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## ■ 53rd General Service Conference "Living A.A.'s Principles Through Sponsorship"

When the 135 members of A.A.'s General Service Conference met at the Crowne Plaza Manhattan, April 27-May 3, it was actually the culmination of a year's work and preparation. For the Conference is an ongoing process throughout the year, at the General Service Office and in the constant work of committees—from local areas to the trustees' committees.

Since the last Conference, trustees and G.S.O. staff members have traveled widely, visiting countries in Africa, as well as Belarus, China, Cuba, Estonia, Poland, Slovakia and Turkey—to name just a handful of the countries where A.A. is flourishing.

In his presentation "New Frontiers," Bill A., G.S.O. staff member on the International assignment, related the story of A.A.'s beginnings in Cameroon, when an alcoholic prison guard awoke from a drunken sleep to find a French-language A.A. pamphlet by his bed. He wrote to G.S.O. Paris and started an A.A. meeting in that prison. "One of the most challenging frontiers" Bill said "is transcending the isolation of the suffering alcoholic." Frontiers closer to home, he pointed out include "... the Indigenous People of the far North..." and due to the "growing diversity in many of our states and provinces, we all have potential New Frontiers in our own backyard."

The Conference, which officially opened Sunday afternoon, was chaired by Greg M., G.S.O.'s general manager; Elaine McDowell, (nonalcoholic) chair of the General Service Board; Linda Chezem, Class A (nonalcoholic)

trustee; and Mary Pat Y., delegate chairperson. Warren S., G.S.O. staff member, was Conference secretary.

Conference members are delegates from the 93 areas in the U.S. and Canada, trustees, A.A.W.S. and Grapevine directors, and staff members of the General Service Office and the Grapevine.

The keynote address, on the Conference theme, "Living A.A.'s Principles Through Sponsorship," was given by Class A trustee Linda Chezem. "Sponsorship," said Linda, "can make the printed word come alive. . . . It can help carry the principles of A.A. around the world."

Following the Sunday night opening dinner there was an open A.A. meeting,

chaired by David S. (New York, Hudson/Mohawk/Berkshire). The meeting was led by Walter N. (New Brunswick/PEI); speakers were: Denis V. (SW Québec), Patty T. (South Carolina), Julio E. (G.S.O. staff), Jane S. (A.A.W.S. director), and Dorothy M. (East Central regional trustee).

Monday morning began a full week. Conference members spent much time discussing matters important to the Fellowship they represent. As a result of their work committee reports were presented to the entire Conference beginning Wednesday. Many of the issues discussed resulted in Advisory Actions. (Highlights of Actions appear on page 3 and a full list will be in the *Final Conference Report*, available in August.)

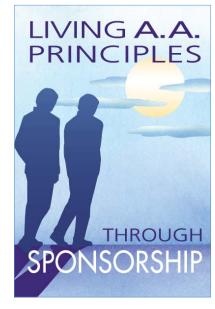
Presentations throughout the week covered: the A.A. Grapevine; Finances; the 17th World Service Meeting; Sponsorship; and Principles. Panel 53 delegates presented their area service highlights; there was one workshop, based on the Conference theme; and several "What's On Your Mind?" sharing sessions.

Tuesday events included an afternoon trip to the G.S.O. and Grapevine offices for a tour and refreshments. Later that evening there was a Delegates Only Meeting back at the hotel. Each morning at 7:30 an open A.A. meeting was held.

And, just as in our homegroups, a great many problems were discussed and "solved" every evening at the "meeting after the meeting." By Friday afternoon, when the Serenity Prayer was said in English, French and

Spanish, A.A.'s collective group conscience had been expressed, ensuring that the voice of A.A. as a whole would be heard.

We hear many times that "alcoholism is a family disease," thus many delegates were accompanied to New York by spouses, friends or family members—many of them also A.A. members, with a scattering of Al-Anons. A group of New York A.A.s met this special group every morning for a tour of the city. On the agenda this year: Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, backstage at Radio City, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, tours of the "Intrepid" Aircraft Carrier Museum, the United Nations and more. For the Al-Anons there were volunteers to take them to meetings, and from 8:00 to 9:00



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in the evenings many hung out in the hospitality suite for an informal meeting and fellowship.

This is the sixth year that Susan F. has been coordinating the activities for Conference guests. It is the "most wonderful service experience," Susan feels. Among the many wonderful memories Susan has is running into old friends at the International Convention in Minnesota. And after 9/11 she and her husband Terry (Panel 53 delegate from Southeast New York), received several dozen e-mails, just checking to see if they were alright.

Wednesday afternoon the Conference elected two regional trustees and one trustee-at-large. Michael P. of Fair Haven, Vermont, becomes the new Northeast regional trustee, replacing Tony T.; Gary K. from Parker, Colorado, will replace Beth R. as the new Southwest regional trustee; and Murray McI. of Thunder Bay, Ontario, will follow Alex P. as trustee-at-large/Canada.

Delegate chairperson for the 54th Conference will be Mark G. of Colorado; alternate chairperson is Jim P. of Eastern Massachusetts.

This year Conference members returned home with several gifts. Monday they received a copy of Experience, Strength and Hope: Stories From the First Three Editions of Alcoholics Anonymous, and a new Grapevine CD, "Partners on the Journey" (formerly "Sponsorship" in cassette format). Friday they were presented with a copy of De las tinieblas hacia la luz, the stories from the Fourth Edition Big Book in Spanish.

Saturday morning was the closing brunch with talks by rotating trustees Linda Chezem and Bob Miller, both Class As, and Class B (alcoholic) trustees Alex P., Beth R., Tony T. and Greg T.

Then it was back to the areas, districts, home groups and the responsibility of carrying A.A.'s message to the isolated and fearful newcomer "...whether across the street or across the planet," as Bill A. said in his presentation. "Let us all take that subway ride that Ebby took and make that call that Bill W. made from the Mayflower Hotel. Carrying the message is an action that all of us can take."

# Résumés for Trustees Election due Jan. 1, 2004

Two new Class B (alcoholic) trustees—from Western Canada and West Central (U.S.) regions—will be nominated at the General Service Conference in April 2004. Résumés must be received at G.S.O. no later than January 1, 2004, and must be submitted by delegates only.

The new Western Canada regional trustee will succeed Ric D., of Burnaby, BC; the next West Central regional trustee will replace Ted S., of Aberdeen, South Dakota.

A sound A.A. background is a basic qualification for Class B trustees. Ten years of continuous sobriety is desirable but not mandatory. Candidates should be active in both local and area A.A. affairs; and, because trustees serve the entire Fellowship, they require the background and the willingness to make decisions on matters of broad policy that affect A.A. as a whole.

It is also important that trustee candidates understand the commitment of time. Trustees are expected to attend three quarterly board weekends, with meetings often scheduled from Thursday afternoon through Monday morning, and the General Service Conference, which lasts for one week. Often trustees are asked to attend a Regional Forum weekend. In addition, regional trustees are usually asked to serve two years on either the A.A.W.S. or Grapevine Corporate Boards, which meet more frequently than the General Service Board.

Please submit your candidate's résumé to the Secretary, trustees' Nominating Committee, General Service Office.

## Opening for Two Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustees

The trustees' Nominating Committee asks that trustees, delegates and directors submit any names they deem appropriate as candidates for two Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees. Class A trustees are chosen from a variety of professional backgrounds, including doctors, lawyers, clergy, social workers and educators.

There will be opening for two Class A trustees following the April 2004 General Service Conference. George E. Vaillant, M.D., of the Harvard Medical School's Department of Psychiatry, will be rotating, and there will be an additional vacancy for a member of the clergy.

Please submit your candidates' professional résumé to the Secretary, trustees' Nominating Committee, General Service Office, by July 15, 2003.

## 2003 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**

**Floor Action**—that the trial period for use of laptops at the General Service Conference be extended through the 54th Conference.

**Agenda**—that the theme for the 2004 General Service Conference be: "Our Singleness of Purpose—the Cornerstone of A.A."

Cooperation With the Professional Community—that the "Singleness of Purpose" statement in six C.P.C. pamphlets be changed to read, "Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as 'substance abuse' or 'chemical dependency.' Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend *open A.A.* meetings, but only those with a *drinking* problem may attend *closed* meetings."

**Correctional Facilities**—that the trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities revise the booklet *A.A. in Prison: Immate to Immate* so that the stories better reflect current experience.

**Grapevine**—that the first paragraph of the description of the Grapevine representative on page 9 of the pamphlet "The A.A. Grapevine: Our Meeting in Print" be revised to read as follows: "Grapevine representatives (GvRs) and La Viña representatives (RLVS) perform a service for A.A. members, bringing them two vital tools of recovery—the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous and La Viña. GvRs and RLVs are engaged in practical, hands-on work. Their basic job is to make the magazine available to the group, to encourage A.A.s to read them, subscribe to them, and use them in Twelfth-Step work."

International Conventions/A.A. Regional Forums—that up to 21 non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2005 International Convention at A.A.'s expense; that the following three cities (noted in alphabetical order) be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2015: Atlanta, Indianapolis, Vancouver.

**Literature**—that a comprehensive review of "The A.A. Group" pamphlet be undertaken and a draft returned to the 2004 Conference; that the revision of the comic-book style pamphlet "What Happened to Joe" be approved; that the updated draft manuscript of "A.A. and the Armed Services" be approved; that the development of a Third Edition of the Spanish-language Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, be approved and a report be brought to the 2004 Conference.

**Policy/Admissions**—that Jim K., general secretary, G.S.O. Great Britain, and Ann N., general secretary elect, G.S.O. Great Britain, be granted permission to attend the 53rd General Service Conference as observers.

**Public Information**—that the television public service announcement (PSA), "We Know What It's Like," be

approved; that the General Service Board explore ways that input from the Fellowship regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site may be addressed by a trustees' committee and a relevant Conference committee, and report back to the 2004 Conference Public Information Committee.

**Report and Charter**—that various minor adjustments be made in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

**Trustees**—that the slate of trustees and officers be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2003; that the slates of directors of the A.A.W.S. and Grapevine Corporate Boards be elected at the annual meetings of the boards in May 2003.

#### Additional Considerations

**Archives**—reviewed the changes suggested by the trustees' Archives Committee to be included in the next reprint of the Archives Workbook and suggested that the trustees' Archives Committee consider additional items in the "Mission Statement" and in the "Calendar of Holdings" of the Workbook.

**Finance**—reviewed the current A.A. Finance Guidelines, as well as the current version of *The A.A. Service Manual*, and felt those descriptions better fulfilled the intent of last year's committee for a simplified description of the Reserve Fund.

**Treatment Facilities**—requested that The Treatment Facilities Workbook and Kit be available as a single unit in a 3-ring binder, with the suggested title "Treatment Facilities Kit"; the reformatted soft-cover Treatment Facilities Workbook, bound in 8 ½" x 11" format and 3-hole punched be included in the Kit; and, that the reformatted Workbook also be available as a separate item.

## Estimates of Groups and Members as of January 1, 2003<sup>1</sup>

	Groups	Members
United States	51,537	1,168,990
Canada	4,903	96,100
Sub-Total	56,440	1,265,090
Correctional facilities <sup>2</sup>	2,566	66,942
Internationalists		74
Lone members		214
Total	59,006	1,332,320
Outside U.S. & Canada³	44,762	760,140
Grand Total	103,768	2,092,460

<sup>1.</sup> 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 an actual count of those who consider themselves A.A. members.

<sup>2.</sup> U.S. and Canada only.

<sup>3.</sup> We are aware of A.A. activity in approximately 150 countries, including 54 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 figures.

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

#### General Service Board

Trustees' report: If I had to characterize the year since the 2002 Conference, I would say, that through your support, opportunities were provided to bring the A.A. message into communities where alcoholics were without hope. In October, the 17th World Service Meeting was held in Oviedo, Spain. As with all efforts in A.A., the primary purpose of the World Service Meeting is to seek the best way to carry the message. One delegate from Ireland announced that the A.A. service structure in Ireland had become completely self-supporting and it was their group conscience that \$50,000, be contributed to the International Literature Fund. This truly exemplified the theme of the meeting, "The A.A. Message — A Message Without Borders."

The G.S.O. general manager, Greg M., and Bill A., staff member on the International desk, and I traveled to many countries: Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Slovene, Spain, Thailand, and Turkey, and to Cameroon, in central Africa and Johannesburg, South Africa.

Legal matters in Germany continue to be considered by an appellate court in Frankfurt. The General Service Board is committed to the principles of protecting the integrity of A.A.'s message in print. A full financial accounting of the costs involved in legal matters will be reported once the case in Germany is resolved.

In July 2002, three new trustees were welcomed to the General Service Board — Pacific regional trustee Phyllis H.; Eastern Canada regional trustee Bob P.; and general service trustee Ron G. We have welcomed new G.S.O. staff members, Gayle S. R. and Mary Clare L., and we said good-bye to Susan U., who retired last January after 28 years of service. Shortly after this Conference, we say goodbye to our dedicated and wonderful "sweet pea" from Texas, Joanie M., who has worked at G.S.O. for 14 years.

The General Service Office hired a new publications director, Chris C., who has tremendous in-depth experience in the book publishing field. Chris has overseen the translation of the Big Book into Urdu plus translations of other A.A. literature such as *Living Sober* into Greek. We are delighted that he is with us.

Last year a call came to G.S.O. regarding approximately 200 Sudanese immigrants living in Nebraska, many of whom were described as suffering from alcoholism. A.A. members in Area 41, Nebraska, immediately reached into this community and began help-

ing. "The A.A. Fact Sheet" was translated into Nuer, a prominent dialect in the Sudan and several hundred copies were sent to the area. The pamphlet, "Is A.A. For You?," in Nuer will soon be ready to distribute. This is a prime example of how your support, your area activities and your contributions help to carry the A.A. message and bring about needed translations of A.A. literature.

Financially, G.S.O. continues to be robust. Contributions were 6.4 % greater than last year, which continues an exciting five-year trend. The Grapevine financial results reflected a net loss for the year of \$9,500, and a profit of \$4,358 is budgeted for 2003.

We often refer to numbers, such as A.A. being in more than 150 countries; A.A. literature translated into 69 languages, etc. But you and I know that A.A. is about the language of the heart. I would like to share with you one of the most moving highlights of the trip to Africa. It occurred after a long, hot day of meetings. We were informed that a group of 29 A.A. members were waiting in a small, very rural village for us to have an "open" A.A. meeting with them in the local church. It was dusk by the time we arrived, and it soon become apparent that we could no longer meet in the church because of the darkness, as there was no electricity in this parish. The pews of the church were moved outside, and under the vast African sky, with a shining moon and bright stars, members shared their stories of recovery and newcomers expressed the hope that they could stop drinking. The message without borders—the language of the heart.

Elaine McDowell (nonalcoholic), chair

## Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

Directors' report: Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) is a not-forprofit corporation. The trustees of the General Service Board are the members of A.A.W.S. and elect the A.A.W.S. directors, who are responsible for oversight of the General Service Office (G.S.O.), which provides group services, including printing and distribution of Conference-approved and service literature. The A.A.W.S. Board met seven times since the last Conference to receive G.S.O. management and staff reports; review group services activity and progress on implementation of Conference and board recommendations; review financial reports; price new or revised publications; review publishing operations and matters of G.S.O. administration; consider requests from A.A. members and non-A.A.s for permission to reprint A.A.-copyrighted

literature; and address other matters as they arose.

The committees of the A.A.W.S. Board are: Services, which considers the needs of all service assignments; Publishing, which reviews reprints, foreign literature and publications concerns; Finance, which oversees salary and budget, audit review, and retirement; and Nominating. Long-range planning is done within each committee and by the board as a whole.

During 2002, a net total of 1,388 new groups were registered with G.S.O. Also, G.S.O. welcomed 1,700 visitors during 2002 — compared to 1,624 in 2001.

General Service Office staff enjoyed visits with trusted servants and A.A. members in service structures in other countries. These trips included: Greece, Turkey, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Paris, Cameroon, South Africa, Mexico City, Peru, Bangkok, Thailand, Hong Kong, Beijing. The 17th World Service Meeting was held in Oviedo, Spain.

Finance: New G.S.O. assistant controller, Dan DeFilippis, was hired in March 2003. A brief summary of the financial results for 2002 reflected the following: gross sales of \$10,800,000 were approximately \$1,000,000 (10%) greater than budgeted, but \$619,000 (5%) less than the year 2001. Contributions received from groups and members of \$4,990,200 were \$301,500, or 6.4 higher than 2001 and \$196,000, or slightly more than 4% higher than our budget as well. That represents 45.5% of the 56,629 groups registered with G.S.O., and is just slightly higher than the previous year.

Through its Finance Committee, the board prepared, reviewed and recommended G.S.O.'s 2003 budget to the trustees' Finance & Budgetary Committee. The budget projects \$10,443,300 in gross sales, \$4,606,400 in gross profit, \$5,125,000 in contributions, which resulted in \$9,735,900 of total revenue. Total expenses are projected at \$10,626,300 with a \$890,300 net loss budgeted for the year 2003. The board approved the transfer of \$500,000 in excess cash to the Reserve Fund.

Publications: In 2002, G.S.O. distributed a total of 1,855,874 book units, down 7.3% from a total of 2,002,287 in 2001. It appears this decrease was directly attributable to the high sales of the Fourth Edition Big Book in 2001. A.A. purchasers accounted for 1,534,339 units or 82.7%, while non-A.A.s accounted for 321,535, or 17.3%. We distributed 1,169,767 units of the Big Books, compared to 1,356,016 in 2001. Year to year, we are down 186,249 units, or 13.7%. We processed 32,496 literature orders (cash and charge combined) and 9,765 no-charge orders.

Various items were priced, including the English language Twelve Concepts (Short

Form) Window Shade, \$29.00. The Spanish language Twelve Steps, Traditions, and Concepts (Short Form) Window Shades were priced at \$29.00 each. The set of Spanish language Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions Window Shades is available for \$48.00. The board approved production of A.S.L. scripts for the following pamphlets: "This Is A.A.," "Do You Think You're Different," "Understanding Anonymity" and "Information on A.A." The following items were completed: Greek Living Sober; Thai pamphlets, "This Is A.A.," "Is A.A. for You?," "44 Questions" and "A Newcomer Asks"; "Is A.A. for You" and "This Is. A.A." in Setswana (a language spoken in South Africa, also referred to as Betswana); and the Big Book in Urdu. In addition, the "A.A. Fact Sheet" in Nuer (a dialect spoken in the Susan) was shipped. The A.A.W.S. Board voted to discontinue the 20% discount of foreign language literature when the current inventory of catalogs has been consumed. (This discount had also been applied to the foreign language books G.S.O. purchases from overseas and this discount has been discontinued, as well.) Beginning with the May 2003 Catalog of Conference-approved Literature, G.S.O. will price each item the same in English, French and Spanish. A.A.W.S. can expect a decrease in revenue of \$30,000–50,000 per year due to this change. In December 2002, we returned our warehousing operations to Kansas City Distribution Services since the cost of using Quebecor in Kingsport, Tennessee, was due to rise by \$80,000 annually.

At year-end 2002, G.S.O. had 77 full-time positions plus four part-time/students. Gayle S. R. joined the G.S.O. staff in January 2003. Mary Clare L. joined the G.S.O. staff in March.

In early January, the whole organization was successfully upgraded to Windows XP and the Office XP platform.

Services Mondiaux des Alcooliques Anonymes Inc. (A.A. World Services' French Language Publishing Office in Montreal) — Effective December 31, 2002, the directors and members of S.M.A.A. voted to terminate the corporation and close the operations of the Montreal office. S.M.A.A. general manager, Lise Payette, will be retiring. All French literature was shipped from S.M.A.A.'s warehouse to the A.A.W.S. Canadian warehouse in mid-December 2002. G.S.O. has brought in a French-speaking temporary employee to handle order entry and customer service for our French-speaking customers, while we consider adding a permanent position.

John K., chairperson

#### Archives

**Trustees' report:** The video "Markings on the Journey" became available in November 2002. We have received comments and shared experience regarding the Archives Workbook and changes will be implemented at the next printing. We reviewed the existing photocopy-

ing policy and research permission policy at the G.S.O. Archives, and the newly affirmed policies will be included in the next reprint of the workbook.

Leonard Blumenthal (nonalcoholic) chairperson

Archivist's report: The audio preservation program continues to proceed at an excellent pace, and is expected to be completed in 2003. Archives related information was added to the G.S.O. Web site for the first time. Besides basic information about our policies, we added the research form, the archives guidelines, and the archives service piece, all of which can be directly downloaded from the site. We made substantial progress in rearranging large sections in our collection, including the early pamphlets, newsletters, and other publications, the photographs and slides, and area histories collection.

Judit Santon (nonalcoholic), archivist

#### Conference

**Trustees' report:** We reviewed the Advisory Actions, including the theme chosen for the 53rd Conference, "Living A.A.'s Principles Through Sponsorship," and the Evaluation Questionnaires. We agreed to forward to the trustees' Literature Committee A.A.W.S.'s proposal that the Conference consider that board's intent to place the 4th Edition of the Big Book on the G.S.O. Web site. We reviewed and finalized the Agenda and carefully reviewed all agenda items submitted and forwarded each to the appropriate committee or board for consideration. The committee also discussed the Laptop Experiment and suggested that a subcommittee be impaneled at its July meeting to generate a report to be forwarded to the 2004 Conference Committee Policy/ Admissions. Ted S., chairperson

**Staff report:** The Conference coordinator is the G.S.O. contact for Conference members. The Conference process continues throughout the year and the coordinator corresponds regularly with delegates and alternate delegates, who cooperate to make the annual Conference responsive to the needs of the Fellowship. The coordinator is also the contact for area and district committee members, as well as past delegates, in the 93 areas throughout the U.S. and Canada. The coordinator is responsible for: serving 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, the Early Bird edition of Box 4-5-9 and the Conference Final Report. Warren S.

## Cooperation With the Professional Community/ Treatment Facilities

#### Trustees' reports:

C.P.C. — Forty-seven national exhibits were coordinated by G.S.O. for 2002 and 50 local exhibit invitations were referred to area C.P.C. committees. In June, an Open House was hosted for staff of agencies in the Interchurch Center to visit G.S.O. and the Grapevine Office. A new traveling exhibit has been developed.

Treatment Facilities — In late spring 2002 local T.F. committees were given the opportunity to purchase 3rd edition Big Books at \$20 a case (\$1 each) for distribution to patients in clinics and treatment programs. We have forwarded to Conference committee a report on options for Workbook binders.

Dorothy M., chairperson

#### **Staff reports:**

C.P.C.—The C.P.C. assignment is responsible for providing information about A.A. and establishing good communication with those outside A.A. who may have direct contact with the still-suffering alcoholic through their professional work. In 2002 the C.P.C. staff member responded to over 2,000 inquiries from professionals; 1,334 were requests for information which followed visits to our A.A. Web site. Meetings with medical students continue to be set up throughout the year at G.S.O. The publication About A.A. is also the responsibility of this assignment. Gayle S. R.

Treatment Facilities—The purpose of this assignment is to provide information and service material to assist the work of A.A. committees who carry the message to alcoholics in treatment. We now are in contact with 87 area T.F. chairpersons, and nearly 300 district and "other" local chairpersons. We maintain an up-to-date list of these committee chairs and provide them with information and literature. Area T.F. chairs are sent the Treatment Facilities Kit, a guide to carrying the message in Treatment Facilities. Treatment facilities sharing is provided to G.S.O. through minutes and reports sent in by treatment facilities committees. Joanie M.

#### Correctional Facilities

**Trustees' report:** The committee considered a request from the Conference Committee and recommended the newsletter *Sharing From Behind the Walls* be mailed to all A.A. groups in correctional facilities. We also prepared a progress report that includes the most workable solutions for combining the Correctional Facilities Kit and Workbook. The committee forwarded a recommendation that the Conference Committee consider a proposal to

revise the booklet A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate to add or replace stories to better reflect current experience.

Allen Ault (nonalcoholic), chairperson

**Staff report:** This assignment is responsible for carrying the A.A. message to alcoholics confined in a variety of correctional settings. Over 600 letters a month arrive from inmates, most asking for free literature, many asking for names of outside A.A. members with whom to correspond, or for help in making contact with A.A. upon release. We try to facilitate these requests, primarily through our network of area, district and local C.F. committees. The newsletter, Sharing From Behind The Walls, containing sharing from inmate letters sent to G.S.O., is also a responsibility of this assignment. The Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS), coordinated by this desk, is one of our most valuable efforts. This past year we were able to provide local C.F. committees with the opportunity to purchase remaining 3rd edition Big Books for local distribution.

#### Finance and Budgetary

**Trustees' report:** Last year's Conference we reviewed the proposed budget for 2002 and reported that the G.S.O. expected a loss from operations of approximately \$750,000. Actual results for 2002 were considerably better than the proposed budget; strong sales of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition Big Book allowed us to just about break even. Following substantial, but planned, losses in 1995, 1996 and 1997 we accomplished the mandate of lowering the Reserve Fund balance. The results of 2000 and 2001 allowed us to add to the fund. At the end of 2001 the Reserve Fund balance represented approximately 11 months of operating expenses; today it is about 11.2 months.

We should be encouraged that contributions in 2002 were higher than both those received in 2001, and the amount we had hoped to receive for 2002. This is the fifth year in a row that contributions have increased over the previous year and reflects a positive trend. Contributions received from groups and members of \$4,990,200 were \$301,500, or 6.4% higher than 2001 and \$196,000, or slightly more than 4% higher than our budget as well. The \$4,990,200 in contributions came from about 25,800 group, individuals and service entities. That, for comparison, represents 45.5% of the 56,629 groups registered with G.S.O., and is just slightly higher than the previous year. During the year, we were obliged to record funds received on behalf of the World Service Meeting International Literature Fund as Contributions to G.S.O., therefore total contributions of \$5,097,800 are reflected on our financial statements and include approximately \$107,500 received to help carry the message around the world from those participating countries. While contributions dollars were up, more importantly, both the number and percent of groups contributing appear to be increasing, if even slightly.

Net sales of literature were \$10,486,000, \$1,000,000, or 10% greater than budgeted, and about \$619,000, (5%) less than 2001. It is hard to estimate what the number of books sold would have been without the Fourth Edition. However, other titles showed modest increases over the prior year. In total, printing and other manufacturing costs, shipping expenses and royalty payments were greater than budget, as were sales. As a result of Fourth Edition sales, gross profit of \$4,942,000 was \$200,000 more than budgeted. The combination of contributions and net literature sales resulted in total G.S.O. revenue of \$10,048,000, some \$511,000, or 5% greater than originally budgeted.

Total operating expenses for G.S.O. during 2002 were \$10,165,000, \$152,000 less than budget, and \$61,000 less than the previous year as well. Therefore, compared to the budget, the increase in revenues augmented by the decreased expenses, resulted in an operating loss of \$117,000 for the year, a substantial improvement from the budgeted loss of \$780,450. These figures reflect the combined results of G.S.O. New York and the SMAA Office in Montreal. Effective January 1, 2003 the SMAA office was closed and the Frenchspeaking A.A. members are being serviced from G.S.O. in New York. The loss of \$117,000 reported for the year includes those SMAA operations for 2002, as well as estimates properly recorded for the discontinued operations. Absent these SMAA costs, G.S.O. activities just about broke even for 2002.

In 1994, G.S.O. lowered prices and increased discounts on literature in order to lower the Reserve Fund, which was approaching the Conference-approved limit of 12 months of combined G.S.O. and Grapevine operating expenses. At the end of 2001 the balance was about 11 months and at the end of 2002 about 11.2 months after the anticipated \$500,000 transfer in 2003. At \$10,827,000, (the adjusted balance used for the calculation) the Reserve Fund amounts to \$191 per listed A.A. group. Contributions per group averaged about \$88 for the 56,629 groups registered, while expenses to support services to those groups averaged \$127 per group.

The 2003 G.S.O. budget, after taking into account an estimate for sales of the Anthology, and a leveling off of sales of the Fourth Edition, assumes relatively flat unit sales of books and booklets. The budget envisions approximately a 4.5% increase in costs when compared with 2002 actual, but only a 3% increase when compared with the 2002 budget. The projection for 2003 is for an excess of expense over revenue of \$890,300, which compares with the 2002 budgeted loss of \$780,450.

Services spending amounted to \$127 per listed A.A. group, up \$9 from last year, while contributions were about \$88 per group, up \$5. The 2002 service dollar was spent on the

following activities: Group Services 35.1% (including the Group Services assignment; *Box 4-5-9*; A.A. Directories; records and files; contributions processing; and French services); the General Service Conference, 12.7%; Loners, Internationalists, and Overseas Services, 11.2%; Trustees' and Directors' activities, 6.3%; Regional Forums, 7.0%; Archives, 8.7%; C.P.C., 5.8%; Spanish Services, 1.8%; Public Information, 4..8%; Correctional Facilities, 3.3%; and Treatment Facilities, 1.8%.

At the Grapevine, magazine income was approximately even with last year, as was circulation. Average circulation during 2002 was 115,753 compared with 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 was \$1,066,800, which was \$38,200 more than last year and \$57,000 more than budget as well. Revenue of Other Items was \$26,400, more than budgeted, and \$105,800 more than last year. Gross profit on Other Items, was approximately \$7,000 less than budgeted but \$97,000 more than 2001. The major reasons for the increase from the prior year was sales of new CDs and The Language of the Heart/Big Book package. Therefore, total income, including interest income, was \$1,477,000, approximately \$119,000 more than last year and \$37,000 more than budgeted.

Costs and expenses for editorial, circulation and business, and administration were \$1,486,500. This is \$32,000 more than last year and \$47,000 more than budget. As a result, the Grapevine (excluding La Viña) reported a small loss from operations (excluding SMAA) of \$9,500, compared with the \$96,000 loss last year.

The Grapevine's 2003 budget, excluding La Viña, calls for a \$3,000 increase in magazine subscription income to \$1,757,800, compared with 2002, a decrease in magazine direct costs of \$106,000, and a gross profit of \$1,179,600. Gross profit on Other Publishing Income is anticipated to increase \$47,000, while interest income should be somewhat less. This breakeven projection for 2003 compares favorably with the 2002 budget of \$188 and the actual 2002 loss of only \$9,500, which goes a long way in putting a halt to many consecutive years of operating losses for the Grapevine.

La Viña had a 2002 average circulation of close to 9,000, (up from 8,600 in 2001. To date, the project has incurred losses each of the past six and one-half years. During 2002, subscription income was \$70,084 and direct costs of publishing were \$59,247, resulting in a \$10,837 gross profit. Operating expenses directly associated with the publication were \$114,600. The overall loss on the project for the year was \$103,800.

The Grapevine Board and management have worked hard to put out a quality product that is responsive to the needs of the Spanish-speaking members of the Fellowship

on a cost-effective basis. For 2003, the loss on the La Viña project is budgeted to increase approximately \$22,000 to \$125,800 and circulation is projected to increase slightly to around 9,500 copies. The Grapevine Board and the trustees' Finance Committee will continue to monitor progress against the original business plan and inform the Conference. Since the inception of the project, \$668,118 has been invested in La Viña, and, in 2001 the General Service Board recommended that La Viña continue to be published at the General Service Board's expense.

In summary, the Fellowship's finances remain in good condition, the outlook for this year appears to be favorable, and we continue to have the financial wherewithal to carry the

Vincent Keefe (nonalcoholic), chairperson

#### General Sharing Session

**Trustees' report:** The topic of the July 2002 session was "Sponsorship-Sharing the Gift of Our Legacies." The November topic was "A Vision for Our Future: Where Are We Going? In February 2003, the session focused on "A.A. Literature Does Twelfth Step Work." Ron G., chairperson

#### Group Services

Staff report: To assist groups, G.S.O. provides service material to the Fellowship, based on an indicated need, to provide information and share experience not found in Conferenceapproved literature. Examples of service material include: Regional Forum Reports; A.A. Guidelines; List of Fellowships Similar to A.A.; a catalog of A.A. Literature and Audiovisual Material for Special Needs. Ongoing projects: Coordinating the A.A. Directories; supervision of service files, A.A. Guidelines, Group Handbooks, and G.S.R. Kits. Currently all correspondence in Spanish from the U.S./Canada, with the exception of Corrections Correspondence, comes to the Group Service desk. G.S.O. continues to work toward providing services in the three major languages of North America—English, French and Spanish. The staff member also serves as liaison with intergroup/ central offices. Eva Š.

#### International/ World Service Meeting

Trustees' committee: This committee is responsible for suggesting policies and actions to assure 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 service meetings. The committee is the primary link between the international A.A. com-

munity and the U.S./Canada General Service Board. The trustees-at-large U.S./Canada were delegates to the 17th World Service Meeting that met October 6-10 in Oviedo, Spain, with the theme "The A.A. Message — A Message Without Borders," with over 41 delegates representing over 29 countries or zones. In 2003 A.A.W.S. will translate and publish a variety of foreign language literature. A portion of this expense will be drawn from the International Literature Fund representing contributions from A.A. groups around the world.

Alex P.

**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 the U.S. and Canada. The staff member corresponds with 54 international G.S.O.s and literature distribution centers. Other responsibilities on the assignment are: Coordinating the biennial World Service Meeting (WSM) and maintaining contact with delegates and their offices throughout the year; maintaining 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. Bill A.

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

#### Trustees' committee:

International Conventions — We considered 25 out of 297 theme suggestions and recommended that the theme for the 2005 International Convention be "I Am Responsible." We continued to discuss the problem of Canadian border-crossing regulations faced by members going to the 2005 Convention in Toronto. and will report more information as it becomes available.

Regional Forums — Since the last Conference, the Pacific, Southwest, Western and Eastern Canada regions have held forums. A special forum was held in Chicoutimi, Quebec and many French-speaking A.A.s attended. A Special Hispanic Forum was held in Bakersfield, California. Beth R., chairperson

#### Staff reports:

International Conventions — This assignment involved coordinating every aspect of the many processes and plans that go to make up A.A. International Conventions, held every five years. Preliminary plans are underway for the Convention in 2005, to be held in Toronto.

Doug R.

Regional Forums—The staff member handling Regional Forums is responsible for

coordinating and following through on all arrangements necessary for holding Forums in the U.S. and Canada. These sharing weekends help foster wider communication and understanding among A.A. service workers, the General Service Board, A.A.W.S., the Grapevine and GV and G.S.O. staffs. Regional Forums are held at the invitation of a particular region every two years. A region may also request a Special Forum. The staff member also serves as secretary of the trustees' Nominating Committee, Conference Committee on Trustees and cosecretary of the trustees' and Conference International Conventions/ Regional Forums Committees.

Adrienne B.

#### Literature

Trustees' committee: Projects forwarded to the Conference Literature Committee for discussion: Proposed update of the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services"; request for a review of "The A.A. Group" pamphlet; revisions and new art for "What Happened to Joe."

David E., chairperson

**Staff report:** The Literature coordinator works closely with the editor, writers and illustrators on preparing all new recovery pamphlets, books and audiovisuals, in accordance with recommendations from the Conference. The literature desk receives and responds to correspondence from A.A. members and groups about literature, and maintains contact with 76 area, 238 district, 175 intergroup/central offices and A.A. group literature chairpersons, and also serves as editor of Box 4-5-9. Valerie O'N.

#### Loners, Internationalist, Homers

**Staff report:** Loners are A.A.s who are unable to attend meetings because there are no groups nearby. There are about 220 Loners in 81 countries. Seagoing A.A.s, known as Internationalists, number about 76 as well as 50 Port Contacts. We now have 175 Homers, A.A.s who are housebound due to illness or physical disability. Homers, Loners and Internationalists stay sober by sharing with each other through letters, tapes and e-mails. Each new Loner, Homer and Internationalist receives a directory of members, a subscription to Box 4-5-9 and the Loners/Internationalists Meeting-By-Mail, (LIM), a confidential bimonthly bulletin which shares excerpts of letters received at G.S.O. from LIM members. There are also over 446 Loners Sponsors, who share A.A. activities and personal experience.

#### Nominating

**Trustees' committee:** The committee recommended to the General Service Board that Herbert I. Goodman be invited to serve as a Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee, replacing Linda L. Chezem following the 2003 General Service Conference. We forwarded the proposed slates of General Service Board members, officers of the board, and A.A. World Services and Grapevine directors to the 2003 Conference Committee on Trustees for disapproval, if any, as well as the slate of trustees to the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May, following presentation at the 2003 General Service Conference for disapproval, if any.

#### Tony T., chairperson

#### Public Information

**Trustees' committee:** Over the past year we have: Produced a new TV public service announcement (P.S.A.) and forwarded it to the Conference P.I. Committee. We reviewed existing audio P.S.A.s for currency, and forwarded the 2004 A.A. Membership Survey questionnaire to the Conference P.I. Committee. *Ric D., chairperson* 

**Staff report:** The goal of the P.I. assignment is to provide accurate and consistent information about Alcoholics Anonymous to the general public through the media, health fairs, schools and G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site. A crucial part of P.I. work at G.S.O. is to act as a resource and central repository of the sharing from P.I. committees throughout the U.S. and Canada. Throughout the year the staff member and a staff assistant respond to hundreds of written and telephone inquiries from the public and the Fellowship. The staff member also handles interviews with the media describing what A.A. is and what it can and cannot do. The staff member communicates with over 700 P.I. Committee chairpeople at the area, district, intergroup/central office and group level. Rick W.

#### Staff Coordinator

Staff report: Services to A.A. groups and members are provided through ten 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 2002 staff received a total of 34,130 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 materials, preparing the minutes of the board meetings and also serves as editor of the Quarterly Report. In the past year, G.S.O. welcomed 1,700 visitors from around the world. Doug R.

### Reports from the A.A. Grapevine

**Directors' report:** The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. is a not-for-profit service corporation that publishes the Grapevine magazine, the Fellowship's international journal and "meeting in print," as well as books, booklets, and CDs, among other items, as well as the Spanish-language magazine, La Viña.

In the past year, the board chairman appointed ad hoc committees on customer service; La Viña; the digital accessibility and preservation; finance; Grapevine Board's structure and composition, to facilitate the work the board does for the Fellowship.

The Grapevine's loss on operations is \$9,529 for the year ended December 31, 2002, as against a budgeted break-even for the year. Average monthly circulation was 115,573 for the year. Gross subscription income was \$1,751,304 and gross profit on the magazine was \$1,066,808, accounted for a nearly \$20,000 positive variance. Other publishing income, was \$537,017, substantially higher than budget and previous year's sales. The gross profit was \$339,496, substantially greater than last year.

For La Viña, the average circulation per issue was 8,999, just one copy shy of the budgeted 9,000! Overall results show a net loss of \$103,818, compared to a budgeted loss of \$114,777. The reason for this less-than-budgeted total charge for the Spanish-language magazine was containment of costs in editorial and circulation/business.

The executive editor, has continued to refine the Grapevine's business planning and office restructuring. The primary objective is to increase group support through subscriptions. Current subscription support is below the 10-15% penetration level and the Grapevine hopes to increase that level to 20-30% in the current year, with a long-term target of 50% group support of the magazine. The executive editor has also focused on aggressively reducing costs of all operations, including printing, paper purchasing, fulfillment, and internal office functions.

The editorial, finance, internet operations, and customer service departments have been streamlined. A new office manager was hired to facilitate internal and external communications. The position of circulation director was eliminated and the position of controller will be brought back during the coming year.

The La Viña editor, in collaboration with the GV's executive editor and other departments, is charged with helping to increase the profile of La Viña within the Conference structure, and he participates in Regional Forums and other service events.

The Grapevine Web site maintained an increase in the yearly average number of visits in 2002 and an increase in the number of orders. After approval of the proposed digital accessibility and preservation project by the General Service Board, the initial stage of work

was accomplished the first quarter of 2003. The total expenditure during that period is projected to be about \$15,000.

Mission Statement — In all of its business activities the board incorporates the following purposes: To oversee the publishing operations of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.; to provide sound financial management of the corporation; to establish corporate policies and set corporate priorities; to engage in the ongoing process of strategic planning; to operate in accordance with the principles of A.A. as expressed in the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts.

Gregory T., chairperson

Staff report: This year the Grapevine staff's chief goals have been to heighten awareness of the Grapevine within the Fellowship; update the content and design of the Grapevine, La Viña, and the Web site; begin creating a digital archive of all Grapevine articles, and improve service to subscribers. With these ends in mind, the executive editor developed new Grapevine and La Viña presentations for Regional Forums and assemblies; incentives for subscribing to the Grapevine; quarterly inserts describing new Grapevine items with special offers posted on the Web site. Grapevine items produced this year included The Best of Bill in a gift edition; The Best of the Grapevine and The Language of the Heart in soft-cover; and Grapevine audio CDs. A La Viña CD, a collection of letters to the Grapevine, and an anthology of Grapevine stories about A.A. members' spiritual journeys are currently in production.

Addressing subscriber services, the executive editor has reorganized the customer service staff and taken over direct management of circulation, fulfillment, and customer service. Setbacks in the delivery of the magazine, occasioned in large part by the move to a new printer and mailing house, are being addressed.

Innovations in the magazine have included bolder covers, new graphics, and two new features, Time for One More and A.A. in Cyberspace. La Viña has continued to develop its own identity with bold covers and new layouts.

We have gotten the green light for the A.A. Grapevine Digital Preservation and Accessibility Project, which will preserve our most important asset and legacy — the approximately 12,000 articles and letters published over the 59-year history of the magazine and will allow us to make articles available on our Web site. We look forward to the project's being completed by late-2004. *Robin B., senior editor* 

## The Budget Highlights

## 2003 G.S.O. Budget

This budget describes the "OPERATIONS" of the General Service Office. It includes expenses of A.A. World Services (the Publishing operation) and the General Fund (Service activities). It excludes any activities reported separately in the Reserve Fund, Convention Fund or the Capital Projects Fund. The Grapevine operations are described below in a separate report.

**Income:** The 2003 sales budget of \$10,443,300 is approximately \$350,000 less than the 2002 actual results as a direct result of the leveling off of sales of the 4th edition Big Book. It does however include estimated sales of the Anthology of stories dropped from the first three editions, "Experience, Strength and Hope." Other unit sales are approximately even. Net sales after discounts allowed are projected at \$10,160,000.

Manufacturing costs are budgeted approximately \$200,000 greater than 2002, again allowing for a mix of costs resulting from the expected leveling of 4th edition sales, introduction of the "Anthology," and some inflationary adjustments. Royalties are budgeted at \$160,000.

Shipping and warehousing costs are budgeted less than 2002. in addition to the expected leveling of 4th edition sales noted previously, the primary reason for the reduction is the closing of the SMAA office in Montreal. Effective January 1, 2003 the French-speaking A.A. members are being serviced from G.S.O. New York through existing facilities and fulfillment channels.

Gross profit from literature is budgeted at \$4,606,000, approximately \$336,000 less than 2002. As noted last year, it is important to remember that the introductory price of the 4th edition was set at \$5.00 vs. \$6.00, thereby allowing reduced revenue on this new product, and we still feel the effect of the reduced revenue effort.

**Contributions** for 2003 have been budgeted at \$5,125,000. The year 2002 saw the fifth year in a row that contributions received have exceeded the prior year. During 2002, contributions from groups and individuals of \$4,990,200 were \$196,000 (4%) greater than budgeted and \$301,000 (6.5%) greater than last year. For 2002, contributions had been budgeted to increase by about 2%. During the year, we were obliged to record funds received on behalf of the World Service Meetings International Literature Fund as Contributions to G.S.O., therefore total contributions of \$5,097,800 are reflected on our financial statements and include approximately \$107,500 received to help carry the message around the world from those participating countries.

Total Operating Revenue for the period is anticipated at \$9,735,940, approximately 2% more than the 2002 budget.

**Total Operating Expenses** for 2003 have been budgeted at \$10,626,300, approximately \$460,000, 4.5% higher than 2002 but only \$309,000 or 3% more than the 2002 budget. This just about levels out last year's small increase in budgeted expenses which offset the prior year's larger than usual increase and includes expenditures to help carry the message worldwide as well as at home.

For 2003 G.S.O. has budgeted excess of expenses over revenue of \$890,345, This compares with the \$780,450 loss budgeted for 2002. This compares with a \$381,979 net income for 2001, a \$983,211 net income for 2000, \$877,700 in 1999, \$139,600 in 1998, a \$245,000 loss for 1997, \$1,264,000 loss for 1996, a \$1,147,000 loss for 1995. The three years of losses, followed by succeeding profits, have resulted in a Reserve Fund balance of 11.2 months at 12/31/2002. In fact the better than expected results for 2002 will allow the Reserve Fund to inch up just a bit.

## 2003 Grapevine Budget

The 2003 Grapevine Budget calls for an average circulation 115,000 approximately 500 copies less than the 2002 budget and just slightly less that the 2002 paid circulation number of 115,753. Circulation for 2001 was 115,034, 115,734 in 2000, 116,000 in 1999 and 117,300 in 1998.

**Income:** Magazine income of \$1,757,800 is expected, about \$6,000 more than 2002. Other Publishing Income from books, cassette tapes, and miscellaneous items is budgeted at \$618,000, approximately \$81,000 higher than 2002. The increase in the "other items" category anticipates sales of new products.

**Total Gross Profit:** Combining the magazine and other publishing items, the gross profit of \$1,566,000 is budgeted compared to \$1,404,000 achieved for 2002 and the 2002 budget of \$1,356,300.

**Total Operating Expenses:** Total Operating Expenses for 2003 are budgeted at \$1,630,200, approximately \$144,000 more than the 2002 actual of \$1,486,500.

**Net Income:** For 2003 the Grapevine anticipated a slight profit of \$4,358. This compares with a 2002 budgeted profit of \$188 and an actual loss of \$9,500 from operations. Total loss of \$11,797 included the Grapevine expenses associated with SMAA in Montreal.

### 2003 Spanish Grapevine Budget

Following the 1995 General Service Conference Advisory Action #7, the publication of the Grapevine magazine in Spanish was approved by the Grapevine Board of Directors and the trustees' Finance Committee of the General Service Board. Recognizing this publication as a new venture, both boards will review the financial impact on the Fellowship and the progress of circulation and continue to monitor the viability of this venture. In 2001 The Board recommended and the 2001 Conference approved that the Spanish magazine continue to be published by the Grapevine but funded by the General Fund instead of continuing to draw funds from the Reserve Fund.

For 2003 La Viña expects a gross profit on the magazine of \$10,693, compared with a \$10,838 gross profit for 2002. Circulation for 2003 is estimated at 9,500, slightly higher that the 2002 average of 8,999. Total costs and expenses are estimated at \$136,502 for 2003, compared with \$114,653 in 2002, \$127,578 in 2001, and \$62,137 in 2000. The 2003 budget projects a net loss of \$125,809 compared with a loss of \$103,815 in 2002, a \$119,385 loss for 2001 and a 2001 budgeted loss of \$63,116.

To date the La Viña project has incurred start-up costs/operating losses of \$668,100 as follows: \$29,500 in 1995, \$138,290 in 1996, \$102,140 in 1997, \$66,182 in 1998, \$59,224 in 1999, \$49,570 in 2000, \$119,385 in 2001, and \$103,815 in 2002.

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CONTRIBUTION COMPARISON - 2002-2001 (in U.S. dollars)	ON - 2002-2001 (i		_				
	#GPS.% REPORTED	#GPS. CONTRIB.	% OF GPS. CONTRIB.	TOTAL GROUP CONTRIB.	MEMBERSHIP	CONTRIBUTIONS PER CAPITA	TOTAL PER CAPITA SONTRIBUTIONS INCLUDING PER CAPITA SPECIALS ETC
U.S. & Canada 2002	56,629	25,761	45.5%	\$4,280,619.92	1,265,090	\$3.38	\$3.93
U.S. & Canada 2001	56,210	25,361	45.1%	\$4,110,520.28	1,257,775	\$3.27	\$3.71
Increase (Decrease)	419	400	0.4%	\$170,099.64	7,315	\$0.11	\$0.22

'Reflects not only those groups that contributed directly to G.S.O., but also those groups that contributed through their Conference Areas (per info from areas)

Average cost of services per member (7,181,714/1,265,090) = \$5.68

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

JUNE - JULY 2003

#### 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.

#### **J**une

- 6-8-New Orleans, Louisiana. 35th Big Deep South Conv. Write: Ch., 3117 Independence, Suite D, Metairie, LA 70006; www.aa-neworleans.org
- 6-8-Glorietta, New Mexico. Area 46 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 23080, Santa Fe, NM 87502
- 6-8-Akron, Ohio. Founders' Day. Write: Ch., Box 12, Akron, OH 44309-0012; www.akronaa.org 6-8—Watertown, South Dakota. Area 63 Spring Conf.
- Write: Ch., Box 396, Watertown, SD 57201
- 6-8-Houston, Texas. HICYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 37, Spring, TX 77383; www.hicypaa.org 6-8—Creston, British Columbia. 43rd Creston Central
- Group Annual Camp Out. Write: Ch., Box 849, Creston, B.C., Canada V0B 1G0
- 6-8—Vernon, British Columbia, Canada. 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Vernon Roundup. Write: Ch., 2006 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vernon, B.C., V1T 3M8
- 6-8—Wikwemikong, Ontario, Canada. Ninth Annual Great Lakes Conf. Write: Ch., 1577 Kaboni Road, Wikwemikong, ON, P0P 2J0
- 6-8—Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada. 51st Anniversary Gateway Roundup. Box 592, Prince Albert, SK, S6V 5R8; www.sask-gateway-roundup.ca 12-14—Hagerstown, Maryland. 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Area 29 State
- Convention. Write: Ch., Box 70364, Baltimore, MD 21237; marylandstateconvention@hotmail.com 13-15—Mobile, Alabama. 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Azalea City
- Jamboree. Write: Ch., Box 9005, Mobile, AL 36609
- 13-15-Key West, Florida. Sunset Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 2557, Key West, FL 33045; KQ@sunsetroundup.com

- 13-15—Monroe, Louisiana. 16th Annual NE Louisiana Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 5063, Monroe, LA 71210-5063 13-15—Springfield, Missouri. 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Hear of the
- Ozarks Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1607, Springfield,
- $13\text{--}15\text{--}Olympia, \textit{Washington}. \ \textbf{Capitol Jamboree}. \ \textbf{Write}:$ Ch., Box 2144, Olympia, WA 98507-2414; www.capitoljamboree.org
- Www.capitogamooree.org 13-15—Cache Creek, British Columbia, Canada. Cache Creek/Ashcroft 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 558, Cache Creek, BC, V0K 1H0
- 13-15—Campbellton, New Brunswick, Canada. Fourth Founder's Day Roundup. Write: Ch., 209 Miller Blvd., Dalhousie, NB, E8C 2A2
- 13-15—Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada. 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Roundup. Write: Ch., 5720 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Apt. 107, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2C4
- 19-22—Palm Springs, California. Desert Pow Wow. Write: Ch., Box 10128, Palm Desert, CA 92255
- 20-22—Atlanta, Georgia. GCYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 20481, Atlanta, GA 30325; www.GCYPAA.org
- 20-22—Grand Island, New York. Northeast Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 20-22—Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. WRAASA. Write: Ch., 411 6<sup>th</sup> Street East, Saskatoon, SK S7H 1B7 21-23—Sept-Iles, Quebec, Canada. 24<sup>th</sup> Congrès 89-10.
- Write: Ch., Comité Information Publique, CP 1242, Sept-Iles, QC G4R 4X7
- 27-29—Waycross, Georgia. Okefenokee Roundup. Write: Ch., 1306 Washington Avenue, Waycross, GA 31501
- 27-29—Alexandria, Louisiana. LASCYPAA XIX. Write: Ch., Box 13284, Alexandria, LA 71315
- 27-29—Sandwich, Massachusetts. Cape Cod Campout. Write: Ch., Box 3265, Waquoit, MA 02536
- 27-29-Billings, Montana. Beartooth Mountain Conf. Write: Ch., Box 23406, Billings, MT 59104;
- www.beartoothmountainconference.com 27-29—Washington Island, Wisconsin. Seventh Annual Keep It Simple Weekend. Write: Ch., RR1, Box 143-W, Washington Island, WI 54246-9746

#### July

- 3-6—Portland, Oregon. 46<sup>th</sup> ICYPAA. Write: Ch., PMB 381, NW 23<sup>rd</sup> Place, Suite #6, Portland, OR 97210-5599 4-5—Rivière-du-Loup, Quebec, Canada. 28<sup>th</sup> Congrès de
- Rivière-du-Loup. Write: Ch., 10 rue Vézina, Rivière-du-Loup, QC, G5R 3Z5
- 4-6—Columbia, Missouri. 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Missouri State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 545, Springfield, MO 65801-0545 10-13—Lubbock, Texas. 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conv. Write: Ch.,
- Box 6511, Lubbock, TX 79493-6511
- 11-13—Montgomery, Alabama. Alabama/NW Florida Area 1 Assembly. Write: Ch., 8121 Lillian Hwy., Lot 45, Pensacola, FL 32506-3771
- 11-13—Tehachapi, California. Second Annual Tehachapi Mountain Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 1164, Tehachapi, CA 93581-1164; www.tehachapiroundup.com
- 11-13—Gonzales, Louisiana. Louisiana State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 792, Prairieville, LA 70769
- 11-13-White Plains, New York, State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 265, Purdys, NY 10578
- 11-13—Tulsa, Oklahoma. 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual State Roundup of Young People. Write: Ch., Box 2941, Broken Arrow,
- 11-13—Eugene/Springfield, Oregon. Summerfest 2003. Write: Ch., Box 11824, Eugene, OR 97440 17-20—Raleigh, North Carolina. 56<sup>th</sup> North Carolina State
- Conv. Write: Ch., Box 71144, Durham, NC 27722-1144
- 18-20-Buena Vista, Colorado. Area 10 Summer Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 3062, Buena Vista, CO 81211
- 18-20—Columbus, Indiana. East Central Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 18-20—Sugarloaf Mountain, Maine. Maine Area Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 899, Bath, ME 04530
- 18-20—Cache Creek, British Columbia, Canada. Cache Creek Campout. Write: Ch., Box 437, Cache Creek, BC
- 20-26-Mt. Crested Butte, Colorado. Crested Butte Mountain Conf. Write: Ch., Box 104114, Irving, TX 75014-0114; www.cbconference.org
- 24-27—Sol Vista, Colorado. Fellowship of the Spirit Conf. Write: Ch., Box 480642, Denver, CO 80248;
- 25–27—Tacoma, Washington. 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Freedom in Sobriety. Write: Ch., Box 112553, Tacoma, WA 98411-2553
- 25-27—Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada. Dist. 6 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Mini-Roundup. Write: Ch., 4561, Malagash Pt. Rd., RR1, Malagash, Nova Scotia B0K 1E0
- 25-27—Windsor, Ontario, Canada. 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Essex County Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1502, Station A, Windsor, ON N9A 6R5
- 25-27—Alberton, Prince Edward Island, Canada. Tenth Annual Kamp Killdare. Write: Ch., Box 146, Richmond, PE COB 1YO
- 25-27—Northern Territory, Australia. Douglas Daly Camping Weekend. Write: Ch., c/o Roundup 2003, Box
- 1901, Humpty Doo, NT 0836, Australia 28-Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>—Oshkosh, Wisconsin. EAA/AirEdventure Meeting. Write: Ch., 127 W. South Park Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54902 31-Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>—Cedaredge, Colorado. International Serenity
- Run. Write: Ch., 5170 Old Farm Circle West, Colorado Springs, CO 80917

#### August

- 1-3—Scottsdale, Arizona. 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Salt River Intergroup Roundup. Write: Ch., c/o Central Office, 4602 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, AZ 85014; www.aaphoenix.org 1-3—Mountain View, Arkansas. 63<sup>rd</sup> "Old Grandad"
- State Conv. Write: Ch., 714 O'Dell Road, Bismarck, AR
- 1-3-DuBois, Pennsylvania. Tenth Annual State Conv. Write: Ch., 6377 Alderson Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217-2501 1-3—Parkersburg, West Virginia. 51<sup>St</sup> West Virginia State
- Conv. Write: Ch., Box 4471, Parkersburg, WV 26104
- 1-3—Campbell River, British Columbia, Canada. 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Dist. 3 Rally. Write: Ch., Box 652, Campbell River, BC V9W 2C3
- 1-4—Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia. Darwin Roundup. Write: Ch., c/o Roundup 2003, Box 1901, Humpty Doo, NT 0836, Australia

- 8-10—Red Deer, Alberta Canada. Red Deer Roundup. Write: Ch., #21, 6300 Orr Drive, Red Deer, AB T4P 3T6
- 8-10-Cobble Hill, British Columbia, Canada. Fourth Annual Dist. 8 Campout. Write: Ch., 1198 Rolmar Crescent, RR#2, Cobble Hill, B.C., VOR 1L0
- 8-10-Katherine, Northern Territory, Australia. Katherine Roundup. Write: Ch., c/o Roundup 2003, Box 1901, Humpty Doo, NT 0836, Australia
- 15-17—Joplin, Missouri. Summer Hummer XVI. Write: Ch., 1800 E. 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Joplin, MO 64804
- 15-17—Astoria, Oregon. Youngs River Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 12, Astoria, OR 97103; youngsriverroundup@yahoo.com
- 15-17—York, Pennsylvania. Sixth Annual Sunlight of the Spirit Conf. Write: Ch., Box 3538, York, PA 17402 15-17—Beaumont, Texas. 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual 9<sup>th</sup> District Conf.
- Write: Ch., Box 1446, Buna, TX 77612
- 15-17—Clair, New Brunswick, Canada. Congrès-Dist. 88-
- 16. Write: Ch., 1578 Vieux Chemin, Dégelis, QC G5T-1V7 15-17—Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. 34<sup>th</sup> Central West Ontario Conv. Write: Ch., Box 31053, Guelph, ON N1H 8K1
- 15-17—Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia. Centralian Roundup. Write: Ch., c/o Roundup 2003, Box 1901, Humpty Doo, NT 0836, Australia
- 21-24—Omaha, Nebraska. Cornhusker Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 425, Bellevue, NE 68005
- 22-24—Melbourne, Florida. FCYPAA Age of Miracles. Write: Ch., Box 650713, Vero Beach, FL 32965
- 22-24—Driggs, Idaho and Teton Canyon, WY. Rainbow of Emotions Campout. Write: Ch., Box 153, Driggs, ID
- 22-24—Grand Rapids, Michigan. State Conv. Write: Ch.,
- Box 141331, Grand Rapids, MI 49514-1331 22-24—Jackson, Mississippi. 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Old Timers Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 20664, Jackson, MS 39289
- 22-24—Chautauqua, New York. Tri-State Conf. Write: Ch., 1515 E. 106<sup>th</sup> Street, Cleveland, OH 44106
- 22-24—Writing on Stone Provincial Park, Alberta, Canada. Corn Roast. Write: Ch., 719 Birch Avenue, Shelby, MT 59474
- 29-31—Colorado Springs, Colorado. State Conv. Write: Ch., Box 38732, Colorado Springs, CO 80937;
- www.coloradospringsworldarena.doubletree.com 29-31—Maui, Hawaii. HICYPAA. Write: Ch., Box 11085, Lahaina, HI 96761-6085
- 29-31—Seatac, Washington. 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Sponsorship Conf. Write: Ch., Box 27545, Seattle, WA 98125-2545; www.sponsorshipconference.org

#### September

- 5-7—Cromwell, Connecticut. 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Area 11 Conv. Write: Ch., 25 Usher Avenue, Plainville, CT 06062;
- www.ct-aa.org 5-7—Park Rapids, Minnesota. 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Heartland Roundup. Write: Ch., 22623 Bass Lake Road, Osage, MN 56570
- 5-7—Minot, North Dakota. West Central Regional Forum. Write: Forum Coordinator, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
- 5-7—Morgantown, West Virginia. Area 73 Fall Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 186, Granville, WV 26534
- 11-14—Panama City Beach, Florida. Area 1 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Conv. Write: Ch., Box 18165, Panama City Beach, FL
- 19-21—Bull Shoals, Arkansas. 23rd Autumn-in-the-Ozarks. Write: Ch., 1040 Harding Blvd., Cotter, AR
- 19-21—Muscatine, Iowa. Melon City Roundup 12. Write: Ch., Box 1244, Muscatine, IA 52761
- 19-21—Somerset, New Jersey. NJGS Area 44 Conv. Write: Ch., Box 1642, Paramus, NJ 07653-1642 19-21—Richmond, Virginia. 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast
- Regional Woman to Woman Seminar. Write: Ch., 12707 Cove Drive, Chester, VA 23836
- 26-28—Plymouth, California. Gold Country Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 195, Pine Grove, CA 95665-0195; www.goldcountryroundup.o
- 26-28-Butte, Montana. Fall Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 143, Butte, MT 59703
- 26-28—Moah, Utah. Fall Assembly. Write: Ch., Box 362, Kaysville, UT 84037-0362