

# AA History Through the Lens of the General Service Conference Advisory Actions

August 9 thru December 13 – #11 October 25, 2024

facilitated by Francine W., Palm Desert, CA and Merri M., Des Moines, IA

This week we reviewed items from:

Advisory Actions Relevant to the Conference Finance Committee (2007 – 2024) page 38

Advisory Actions Relevant to the Conference Institutions Committee (1954 – 1977) page 58

## Workshop references and materials referenced with focus on this week's links:

- **General Service Advisory Actions (1951-2024):**  
[https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/M-39\\_0824\\_2.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/M-39_0824_2.pdf)
- ***The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service:***  
[https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/en\\_bm-31\\_3.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/en_bm-31_3.pdf)

## Workshop references and materials referenced:

What are AA Guidelines:

The A.A. Guidelines represent the shared experience of A.A. members and groups throughout the United States and Canada. They also reflect guidance given through the Twelve Traditions and the General Service Conference (U.S. and Canada). In keeping with our tradition of autonomy except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole, most decisions are made by the group conscience of the members involved. The purpose of the A.A. Guidelines is to assist members in reaching an 'informed group conscience.'

What are A.A. Guidelines? and Literature Library: <https://www.aa.org/faq/what-are-aa-guidelines>

MG-15 Guidelines on Finance: [https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-15\\_0424.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-15_0424.pdf)

MG-6 Guidelines on Corrections: [https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-6\\_0824.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-6_0824.pdf)

MG-14 Guidelines on Treatment: [https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-14\\_0724.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-14_0724.pdf)

MG-02 A.A. Guidelines on Central or Intergroup Offices: <https://www.aa.org/aa-guidelines-central-or-intergroup-offices>

Corrections Workbook: [https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/m-45i\\_0224.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/m-45i_0224.pdf)

Treatment Workbook: <https://www.aa.org/treatment-committee-workbook>

National AA Corrections Conference:

<https://www.nationalcorrectionsconference.org/events/2024-7th-annual-aa-national-corrections-conference>

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**Sharing from Behind the Walls:** <https://www.aa.org/sharing-from-behind-the-walls>

**History of the Pink Can:** A Summary Based On Pink Cans: Small Change Brings Big Results (p. 8). Box 4-5-9: News and Notes from the General Service Office of A. A. Vol. 52, No. 5 / October November 2006. The Pink Can idea seemed to have originated in the Northern California Area in 1957. The purpose was to provide sufficient funds to purchase literature for expanding work in prisons. Individual contributions, although quite helpful, were not enough to keep up with the expanding responsibilities of the local Hospitals & Institutions Committees. Someone came up with the idea of passing a can during meetings and requesting spare change. It was explained that all monies collected would be used to buy literature for alcoholics in hospitals and prisons. In order to make the can “stand out,” a decision was made to paint the can pink. In short time, pink cans started appearing on literature tables and were being passed around at various meetings.

**GSO Quarterly Report:** [https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/F-14 Quarterly Report 2024 Third Quarter.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/F-14%20Quarterly%20Report%202024%20Third%20Quarter.pdf)

**Price Increase for La Viña:**

[https://www.aagrapevine.org/sites/default/files/2024-10/LV Price-Increase-Jan2025\\_rev101024.pdf](https://www.aagrapevine.org/sites/default/files/2024-10/LV_Price-Increase-Jan2025_rev101024.pdf)

**AAWS Highlights (Business of the Board):**

[https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/AAWS 2024 July Highlights.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/AAWS_2024_July_Highlights.pdf)

**Updated Contributions Mailing Address:**

[https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/f-36 summer2024.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/f-36_summer2024.pdf)

**What are AA Guidelines?**

A.A. Guidelines are compiled from the shared experience of A.A. members in the various areas. They also reflect guidance given through the Twelve Traditions and the General Service Conference (U.S. and Canada). In keeping with our Tradition of Autonomy, except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole, most decisions are made by the group conscience of the members involved. The purpose of these Guidelines is to assist in reaching an informed group conscience.

**AA Guidelines on Finance:**

[https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-15\\_0424.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-15_0424.pdf)

**F-203 Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet - Your Seventh Tradition Contributions**

<https://www.aa.org/seventh-tradition-fact-sheet-your-seventh-tradition-contributions>

**F-3 Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix:**

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<https://www.aa.org/self-support-where-money-and-spirituality-mix>

## Q What do contributions to GSB cover?

A The 2023 service dollar was spent on the following activities: Literature Development and Distribution, 30.2%; Communications Services, 12.9%; Group Services, 7.8%; Public Information, 2.7%; CPC, 3.1%; Treatment, Accessibilities and Remote Communities, 7.8%, Corrections, 3.1%; the General Service Conference, 18%; Regional Forums, 4.9%; Archives, 6.6%; Nominating, 2.9%.

## Q How much does it cost, per group, for GSO to supply basic services?

A At the end of 2023, the annual cost of services per group was \$162.72, while the average contribution per group was \$140.09. The shortfall between these two figures is made up from income from A.A. publications.

**Contributions and Self-Support:** <https://www.aa.org/aa-contributions-self-support>

## Gratitude Month October 2024 V2:

[https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/Gratitude\\_Month\\_October\\_2024\\_V2.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/Gratitude_Month_October_2024_V2.pdf)

**Can I leave money to A.A. in my will?** <https://www.aa.org/faq/can-i-leave-money-aa-my-will>

**General Service Conference Final Report 2023** <https://www.aa.org/2023-general-service-conference-final-report>

**General Service Conference Final Report 2024:** <https://www.aa.org/2024-general-service-conference-final-report>

**Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA) 2025:** <https://praasa.org/>

## Workshop references and materials previously referenced:

1. A.A. At A Glance: [https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/F-1\\_0624.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/F-1_0624.pdf)
2. A.A. Guidelines - Conferences, Conventions and Roundups:  
[https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-4\\_0324.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-4_0324.pdf)
3. A.A.® Guidelines Internet: [https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-18\\_0623.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-18_0623.pdf)
4. A.A. Guidelines on Public Information:  
[https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/mg-7\\_0424.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/mg-7_0424.pdf)
5. A.A. Legacy of Service: [https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/P-44\\_0924.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/P-44_0924.pdf)
6. A.A. Newsletters: <https://www.aa.org/newsletters>
7. A.A.'s public service announcements are on the aa.org website: <https://www.aa.org/audio-public-service-announcement-downloads>
8. AAWS Highlights:  
[https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/AAWS\\_2024\\_July\\_Highlights.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/AAWS_2024_July_Highlights.pdf)

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9. About AA Newsletter: <https://www.aa.org/about-aa>
10. Anonymity Letter to the Press (2/2024): <https://www.aa.org/anonymity-letter-to-media>
11. ANONYMITY ONLINE AND DIGITAL MEDIA:  
[https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/smf-197\\_en.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/smf-197_en.pdf) and  
<https://www.aa.org/anonymity-online-and-digital-media>
12. Anonymity Placard:  
[https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/en\\_anonymityplacard.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/en_anonymityplacard.pdf)
13. Anonymity Resources on AA.org: <https://www.aa.org/search?search=anonymity>
14. Anonymity Statement Card: <https://www.aa.org/anonymity-statement-card>
15. Area Service Sharing Session on Inventory:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_Rtsn5x6376P86EKuubRObr8oOnp9OPS/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_Rtsn5x6376P86EKuubRObr8oOnp9OPS/view?usp=sharing)
16. ASL A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs: <https://onlineliterature.aa.org/ASL-AA-Alco-with-Special-Needs-DVD>
17. Behind the Walls Newsletter:  
[https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/f-97\\_spring2024.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/f-97_spring2024.pdf)
18. Box 4-5-9  
<https://www.aa.org/box-459>
19. Concept's Checklist [https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/smf-91\\_en.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/smf-91_en.pdf)
20. CPC Workbook: <https://www.aa.org/cooperation-professional-community-cpc-workbook>
21. F-20 Anonymity Statement Card: <https://www.aa.org/anonymity-statement-card>
22. Fact File: <https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/SM%20F-94%20AA%20Fact%20Sheet%20EN%200921.pdf>
23. General Service Conference Structure [https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/smf-116\\_GeneralServiceConferenceStructure\\_EN\\_1121.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/smf-116_GeneralServiceConferenceStructure_EN_1121.pdf)
24. Newsletter for Professionals:  
[https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/f-13\\_winter2023.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/f-13_winter2023.pdf)
25. P-16 The AA Group. . . Where It All Begins: [https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/P-16\\_0624.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/P-16_0624.pdf)
26. P-35 Problems Other Than Alcohol  
[https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/p-35\\_0624.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/p-35_0624.pdf)
27. P-48 Alcoholics Anonymous 2022 Membership Survey:  
<https://www.aa.org/alcoholics-anonymous-2022-membership-survey>
28. PI Workbook:  
[https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/M-27i\\_PubInfWorkbk.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/M-27i_PubInfWorkbk.pdf)
29. Preamble Background: [https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/smf-127\\_en.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/smf-127_en.pdf)

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## 30. Press Releases

<https://www.aa.org/press-media>

## 31. Public Information (PI) Service Pieces: <https://www.aa.org/pi-service-cards>

## 32. Public Service Announcements (PSA) are on the aa.org website: <https://www.aa.org/audio-public-service-announcement-downloads>

## 33. Regional Forum Video - <https://www.aa.org/regional-forum-video>

## 34. SMF-176 Services Provided by G.S.O./A.A.W.S.

<https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/SMF-176%20ServicesProvidedByGSO%20EN%201221.pdf>

## 35. Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet:

[https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/F-203\\_7th\\_Tradition\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_2024.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/F-203_7th_Tradition_Fact_Sheet_2024.pdf)

## 36. Speaking at Non-A.A. meetings: <https://www.aa.org/speaking-meetings-outside-aa>

## 37. Understanding Anonymity:

[https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/P-47\\_0924.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/P-47_0924.pdf)

## 38. Unity and Service/Three Legacies Conference: <https://www.3legacyconference.org/>

## 39. What's New button on the GSO website (near the bottom of the home page)

<https://www.aa.org/news-and-announcements>

## 40. There is also an archived newsletter *Markings* (published between 1981-2016):

<https://www.aa.org/markings-newsletter>

## Other Books:

- **AA Comes of Age (AACOA)** <https://onlineliterature.aa.org/A.A.-Comes-of-Age>
- **Our Great Responsibility** - This is a compilation of Bill W's General Service Conference talks 1951 - 1970 <https://onlineliterature.aa.org/Our-Great-Responsibility>
- **Pass It On** may be found at this link - <https://onlineliterature.aa.org/Pass-It-On>

## Grapevine Links

### 1. AA Grapevine's Podcast, a new podcast drops every Monday:

<https://www.aagrapevine.org/podcast>

### 2. AA Grapevine Store Books and Magazines (current and past issues):

<https://www.aagrapevine.org/store>

### 3. Grapevine archive - <https://www.aagrapevine.org/archive/>

### 4. Grapevine article on Podcasts: <https://www.aagrapevine.org/announcing-gv-new-podcast>

### 5. Grapevine Workbook for reps.: [https://www.aagrapevine.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/GV\\_Workbook\\_Dec\\_2023.pdf](https://www.aagrapevine.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/GV_Workbook_Dec_2023.pdf)

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6. History of AA Grapevine on the podcast - thanks for a great meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QFcGTDYIT8>
7. La Vina archive: <https://www.aalavina.org/archivo>
8. Other Grapevine Rep Recourses are available at this link. Lots of good info! - <https://www.aagrapevine.org/gvr-resources>
9. Subscriptions for the Grapevine in the US - <https://www.aagrapevine.org/store/us-subscriptions>
10. *The Language of the Heart: Bill W.'s Grapevine Writings* (LOTH): January 1966, The Guidance of AA's World Affairs page 334: <https://www.aagrapevine.org/store/language-heart-softcover>
11. Grapevine Carry The Message Project: <https://www.aagrapevine.org/2023-carry-message-project>

### **Recordings from past Threads of Recovery workshops at RecoveryTapers.org:**

- The recordings and reference links referenced from this series are going to be all under this link. They are available for free to listen/download. Enjoy and pass it on! - <https://www.recoverytapers.org/product-category/alcoholics-anonymous/advisory-actions/>
- Michael B. and Penny P. – Modem To Modem A History of Online AA audio: <https://www.recoverytapers.org/product/michael-b-and-penny-p-mode-to-modem-a-history-of-online-aa/>
- Service Manual Workshop series with Francine and Merri is at this link : <https://www.recoverytapers.org/product-category/alcoholics-anonymous/service-manual/>
- Service Manual – www.AA.org – Francine W., Palm Desert, CA & Merri M., Des Moines, IA #12 : <https://www.recoverytapers.org/product/service-manual-www-aa-org-francine-w-palm-desert-ca-merri-m-des-moines-ia-12/>
- Previous Concept Workshop audios - <https://www.recoverytapers.org/product-category/alcoholics-anonymous/concept-workshops/>