

October 2026 Now & Then

Newsletter of Delegate Area 74
Northern Wisconsin & Upper Peninsula of Michigan
Volume 67 www.area74.org **Number 4**

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Delegate's Corner

Here we are again, moving into fall—one of the gifts of living in an area with four distinct seasons. Once again, I've learned that when I am willing to step up and serve, I find endless opportunities to learn and grow. It has been almost a year since the Area 74 election set me on this journey as our delegate to the General Service Conference in New York. As I have shared in my reports, this opportunity has been the most challenging responsibility of my recovery journey—with the possible exception of serving as Area chair, often called the toughest job in A.A. Still, the role is manageable for many of us. That is why we say you may be a delegate in training. Don't dismiss the idea too quickly; I certainly did. This responsibility has its own cadence and a constant flow of information, some more important than others. I have also learned to pause before forwarding information because we are all human, communications may contain errors, and I do not want to spread misinformation. So far, so good. I've delivered reports in many settings, from district meetings and a windy park in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, to pleasant picnics along a lazy river. I'm looking forward to the upcoming season of ever-exciting, never-dull PAIs—proposed agenda items—for the next conference. Rumor has it that the Conference Trustees Committee will sort through roughly 140 items this year. Of course, we at the area level will not see that many; they will be vetted, narrowed down, prioritized, and forwarded to the appropriate committees. I'm amazed by how well I understand the process, while recognizing there is always more to learn about how the Traditions and Concepts are applied. Most importantly, we are all responsible for keeping our wonderful fellowship flourishing, moving in a positive direction, and making it available to the still-suffering alcoholic who has yet to join us. A personal reflection: In September, I turned 73 and also became a great-grandfather earlier this year. I now have a life beyond my wildest dreams, something I could not have imagined when I first came through the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous as a chronic alcoholic who had drunk every day for 10 years. Who would have guessed? I've come to understand that I am capable of many things when I remain willing and keep God close.

Thank You for Letting Me Be of Service!

Bill Dornaus Area 74 Delegate Panel 76
920-621-1258 or delegate@area74.org

FROM THE AREA 74 AREA CHAIR/ALTERNATE DELEGATE

Greetings Area 74,

Well Fall is arriving and I wonder where the summer went. It was filled with all sorts of things, and a number were not in my plans.

Life on life's terms has taken on expanded meaning to me. When in our meetings and reading the Big Book, I always thought of that as dealing with our struggles. It always had a negative feel to it. I'm finding that many of the things in life that I am struggling with are the needs of where I have to be, where is my help needed, when can I see the Grandkids, when do I get to the farm to finish up those projects I have started, when am I going to get working on restoring the car that's been patiently waiting in my garage and who will I be able to help next. These are all joyful problems I have now, not the problems that I had when I got sober.

I want to give a big thank you to Terri B for all the help she has given in securing a new location for our October Assembly. I wouldn't have been able to get this taken care of without her help. Due to scheduling error we are now having the October 16th & 17th Workshop/Assembly at the Clarion Pointe Hotel in downtown Rhinelander.

One exercise that I practice is to try for a full inventory of my blessings...
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AS BILL SEES IT, p.

Yours in service,

Brent Henslin

Panel 76 Area 74 Area Chair/Alternate Delegate

Email: altdelegate@area74.org

Phone: (920) 809-2095

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DATES TO REMEMBER 2025-26		
10/16/2026	Area 74 Standing Committee Workshop	Quality Inn, Rhinelander, WI
10/17/2026	Area 74 Assembly	Quality Inn, Rhinelander, WI

****NOTE FROM THE DELEGATE:** The servants of Area 74 are excited to provide the **dates for the Area 74 Service Structure**. We are lucky to live in an area that hosts many conferences, workshops and fellowship events. As your trusted servants, we sometimes miss the chance to participate in local events because they conflict with the service events you have entrusted us to conduct. We hope that, by providing the Area 74 service structure dates in early fall; they can be considered as you plan your service and fellowship events for the coming year. We look forward to seeing you.

NOTE FROM CO-EDITORS: We have combined the general events and the Area 74 Service Structure events into one calendar. **BOLD = AREA 74 events** UNBOLD = General AA events in our area

List of Area Standing Committee Zoom Meetings

Treatment & Accessibility ` 4th Thursday of the Month Time 7 PM ID. -817-2284-5094 P.W. h4z1FR

Corrections meeting 4th Sunday of the Month 5:30 central Time Reoccurring Monthly
ID. 891 5542 2038 PW. 227073

Literature NA Date and time yet to be determined for regular meeting ID 895-7760-2013 pw 938329

P.I. Last Tuesday of Month 7pm Central ID 830-3370-6846 PW. PI

C.P.C. 3rd Tuesday 6pm Central ID 838-8679-0086 PW.478881

Archives 3rd Wednesday 7 PM central Time ID 817-3019-4808 PW. 737159

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PLEASE SEND ITEMS, ARTICLES, DISTRICT NEWS, STANDING COMMITTEE ARTICLES, GROUP OPINIONS AND OTHER ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE UPCOMING ISSUES OF YOUR AREA 74 NEWSLETTER

PLEASE SEND YOUR 2026 DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION TO

AREA74NEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM

OR

PO BOX 192 STURGEON BAY, WI 54235

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CHECK WITH YOUR DCMs & OTHER TRUSTED SERVANTS FOR CURRENT INFO

DISTRICT MEETING October 2026 LIST

DIST	DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	
1	Thursday	2nd Thur	6:30 PM	Nativity Lord Parish 2270 S Oneida St Door #4	Green Bay, WI
2	Sunday	2 nd Sun	2:00 PM	Emmanuel Lutheran Church 349 N Main St	Seymour, WI
3	Thursday	3rd Thur	5:30 PM	Alano Club 1210 E Grand Ave. Zoom info wiaadistrict3.org	Wisconsin Rapids, WI
4	Thursday	1st Thur	6:00 PM	Peace Lutheran Church 293 S. Main St	Amherst, WI
5	Weds	2nd Wed	6:45 PM	Alano Club 12 2926 Pomona Dr Zoom 829 0126 1204 PWdistrict05	Eau Claire, WI
6	Thursday	3 rd Thur	7:45 PM	Club 76 76 E Central Zoom 742 549 8793	Chippewa Falls, WI
7	Sunday	3 rd Sun	3:00 PM	2111 S Central Ave	Marshfield, WI
8	Thursday	1 st Thur	7:00 PM	Wausau Alano Club 711 McClellen St	Wausau, WI
9	Sunday	1st Sun	2:00 PM	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 331 Pine St.	Peshtigo,, WI
10	Saturday	2 nd Sat	9:00 AM	1st United Methodist 724 Arbutus contact DCM for Zoom	Rhineland, WI
11				No information Available	
12	Saturday	1 st Sat	9:00 AM	Hayward Serenity Club, 10339 S Florida Ave & Zoom	Hayward, WI
13	Saturday	1 st Fri	5:00 PM	Northern Lakes Alano 68600 Riverview Ct	Iron River, WI
14	Sunday	2 nd Sun	6:00 PM	New Richmond Alano; 1448 N 4th Street	New Richmond, WI
15				No information Available	
16				No information Available	
17	Friday	Last Fri	5:00 PM	401 Kimberly	Iron Mountain, WI
18	Saturday			No Information Available	
19	Monday	3 rd Mon	5:30 PM	Delta Alano Club 601 Michigan St	Gladstone, MI
20	Saturday	1st Sat	11:00 AM	1212 Morrison St 462 866 9916 PW: D206178	Germfask, MI
21	Tuesday	1 st Tues	6:00 PM	Portage Lake United Church, 1400 E. Houghton Ave	Houghton, MI
22	Thursday	1st Thur	5:30 PM	115 Club or Zoom: 399 417 5176 PW 115	Sturgeon Bay, WI
23	Weds	1st Wed	5:00 PM	Spooner Health (Enter ER Door) 1280 Chandler Dr	Spooner, WI
24	Weds	1 st Wed	8:00 PM	Alano Club 411 E 2nd St S	Ladysmith, WI

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DIST	DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	
1	Thursday	2nd Thur	6:30 PM	Nativity Lord Parish 2270 S Oneida St Door #4	Green Bay, WI
2	Sunday	2 nd Sun	2:00 PM	Changing Lanes Alano 344 Broadway	Wrightstown, WI
3	Thursday	3rd Thur	5:30 PM	Alano Club 1210 E Grand Ave. Zoom info wiaadistrict3.org	Wisconsin Rapids, WI
4	Thursday	1st Thur	6:00 PM	Peace Lutheran Church 293 S. Main St	Amherst, WI
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24	Weds	1 st Wed	8:00 PM	Alano Club 411 E 2nd St S	Ladysmith, WI

Friday October 16, 2026

Area 74 Standing Committee Workshop

Location – Clarion Pointe Rhinelander wis.

70 N. Stevens St. Rhinelander Wis. 54501

(In person only)

6:00 pm Welcome and Introductions

- Back To Basics
- Face to Face Meeting Time
- Set Goals for 2027
- Year 2 Preparation
- Closing Remarks
-

Agenda for Area 74 Assembly

Saturday October 17, 2025 -Time 9:00 am Location – Clarion Pointe Rhinelander

70 N. Stevens St. Rhinelander WI. 54501 Phone - 715-362-7100

Hybrid Zoom Meeting ID: 497 428 9816 Passcode:1212144

8:30 am New GSR and New DCM Orientation

9:00 am– Welcome, Prayer, Housekeeping, Concepts & Traditions, Opening Remarks

Roll Call

Area Chair introduce Past Delegates in attendance

Approval of Minutes from April 18th, 2026

Area Officer Reports

Chair -Delegate-Secretary-Registrar-Treasurer

Old Business

Nominations:

Registrar

Secretary

Treatment & Accessibilities

Corrections – WI

Guidelines Update

Workshop/Presentation/Discussion

Pros & Cons of current Calendar Trial Period

New Business

Elections for the odd year committee member in Finance and Structures & Guidelines

-Approval/Confirmation

2027 Schedule

2027 Budget

2027 ECR Forum

Conference updates/Including bids

2026 Area 74/ECR Conference

2027 Area 74 -District 13

WICYPAA

2028 Conference Bid

Meeting Close with Declaration of Unity

DATES TO REMEMBER 2027 <u>DRAFT</u>		
1/16/2027	Area 74 Area Committee Meeting	Reiter Center Three Lakes, WI
2/12 - 2.14 2027	ECR Conf of Delegates Past & Present	Best Western Airport Milwaukee, WI
2.1 -3.5.2027	76th GSC Agenda Items Discussions	Area 74 Zoom Meeting
3.13.2026	Area 74 Delegate's Workshop	TBD
3.19.2026	Area 74 Standing Committee Workshops	TBD
3.20.2026	Area 74 Assembly	TBD
4.11-4.17.2026	76th General Service Conference	NYC, NY
6.25 -6.27.2027	ECR Regional Forum	Radisson Hotel/Oneida Airport Green Bay, WI
8.21.27	Area 74 Area Committee Mtg	Reiter Center Three Lakes, WI
9.15 -9.17.2027	Area 74 Annual Conference	AmericInn Ashland, WI
10.15.27	Area 74 Standing Committee Workshops	TBD
10.16.27	Area 74 Election Assembly	TBD

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Send Area 74 Contributions To:
Area 74 Treasury
PO Box 1002 Eau Claire, WI 54702

Very Important!! Please include group number, group name,
and address of group location or point of contact
If there is only a group name and location, or contact address, please include this.
Thank You, Area 74 Treasurer treasurer@area74.org

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Dear General Service Conference Members –

Since the 75th General Service Conference, the office has received many questions about the fifth edition Big Book. To help us better respond to those questions internally, a simple “FAQ” document was created.

This was shared with the trustees’ Literature Committee at their August meeting, and the committee suggested that it might be a useful resource for other Conference members.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Warmly,

Misha Q., GSO Sta , Literature literature@aa.org

FAQs related to the Fifth Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous

Why was a fifth edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous created?

In 2020–2021, groups of A.A. members from different areas each submitted proposed agenda items (PAIs) requesting that an updated Big Book be created. The resulting agenda item was discussed at the 71st General Service Conference (GSC), and that year Conference members (by a two-thirds vote) made an Advisory Action that requested the development of a fifth edition of Alcoholics Anonymous (the Big Book).

In 2021, when the General Service Conference passed an Advisory Action asking for a fifth edition, there was an awareness that the world, and our Fellowship, had changed in the 20 years since the fourth edition had been published. With that in mind, the language of the Advisory Action specifically called for “an update of stories to better reflect current membership.”

When were previous editions of the Big Book published in English?

- First edition: 1939
- Second edition: 1955
- Third edition: 1976
- Fourth edition: 2001

How many new stories were received for consideration for the fifth edition?

2,393 members of the Fellowship submitted their personal stories for consideration.
(More than double the 1,200 submissions received for the fourth edition.)

How did stories get selected?

The Advisory Action stated that the fifth edition should include “an update of stories to better reflect current membership.”

To review and evaluate the story submissions, the trustees’ Literature Committee created a subcommittee in 2021. They began by reviewing the processes that led to the creation of the first four editions of Alcoholics Anonymous. The subcommittee was careful to craft a process grounded in A.A. principles and history. Mindful

of A.A. cofounder Bill W.’s observation that “the audience for the book is people who are coming to Alcoholics Anonymous now. Those who are here have already heard our stories.”

A “Call for Stories” was opened in April 2022 and closed October 31, 2022. Stories were accepted in English, Spanish and French. Members were able to submit stories electronically, as well as through postal mail.

As the stories came in, the subcommittee fine-tuned the process for evaluating the story submissions that would provide an effective and careful review of every submission.

By early 2025, the subcommittee was able to reduce the number of stories being considered down to 48. These were shared with the full trustees’ Literature Committee and the Conference Committee on Literature who were both provided the opportunity to provide input on, or express concerns around, any of the story being considered.

Throughout 2025, the subcommittee continued to meet and discuss the stories, frequently referring to the original Advisory Action. Emphasis was placed on selecting stories with depth and weight that would help a newcomer identify and find hope. In the end, a final set of 26 new stories were selected. These stories reflect A.A.’s geographic diversity and feature the experiences of those who got sober as young people, as well as those who found sobriety later in life. The stories also reflect different kinds of lived experiences, including being part of a remote community, coming to the U.S. or Canada as an immigrant, being a member of the LGBTQ+ community and serving in the military. These new stories also include members who got sober during periods of incarceration and some who struggled with the notion of a Higher Power. All found sobriety, hope and a new way of life through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I’d like to invite the authors of some of the new Big Book stories to speak at an A.A. event. Can you share their names or contact information with me?

I’m sorry, we cannot share that information. In fact, story submitters are encouraged not to publicly share that their personal story has been selected. In A.A. terms, those stories are considered anonymous spiritual contributions.

I heard that my favorite story from the fourth edition will not be in the fifth edition. Why not?

The subcommittee charged with developing the fifth edition went through a careful process to select which stories would be retained from the fourth edition. This process included asking members of the trustees’ Literature Committee and the Conference Committee on Literature to help determine which stories from the fourth edition should be included in the fifth edition.

After reviewing the feedback from both committees, the subcommittee recommended that of the 42 personal stories in the fourth edition, 12 should be included in the fifth edition, including:

·	Dr Bob’s Nightmare	·	The Keys of The Kingdom
·	Alcoholics Anonymous	·	Crossing the River of Denial
·	Number Three	·	Winner Takes All
·	Gratitude in Action	·	Acceptance Was The Answer
·	Women Suffer Too	·	Listening To The Wind
·	The Vicious Cycle	·	Freedom From Bondage
·	Jim's Story		

Those that were not retained include the following 30 stories:

·	Our Southern Friend	·	A Drunk, Like You
·	The Man Who Mastered Fear	·	Window of Opportunity
·	He Sold Himself Short	·	My Bottle, My Resentments,
·	The Missing Link	·	and Me
·	Fear of Fear	·	He Lived Only to Drink
·	The Housewife Who Drank	·	Safe Haven
·	at Home Physician, Heal	·	Twice Gifted
·	Thyself!	·	Building a New Life
·	My Chance to Live	·	On The Move
·	Student of Life	·	A Vision of Recovery Gutter
·	Because I'm an Alcoholic	·	Bravado
·	It Might Have Been Worse	·	Empty On the Inside
·	Tightrope	·	Grounded
·	Flooded with Feeling Me an	·	Another Chance
·	Alcoholic?	·	
·	The Perpetual Ques	·	1. A.Late Start
			A.A. Taught Him to Handle Sobriety

I heard that Conference changed a word in the first 164 pages. Is that true?

Yes. There was an Advisory Action from the 76th General Service Conference to remove an offensive term from the Big Book. This was followed by a Floor Action to remove the same word from the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book.

The best way to learn more about this process is to connect with your area delegate. In most areas, the delegates organize “report-back” events to share about the General Service Conference. In other areas, those report-backs occur at regular area assembly meetings. For more on the report-back process, see page 36 of The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services.

Aren't the first 164 pages protected like the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions are?

No, the first 164 pages of the English-language Big Book are not “protected” in the same way as our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions are “protected” by the Conference Charter. To learn more, you can consult Appendix K, p. 123, of The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services (2024–2026 Edition) where you will find the current Conference Charter, which was the document that authorized creation of the A.A. General Service Conference in 1955.

Article Three of the Conference Charter states:

3. Conference Relation to A.A.: The Conference will act for A.A. in the perpetuation and guidance of its world services, and it will also be the vehicle by which the A.A. movement can express its view upon all matters of vital A.A. policy and all hazardous deviations from A.A. Tradition. Delegates should be free to vote as their conscience dictates; they should also be free to decide what questions should be taken to the group level, whether for information, discussion, or their own direct instruction. But no change in Article 12 of the Charter or in the Twelve Traditions of A.A. or in the Twelve Steps of A.A. may be made with less than the written consent of three-quarters of the A.A. groups, as described in the Resolution adopted by the 1955 Conference and Convention.

Wasn't there a General Service Conference Advisory Action against changing the first 164 pages of the Big Book?

There have been a few different Advisory Actions recommending that the first 164 pages (as well as other parts of the book like the Forewords and the Appendices) not be changed.

To look those up, as well any other Conference Advisory Actions taken since 1951, you can refer to the Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous (Item M-39) Note: this volume gets updated annually.

If there was an Advisory Action not to change the first 164 pages of Alcoholics Anonymous, how can this change have been made?

One important principle built into our Conference process is that one Conference's actions are not binding upon another. This means that as things evolve and new information is made available, the General Service Conference can change its mind (or change something that had been decided at a previous Conference).

This principle derives from Article 12 of the Conference Charter, also known as Concept XII, The General Warranties of the Conference, which can be found on page C-48 of The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services (2024–2026 Edition)

Why wasn't the change to the word in Chapter 7 "Working With Others" on the 2026 Conference agenda?

The Conference agenda, along with related background materials, has traditionally been circulated to area delegates a few months before the annual meeting of the General Service Conference. In many areas, delegates share that agenda and background with members, either directly — by email, for example — or at "Pre-Conference assemblies," where they often seek input on items of interest.

At times, however, additional items of importance to A.A. are brought to the Conference through the use of Floor Actions or through a Conference Committee under New Business.

What are "Floor Actions" and how did the practice come about?

A motion made on the floor, or Floor Action, was an integral procedure of the General Service Conference from the very beginning. Evidently, matters not on the Conference agenda were raised for discussion from the floor that resulted in a motion and vote. This was basically the procedure in the early years of the Conference. During these early, experimental years of the Conference, the delegates were still configuring the Conference process. There was no set manner of getting items on the Conference agenda, such as filtering items through the trustees' committees in the fashion it is done today. The agenda at the Conference was much less packed and the delegates thus more able to have informal discussions from the floor. In many cases delegates had to bring up issues on the floor to have them discussed. It was only natural for them to do so.

It may be argued that the concept of a floor action soon evolved into something that was seen as the privilege of any delegate. The delegates would give discretion to the board and the trustees' committees to decide what would go on the Conference agenda, but each delegate retained the right, always, of proposing an idea — even one not accepted as an agenda item by the trustees — as a Floor Action.

Eventually the processes related to how Floor Actions would be handled became organized and spelled out in a document called "How the Conference Operates" provided to Conference members each year as part of the Conference Manual. This information is also provided in a slightly different format on page 41 of The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services (2024–2026 Edition).

Can area delegates raise topics in their Conference committees that are not on their agendas?

Yes. Matters of pressing importance can also be brought by area delegates to the Conference committees to which they are assigned. These would come to that committee under the umbrella of "New Business" or "Other Subjects." As it notes on page 44 of The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services (2024–2026 Edition), under "Committee Activity:"

During their deliberations, Conference committees have a range of options available to them. They can address the agenda items as they are, modify them, and even consider new agenda items. They can take no action on an agenda item, generally reporting out why they are taking no action in their report. They can report suggestions or observations, usually in the form of Additional Committee Considerations.

Why wasn't the discussion about changing the word in the Big Book paused and brought back for wider discussion among the Fellowship?

The recommendation to change the word came out of the Conference Committee on Literature, along with other recommendations and committee considerations. As it notes in the Conference Manual, recommendations that come to the Conference floor are automatically motions that have been made and seconded.

In terms of spiritual principles, the "Right of Decision" exercised by Conference members can be drawn from Concept III, which outlines the "Right of Decision." On pages C-10–C11 in the Concept III essay in The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services (2024–2026 Edition), co-founder Bill W. writes:

There will always be plenty of ultimate authority to correct ineptness, ineffectiveness, or abuse. If the Conference does not function well, the groups can send in better Delegates. If the Trustees get badly out of line, the Conference can censure them, or even reorganize them. If the Headquarters' services go sour, the Trustees can elect better directors and hire better help. These remedies are ample and direct. But for so long as our world services function reasonably well — and there should always be charity for occasional mistakes — then "trust" must be our watchword, otherwise we shall wind up leaderless.

These are the reasons for my belief that we should forthwith invest in all of our service bodies and people a traditional "Right of Decision." In our structure of world service this "Right of Decision" could be practically applied as follows:

1. Excepting its Charter provisions to the contrary, the Conference always should be able to decide which matters it will fully dispose of on its own responsibility, and which questions it will refer to the A.A. groups (or more usually, to their Committee Members or GSRs) for opinion or for definite guidance.
2. Therefore it ought to be clearly understood and agreed that our Conference Delegates are primarily the world servants of A.A. as a whole, that only in a secondary sense do they represent their respective areas. Consequently they should, on final decisions, be entitled to cast their votes in the General Service Conference according to the best dictates of their own judgment and conscience at that time.

Isn't this a slippery slope? Will there now be a huge number of changes to the Big Book?

As with all Conference-approved literature, future changes to the Big Book would need to be approved by substantial unanimity — a two-thirds vote by the Conference. Given the high bar and the reluctance of Conference members to make these kinds of changes, it doesn't seem likely that large numbers of additional changes will be made. Questions like these do underscore the need for each area to elect well-qualified delegates.

- For more information about selection of area delegates, see page 33 of The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services (2024–2026 Edition),
- Consult the service piece SMF-29 for more information about Conference-approved literature.

What if I don't like the fifth edition? Can I still get a fourth edition of the Big Book?

It is the practice of AAWS to publish only the most current version of a piece of literature. Once the fifth edition of Alcoholics Anonymous is made available, AAWS will stop selling the fourth edition (except for the existing stock from the warehouse).

It should be noted, however, that since the fourth edition of Alcoholics Anonymous was first introduced in 2001, more than 11 million copies have been printed of the hard cover book alone. This likely means that fourth editions will continue to be available in the marketplace for many years to come.

More importantly, while the A.A. General Service Conference is supposed to serve as the voice and conscience of Alcoholics Anonymous in the United States and Canada, both the Conference Charter and Tradition Four ensure that A.A. members and A.A. groups will continue to be free to choose whatever literature (if any) they use. So, a group could use the fourth edition (or even the first, second or third editions!)

Has an edition of the Big Book ever been changed after the initial publication?

The fourth edition of Alcoholics Anonymous was approved by the General Service Conference in 2001. The following year, an agenda item was added to change a portion of the new Foreword. This resulted in the following Advisory Action in 2002:

It was recommended that:

Although the committee acknowledged the importance of electronic meetings to some A.A. members, the sentence “Fundamentally, though, the difference between an electronic meeting and the home group around the corner is only one of format,” in the last paragraph of the Foreword to the Fourth Edition, be deleted in future printings of the Big Book, Alcoholic Anonymous.

How has the Fellowship responded to outdated terminology in the past? Occasionally, the General Service Conference will decide to update language used in our literature, in order to make it more accessible, accurate or helpful.

For example, in 2021 there was the following General Service Conference Advisory Action:

It was recommended that:

Revisions be made to AAWS literature directed to members behind the walls and that the terms “inmate” and “order” be replaced with “person in custody.”

What happened to the discussion about the “founders’ writings”?

Questions about whether or not publications written by A.A. cofounders Bill W. and Dr. Bob should be preserved exactly as originally written have been circulating for decades.

Some members strongly believe that our texts should change with the times, while others just as strongly believe that the language of our key texts should remain as originally published. Still others take a middle ground, expressing the idea that necessary changes might be made, but only when absolutely necessary, as determined by the General Service Conference.

In 2022, this topic came to the General Service Conference and was subsequently referred to the trustees’ Literature Committee for further consideration.

In 2025, the topic came up again in the form of a Conference agenda item that suggested that the Conference Charter should be revised to protect the first 164 pages of the Big Book.

In 2026, this topic was again referred to the trustees’ Literature Committee, where a subcommittee has been established to explore some possible avenues for the Fellowship to consider.

What other changes have been made to the first 164 pages?

There have been lots of minor editorial changes — but one major one stands out:

One of the most recognized changes in the first edition of the Big Book was when the phrase “spiritual experience” in the first printing of the first edition (Chapter 5, “How It Works”) was changed to “spiritual awakening” in the second printing, thus prompting the need for Appendix II. Bill’s intent in changing the wording was to offer a wider sense of identification to members, regardless of whether one’s spiritual growth is sudden or if it unfolds more slowly.



AA Area 74

2026 Archives workshops

February 20-21; April 24-25; November 6-7.

10 am Fri. until 3pm Sat. Each weekend & overnight

accommodations contact Barbara Knauf bknauf@sarcenter.com

715-443-2236 EX 114

Location

**St. Anthony's Spirituality Center
300 E. 4th St., Marathon, WI 54448.**

Call for more information:

Candace B.

bahrccb@yahoo.com

715-203-6137

AA Fall Workshop

District 4, Area 74

Saturday Oct. 3

The Three Legacies in Action

Jensen Community Center

487 N. Main Street

Amherst, WI 54406

Doors open at 8:00

Program begins at 9:00

- Prizes
- Ask-It Basket at the end of each panel discussion
- Dessert Contest
 - Bring your best homemade dessert: Prizes for the winners
- Light Breakfast and Full Lunch Provided

AGENDA



8:00 – 9:00 Registration, light breakfast, and meet-and-greet festivities

- Sponsored by the Trudge the Road Group

9:00 – 9:10 Opening

9:10 – 10:00 Panel 1: Unity: The Home Group

- Ask it Basket

10:00 – 10:50 Panel 2: Service: Getting Connected

- Ask it Basket
- Break

11:00 – 11:50 Panel 3: Sponsorship: Helping Others Recover

- Ask it Basket
- Break

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 1:30 Dessert Judging and division winner prize awards

1:30 – 2:30: Speaker - Justin C., Beaver Dam

2:30: Wrap up and final prize drawing

District 06 of A.A. Area 74

PRESENTS

STEPS: (VIII) & (IX) Workshop

Sponsors, Bring Your Sponsees

Pizza Lunch & Drinks

Saturday, October 10th, 11:00 AM

Bring Your Step IV Inventory & Step VIII Lists

*Pizza delivered around Noon, followed by Introductions
A.A. Panel Members Sharing their Experience,
Strength & Hope Working their Eighth & Ninth Steps*

Alano Club 76 (Tower Entrance)

76 East Central Street, Chippewa Falls WI 54729

Phone: (715) 529-4803 Email: Club76chippewa@gmail.com

Please call with any questions or to R.S.V.P.

Jim M.: (703) 403-1065, or John BB: (715) 429-0393

EAT'N MEET'N

INTERGROUP

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 2026



ST. MARKS CHURCH

140 N GREEN BAY RD, NEENAH



DOORS
5 PM



DINNER
6 PM



SPEAKERS
7 PM

Al-Anon Speaker:
KIMMERY W.

AA Speaker:
BRENT H.

**HOT
BEEF & HAM
PROVIDED**

**PLEASE
BRING A DISH
TO PASS**

**50/50
RAFFLE**



DOOR
PRIZES!



TRAVELING
BOOKSTORE



LITERATURE
DISCOUNTS!



Hosted by
Fox Valley Central Office



Friday Night Big Book Group Presents:

Fall Speaker Meeting

Chad S.

*with the Full Measures Speaker Group
from Cedar Rapids Iowa*

When: Friday Nov. 6th

Where: Alano Club of Marshfield

Potluck & Fellowship @ 5:30pm

Beef tacos provided, bring a side dish / dessert to pass if you can!

Speaker @ 7:00pm



**4th ANNUAL
ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE INTERGROUP
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH**

**DOORS OPEN 4PM
PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
2330 E CALUMET STREET, APPLETON
ENTER DOOR 1**

EVENING SCHEDULE

**** CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR! ****

4PM REGISTRATION

5PM DINNER

6PM AL-ANON SPEAKER - Mary B

6:30 AA SPEAKER - Jon W

7:00 50/50 DRAWING

**PASTA BAR PROVIDED - MEAT AND VEGGIE OPTIONS
WILL BE SERVED**

**50/50 RAFFLE*DOOR PRIZES*CENTRAL OFFICE
MERCHANDISE*FOOD-FUN-FELLOWSHIP!**

PLEASE BRING DISH TO PASS

****AND****

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM FOR FOOD PANTRY

Hosted by district 02 area 74



The Home Group Workshop

Service, Safety, and the Digital Basket

Topics Include:



Inclusiveness



Digital Basket



Primary Purpose



Group Service Positions



Safety (Yellow Card)

No
Packer
Game!



Sunday, November 29th
1pm - 3pm

Appleton Public Library
(Conference Room C)

No Reservation Needed!
Coffee & Snacks Provided!
All Are Welcome!





Fox Valley

CENTRAL OFFICE

— Your local resource for —

RECOVERY & SERVICE

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY. CARRYING THE MESSAGE.



1528 N Ballard Rd
Suite 16
Appleton, WI 54911



HOURS

Monday through Friday
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM



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Office



(920) 731-4331
24-Hour Hotline



www.focvalleycentraloffice.com



fvco54952@gmail.com

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!



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Available for AA &
Al-Anon Groups



MEDALLIONS

Celebrate milestones
in recovery



GIFTS & MORE

Handmade greeting cards,
book covers, key chains,
coffee mugs & more.



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Preserving our history.
Come take a look.



SERVICE / VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Get involved. Make a
difference. Carry the message.

*One Day
at a Time*

Come in – We would love to meet you! 

Please direct all
communications to:

P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
Fax: (212) 870-3003

To:

GSRs, DCMs, Trustees, Non-trustee Directors, Area Officers & Committee Chairs, Delegates, Appointed Committee Members, Intergroups and Central Offices, Group Contacts, GSO and Grapevine Employees

September 21, 2026

Dear A.A. Friends:

We are grateful for the many ways A.A. members support the Fellowship. Every Seventh Tradition contribution helps carry the message of hope and recovery and supports the work of your General Service Office.

As part of our ongoing effort to make contributions as simple and easy as possible, we are pleased to introduce our new contributions platform. The new platform reflects feedback we've heard from members and groups, offering more choices, greater flexibility, and improved tools for managing contributions. The platform will go live on the [contributions page](#) on [aa.org](#) mid-October.

We want to share what you can look forward to, as well as a few changes to familiar features.

More ways to contribute

One of the most significant improvements is the number of ways groups and members can make a contribution. The new platform will support the following payment methods and platforms:

- ACH from U.S. bank accounts
- EFT from Canadian bank accounts
- Credit and debit cards
- Apple Pay
- Google Pay
- Venmo
- PayPal

Members also will be able to make contributions in Canadian dollars (CAN), *with those contributions settling in CAN* and acknowledgements provided in CAN\$.

You will have the option to cover the processing costs associated with your contribution as well.

And for members who prefer to give anonymously, anonymous contributions will continue to be available.

More flexibility and control

The new platform provides enhanced self-service capabilities. For example, through the new contributions portal, you'll be able to:

- Make contributions online on behalf of an Area or District.
- More easily search for groups, districts, and areas when making Seventh Tradition contributions.

We've heard from members who want greater flexibility in managing recurring contributions. The new platform will allow you to:

- Change the amount of a recurring contribution
- Update maximum contribution limits
- Pause or resume a recurring contribution
- Schedule a contribution for a specific date
- Select a different recurring contribution frequency after a contribution has been created

We will also now be able to provide improved communication about recurring contributions, including notifications of failed payments, expired cards, and abandoned contributions, helping you stay informed and avoid unnecessary interruptions.

Accessing the contributions portal is designed to be simple, too. There's no password to remember and no separate login required. A secure link will be sent directly to your email address when you need to access your contribution information.

What will change

With these improvements, the A.A. World Services Board has authorized a few changes to make the contributions platform more intuitive, more reliable, and easier to maintain. These include:

- French and Spanish translation: Translation for French and Spanish content will be done by machine translation. Previously, this content was translated by the GSO Language Services Department.
- Acknowledging a group: Members making individual contributions will no longer be able to designate a group to receive acknowledgment, sometimes referred to as a "soft credit."
- Recurring contribution frequency: When initially setting up a recurring contribution, the only available frequency will be monthly. After you create the recurring contribution, you can change the frequency in the donor portal.

We know that the introduction of a new platform, there may be a period of adjustment and questions from members. We are here to support you as you navigate the new platform and answer any questions you may have. Please contact memberservices@aa.org with any support questions related to the new platform.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this transition and for your ongoing generosity that supports our Fellowship.

With gratitude for your continued service to Alcoholics Anonymous,

Bob W.
General Manager, GSO

Deaf AA Support Line

Have a problem with alcohol?

There is a solution!

A.A. has a simple program that works.

It's based on one alcoholic helping another.

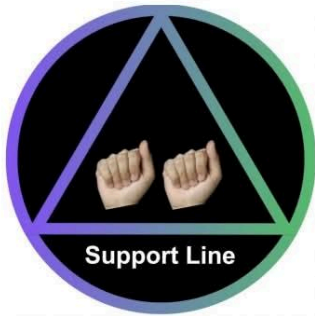


 **Call Us:** (503) 714-3331 or

 **Email Us:** deafaasupline@gmail.com

Leave a sign-mail and the best time for us to return your call

A Deaf AA member will get back to you within 24 hours



Deafaa.org

We offer support related to recovery from alcoholism.

Deaf AA & ASL Interpreted Meetings

Now & Then
P.O.Box 192
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

AREA 74 NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

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ELECTRONIC SUBSCRIPTIONS: (NO COST)

Please send a request via email to with your contact information to area74newsletter@gmail.com.
The Now & Then will be emailed to you monthly at no cost*.

Now & Then

P.O. Box 192

Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

*Every Group and Area Committee Position within Area 74 receives the Now & Then via email at no cost. No need for GSRs to subscribe, once New Group Change Form is sent to Area 74 Registrar, GSRs in Area 74 automatically receive their Group's copy. Visit the area74.org website, go to 'Links' on the menu and the forms are available there. Additionally, any individual can sign up for receiving a monthly email of the newsletter or it can be forwarded to your Group's email distribution list. Just send an email to area74newsletter@gmail.com to be added to the list.

NOTE If someone unsubscribes to the Area 74 Newsletter, the newsletter cannot re-subscribe someone. Our email marketing service does not allow for that.