



Upcoming Events:

Saturday, August 27 VT Bid for NECYPAA 2023 Summer Party Oakledge Park **Burlington** 4-8pm (volleyball, cornhole, icecream social, and speaker)

Sunday, August 28 – District 4 Sober Picnic, **Lake Elmore** Park Pavillion 10am-4pm

Saturday, September 10 – Keep It Simple Group Annual Picnic, United Church of **Underhill**, RT 15 4pm picnic, 6:30pm meeting

Sunday, September 11 – Sobriety Scramble Golf Tournament, **West Bolton** Country Club, 10am-5pm

Sunday, September 18 – 9am-4pm Full Area Assembly (online *)

Sunday, October 2 – **Ripton** Round-Up, 11am hike at Robert Frost trail & 11th Step Meeting to follow

* Check www.aavt.org for updates and login information

Spotlight on A.A. past and present through our Literature: Did you know how the A.A. Preamble came to be, and how it has changed over the years?

THE PREAMBLE was introduced in the June 1947 issue of the AA Grapevine magazine. It was written by the then-editor, who borrowed much of the phrasing from the Foreword to the original edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous.

In those early years, the Grapevine had just begun to circulate among nonalcoholics, and the Preamble was intended primarily to describe for them what AA is and is not. It is still often used for public information purposes. As time passed, it began appearing in all Conference-approved publications, and many AA groups now use it to open meetings.

The original version differed in two ways from the familiar form we all know: 1) It stated that the only requirement for membership is an honest desire to stop drinking,” and 2) it contained only the very brief statement “AA has no dues or fees.”

People often ask why the word “honest” was deleted. At the 1958 General Service Conference, a delegate asked about the words “honest desire to stop drinking,” suggesting that since “honest” does not appear in the Third Tradition, it might be deleted from the Preamble. In discussion, most Conference members felt that as AA had matured, it had become almost impossible to determine what constitutes an honest desire to stop drinking, and also that some who might be interested in the program could be confused by the phrase. Thus, as part of the evolution of AA, the phrase had been dropped from common usage. The midsummer 1958 meeting of the General Service Board of Trustees ratified the deletion, and since then the Preamble has read simply “a desire to stop drinking.”

At the same time, the phrase “AA has no dues or fees” was clarified to read as it presently does: “There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.” The current version of the Preamble appears on page one of every issue of the Grapevine.

At the 71st General Service Conference in 2021, after a series of votes, a final Advisory Action requested that “The Preamble revision replacing the words ‘men and women’ with the word ‘people’ be presented to the General Service Board for approval as the new revised A.A. Preamble.” The revised A.A. Preamble first appeared in the July 2021 AA Grapevine and the July/August La Viña, and afterwards throughout Grapevine and A.A.W.S. literature and other media.

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Service Material from the General Service Office
THE AA PREAMBLE: BACKGROUND INFORMATION (SMF-127)

**Interested in serving
A.A. in Vermont?**

**Reach out to your Area
Chair about any of the
open committee chair
positions below, or**

**Attend your next
district meeting to see
how you can become
involved! DCM
positions are open in
Districts 3, 5, and 8**

**Email:
area70chair@aavt.org**

D.C.M.s

- District 1 John P
- District 2 LaVerne F
- District 3 (open)**
- District 4 Kyle E
- District 5 (open)**
- District 6 Marc M
- District 7 Margaret M
- District 8 (open)**
- District 9 Katie Z
- District 10 Terry H
- District 11 Janet A

Officers:

- Delegate Michael K
- Alt Delegate Jim T
- Chair Lisa E
- Treasurer Jim G
- Secretary Shari M

Committee Chairs:

- Archives Jennifer D
- Convention (open)**
- Corrections Tammy W
- Finance Craig G
- Literature / Grapevine Whitney W
- Meeting List (open)**
- PI/CPC* (open)**
- Registrar Karen R
- Service Information (open)**
- Treatment/Accessibilities (open)**
- Website Chris R

*Combined Public Information /
Cooperation with the
Professional Community

**Area 70 (Vermont) contributions
PO Box 367
Shaftsbury, VT 05262**

**AA General Service contributions
PO Box 2407
James A Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407**

For those were not able to attend our Delegate's General Conference report-back in June, here is a brief overview of some of the work that was done. There are 93 area delegates in the U.S. and Canada, who make up 2/3 of the Conference body – that means that the groups themselves, who have *delegated* their authority, are represented by a 2/3 majority at the Conference.

Is *your* group exercising its voice through a G.S.R.'s participation in your district and our Area?

2022 Conference Advisory Actions

Conference Advisory Actions represent recommendations put forward by the standing committees of the General Service Conference that have been discussed, voted on and approved by the Conference body as a whole with substantial unanimity (defined as a majority of at least two-thirds). A sampling of Advisory Actions from the 2022 General Service Conference appears below in abbreviated form. A complete list, along with the full report of additional items considered by each Conference committee, will be published in the Conference Final Report (available from G.S.O. in late summer).

Agenda — That the theme of the 2023 Conference be “A.A.’s Three Legacies – Our Common Solution.”

Literature — That text regarding safety and A.A be added to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” and the booklet Living Sober; the draft of the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” be approved; these updated pamphlets be approved: “Is A.A. for You?,” “Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?,” “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.” and “This Is A.A.”

Policy and Admissions — That the compilation of all Conference committee background be made available simultaneously in English, French and Spanish.

Public Information — That revisions be made to the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity” regarding virtual A.A. meetings and in the section “Anonymity in the digital age”; the outdated “A.A. Fact File” be retired; a 2022 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted.

Report and Charter — That The A.A. Service Manual be revised to correct inaccuracies and to provide clarity and consistency on the roles, responsibilities and relationships between the General Service Office, AA Grapevine and A.A. World Services, Inc.

Treatment and Accessibilities — That the Long Form of Tradition Five be added to the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” in the section “What is an A.A. Group?” at its next printing.

Trustees — That the trustees’ Literature Committee revise the pamphlet “Do You Think You’re Different?” to update the stories to represent greater diversity.

Floor Action — That the trustees’ Literature Committee continue to make edits to the draft pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.”

- Summary reprinted from Summer 2022 issue of [Box 4-5-9](#). You can find this and more news and announcements at aa.org.