

Conference Committee on Finance
New York Hilton Midtown

April 27, 2026: 8 a.m. – Noon

April 28, 2026: 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The Conference Committee on Finance met separately two times following Joint Meetings with the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee on April 13, 2026, and April 26, 2026. The committee accepted the report of the trustees' committee and considered the following agenda items:

A. Review the Self-Support Packet.

The committee recommended that "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" (Item F-3) be updated as follows:

The question and answer regarding the cost per group for GSO to supply basic services on page 11 which reads:

"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 USD, while the average contribution per group was \$140.09 USD. The shortfall between these two figures is made up from income from A.A. publications."

Be replaced with:

"Q. How much does it cost, per group, to operate GSO?"

A. In 2025, the estimated cost-per-group to operate GSO was \$356.37, the estimated average annual contribution per contributing group was \$344.25, and the estimated average annual contribution to meet GSO operating expenses — if only the contributing groups contributed — would be \$1,045.11. Any shortfall in group contributions is made up from individual contributions and income from A.A. publications."

B. Discuss the motion to add wording to "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" (Item F-3)

The committee recommended that "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" (Item F-3) be updated with the following change:

The question and answer on a group making financial contributions to AA Grapevine on page 12, which reads:

“Q: Can our group make financial contributions to AA Grapevine?”

A: No. AA Grapevine, Inc. is not set up to take contributions from groups or individuals. Groups and individual members support the Grapevine by purchasing Grapevine and La Viña subscriptions and other Grapevine publications and using them in their Twelfth Step work.”

Be replaced with:

“Q: How can our group support AA Grapevine / La Viña?”

A: AA Grapevine, Inc. is not set up to take contributions from groups or individuals. Groups and individual members support the Grapevine by purchasing Grapevine and La Viña subscriptions and other Grapevine publications and using them in their Twelfth Step work. When your group is discussing how your funds should be used, you may consider purchasing subscriptions, gift certificates, books and other materials, or supporting the Carry the Message project to ensure that Grapevine and La Viña continue to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. For further information, visit aagrapevine.org.”

Additional Committee Considerations:

· The committee reviewed the Self-Support Packet and provided the following suggestions:

Ø All material within the Self-Support packet be updated to replace reference of “aa.org” with “aa.org/aa-contributions-self-support,” and QR codes where possible.

Ø All material within the Self-Support packet be updated to reflect language consistent with the “A.A. Guidelines on Finance” (Item MG-15) for consistency purposes.

Ø Update “The A.A. Group Treasurer” (Item F-96) with accurate URLs for AAGV.

· The committee reviewed the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$7,500 that an individual A.A. member can make to the General Service Board and took no action. The committee noted that the maximum annual contribution was increased in 2024.

· The committee considered a request for a Twelve Step study guide or workbook and took no action. The committee noted these efforts currently exist locally. The committee expressed support of the efforts already taking place on the Corrections desk at the General Service Office to provide shared experience, literature and template language that specifically addresses how other members have utilized the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* for Step work.

- The committee considered a request to discuss the location of the General Service Conference. The committee requested that the general manager, trustees' General Service Conference Committee, and Meeting, Events and Travel Services (METS) team continue their work together to explore various cost-saving scenarios for the General Service Conference, including the incorporation of a hybrid online and in-person (NYC) format. The committee requested a progress report outlining various options and the estimated cost savings for each be brought back to the 2027 Conference Committee on Finance.

- The committee discussed a request to add wording below the pie chart section of "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" (Item F-3) and took no action on the specific request. The committee discussed Tradition Four and the concept of a group expense versus a contribution to an A.A. entity. The committee noted that this update might conflict with messaging in the section titled "How can groups participate?" on page 7.

- The committee discussed the Quarterly Financial Report (QFR) being made available on aa.org and expressed concern that providing detailed financial reporting might cause confusion. The committee suggested that there would be more beneficial use in providing brief, digestible snapshots of A.A. finances and self-support activity. This could include informative images and grid charts on the contributions and self-support page of aa.org. Suggested topics include:

- Ø Total Contributions to GSO in the previous year, with the sources of those contributions broken down in detail to include, (1) groups; (2) individuals; and (3) other entities such as districts, areas, intergroups and central offices

- Ø What the cost per group would need to be to fully support operating expenses in the previous year

- Ø Bill's writings, such as those in *A.A. Comes of Age* (e.g., pp. 201, 204 and 209), as well as other locations, emphasizing that it is the home group that is the foundation of our service structure.

- The committee requested that the Conference Committee on Agenda consider a workshop or theme at the 2027 General Service Conference that addresses the current concerns and questions of the Fellowship about the Reserve Fund. The topic could also include the purpose of the Reserve Fund and how it is distinct from a group's prudent reserve.

The committee elected Lori McPherson, delegate for Area 29, Maryland, chairperson; and Josh Davies, delegate for Area 55, Northwest Ohio, alternate chairperson.