

## ■ Meet Four New Class B General Service Board Trustees

Following their election in April at the 73rd General Service Conference, four new Class B (alcoholic) trustees joined the General Service Board (GSB) of A.A.:

**Teresa J.**, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Southwest regional trustee;  
**Robert L.**, of Québec, Canada, trustee-at-large/Canada;  
**David S.**, of East Chatham, New York, general service trustee; and  
**Ken T.**, of Pepperell, Massachusetts, Northeast regional trustee

These new trustees all bring extensive service experience, long-term sobriety, and invaluable regional and professional perspectives to the deliberations of the General Service Board.

“As a little kid,” says **Teresa J.**, “I frequently tasted alcohol, sneaking sips and sampling from the liquor cabinets of my friend’s parents. But I didn’t feel the effects of alcohol until I was 15 — and I knew I had found my true calling! The only problem was that once I started drinking, I simply couldn’t control how much I drank or how drunk I got.” As her drinking progressed, Teresa knew she had trouble with alcohol but didn’t think she was an alcoholic because she could quit drinking for periods of time — “that is,” she says, “until the end.”

Following an intervention organized by an old friend, Teresa found herself detoxing in a local psychiatric hospital. “My plan was to lay low in the hospital for a few days and then return to drinking as usual.” A counselor there had been speaking about A.A. “But I wasn’t listening,” she says, until something began to seep in and, suddenly, she found herself with a spark of hope. “Maybe I could find a way, with the help of A.A. to get rid of the pain from my past that made it necessary for me to drink.”

Active in A.A. since 2000 when she got sober, Teresa has served the Fellowship in New Mexico in

many capacities. “I started being of service by cleaning ashtrays after the meeting; it was the first time I had felt useful in a very long time.” Elected early in her sobriety to be the intergroup representative for her group, she missed a few of the monthly service meetings and the reports she was supposed to be providing to the group. After missing a few more meetings, she discovered that she had been replaced. “I was shocked. I was embarrassed,” she says, “but I learned that when I take on a service position it’s my responsibility to fulfill the duties. It was a tough lesson, but I learned about responsibility and accountability through that very short-lived service opportunity.”

Teresa has continued to serve in many different capacities, as area delegate, chairperson, treasurer, website meeting editor, group inventory facilitator, and office volunteer at the Albuquerque Central Office. Over the years, she also has been actively engaged in sponsoring other A.A.s.

“When I got sober 23 years ago, I was awash in the bedevilmments — I could no longer earn a living and I was of no use to myself or anyone else. Today, I can’t begin to express how grateful I am just to be sober, much less to have been given yet another opportunity to serve the Fellowship that saved my life.”

As the incoming Southwest regional trustee, Teresa notes “I have been blessed to have owned my own business for nearly 30 years — and successfully so since getting sober. This fact has provided me a very flexible schedule and, thus, allowed me to do a lot of service work in A.A. Owning my own business has also given me a wide range of business skills and experiences I can bring to the General Service Board.”

With extensive professional experience in graphic design, she is also a trained educator and experienced chemist and has utilized her analytical problem-solv-

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

ing abilities, writing skills, verbal presentation skills and group facilitation training at every level of general service work.

While serving as trustee will be a broad responsibility, staying connected at the local level is important. “I stay focused in recovery by using the same basic tool kit I’ve been using since I first completed the Steps: I am sponsored, and I sponsor; I work the Steps; I pray and meditate; I go to meetings regularly; I talk to newcomers and give my phone number to new women. I have a homegroup where I try to always have a service responsibility; I take night phones for our local central office; I’m on the bridge-the-gap call list.”

“I am fortunate to live in a large city,” she says, “where I have had a number of homegroups through my recovery. I’ve been with my current home group for about 10 years, and I absolutely love it! We have a great mix of ages, lengths of sobriety, sexual orientations, and educational levels. We truly are people who normally would not mix and yet we get along great.”

A favorite quote from the Big Book helps keeps Teresa focused on our primary purpose: “Our very lives, as ex-problem drinkers, depend upon our constant thought of others and how we may meet their needs” (p. 20, *Alcoholics Anonymous*).

“This quote is meaningful to me first because it reminds me that I need to not be selfish but to actively look for ways to be of service to others. Second, it

reminds me that I stay sober by being of service to others — specifically, by carrying the message to those who don’t yet know there is a solution. Finally, and perhaps most important, it reminds me that I have a deadly disease that could kill me if I don’t get out of my selfishness and figure out how to be of real service.”

**Robert L.** has been involved in the Fellowship in Québec through group, district, and area-wide service. A Panel 48 delegate (1998-1999) and member of the board of *La Vigne* and *Publications françaises*, he shares that “I went to my first meeting in March 1985. I thought I had it all figured out and I kept going alone. Five months later, the night of August 10, I let out a scream, much like that of a baby being born. I had just hit my rock bottom. Today, I call this cry my ‘redemption prayer.’ This is what it took for me to understand a quote from the Second Step: ‘humility and intellect could be compatible, provided we placed humility first.’ At that moment, I weighed barely 100 pounds and was shaking like a leaf.

“Since that day, the Second Step has been key in my recovery. For me, it is the beginning of the spiritual experience. Learning to live with others with love. I know now that this spiritual adventure will last my whole life, one day at a time.

“The joys and sorrows, the barriers, and the successes that once put me off balance are now lived with more emotional sobriety. Of course, I can still get angry — I wasn’t brainwashed, I’m human. But I no longer foster resentment. Not so much by virtue,

“Today, I can’t begin to express how grateful I am just to be sober, much less to have been given yet another opportunity to serve the Fellowship that saved my life.”

but because it brings pain. I found a comic prayer that allows me to diffuse my moments of anger toward others: ‘Please God, come and get him before I send him to you.’ That prayer shows me my own limits — and makes me chuckle every time.”

Recognizing the importance of a home group and referencing a quote from *As Bill Sees It* called “A.A.’s School of Life,” Robert says, “A home group is the per-



fect place to learn to live with others. It's an amazing school to learn emotional growth. It shows how human we are while telling us how wholesome it is to overcome barriers."

Professionally, Robert is a freelance journalist, photographer, writer, and lecturer, and has worked in media relations and as a public information representative at promotional events across Québec. He worked for the communications department of a government agency before finishing his career as communications manager for the Canadian bureau of a humanitarian organization.

"This job sent me to countries like Lebanon, Rwanda, Congo, Honduras, and Haiti and has allowed me to witness the hardship experienced by some people because of mourning, poverty, violence, persecution, natural disasters, or war. This experience has convinced me that love is stronger than death when people reach out to others in need."

Robert says that photography, music, and plants help him to stay centered and focused in recovery. "Photography because I see it as a form of contemplation allowing me to be at one with nature and get in touch with people; music because it helps me in moments of solitude, sometimes to relax me, sometimes to make me dance, most often to make me sing. And finally, I like plants the way other people like animals, because they are alive and can reproduce."

Of his new role on the General Service Board,

Robert says, "Serving as trustee-at-large/Canada represents a wonderful responsibility and will be an opportunity for me to work more on my humility — which is key to becoming a better version of myself."

He quotes an African proverb to expand on his thoughts on board service: "If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together."

"When we manage to share our skills in A.A., that means our collective intelligence serves the group," he says. "And that can lead to amazing results. Pulling our differences together instead of comparing ourselves to one another. That doesn't come naturally for an egocentric person like me, but I found that the challenge was worth it and has returned tangible results."

Noting that he and his sponsor founded two study groups on the Twelve Steps and the Big Book that has welcomed many new members, Robert says "The fire for service has never stopped burning in me." He also encourages members to check out his home group — *Le Premier Jour* (The First Day) at 10:30 a.m. (ET) on Sundays, which is now online. "All of you are invited," he says, "only, it's in French."

"I was a kid who never drank prior to college," says **David S.** "But once I started, I had a hard time stopping. My drinking ebbed and flowed over the years, but eventually became a real problem. I feared I was losing my mind."

Trying to moderate his drinking and speaking with



a therapist didn't help him to stop and at the end of his active drinking, he says "I went to a place of profound loneliness and emptiness. It was that big hole inside of me that finally got me to go to a treatment center in Minnesota. Treatment was just what I needed."

Returning to his home in New York City, David dove into daily A.A. meetings, regular aftercare meetings, and continued sessions with his therapist. He also made a hard break with many friends from his drinking life. "It was not easy, but I think the rigor of those early days was critical in setting me on the right path. I also went to a variety of meetings — gay meetings for my new sober social life and other meetings where I could better focus on working my program. I got a great sponsor who helped me make progress on the Twelve Steps and kept me from doing some really stupid things in those early days. The strong community and supportive people around me made it much easier to stay sober."

A few years into his sobriety, David became the GSR for his home group. "I didn't know much of anything about the world of A.A. beyond the group," he says, "but quickly learned more and met a good friend who has served as a wonderful guide to me in service over the years." Getting involved in general service at the group, district, and area levels has been a staple of David's sobriety over the years, with periods of less involvement as he focused on his career.

With years of experience in the media business, running several large brands and helping build or rebuild companies, David has served as a director and chair on a number of nonprofit boards. With an MBA in Finance, he has led his own consultancy since 2008 where he built a track record of helping challenged businesses to perform better and successful businesses to accelerate their growth. "My roots are in the media business, launching new businesses and brands and reinvigorating old brands. In addition, I have deep experience in subscription marketing for a variety of products (magazines, books, newsletters) as well as online product development and marketing."

Taking on multiple positions in the service structure when he returned to service work in the Fellowship, David did stand for area chair and vice chair and was not elected to either of those positions. "You may wonder why I mention not being elected.

Well, I received a smart piece of advice from the then area chair that all I needed to do was to make myself available and that the group conscience and my higher power would do the rest. That wisdom helped me be willing to stand for area-level positions and to be able to accept when I was not elected. Well, OK there was some disappointment, but guess what: It was not fatal!" And a few months later he received word that

**"Serving as trustee-at-large/Canada represents a wonderful responsibility and will be an opportunity for me to work more on my humility — which is key to becoming a better version of myself."**

he had been selected as a nontrustee director for the Grapevine and La Viña, where he has been able to put his professional experience and love for A.A. to use for the greater good of the Fellowship in helping to turn the vision of a Grapevine App into a detailed five-year plan that is currently underway. He is especially excited about the new Grapevine/La Viña app. "You will find it's an amazing tool for your sobriety. Try it and let us know what you think."

David finds service inspiration in Bill's essay "Leadership in A.A.: Ever a Vital Need" in Concept IX and Bernard Smith's "Why Do We Need a Conference?" "That brings me to tears every time I read it as it so vividly reminds me of why we do the work that we do for the A.A. Fellowship," he says.

A fan of classical music, David says "I find listening to symphonic music really calms my spirit and clears my thinking. It's a wonderfully meditative experience."

The other part of David's life today, aside from meetings and work on the General Service Board, "is that my husband and I are farmers where we raise poultry — roughly 1,500 egg-laying hens, 500 chickens a year for meat, 15 hogs, 75 ducks, and eight alpaca! It's a hard-working, funny, often unexpected, but also kind of wonderful life."

David adds "I feel so very fortunate to serve as a general service trustee and to work with the amazing staff at the General Service Office and Grapevine/La Viña as well as my fellow trustees and nontrustee directors. It is beyond gratifying to bring my many years of business and nonprofit experience and leadership to bear on the



work of Alcoholics Anonymous, which has saved my life and the lives of so many others.”

“I started drinking relatively late, when I was a senior in college,” says **Ken T.**, “and I spent over a decade binge drinking in bars as I let alcohol take me down into a deep hole.” Ken eventually ended up in the hospital, and although he realized alcohol was going to kill him if he didn’t stop, after a brief period of abstinence, he went back to drinking. “At that point I gave up and lost all hope,” he says. “I found A.A. after I had a DUI and was ‘sentenced’ to A.A. to get my license back. I don’t know why but I was terrified to go to my first meeting. I finally built up the courage and went. At that first meeting I heard someone share their story, identified with them, and got a bit of hope.”

As he stayed sober, Ken’s first home group pulled him into service early on. “When I was a year and a half sober, they made me the GSR. None of us really knew what that position was. I went to district meetings and at one of them I was told I had to go to an area assembly. It was at those district meetings that I met the man who was to become my first sponsor, and it was at the assembly that I first heard about the Twelve Traditions and Concepts.

“My first sponsor brought me through the Twelve Steps as laid out in the Big Book. We met every week at his house and read and talked. He shared his experience with me to guide me to where I am today. I try to take the same approach when working with my sponsees.”

“It is beyond gratifying to bring my many years of business and nonprofit experience and leadership to bear on the work of Alcoholics Anonymous, which has saved my life and the lives of so many others.”

Professionally, Ken has been a software engineer for more than three decades, working in a variety of industries, such as audio, video, medical devices, web services, networking devices, industrial equipment, applications, and embedded device coding. “Over the years I have seen the Internet become a part of society and have a deep understanding of the technologies involved as well as how they all work together. I think I can bring that knowledge to the board as we move toward the future and deal with the changes in

how our message is shared with those who need it.”

A Panel 63 (2013-2014) delegate from Area 30 Eastern Massachusetts, Ken also has been inspired by the Bernard Smith essay, “Why Do We Need a Conference?” In addition, he cites page 12 of the Big Book, where Ebby T. says to Bill, “Why don’t you choose your own conception of God?” as resonating with his own spiritual journey in A.A.

“I believe that opened the door for me,” he says. “I came into the Fellowship as an atheist and, had I been required to conform to someone else’s version of God or religion, I might not have stayed after I had served my four months of meetings.”

Now that he’s serving as a GSB trustee, Ken has experienced firsthand the challenges and high-points of service at this level. “The biggest challenge so far has been the volume of communication that I’ve had to deal with,” he says. “My service sponsor told me what was involved, but it wasn’t until I experienced it for myself that I truly understood. Like most of my positions in A.A., all the training is on the job.” He previously served as a delegate and chair of NERAASA, and he spoke at an International Convention in an event space that seemed to him like an aircraft hangar. “I was nervous and fearful,” he says. “I’ve always had a fear of public speaking. My sponsor and friends got me grounded and helped me through it. That fear has since left me.”

When not working hard at his new trustee position, Ken loves reading and listening to music. “I also do personal programming projects on the side to learn new things and keep my skills sharp,” he says.

“I am excited to be given the opportunity to give back to the Fellowship that saved my life,” he says. “I’ve always found my sobriety to be stronger when I’m actively participating in my own recovery.” Ken wryly remembers why

he initially stuck around in A.A.: “I just wanted to get my driver’s license back.”

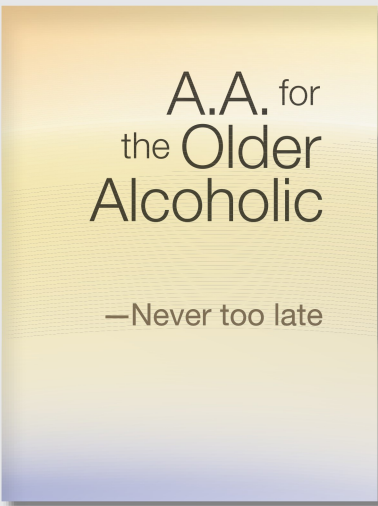
Sober since 1999, Ken says “It always fills me with joy when I can see the light come on in the eyes of a newcomer. Sometimes it’s hard for me to see any progress in myself, but when I see it in a sponsee or newcomer, I can see my reflection. Working with sponsees keeps me focused. When I’m helping them, I get out of my own head and stop being the center of the universe.”

## WHAT'S NEW

### ■ Publishing Update

Three pamphlets have been completely revised this fall, all per Advisory Actions and approvals from the General Service Conference.

- The redesigned **“Young People in A.A.”** now features seven new stories by young A.A. members. Informed by input and feedback from young A.A. members attending recent YPAA meetings, this pamphlet includes colorful illustrations crafted by one of our most beloved Grapevine illustrators.



- **“AA for the Older Alcoholic”** also has been completely revised and redesigned — transformed from a pamphlet to a striking, large-print booklet that accommodates those with low vision. Eight A.A. members over the age of 60 tell their stories of finding recovery later in life. Far from feeling that their lives are over, these older alcoholics express that, having come to A.A., they are experiencing a new beginning.

- **“A.A. In Your Community: A Guide for Professionals Who Work with Alcoholics”** has been redesigned and expanded from six pages to 24 pages. This thorough revision explains in detail how A.A. is geared

to work in any community to help alcoholics and is designed especially to help groups, central offices, and PI committees interpret A.A. to the community.



### ■ Resumes for Trustees Election Due January 1, 2024

Two new Class B (alcoholic) regional trustees, from the West Central and Western Canada regions will be elected at the General Service Conference in April 2024. Resumes must be received at G.S.O. no later than January 1, 2024 and must be submitted by the candidates only. In seeking applications for vacancies in Alcoholics Anonymous, the Fellowship is committed to creating a large file of qualified applicants that reflect the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A. itself. Please email submissions to the secretary, trustees' Committee on Nominating, G.S.O. at [nominating@aa.org](mailto:nominating@aa.org) or post in the mail Attn. Secretary, Trustees Nominating Committee, c/o The General Service Office, P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

The new West Central regional trustee will fill the position currently by Mike L. The next trustee from the Western Canada region will follow Irma V.

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.

Since much is asked of the trustees with respect to their time, it is important that trustee candidates understand the commitment of time required. Trustees are expected to attend: three quarterly board

weekends, with meetings running from Saturday morning through Monday noon; a quarterly meeting combined with the General Service Conference (seven days) in April; and any special meetings of the board. Regional trustees also serve in rotation for attendance at Regional Forums other than in their own regions. 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.

Trustees serve on committees of the General Service Board and may also serve on trustees' subcommittees or corporate board subcommittees; whose work often involves conference calls. They are often invited to participate in regional or area activities, such as service conferences, area assemblies, etc. Trusteeship is for four years. Applicants are encouraged to discuss this time commitment with their family and employer. Trustees are reimbursed for travel, hotel and meal expenses.

## ■ REMINDER

### OUR CONTRIBUTIONS ADDRESS HAS CHANGED

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

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

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

For more information or assistance, contact our Member Services team at [memberservices@aa.org](mailto:memberservices@aa.org) or **212-870-3023**.

## THE NEW GRAPEVINE & LA VIÑA APPS!

**AVAILABLE NOW!**

- Read or listen to every issue
- Search our vast GV/LV Archives
- Keep track of your sobriety and spiritual practices
- Listen to our podcast
- Share AA stories and area events with friends
- Find meetings and connect to [aa.org](http://aa.org)

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For more information visit: [www.aagrapevine.org/apps](http://www.aagrapevine.org/apps)



## Part II:

### The Reserve Fund: A.A.'s 'Prudent Financial Principle' In Action

*This is the second in a series of columns from the chair of the General Service Board (GSB) Finance and Budgetary Committee (commonly known as "the Finance Committee"). The purpose of this series is to demystify the GSB finance and budget processes and provide information on planning and oversight.*



**Kevin Prior, CFA, CPA,** currently serves as the Finance Committee chair. He is a Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee and senior director of finance at the St. Louis, Missouri-based Catholic Health Association of the United States, a nonprofit similar in size and scope to A.A.

The importance of maintaining a prudent reserve

is a big part of the DNA of A.A. as an organization. The idea has long been referenced in A.A. literature, including the long form of Tradition Seven, which states, "We view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over money, property and authority." Warranty 2 succinctly states, "Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve should be its prudent financial principle."

So, what does that all mean for A.A. finances? For a project in 2022 to codify reserve principles and establish clear guidelines and a formal investment policy for the Reserve Fund, the GSB Finance Committee looked at 68 years of committee reports, Conference reports, Conference Advisory Actions and additional committee considerations, investment subcommittee reports, and Bill W.'s own writings in the Twelve Concepts. We found that throughout our history and today, our prudent reserve practices have been guided by the following principles:

- There is one Reserve Fund for our General Services, entrusted to the General Service Board and administered by the Finance Committee. AAWS and AA Grapevine have only the cash for ordinary operations.

- More than 12 months of operating expenses in reserve is too much. We promptly reduce literature prices to alleviate excess reserves.
- Nine to 12 months is the ideal range. There is no lower limit — per a 1981 Advisory Action — but nine months is long set to be a floor in what might be considered "normal times" (more on this below).
- The Reserve Fund is meant to be safe and readily available. We are more concerned with return of principal than return on principal. The reserve is invested in cash and FDIC-insured Certificates of Deposit. We understand that this means it might not keep pace with inflation — and that is OK. The reserve is meant to be a rainy day fund, not an endowment.
- Per a 1967 Advisory Action, the Reserve Fund may be used "for whatever purpose the [General Service] Board may authorize."
- A portion of the Reserve Fund is set aside to cover the funded portion of unfulfilled Grapevine subscriptions and is deducted from the total balance when determining available funds for use.

After consulting with the Conference Finance Committee at the 72nd General Service Conference, the Trustees' Finance Committee and the GSB codified the foundational and operating principles of the Reserve Fund into a comprehensive two-part policy. The policy sought not to cover new ground but to document the who, what, where, when, why, and how of the Reserve Fund.

The policy provides more specific guidance than existed previously in regard to roles and authority. Primarily, the Finance Committee acts as the investment committee and makes recommendations to the General Service Board during its regularly scheduled meetings. In more urgent situations (known as "Emergency Actions") there is the provision for Reserve Fund actions to be made in the following ways:

- Special meeting of the General Service Board;
- If the GSB cannot convene in time, then by a special meeting of the Finance Committee; or
- If the Finance Committee cannot convene in time, then by the CFO of AAWS and two General Service Board officers.

Given meeting notice requirements and logistics, these provisions were added to allow emergency actions in extremely time-sensitive situations — examples include the disruption of markets after the 9/11 attacks, the 2008 financial crisis, or the failure of a major depository institution. Thus far, these provisions have been used once, when the Finance Committee authorized a reduction in the funded percentage of unfulfilled subscriptions and a corresponding release of funds to Grapevine in December 2022. Grapevine’s needs at that time required action prior to the regularly scheduled Finance Committee and General Service Board meetings held at the end of January.

Finally, what is the current state of our Reserve Fund? While the fund was between nine and 10 months prior to the pandemic, the onset of the pandemic caused a dramatic decrease in literature sales that required large draws from the fund in 2020. Continued lower literature sales over the last several years have made it impossible to replenish the fund. As such, the reserve stands at about seven months of expenses, less than the nine months we seek to have in normal times. Seventh Tradition contributions have increased since the onset of the pandemic

and have offset a portion of the reduced literature sales. I am asked frequently if there is a plan to replenish the fund to the nine-month level. There is not a specific written plan to restore the reserve to a certain level by a certain date. To do so would be to count on future contributions and sales of literature still in development, as well as the success of the Grapevine and La Viña apps. What is certain is that the Finance Committee discusses the Reserve Fund at every meeting, and we consider Bill W.’s admonishment in the Eleventh Concept to carefully approach current needs of the Fellowship with the desire to rebuild funds. As usual, Bill put it best in his writing about this Concept:

I can remember an earlier day when we were so intent on building up the Reserve Fund out of book earnings that we let the office services run down badly for sheer lack of enough help to cope with our fast growth. Confidence was thereby lost out in the groups, and contributions suffered severely; they dropped by tens of thousands a year. By the time the office had been reorganized and confidence restored, we had used all our current book earnings and a large part of our Reserve Funds besides. This sort of false and unimaginative economy can prove very costly — in spirit, in service and in money.

*To obtain a copy of the Reserve Fund Policy, available in English, French, and Spanish, email [memberservices@aa.org](mailto:memberservices@aa.org) and include “Request for Reserve Fund Policy” in the subject line. Or call 212-870-3023.*

## New FEATURE on [aa.org](http://aa.org)

### Your Frequently Asked Questions

We’ve taken more than 100 of the most frequently asked questions by A.A. members, people looking for help for their drinking problem, and others and launched a central resource on [aa.org](http://aa.org) where you can easily find answers and links to related information. We will continue to update and expand this list to include even more helpful information.

**Visit the new FAQ feature at [aa.org/faqs](http://aa.org/faqs)**



# Visit the General Service Office this Fall!

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

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



## SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT TO GSO

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

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

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

To schedule your visit, email [gsotours@aa.org](mailto:gsotours@aa.org)  
or call **212-870-3430**.

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

**Please note, the building will be closed to visitors  
November 10 and 22-24; December 25-26;  
and January 1 and 15.**





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

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

**July 3-6, 2025**

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

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

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

**Let's celebrate sobriety together  
in Vancouver in 2025!**

**NOTE:** Events may be canceled or moved to online formats due to health and safety concerns. Please contact the event coordinators as listed before making your plans.

## Calendar of Events

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

### October

- 6-8—*Louisville, Kentucky*. Falls City Conv. Write: Ch., Box 37137, Louisville, KY 40233; Info: [www.FallsCityConvention.com](http://www.FallsCityConvention.com)
- 6-8—*Ormond Beach, Florida*. In the Spirit of Joe and Charlie: A Journey Through the Steps. Write: Ch., 1394 Harnden Rd., E, Port Orange, FL 32176; Info: <http://bit.ly/JoeandCharlie>
- 6-9—*Okinawa, Japan*. Round Up. Info: <https://www.12stepokinawa.com>
- 11-15—*Tossa Mar, Spain*. Costa Brava English Speaking Convention. Write: Ch., 6037 Cherrelyn Way, Carmichael, CA 95608; Info: [www.convention-costabrava.com](http://www.convention-costabrava.com)
- 13-15—*Windsor Locks, Connecticut*. 64th Annual Area 11 Convention. Write: Ch., 581 Meriden Ave., Southington, CT 06489; Info: <https://ct-aa.org/event/64th-annual-area-11-convention/>
- 16-17—*Germantown, Tennessee*. Annual Memphis Bluff City Fellowship. Write: Box 343174, Bartlett, TN 38134. Info: [www.bluffcityfellowship.com](http://www.bluffcityfellowship.com)
- 20-21—*Saint Cloud, Minnesota*. 40th Annual St., Cloud Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 125, St. Cloud, MN 56302; Info: [www.stcloudroundup.org](http://www.stcloudroundup.org)
- 20-22—*Mackinac Island, Michigan*. Mackinac Island Fall Wknd. Write: Ch., 1915 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. D, Lansing, MI 48912; Email: [lansingaa@gmail.com](mailto:lansingaa@gmail.com)
- 20-23—*Stillwater, New Jersey*. NAGLNJ's Weekend AA Conference "A Vision For You". Write: Ch., Box 404, West Orange, NJ 07052; Info: [www.naglnj.com](http://www.naglnj.com); Email: [d34-gsr01@njarea44.org](mailto:d34-gsr01@njarea44.org)
- 20-23—*Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin*. Southern Wisconsin Area 75 Conference. Write: Ch., First Presbyterian Church, Fond Du lac, WI 54902; Email: [chair@area75.org](mailto:chair@area75.org)

- 26-29—*Waikiki, Hawaii*. 60th Annual Hawaii Convention. Write: Ch., Box 23434, Honolulu, HI 96823; Info: [www.annualhawaiiConvention.com](http://www.annualhawaiiConvention.com)
- 27-29—*St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands*. Promises in Paradise. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 307556, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00803-7556. Email: [promisesinparadise@gmail.com](mailto:promisesinparadise@gmail.com)

### November

- 10-11—*Houma, Louisiana*. 43rd Bayouland Jamboree. Write: Ch., 111 Munson Dr., Houma, LA 70360; Info: [www.thebayoulandjamboree.org](http://www.thebayoulandjamboree.org)
- 10-11—*Mossy Head, Florida*. Sunshine Convention. Write: Ch., Box 837, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32432; Email: [SunshineConvention@aol.com](mailto:SunshineConvention@aol.com)
- 10-12—*Lancaster, Pennsylvania*. 66th Annual Eastern Pennsylvania General Service Convention and Assembly. Write: Ch., 312 Hamel Ave., Glenside, PA 19038; Email: [convention@area59aa.org](mailto:convention@area59aa.org)
- 10-12—*Milwaukee, Wisconsin*. 22 Convención Hispana de Alcohólicos Anónimos del Estado de Wisconsin. Write: Ch., 1663 S. 6th St., Milwaukee, WI 53204; Email: [covencionhispanadewisconsin@gmail.com](mailto:covencionhispanadewisconsin@gmail.com)
- 10-12—*Ocean Shores, Washington*. Serenity at the Shores. Write: Ch., Box 994, Ocean Shores, WA 98569; Info: [www.oceanshoresjamboree.com](http://www.oceanshoresjamboree.com)
- 10-12—*San Antonio, Texas*. XXIV Asamblea Hispana del Sur de Texas. Write: Ch., Box 10453, San Antonio, TX; Reservations: 1-888-728-3031, Code: AA Asamblea
- 17-19—*Ardmore, Oklahoma*. 40<sup>th</sup> Red River Valley Rally. Write: 14192 Little Rd., Kingston, OK 73439; Info: [www.redrivervalleyrally.com](http://www.redrivervalleyrally.com); Email: [redrivervalleyrally@gmail.com](mailto:redrivervalleyrally@gmail.com)

- 17-19—*Independence, Ohio*. East Central Regional Forum. For Registration information: <https://www.aa.org/regional-and-local-forums>; For questions contact the Regional Forums Coordinator at [regionalforums@aa.org](mailto:regionalforums@aa.org).
- 17-19—*Kampala, Uganda*. East African Convention 2023. Info: [www.aa-uganda.org](http://www.aa-uganda.org); Email: [convention@aa-uganda.org](mailto:convention@aa-uganda.org).
- 17-19—*Lake Geneva, Wisconsin*. McHenry's 34th Annual Soberfest. Write: Ch., Box 717, McHenry, IL 60051-0717. Info: [www.soberfest.org](http://www.soberfest.org)
- 17-19—*Maitland, Florida*. Southern States AA Service Assembly — SSAASA7. Write: Ch., 1800 Clover Circle, Melbourne, FL 32935. Email: [chair.ssaasa7@gmail.com](mailto:chair.ssaasa7@gmail.com); Info: [www.ssaasa7.org](http://www.ssaasa7.org)
- 24-26—*Pascagoula, Mississippi*. Gratitude Roundup. Write: Ch., 19021 Commission Rd., Long Beach, MS. 39560; Info: [www.MsCoastRoundups.org](http://www.MsCoastRoundups.org)

### January 2024

- 12-14—*Auburn, Alabama*. Area 1 Assembly. Info: [secretary@aaarea1.org](mailto:secretary@aaarea1.org)
- 12-14—*Mandan, North Dakota*. Rule 62 Rendezvous Woodstock of North Dakota. Write: Ch., P.O. Box 268, Bismrck, ND 58502. Info: [www.rule62rendezvous.org](http://www.rule62rendezvous.org)
- 26-28—*Brawley, California*. Imperial Valley Roundup. Write: Ch., Box 393, El Centro, CA 92251. Email: [Imperialvalleyroundup@gmail.com](mailto:Imperialvalleyroundup@gmail.com)
- 26-28—*Jacksonville, Florida*. Southern States Women's Conference. Write: Ch., Box 35100, Elmwood Park, IL 60707.