

Area 59 Pre-Conference Sharing Session for 74th General Service Conference

Was held on 04/06/2024 and hosted by District 25 in Philadelphia in preparation for the 74th General Service Conference which was April 14th through 20th.

There were presentations on items and topics that were to be on the 74th General Service Conference agenda and there was an opportunity for Area 59 members, DCMs, and GSRs to share their group conscience, thoughts, opinions, and experiences with our area delegate in preparation for the General Service Conference.

Items presented and discussed included:

- The financing and the sustainability of continuing the print version of La Vina, the Spanish version of The Grapevine. It currently loses around \$500,000 a year.
- The development of financial reports for various services to get a better understanding of the cost for select services.
 - Would allow for cost effectiveness of projects to be considered.
 - Include projects such as the Meeting Guide App, free items, online content.
- Proposed new pamphlet on the unhoused and a proposed new pamphlet on transgender alcoholics
 - Many saw a need for these pamphlets, but there were financial concerns because creation of new pamphlets is costly and perhaps the revenue may be more useful in other places.
- At the conference there was to be a progress report review on consideration of proposed special conference process when changes to AA Founders' writings are proposed.
- At the conference there will be a review of a proposed final draft of the Plain Language Big Book.
 - The PL BB is a translation of the 4th edition Big Book into a 5th grade reading level.
 - It includes translations of the Doctor's Opinion, Forwards, the first 164 pages, Dr. Bob's Nightmare, the appendices and will include a glossary.
 - The 12 Steps will remain in their original format.
 - The stories were not translated or included.
 - Possible outcomes of the PL BB:
 - Could be approved
 - Approved with suggested changes
 - Denied with suggested changes to be considered in the future, or
 - Denied and the project terminated
- There was to be a progress report and new stories to be reviewed for the 5th Edition of the Big Book.
 - Approximately 2,200 stories were submitted.
 - The 5th Edition will have an update to the stories to better reflect the current membership of AA. There will be a new Preface, and an additional Forward added.
 - The proposed publish date is 2026.

Following the General Service Conference, the Area 59 Delegate will report back through two Mini Assemblies on 05/11/2024 and 06/08/2024.

