

Region 87 – 87 Area – Area 87

Assemblée régional - Rapport du Délégué
Area Assembly – Delegate’s report
Àrea Asamblea - Informe de los delegados

Minutes of the meeting held on June 14, 2025
Centre communautaire Anjou, 7800 Bd Métropolitain Est, Anjou (Québec) H1K 1A1

9 a.m. **Opening of the meeting**

Reading of the 12 Traditions

A word from the chair:

Lucien welcomes everyone. He invites participants to help themselves to doughnuts and muffins. We planned for a meeting of more than 100 people, but there aren't that many of us here this morning. I've been asked to ask you to keep your coffee cups. We don't have many in reserve.

He explains the schedule for the day. There will be a buffet served after the Delegate’s report.

News from the BSR: Since the beginning of May, our director has been going through a difficult personal situation due to the health of her spouse, who has been diagnosed with cancer. After a meeting with the employees and the treasurer, it was decided to release Ginette for a period of a few weeks. The three other staff members will take care of the work until the director returns. Everything is running as usual, with a few delays here and there, but all is well. We thank you for your understanding and patience.

9:15 a.m. **Report from the 75th General Service Conference by André D.**

Hello, everyone. I am the delegate from Area 87, Panel 74. I have been assigned to the Conference Public Information Committee for the duration of my term, which covers the 74th and 75th Conferences.

Thank you to District 17 for hosting us, as well as to the entire logistics and coffee team and to District 14, which was designated to support the Group Services Committee for this assembly. Thank you also to our interpreters.

Since returning from the conference, I have already given five reports in the districts that invited me. So this morning, I am giving my sixth.

Before I tell you about the conference, I would like to provide some context:

December 11, 1934: Bill W.'s last hospitalization. This is therefore his sobriety date.

May 12, 1935: Bill meets Dr. Bob for the first time. Bob did not become abstinent right away. His last beer was on June 10, 1935. This became the birth date of AA.

June 10, 2025: The Alcoholics Anonymous movement will celebrate its 90th anniversary.

Don't forget that from July 3 to 6 this year, the AA International Convention will be held in Vancouver. Imagine downtown Vancouver with 50,000 alcoholics at the same time—it will be memorable.

By the end of 1935, with Bill and Dr. Bob, there were five recovered alcoholics.

In 1936, there were 15; in 1937, there were 40. In 1938, Bill was writing Chapter 5 of the Big Book, and there were 100 members. The Big Book was published in January 1939. By the end of that year, there were 400 recovered alcoholics. And people began to talk about AA in the newspapers. There was the famous dinner hosted by John Rockefeller Jr., and by the end of 1940, there were 2,000 recovered alcoholics.

On March¹ 1941, an article by Jack Alexander appeared in the Saturday Evening Post. By the end of 1941, there were 8,000 recovered alcoholics. Membership had quadrupled.

There has been strong growth since then, reaching a membership of 2.5 million in 1992.

In 2021, estimates of our membership declined to just under 2,000,000.

Last year, in 2024, in the Canada/United States conference, we went from 58,000 groups to 55,000. This represents a decline of approximately 3.7%.

So the picture is this: steady growth until 1992 and a downward trend over the last 30 years.

AA will always be there for alcoholics who ask for help; that's not the issue. But what does the conference have to do with it?

The first conference was held in 1951. There were about 40 delegates in the first panel. My panel is 74. The panel number changes every year. In 1952, it was panel 2, to which another 40 or so delegates were added. In 1953, it was panel 3, and so on. In 2026, it will be panel 76.

The purpose of creating the conference was to replace our founders and give ultimate authority to AA groups. When we talk about groups, we are not referring to the meeting, but rather the group that meets for business, for inventory, or to discuss conference agenda items. The meeting is the activity that the group

organizes to welcome new members and carry the message of recovery. The service structure is there to support the 12th step work of the groups.

When we talk about the conference, we are referring to the Canada/United States conference. Composition and summary of its operation:

- 93 Areas = 93 delegates (14 in Canada, 79 in the United States)
- 21 trustees – 7 Class A, non-alcoholics, and 14 Class B, alcoholics. This year, there were 22 trustees because, for the first time, the Chair of the Board is an alcoholic. So there are 15 Class B trustees. This is the first time this has happened.
- Directors of AAWS and the Grapevine; and GSO staff members.
- There are 13 conference committees, each of which has a secretary who is a GSO employee.
- The 2025 conference therefore had a total of 138 members. This is the form of governance that the association has chosen. The Conference does not make decisions but rather adopts resolutions. The annual conference does its work, recommendations are delivered, and delegates report back to their Areas.
- Following these reports, members, groups, districts, and committees may find areas for improvement in fulfilling our mission of carrying the message of recovery. The deadline for submitting a proposal for the agenda of the next conference is September 30. Last year, there were 147 proposals from across the conference territory.
- From November to January, the proposals will be submitted to the trustee committees for review and consideration. There are 11 committees. The criteria for review include, for example has the item already been submitted; is it relevant to the continuity of our association. A first draft of the agenda will be submitted in January at the Board meeting with the 13 conference committee chairs. The final agenda will be established during that weekend.
- The final agenda will be published on February 15, and each delegate will organize pre-conference meetings to inform members of the topics that will be discussed and to hold discussions with members in order to gain a collective understanding of the Area and make its voice heard during the conference discussions.
- Preparatory work is essential for conference delegates so that the collective consciousness is as informed as possible when making decisions on the recommendations adopted.
- For the rest of the year, our structure is in the hands of the General Service Board, which is responsible for implementing the adopted recommendations throughout the year.

Question from the audience: Were all 147 proposed items placed on the agenda?

Answer: No. The final agenda for the 2025 conference included 95 items, most of which came from the committees of administrators and GSO staff. Only a handful of the items on the final agenda came from the 147 suggestions received. An explanatory letter is sent for each of the items that were not selected.

For example: Our Area had submitted an agenda item proposal concerning the reintroduction of the Archiving newsletter, which published information about the association's archives. The proposal was not selected. We were told that the information found in this newsletter is now available on other information platforms or in other communications.

The 2025 conference was held from April 27 to May 3, Sunday through Saturday.

This year, an inventory of the conference was conducted. The last inventory was conducted from 2013 to 2015. Why conduct an inventory? Due to COVID and the first exclusively online conference, which lasted about 40 hours virtually instead of 7 days. This context also gave rise to specific decisions, some of which were contested at the 2021 conference, including the adoption of an amendment to the Preamble. This resolution was adopted by a floor action, so there was no broad consultation or committee work. Other decisions were made in the spirit of diversity and inclusion that did not rally the entire movement.

Then, in 2023, a situation arose that prompted the Council to ask the then-president to step down from her position.

There was a very peculiar atmosphere at the conference following these various experiences. There was a lot of turmoil between 2021 and 2024.

All of this led to the decision to take stock of the situation in order to restore a climate of trust between board members and delegates. The exercise took place on Sunday afternoon. The 138 members were divided into 15 groups representing each type of service (delegate, administrator, staff member). The inventory questions were distributed among the groups. The inventory meeting lasted two hours.

The positive outcome was that all the protest and frustration directed at the Board was set aside, allowing us to do our work, and only our work. The easing of tensions allowed us to return to the efficiency of the traditional work plan.

The main point was the governance of floor actions (proposals from the floor). Some people were using this mechanism to impose an item that had been rejected by the board of directors, thereby holding the entire conference floor hostage. There were many such proposals in 2021 and beyond, on highly emotional and regionally relevant topics that contributed to poisoning the atmosphere and the work as a whole. This is neither the purpose nor the spirit of the opportunity to submit a floor

proposal. In 2024, there were 15 floor actions that wasted a lot of the conference's time. So much so that we ran out of time and had to refer several proposals back to the board, causing friction within the group.

In 2025, it was decided to leave the admissibility of these proposals to the discretion of the conference chair, which made the process much more efficient. The result: 12 floor actions were dealt with and closed on Friday before midnight.

The conference committee reports began on Wednesday and ended on Friday afternoon.

This year, I was also asked to sit on an ad hoc committee of the Council on communication within our structure. The committee was made up of a few Class A and B directors and a few delegates. We had monthly meetings throughout the year.

(Editor's note: The following is a summary of the report of resolutions adopted as presented by the delegate. Full details are available in the General Service Conference Final Report, distributed by the GSO, and in the documents distributed at the June 14 meeting (Resolutions of the 75th Conference; Topics Considered by Committees).

Public Information (PI): The following is the conference committee report presented on the floor:

- Workload in 2025: 19 items (≈15 hours of work)

Resolutions adopted

Revision of public service announcements

- Video messages will be revised every 5 years.
- Example: a message released in 2026 will be revised in 2031 for relevance.

Public service announcements: 3 Videos produced by Australia

- Adapted by AAWS for broadcast in the United States and Canada on media platforms.

Brochure "The Meaning of Anonymity"

- Revision to address issues related to anonymity and social media.
- Difference between private and public Facebook accounts.
- An amendment to the brochure will be presented at the 2026 conference for approval by the floor.

Member survey in 2026

- That the Public Information Council Committee develop a plan to conduct a survey using a random sampling method.
- Specialized consultant hired for implementation, analysis, and production of a document profiling the association's groups and membership.

Videos and young members

- Withdrawal from circulation of five videos, public service announcements: People Like Me; At the Beach; Young People; 25 and Under; Young and Sober in AA.
- Videos deemed "corny" by committee delegates who participated (and may still participate) in the ICYPAA (International Conference of Young People in AA).
- Efforts to collect videos produced by young people have been abandoned. The project to produce such videos has instead been taken over by AAWS, which participated in a recent edition of the International Conference of Young People in AA and collected several testimonials from young participants. The videos will be developed and produced from this material.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS REJECTED BY THE CONFERENCE

- Strategic direction in carrying the message.
 - Migration from traditional media to digital media (internet, social networks)
 - Constraints: anonymity, production costs, specialized resources, limited financial resources. AAWS total budget ≈\$21 million USD (≈50% contributions/50% surplus from publication sales)
- New format for public service announcements (inspired by the Australian Conference experience)
 - 30-second clips, no dialogue, ambient noise, powerful question on screen. This is the concept that will now be developed.
 - Advantages: low cost, adaptability (diversity), no translation, multi-platform distribution.
- Social media policy
 - Recommendation to align the current AAWS policy with a scope that would cover "AA as a whole": rejected
 - Recommendation: for the Board of Directors to present a policy/guideline to the 2026 Conference IP Committee for possible approval by the conference
- Youth under 18, how to reach them
 - Legal and parental sensitivity
 - Recommendation: progress report/plan to be presented in 2026

- Other items
 - Request for parallel sample survey in 2026 (clarifications to be specified in follow-up)
- The conference's Public Information Committee is a large committee with a lot of work. We recommended forming a second committee: one for the more electronic aspect and the other for the more political aspect. The Conference rejected the idea.

The chair resumed the floor before the break.

Lucien highlights the presence of Alexandra, an employee of the BSR.

André, who is the delegate for Panel 74, but also present this morning:

- Ovila B., delegate from Area 87, Panel 40 (35 years ago)
- Luc R., Delegate for Area 87, Panel 56
- Pierre C., Delegate for Area 87, Panel 62
- Raymond D., Delegate for Area 87, Panel 64
- Thomas G., Delegate for Area 87, Panel 66
- Lucien J., Delegate for Area 87, Panel 68
- Ginette W., absent today, Delegate Panel 58
- Ruth L., absent and last woman to have been Area Delegate, Panel 70.

Lucien reminds everyone that there are plenty of doughnuts and muffins for everyone. Help yourselves.

RETURN FROM BREAK

André resumes speaking.

At the 2024 conference, after the Grapevine report, its manager came to see me to ask about La Vigne. Having nothing prepared, I quickly contacted Lucien, who provided me with material that allowed me to talk about La Vigne for three minutes during an open mic session. This year, we decided to do the same thing, but I was better prepared. Even too well... a little too long.

La Vigne

- **Recognition of La Vigne**
 - We distributed a copy of the magazine.
 - Importance of the magazine for the French-speaking community. A product created by a team of volunteers. The penetration rate is higher than that of Grapevine. We sell more copies of La Vigne than Grapevine across Canada.

In anticipation of the 2026 conference and subsequent conferences, we will submit a request for a 10-minute period to present La Vigne to conference members.

It is important to continue promoting La Vigne, as it plays a crucial role in the French-speaking community. Encourage individual and group subscriptions.

Agenda

The theme of the next General Service Conference, the 76th will be: *HUMILITY IN ACTION*.

Presentation topics:

- Restoration and Discovering Grace, Unity, and Fellowship
- Gossips Vs Facts: Examining the Health of Our Own Communications
- Finding Common Ground

Other topics

- **Large book in simple, clear language**
 - Revision proposals postponed to the 77th conference.
- **Conference report**
 - Suggestion to work in small groups to review the report.

Question from the assembly: by Jacques: Is La Vigne still in deficit?

Lucien takes a few minutes to talk about La Vigne:

In 1996, La Vigne had a penetration rate of 1 in 2 people in Quebec. The Grapevine had a rate of 1 in 10.

La Vigne is produced by a team of about 60 volunteers. Grapevine has 11 paid employees. Of course, their magazine is published monthly, compared to every two months for La Vigne. When the people at Grapevine see La Vigne's product, they are quite impressed, to the point of wanting to see La Vigne's business plan.

Our biggest problem in Area 87 is that we have a hard time talking about La Vigne; we are the region of the province where the magazine sells the least.

La Vigne has never been "in the red." That's fake news. It has had financial difficulties, but not to the point of being on the verge of bankruptcy. La Vigne has only one source of income: subscriptions. Like the Grapevine. Except that the Grapevine also sells books, which helps a lot. Grapevine books are more expensive than AAWS books; they tend to reflect the book market. In recent years, La Vigne has produced only one book, which has sold out and has not been reprinted.

The pandemic has been very difficult for La Vigne. Our distribution system depends heavily on the structure, districts, and groups. When everything shut down, we had

no way to sell the magazines. Except, of course, for individual subscriptions, but those represent a very small portion of our operating budget. Throughout this period, fixed costs (rent, electricity, etc.) still had to be paid.

Since 2021, La Vigne has reviewed its operating costs and made some administrative changes. In addition, a book entitled *Un Cœur rempli de gratitude* (A Heart Filled with Gratitude) was produced by a team of volunteers.

To answer the question: La Vigne is doing very well financially, but individual subscriptions are declining, and we need you to ensure greater visibility and support the magazine by promoting it in your groups and districts.

Question from the floor: by Réjean: Thank you for your report, André. I really liked the way you presented it, with humility. One question has been on my mind for years: How did the two conferences you attended help you better understand and, above all, better explain the concepts to someone who has not had the experience of attending a conference?

André's response: Thank you for your question. My experience: I have always had a sponsor in AA. Since September 2019, my sponsor has been a man I met in 2018 in northern Illinois at a Big Book conference. With him, I worked through the steps again; then we looked at the traditions. And we looked at the Concepts. This was even before I thought about running for delegate. I was an RDR at the time. We read the Concepts together. I also did a few workshops on the Concepts. And once at the conference, you see the Concepts at work. I also attended a meeting of conference alternate delegates on Zoom, during which there was a presentation on the Concepts. I understood the logic and the relationship between the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. I am always happy to present the Concepts if invited. The Concepts explain that it is in our best interest to achieve the greatest possible unity, without leaving anyone behind. And the democratic ideal of AA is explained in the 12th Concept, the Six Safeguards.

Question from the audience: by Felix: When I was at ASTECAA last February, I attended a workshop on 12/12/12 (Steps, Traditions, and Concepts)... Inaudible...

André's response: Yes, we discussed it. The idea was that, just as we have the 12X12 (The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions), the idea was to place the 12 Concepts as a complement to the 12X12 in the same publication. This is a matter for the Publications Committee, and the recommendation did not pass. The recommendation only obtained a simple majority. So it will go back to the board committee for further discussion. The topic may be submitted for a future agenda. A recommendation must obtain a substantial two-thirds majority to be adopted. And I would add that, following all the turmoil of recent years at the board and trustee level, I would not be surprised if this item were brought back to a future conference. But that depends mainly on whether the groups continue to request it.

Questions from the floor: by (inaudible)

André's response: Thank you for your question. Anthony asks if there will be a revision of the Plain Language Big Book. The resolution adopted is: The revocation or revision of the publication will be the subject of an item at the 77th Conference, in order to allow a greater number of members to become familiar with the publication. The book was published following a recommendation adopted at the 74th Conference. This book is a translation or adaptation into plain and clear language of the Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book. It is not a new Big Book. It is nothing more than a translation. It was published in English only for financial reasons, first and foremost, and also to meet demand. To have French and Spanish versions, there would need to be a request from the language communities. As for the English book, there has been a lot of feedback and criticism. There have already been changes and corrections between the first and second printings. And now it is a tool that is being used more and more and is helping members who have literacy challenges.

Question from the floor: by (inaudible; concerns La Vigne)

André's response: The question is: If the item is not included on the conference agenda so that La Vigne has 10 minutes for a presentation, what is La Vigne's strategy? Excellent question! The strategy would be that if this item is not included in the agenda items submitted on January¹, one of the four delegates from Quebec will go to the conference floor; it would be difficult to say no to that.

Question from the floor: by Kayla, Assistant Coordinator of the Group Services

Committee: The final conference report contains so much information. How could it be used to keep the information about the conference more up to date?

André's response: Thank you for your question. Personally, I haven't read the 2024 Conference report, to be honest. The final Conference report comes out in September. We will have copies that will be distributed to all groups and districts. The report records everything that was done and said during the week of the Conference. My suggestion would be to read it in small groups. But each member decides what to do with the information they receive. However, it is with this information that we can be better prepared for the following spring, in anticipation of the conference.

Question from the floor: by Pierre C., Archives Committee Coordinator and Vice

President of La Vigne Publishing: I am glad we are talking so much about La Vigne this morning. Question: It has been recommended (not by the Finance Committee) that the sentence "a group may also choose not to hear the GSR's report" be removed from the Service Manual; a group can decide to do what it wants. I have a hard time understanding this. I strongly disagree with the sentence; a GSR must give a report. But to remove the sentence, I find that strange.

André's response: In the Service Manual, in Chapter 1, page 11, for GSRs, it says that GSRs make reports. Why was this last sentence removed? Experience has

shown that some groups use this wording to prevent the RSG from filing a report. Removing it avoids misinterpretation or justification for not listening to the RSG. The option will always be there, but we do not encourage it. The fear of seeing a group gag its RSG.

The chair resumes the floor.

Thank you very much, André. As we still have some time left, I would like to ask the past delegates which committee they were assigned to:

Luc: Finance Committee

Pierre: Treatment and Accessibility Committee

Raymond: Finance Committee

Thomas: Acts and Bylaws Committee

Lucien: Board of Directors

André: Public Information

I would like to thank everyone who helped make today's meeting a success:

- Thanks to Alexandra and the office team.
- Thanks to Jean-Philippe and his team for logistics and to Eric for sound.
- Thanks to Districts 17 and 14.
- Thanks to the interpreters.
- Thanks to the people who made the coffee.
- Thanks to our secretary, Benoît, who took care of the doughnuts, muffins, and lunch buffet.
- Attendance: 82 present vs. 60 expected. Well done and thank you for coming.

Who proposes to adjourn the meeting:

Gilles proposes; seconded by Marie-Ève.

We conclude with the Declaration of Responsibility.