning a Future Event?

To be included in the *Box 4-5-9* Calendar, information must be received at G.S.O. three months prior to the event. We list events of two or more days.

For your convenience and ours — please type or print the information to be listed on the Bulletin Board page, and mail to us:

Date of event: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of event: \_\_\_\_\_

Place (city, state or prov.): \_\_\_\_\_

For information, write: (exact mailing address) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone # (for office use only): \_\_\_\_\_

1-3—*Boise, Idaho*. '08 Gem State Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 44176, Boise, ID 83711-0176; [www.gemstateroundup.org](http://www.gemstateroundup.org)

1-3—*Vancouver, Washington*. Southwest Washington Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 2728, Vancouver, WA 98668; [www.swwjamboree.org](http://www.swwjamboree.org)

8-10—*Scottsdale, Arizona*. 19<sup>th</sup> Salt River Intergroup Round-up. Write: Ch., 4602 N. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Phoenix, AZ 85014; [www.aaphoenix.org](http://www.aaphoenix.org)

8-10—*Midland, Michigan*. 56<sup>th</sup> MI State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 67, Adrian, MI 49221; [www.cmia32.org](http://www.cmia32.org)

13-17—*Fort Lauderdale, Florida*. 52<sup>nd</sup> FL State Conv. Write: Ch., 6110 NW 31<sup>st</sup> Terr., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309-2251; [www.52flstateconvention.com](http://www.52flstateconvention.com)

15-17—*Oakhurst, California*. 23<sup>rd</sup> Summer In The Sierras. Write: Ch., Box 1116; Oakhurst, CA 93644

15-17—*Taunton, Massachusetts*. The Incredible Tapestry. Write: Ch., 306 Winthrop St., #240, Taunton, MA 02780; [www.theincredibletapestry.org](http://www.theincredibletapestry.org)

15-17—*Elko, Nevada*. 12<sup>th</sup> Serenity In The Rubies Campout. Write: Ch., Box 6148, Elko, NV 89803; [serenityintherubies@yahoo.com](mailto:serenityintherubies@yahoo.com)

15-17—*Green Lake, British Columbia, Canada*. Green Lake Campout. Write: Ch., Box 224, Lac La Hache, BC V0K 1T0

15-17—*Oshawa, Ontario, Canada*. Lakeshore District Conf. Write: Ch., 36 Chipperfield Cres, Whitby, ON L1R 1N9; [www.aashawa.org](http://www.aashawa.org)

15-17—*Mont-Laurier, Québec, Canada*. Congrès du District 90-20. Écrire: Prés., 222 Belcourt, Mont-Laurier, QC J9L 2P7

15-17—*Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico*. XXIV Congreso de Area BC. Inf: Com. Org., Distrito #6, Blvd. Diaz Ordaz, #1482 Local 4, Fracc. Villa Floresta, Tijuana.

21-24—*Vienna, Virginia*. '08 Southeastern Conf. Write: Ch., Box 273, Lovettsville, VA 20180; [www.aavirginia.org](http://www.aavirginia.org)

22-24—*Dallas, Texas*. North Texas Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 38574, Dallas, TX 75238-0574; [www.northtexasroundup.org](http://www.northtexasroundup.org)

22-24—*Kerrville, Texas*. 33<sup>rd</sup> Hill Country Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 293993, Kerrville, TX 78028-3993; [hroundup@gmail.com](mailto:hroundup@gmail.com)

22-24—*Teton Canyon, Wyoming*. Teton Canyon Campout. Write: Ch., Box 153, Driggs, ID 83422

22-24—*Red Deer, Alberta, Canada*. Red Deer Round-up. Write: Ch., 4315 Michener Dr., Red Deer, AB T4N 2A9; [www.oso-aa.org/red\\_deer\\_roundup](http://www.oso-aa.org/red_deer_roundup)

28-31—*Nashville, Tennessee*. SERCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 218523, Nashville, TN 37221; [www.sercypaa2008.org](http://www.sercypaa2008.org)

29-31—*Rochester, Minnesota*. 20<sup>th</sup> Hiawathaland Get-Together. Write: Ch., Box 5792, Rochester, MN 55903; [hiawathaland@gmail.com](mailto:hiawathaland@gmail.com)

29-31—*Kansas City, Missouri*. 1<sup>st</sup> Kansas City Classic Conv. Write: Ch., Box 410972, Kansas City, MO 64141; [www.kcclassic.org](http://www.kcclassic.org)

29-31—*Austin, Texas*. 36<sup>th</sup> Nacional Conv. Hispana. Inf: Com. Org., Box 142661, Austin, TX 78714-2661; [convencion36@yahoo.com](mailto:convencion36@yahoo.com)

29-31—*Spokane, Washington*. Pacific Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163; [Regionalforums@aa.org](mailto:Regionalforums@aa.org)

29-Sept. 1—*Slave Lake, Alberta, Canada*. Slave Lake Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 124, Widewater, AB T0G 2M0

29-31—*Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*. 57<sup>th</sup> Eastern Ontario Area Conf. Write: Ch., 1405-2625 Regina St., Ottawa, ON K2B 5W8; [www.ottawaaa.org](http://www.ottawaaa.org)

29-31—*Chicoutimi, Québec, Canada*. Congrès du Saguenay. Écrire: Prés., 477 Maria-Chapdelaine, Chicoutimi, QC G7H 6J9

## September

5-7—*Chicago, Illinois*. 35<sup>th</sup> IL State Conf. Write: Ch., Box 111, Chicago, IL 60690-0111; [ilstateconference2008@gmail.com](mailto:ilstateconference2008@gmail.com)

5-7—*Indianapolis, Indiana*. INCYPAA Conf. Write: Ch., Box 55661, Indianapolis, IN 46220; [www.myspace.com/incypaa2008](http://www.myspace.com/incypaa2008)

5-7—*Kansas City, Missouri*. 18<sup>th</sup> Bridging The Gap Workshop Wknd. Write: Ch., 2618 Patee St., St. Joseph, MO 64507; [bridgegap10@aol.com](mailto:bridgegap10@aol.com)

12-14—*Somerset, New Jersey*. NJ Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 43104, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043-0104

12-14—*Houston, Texas*. Southeast TX Correctional Svc. Conf. Write: Ch., Box 925241; Houston, TX 77292-5241; [www.aaseta.org](http://www.aaseta.org)

18-21—*Hendersonville, North Carolina*. Serenity In the Smokies – Women's 12 Step Workshop. Write: Ch., Box 10266, Knoxville, TN 37939; [www.serenityinthesmokies.com](http://www.serenityinthesmokies.com)

19-21—*Salina, Kansas*. 51<sup>st</sup> Kansas Area 25 Conf. Write: Ch., 11 N Eastborough Rd., Salina, KS 67401

19-21—*Ashland, Virginia*. Home Into Freedom VA Corrections Conf. Write: Ch., 2711 Buford Rd., Box 119, Bon Air, VA 23235-2423

20-21—*Kingman, Arizona*. Hualapai Mtn Round-up. Write: Ch., 212 1<sup>st</sup> St., Kingman, AZ 86401

26-28—*Grand Junction, Colorado*. 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunlight of the Spirit. Write: Ch., Box 4013, Grand Jct., CO 81502; [www.aa-westerncolorado.org](http://www.aa-westerncolorado.org)

26-28—*Duluth, Minnesota*. 63<sup>rd</sup> Duluth Round-up. Write: Ch., Box 16771, Duluth, MN 55816-0771

26-28—*Somerset, New Jersey*. 52<sup>nd</sup> NNJGS Area 44 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 231, Fanwood, NJ 07023

26-28—*Smithville, Texas*. Fellowship In The Pines. Write: Ch., 282 Old 71, Cedar Creek, TX 78612

26-28—*Corner Brook, Newfoundland, Canada*. 44<sup>th</sup> Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador Assembly. Write: Ch., 7 Basha Pl., Corner Brook, NL A2H 6T9; [assembly08@yahoo.ca](mailto:assembly08@yahoo.ca)

26-28—*Gatineau, Québec, Canada*. Congrès du District 90-22. Écrire: Prés., 321, rue Notre Dame, Gatineau, QC J8P 1L2; [district9022@hotmail.com](mailto:district9022@hotmail.com)