

THE GRAPEVINE WORKBOOK

*A Resource for Grapevine Reps
and Others in Service*

Created by

AAGRAPEVINE

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

A.A. PREAMBLE[©]

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

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RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

THANK YOU!

Grapevine Reps are a vital link between the groups that elected them – and *Grapevine* and *La Viña*, the official English and Spanish language journals of Alcoholics Anonymous, respectively.

Grapevine and *La Viña* depend on Reps to let their groups know about *Grapevine* – our print and digital magazines, books and other products and applications on recovery from alcoholism in AA. We depend on Reps to let us know what the Groups want and need from the magazine.

In addition to Grapevine Reps, there are other AA members serving in positions on behalf of *Grapevine* and *La Viña*. Area Chairs may have questions about how they and their Areas can help. They may represent Areas that traditionally appoint “*Grapevine* and *La Viña* Committees” at the start of each rotation (or maybe this is something an Area is considering for the first time). Some Areas also have “District Grapevine Reps.”

The staff at *Grapevine* and *La Viña* have created this workbook as a resource for group Grapevine Reps and others in service. We have passed along interesting ideas that Reps who have gone before you came up with. Please know that these are not “marching orders.” We invite you to take from this workbook what seems helpful – and leave the rest.

Please ask us any questions that you have. Contact information is listed on the next page to get you to the right person.

Thank you for your interest and support!

To help make this workbook easier to navigate, look for this arrow symbol on the lower right-hand corner of each page. Click on it – and jump back to the top of the Table of Contents.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Customer Service – about subscriptions to <i>GV</i> or <i>La Viña</i>	Email: preguntas@agrapevine.org Mail: <i>Grapevine</i> , PO Box 2516, Williamsport, PA 17703 <i>La Viña</i> , PO Box 1261, Williamsport, PA 17703
Customer Service – about <i>GV</i> items & other orders	Email: customerservice@agrapevine.org
Customer Service – about <i>GV</i> online (e.g., resetting passwords)	Email: customerservice@agrapevine.org
GV office in New York (Bilingual)	Mail: <i>Grapevine</i> , 475 Riverside Drive 11 th Floor, New York, NY, NY 10115 Tel: (212) 870-3018, Mon-Fri, 9 am-5 pm EST
Subscription Orders – by telephone (<i>credit cards only</i>)	English: (800) 631-6025 US (847) 559-7327 International Monday-Friday, 8:00 am – 8:00 pm EST Español: (800) 640-8781 EE.UU. (847) 504-8195 Internacional Monday-Friday, 8:00 am – 8:00 pm EST Français: (212) 870-3456 E.-U. et à l'étranger Monday-Friday, 8:00 am – 8:00 pm EST
Subscription Orders by fax (<i>credit cards only</i>)	Fax #: (570) 322-2063 (7 days/24 hours CLICK HERE to print order forms (scroll down))
Subscription Orders – by mail (<i>check, money order or credit card</i>)	CLICK HERE to print order forms (scroll down to “Subscription and Product” section)
Questions – about subscription orders and related matters	English: (800) 631-6025 US (847) 559-7327 International Español: (800) 640-8781 EE.UU. (847) 504-8195 Internacional Français: (212) 870-3456 E-U, à l'étranger
Questions – about website content	Email: webcoord@agrapevine.org
Questions – about magazine or editorial content	Email: senioreditor@agrapevine.org
Questions – reprints or copyright issues	Email: jbryan@agrapevine.org
Submission guidelines – for stories, jokes, cartoons, photos, and other art	CLICK HERE for submission guidelines
Submissions – of manuscripts, calendar events, humor, photos* or artworks* * <i>GIF or JPEG formats only</i>	<i>Grapevine</i> : gveditorial@agrapevine.org <i>La Viña</i> : manuscritoslv@agrapevine.org

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PART I: Welcome to AAGrapevine!

EIGHT ESSENTIAL THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT *GRAPEVINE*

1. **The General Service Conference has recognized the *Grapevine* as “the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous.”** This is discussed further in this section in Part I: “Is *Grapevine* Conference-Approved?”
2. ***Grapevine* is a forum for the collective voices of AA members to share their experience, strength, and hope.** Members from around the US and Canada recount their experiences getting and staying sober, working the steps, applying the traditions, sponsoring, doing service, facing adversities, realizing dreams, and much more.
3. **Long referred to as AA’s “meeting in print,” *Grapevine* is now also available in digital and audio formats.** For more information, see these two sections in Part I: “Four Different Magazine Format for Subscribers to Choose From” and “Four Digital Devices for Subscribers to Read *Grapevine* + Print Magazine.”
4. ***Grapevine* is published monthly by the editorial, production, and administrative staff who work at the General Service Office in New York.**
5. ***Grapevine* publishes a popular print book and ebook series.** Our print and ebook series features collections of stories that have appeared in the magazine over its long history. For more information, see this section in Part I: “Do You Know about *Grapevine*’s Popular Book Series?”
6. ***Grapevine* does not receive 7th Tradition contributions.** *Grapevine* is entirely self-supporting through sales of subscriptions and related content.
7. ***Grapevine* is a unique service tool to carry AA’s message of hope and recovery to alcoholics both inside and outside the fellowship.** For examples, see this section in Part II: “How Can GVRs Encourage More Twelfth Step Use of *Grapevine*?”
8. **AA members, not “professional writers,” write the stories that appear in the issues of *Grapevine*.** (One exception is, from time to time, when a friend of AA writes an article.) For more information, see this section in Part II: “How Can GVRs Encourage Members to Submit Articles to *Grapevine*?”



SEVEN REASONS AA GROUPS PURCHASE *GRAPEVINE* SUBSCRIPTIONS



1. ***Grapevine* is a wonderful service tool for groups to use in Twelfth Step work.** *Grapevine* helps carry our message of recovery to newcomers, visitors, and members who cannot get to meetings. For more suggestions, see this section in Part II of this workbook: “How Can GVRs Encourage More Twelfth Step Use of *Grapevine*?”
2. ***Grapevine* provides an “up-to-date” forum for groups to share experiences as they meet life’s inevitable challenges.** Each issue contains stories on various topics, such as the Seventh Tradition, business meetings, relations with landlords, and more.
3. ***Grapevine* is a terrific source of stories for literature meetings.** In each issue, there are stories on steps and traditions, each written by an AA member.
4. ***Grapevine* is the most current “snapshot” of what the fellowship is thinking and doing.** Stories by AA members getting and staying sober during the recent pandemic began appearing in the *Grapevine* as it has happened.
5. ***Grapevine* connects AA groups across the US, Canada and worldwide through shared experiences in the stories found in the magazine each month.**
6. **Subscribing to *Grapevine* is a great way to support our fellowship’s magazine!** *Grapevine* is self-supporting, just like AA groups. However, this support does not come from contributions to the collection basket. Instead, the magazine is supported exclusively through sales of subscriptions, books, and other *Grapevine* items.
7. **Some groups have subscriptions to both *Grapevine* and *La Viña*, AA’s Spanish language magazine.** Having issues in English and Spanish can be especially helpful in Twelfth Step work with beginners and visitors in meetings; and commitments at correctional or treatment facilities. For more information on *La Viña*, see this section in Part I: “Do You Know about *La Viña*?”



SEVEN REASONS AA MEMBERS PURCHASE *GRAPEVINE* SUBSCRIPTIONS



1. The stories in the *Grapevine* are written by AA members, not by professional writers. A *Grapevine* story is one alcoholic (writer) sharing with another alcoholic (reader).
2. Each issue of *Grapevine* has a range of recent stories and features that are chock full of experience, strength, and hope.
3. The magazine is available in print and digital formats, so practically every AA member can access it in the way that best suits their needs. Subscribers can have a print issue delivered at home or read a digital version of each issue on their computer, smartphone, or tablet, or *listen* to audio recordings of every story.
4. *Grapevine* provides a forum for AA members to share struggles and triumphs with each other. Since *Grapevine* is published monthly, those experiences are often quite recent.
5. *Grapevine* is a wonderful service tool for any AA member who sees an opportunity to carry the message. Each issue slips easily into a purse, briefcase, or backpack.
6. Each issue has a “special section” – stories that share experience, strength, and hope around a theme, such as “sober travel,” “dating in sobriety,” “youth and sobriety,” “relapse,” and more. Many members report using these issues to enhance their work with sponsees.
7. A *Grapevine* subscription makes a terrific gift for sponsees and friends in the fellowship.



FOUR DIFFERENT DIGITAL & PRINT FORMATS FOR SUBSCRIBERS TO CHOOSE FROM

PRINT EDITION



- The 64-page monthly magazine printed in full color and bound (without staples)
- Click on the image at left for more information

E-PUB EDITION



- Recreates the monthly print magazine
- Works on desktop and laptop computers, tablets, and smartphones
- Gives access to *Grapevine's* digital archive of articles from 1944 through the present
- Click on the image at left for more information

WEB EDITION



- Each issue is formatted for subscribers to choose the stories or features to download and read
- Works on all desktop and laptop computers, tablets, and smartphones
- Same content as in the print magazine
- Click on the image at left for more information

AUDIO EDITION



- Professional actors record all the stories and features of each month's issues
- Same content as in the print magazine
- Look for the symbol at left in the digital version of *Grapevine* issue. Click on the symbol at left and go to the Contents page of the current issue



FOUR DIGITAL DEVICES FOR SUBSCRIBERS TO READ FROM + PRINT MAGAZINE



SIX RECENT *GRAPEVINE* INNOVATIONS

1. The ePUB – A Brand New Way to Enjoy *Grapevine*

The ePub format offers subscribers to *Grapevine* a new way to each monthly issue. This digital format recreates the experience of reading the print magazine on desktop computers, tablets, or smartphones. EPub includes the same content and full-color appearance of the print magazine. Pages turn with the click of a button and a satisfying ‘whoosh’ sound of paper. AAGrapevine designed ePub to be very user-friendly, with 24/7 access. Subscribers also gain additional features, such as a downloadable audio file of every story of each issue and a downloadable PDF of each issue for offline reading.



For more information...

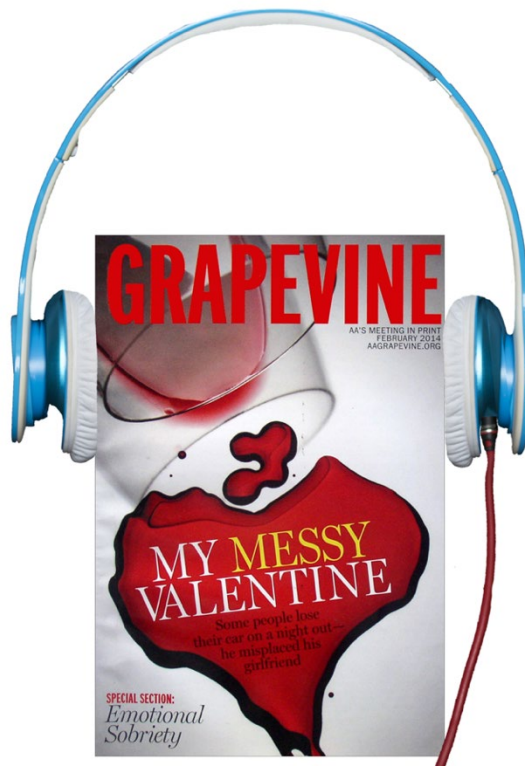
CLICK HERE !



2. Audio *Grapevine* – Listen to the Magazine!

AA members have been asking for a way to listen to *Grapevine* stories instead of reading them – and now they can! *Grapevine* offers the option to listen to the stories in each month’s issue (the same stories that appear in the print edition) and read by professional actors. So, subscribers can listen online or download to a tablet or smartphone to listen at their convenience.

Note that Audio *Grapevine* is available to subscribers to “GV Complete” and “ePub” subscription packages.



For more information on subscriptions with Audio Grapevine...

e-Pub subscriptions

CLICK HERE !

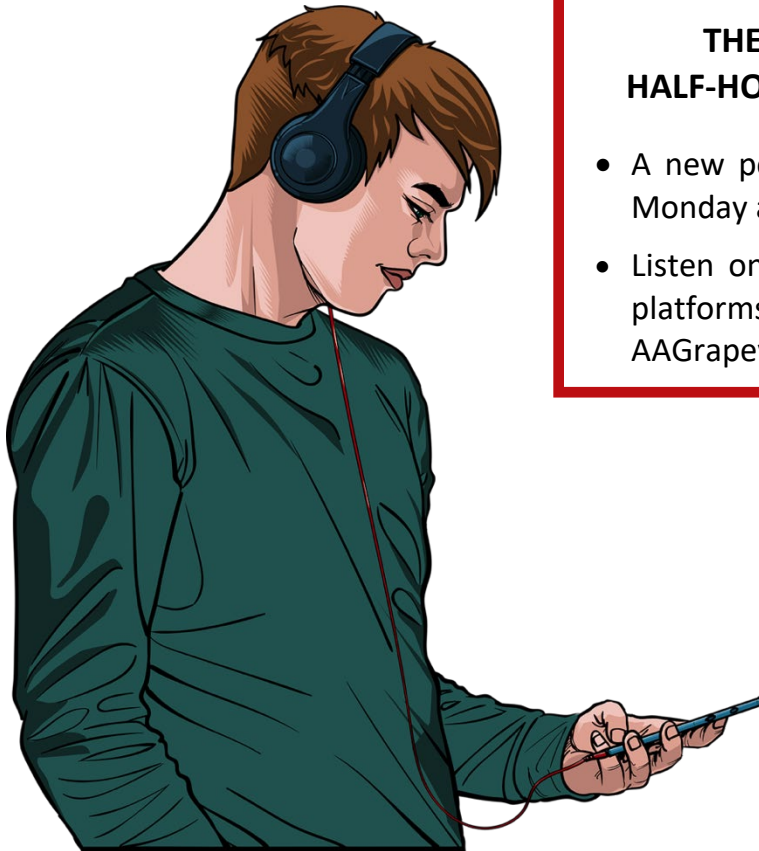
“Complete” subscriptions

CLICK HERE !



3. *Grapevine* Has a New Podcast Series

Each week long-time AA members Don and Sam interview a different member about their experience, strength, and hope in a casual “meeting after the meeting” manner.



THE AAGrapevine HALF-HOUR VARIETY HOUR

- A new podcast is posted every Monday at 9:00 am EST.
- Listen on your favorite podcast platforms or via the player at AAGrapevine.org.

For more information...

CLICK HERE !



4. Grapevine Launched a YouTube Channel


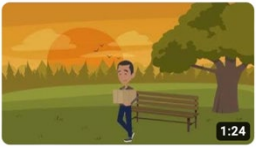

Grapevine is on YouTube! Visitors can listen to submitted stories from AA members. Be sure to subscribe!



To visit the Grapevine YouTube channel, click the link below...

CLICK HERE !

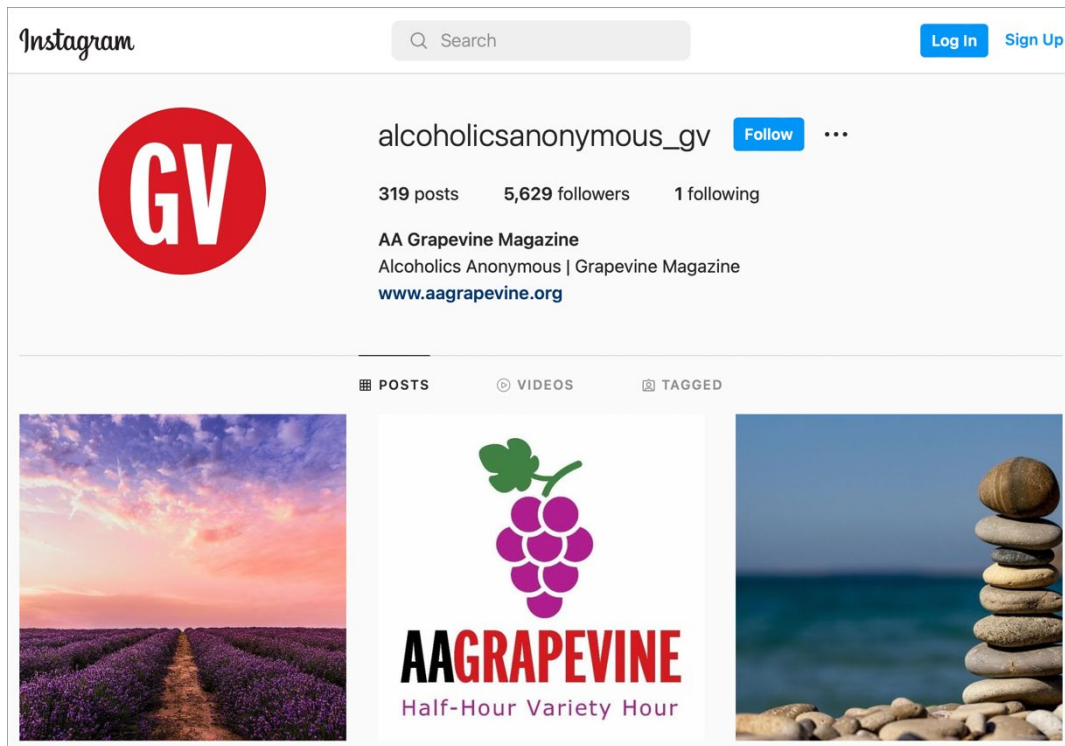
GVRs might want to check out *Grapevine's* "tutorials" on a variety of topics that have been posted to the AAGrapevine YouTube channel. For a sampling click on any one of the images below to go to the video on AA Grapevine's channel....

<p>How to Succeed as a Grapevine Rep (1 min, 37 sec)</p>	<p>AA Grapevine... Celebrates 75 Years! (1 min, 24 sec)</p>	<p>Carry the Message Project (1 min, 29 sec)</p>
 <p>Brief overview on being a Grapevine Rep (GVR)</p>	 <p>About Grapevine's 75th Anniversary Toolkit, a package of recovery tools</p>	 <p>How GVRs can help get Grapevine issues to alcoholics in need</p>



5. *Grapevine* Is on Instagram

Follow *Grapevine* on Instagram. You will find our Daily Quote each morning, know when our magazine issues are released, learn about new books and be inspired by both AA pioneers and today's members.



To follow the Grapevine on Instagram ...

CLICK HERE !



6. The *Grapevine* Online Story Archive

Subscribers to the “GV Complete” package receive access to all print and online formats of each issue of *Grapevine* – and to the remarkable *Grapevine* Story Archive. The archive is a fully searchable collection of nearly 20,000 stories dating back to 1944 through the present day. You can search by year of publication or issue date; topic (e.g., steps and traditions; newcomers; atheism/agnosticism); state in which the author lives; and format (audio vs. article).

Below is an example of a story accessible to subscribers of the “Complete” subscription package. This story by Bill W. appeared in the January 1958 issue of *Grapevine*, titled “The Next Frontier—Emotional Sobriety.”



One AA group reports pulling all the stories from its area during the year of its founding (1968), interesting details about the era. This turned into a fascinating presentation at the group’s 53rd anniversary celebration.

To see the archive search page...

CLICK HERE !



DO YOU KNOW ABOUT GRAPEVINE'S POPULAR BOOK SERIES?

The editors at the *Grapevine* periodically release books, collections of stories that appeared in past issues of the magazine. The books are organized around themes and include over 50 stories. AA members have found these books particularly helpful by providing a range of voices on a topic of particular interest. See examples below of the dozens of *Grapevine* books that are currently available.



YOUNG & SOBER This collection of stories from the *Grapevine*, all written by AA members who got sober in their teens, 20s and 30s, speaks to the joys and challenges of getting sober at an early age. *GVRs: This book has been read and discussed in young people's meetings.*

MAKING AMENDS This book contains 55 candid, firsthand stories about the experiences of AA members with Step Nine. *GVRs: This book can be read and discussed in a Ninth Step meeting. program. The book is also a terrific resource for group members who are approaching this step.*

Print Books and eBooks!

Grapevine books are available printed or as ebooks that can be read on these devices: iBooks (Apple), NOOK (Barnes & Noble), Kindle (Amazon), and Kobo.

Grapevine –
Print Books

CLICK HERE !

Grapevine –
eBooks

CLICK HERE !



IS *GRAPEVINE* CONFERENCE APPROVED?

In 1986, the General Service Conference formally recognized *Grapevine's* position in the fellowship:

The Conference recognizes the AA *Grapevine* as the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous.

36th General Service Conference (1986)

Literature approved by the General Service Conference of AA has the widest possible consensus of experience of the fellowship. This ensures adherence to our traditions and sound AA principles.

Since *Grapevine* is published monthly, the General Service Conference, held annually, cannot formally review each issue. However, the Conference oversees the magazine to ensure that it reflects AA's primary purpose.

- The Conference established a Standing *Grapevine* Committee to review the magazine's finances, direction, and content at the annual General Service Conference meeting.
- The General Service trustees who sit on the *Grapevine* Board and the General Service Conference carefully review every *Grapevine* item.
- Every *Grapevine* book (collections of stories previously published in the magazine) goes through a Conference review process before publication.



DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LA VIÑA?



La Viña

The Spanish-language international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Stories and articles written by Spanish speakers very much in the spirit and format of *Grapevine*. Published bi-monthly.

Click on the magazine cover image at left for more information on La Viña.

FAQs

1. **Does the General Service Conference oversee La Viña like it does Grapevine?**
Yes. The Conference recognizes both *La Viña* and *Grapevine* as the international journals of Alcoholics Anonymous.
2. **Is a GVR responsible for La Viña in addition to Grapevine?** *La Viña* has its own reps (“RLVs”); they typically serve Spanish-speaking groups. GVRs may want to consider proposing that their groups purchase subscriptions to *La Viña* for Spanish-speaking members or visitors, and for Twelfth Step work.
3. **Should I let my group know about La Viña?** Definitely. You may have members interested in *La Viña’s* original Spanish content. Also, consider taking issues along for group service commitments, such as in treatment facility.
4. **How does someone subscribe to La Viña?** There are multiple ways to subscribe: on-line (www.aalavina.org); by telephone; by mail (see form in every print issue to fill out and send it). For more information...

CLICK HERE !

Do You Know that French-Speaking AA Members Have a Magazine, too?



La Vigne, the French-language journal of Alcoholics Anonymous, is a bi-monthly magazine published in Canada six times a year. *La Vigne* has its own editorial, production, and administrative staff in Canada and is independent of AAGrapevine or La Viña. For more information on *La Vigne*, click on the image at left (in French only) ...



WHAT IS GRAPEVINE DOING TO BECOME MORE ACCESSIBLE?

Here are two important questions about *Grapevine* accessibility: (1) is the magazine accessible? and (2) is *the* magazine's website accessible?

Magazine Accessibility



Many in our fellowship, for a variety of reasons, are unable to experience *Grapevine* fully, or experience it at all, in the traditional printed form. To help remedy this, AAGrapevine has developed a menu of options to make the magazine more accessible to more members.

- Subscribers can read *Grapevine* issues in written *and* audio versions
- Instead of writing stories down, AA members can record them over the phone. *Grapevine* transcribes the recordings.
- *Grapevine* publishes a Spanish-language magazine, *La Viña* that is distributed worldwide. Also, *Grapevine* publishes many of its books in three languages: English, French, and Spanish.
- The *Grapevine* office has English, French, and Spanish speakers to field questions and requests over the telephone or by Email.

Website Accessibility



Grapevine's website continues to be updated and revised to improve its "web accessibility." This concept refers to the practice of eliminating barriers that might prevent users from accessing and interacting with websites. These barriers can impact people with physical or situational disabilities, limitations on the bandwidth and speed of their internet access, or language preferences. There are steps to be taken in the design of the *Grapevine* website to give each user the best possible experience.

PLEASE REGISTER! *



*If you haven't already

GVRs register at the AAGrapevine.org. Once registered, each GVR receives a condensed printed version of this workbook that slips easily into a backpack, purse or other bag or purse. Also, each GVR will receive a monthly email with up-to-date information on recent issues and new products. The registration has two easy steps.

STEP 1: Gather Some Needed Information	
FULL NAME	
MAILING LIST	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
GROUP'S FULL NAME	
GROUP'S LOCATION (CITY AND STATE)	
DISTRICT # *	
AREA # *	

**If uncertain about these, you might ask your group's GSR or email the GVR Coordinator (gvrc@aagrapevine.org).*

STEP 2: Contact <i>Grapevine</i> to Register	
To register online:	CLICK HERE !
To register by telephone:	(212) 870-3018* Mon-Fri, 9 am to 5 pm EST *English, Spanish, and French speakers available
To register by regular mail or fax:	CLICK HERE !
To contact the GVR coordinator for assistance by email:	CLICK HERE !



PART II: Grapevine Reps

WHAT IS A *GRAPEVINE* REPRESENTATIVE?

A *Grapevine* Representative (GVR) is an AA member who serves as the link between AAGrapevine – and an AA group. AA Groups elect their GVRs. The term of service may be 1-2 years, depending on a group's conscious.

WHAT DO GVRs DO?

1. **Encourage their groups to subscribe to *Grapevine*.** For more information, see this section in Part I: "Seven Reasons Groups Purchase *Grapevine* Subscriptions."
2. **Introduce their groups to other *Grapevine* items, books, online subscriptions, and service-related events.** More Information is in Parts I and II of this workbook.
3. **Make regular announcements in meetings when the latest issue has arrived and highlight the contents.** For more information, see this section in Part II: "How Can GVRs Encourage Groups to subscribe to *Grapevine*?"
4. **See that *Grapevine* magazines and books are clearly displayed in meeting rooms and are available for purchase.** For more information on displays, see this section in Part II: "How Can GVRs Encourage Groups to subscribe to *Grapevine*?"
5. **Keep the group informed about *Grapevine* news.** Here are several suggested resources. **CLICK HERE** for recent updates about *Grapevine*. **CLICK HERE** for the *Grapevine* Event Calendar.
6. **Encourage group members to submit stories to the *Grapevine*.** More information is available on writing and submitted stories in this section in Part II: "How Can GVRs Encourage Members to submit articles to *Grapevine*?"
7. **Introduce their groups to AA *Grapevine*'s "Carry the Message Project."** More information on the **Carry the Message Project** is found in this section in Part II: "How Can GVRs Encourage Groups to subscribe to *Grapevine*?"
8. **Suggest *Grapevine* for the group's Twelfth Step activities.** Some groups offer of *Grapevine* (and *La Viña*) issues to newcomers and visitors, and some take issues along to service commitments at treatment or correctional facilities.



DO GVRs HAVE HELP?

Yes!

GVRs are encouraged to reach out to the AAGrapevine office with any questions. They can also draw on the experience, strength and hope of fellow AA members in service positions in General Service, such as District GVRs, Area *Grapevine* Chairs and other current or past GVRs. Some Areas have “*Grapevine/La Viña* committees” who are there to help GVRs.

Ask your group’s GVR to help make connections to others in the Area working on behalf of *Grapevine*.



To contact the GVR and RLV Coordinator for information on any request or questions, please use the Email address below:

GVRC2AA@Grapevine.org



DO GVRs ATTEND THEIR GROUPS' BUSINESS MEETINGS?


Most GVRs have found that regularly attending and participating in business meetings sparks interest in *Grapevine* within their groups. GVRs have also found that they are a valuable resource to the group in learning about service opportunities.

Does Your Group Already Have a Group Conscience on Grapevine?

GVRs ought to know what their groups have previously decided about *Grapevine*. GVRs can propose new things, but it is essential to know what the conscience is first, especially regarding the expenditure of the group's money.

GVRs Have a Role to Play at Their Groups' Business Meetings

Many GVRs see business meetings as another opportunity to engage their groups on the topic of *Grapevine*. GVRs may want to attend the meeting and ask if they can give a "quick report." One GVR said he finds it helpful to have notes available regarding what he wants to report.



- Highlighting articles that appear in *Grapevine* on, for example, group unity, autonomy, anonymity; also, interviews with AA Trustees, and other AA news.
- Suggesting *Grapevine* magazine for Twelfth Step activities. *See page 41 for more information.*
- Announcing new *Grapevine* books or annual wall calendar.



Business Meetings Offer an Opportunity to Introduce Other Grapevine Items to Groups

GVRs may find it helpful to have a copy of the *Grapevine* catalog (or online at the **Grapevine Store** (store.aagrapevine.org).

GRAPEVINE CATALOG



In their welcome kits, GVRs receive printed copies of the Grapevine/ La *Viña* catalog that contains various publications and subscription packages in their kits.

[CLICK HERE!](#)

GVRs can also review publications and subscription packages at the Grapevine Online Store.

[CLICK HERE!](#)

EXAMPLE OF GV LITERATURE: The “Traditions Checklist”



The “Traditions Checklist” has been popular for a long time as a tool to generate lively discussion at a group’s traditions meeting or between sponsors and sponsees exploring the Twelve Traditions.

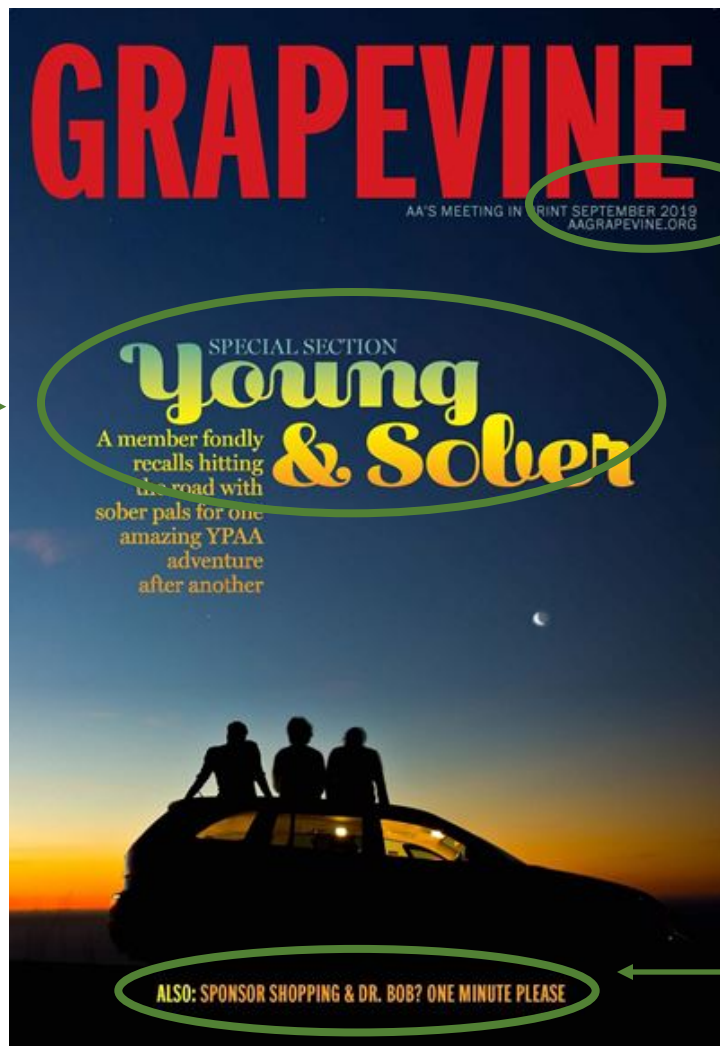
[CLICK HERE!](#)



A QUICK GUIDE TO “READING” A GRAPEVINE ISSUE

Every *Grapevine* issue offers 18-20 stories by AA members (and, on occasion, one of AA’s dedicated friends). Typically, 6-8 stories appear in a “featured section” with different monthly themes, such as “sober dating” and “making amends.” The remaining stories are divided into regular and semi-regular “departments” (topics and formats). This offers AA members different ways to contribute work for publication, whether as stories, letters to the editor, or opinions.

Cover Page



Grapevine is published monthly

In addition to the Featured Section, each issue has many more articles and features.

Each issue has a “Featured Section” that features 5-6 articles written by AA members on a topic; for example: “The Holidays,” “Dating in Sobriety,” “Facing Adversity.”

In



AA Preamble

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

©AA Grapevine, Inc.

RESPONSIBILITY DECLARATION

I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

THE AA GRAPEVINE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

A.A. Grapevine is the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous in print, digital and audio. Written, edited, illustrated, and read by A.A. members and others interested in the A.A. program of recovery from alcoholism, Grapevine is a lifeline linking one alcoholic to another.

Often referred to as our "meeting in print," A.A. Grapevine communicates the experience, strength, and

hope of its contributors and reflects a broad geographic spectrum of current A.A. experience with recovery, unity, and service. Founded in 1944, Grapevine does not receive group contributions, but is supported entirely through magazine and web subscription sales and additional income derived from the sale of related items.

The awareness that every A.A. member has an

individual way of working the program permeates the pages of Grapevine, and throughout its history the magazine has been a forum for the varied and often divergent opinions of A.A.s around the world. As such, articles are not intended to be statements of A.A. policy, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either A.A. or Grapevine.

As Bill W. expressed it in 1946, "The Grapevine will be the voice of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement. Its editors and staff will be primarily accountable to the A.A. movement as a whole.... Within the bounds of friendliness and good taste, Grapevine will

enjoy perfect freedom of speech on all matters directly pertaining to Alcoholics Anonymous.... Like the Alcoholics Anonymous movement it is to mirror, there will be but one central purpose: The Grapevine will try to carry the A.A. message to alcoholics and practice the A.A. principles in all its affairs."

Copyright © by A.A. Grapevine, Inc.; Revised: December 2013

Conference Advisory Action, 1986: "Since each issue of the Grapevine cannot go through the Conference-approval process, the Conference recognizes the AA Grapevine as the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous."

NEED HELP WITH A DRINKING PROBLEM? If you want to stop drinking and need to find AA near you or wish to learn more about Alcoholics Anonymous, visit: www.aa.org

This statement serves as a "preamble" to open many AA meetings around the world. It first appeared in the June 1947 issue of Grapevine, written not as a preamble, but a description of what AA "is and is not". The statement proved popular and became a way to open their meetings.

The "Responsibility Declaration" closes many AA service meetings and assemblies around the world. It first appeared at the AA International Convention in Toronto in 1965. A few months later, In the October 1965 issue of Grapevine, Bill W. wrote about the statement in an article on the convention. The General Service Conference affirmed both the "spirit and the wording" of the statement in 1971.

This statement defines what Grapevine is and why it exists.



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October 2019

"Our whole treasured philosophy of self-sufficiency had to be cast aside...We neither ran nor fought. But accept we did. And then we began to be free."
—Bill W.
Grapevine, March, 1962

On the cover: Are we doing enough to make AA accessible to all? Members share their experience.

ON THE COVER: ACCESSIBILITIES
Is AA accessible to all? 10
Her journey into service revealed a need for more handrails, ramps, babysitters and Braille (MINT HILL, N.C.)

A mother's lifeline 14
Thanks to her online home group, neither an injury nor a need for childcare can keep her from AA (CHICAGO, ILL.)

So all can understand 17
A longtime AA interpreter shares her wonderful journey and all the joy it brings (REWINGTON, CONN.)

I'm not the only one 22
How his own situation led him to a better understanding of other members' needs (NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLA.)

A vision for service 24
Though her sight is often a challenge, her passion for giving back keeps growing (THE CHOSEN SPOT, N.Y.)

A warm welcome 28
Members dealing with deafness face a world of challenges in AA. There are many ways to help

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STEPS AND TRADITIONS
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At his daughter's school one day, a sober dad learns a valuable lesson about telling lies (WINCHESTER, VA.)

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After a heated debate on the internet, a member learns a lot about putting on her gloves for AA (MALDON, ESSEX)

OUR PERSONAL STORIES
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He missed the game, but not that last pint of Scotch. Now he has a life with all bases loaded (VENTURA, CALIF.)

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NEWCOMERS
Joseph Terry 44
Fresh out of rehab, a veteran surprisingly encounters 23 sober friends who give him a brand new nickname (LAS VEGAS, NEV.)

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Bored with meetings 48
A rocky encounter with an old friend got one member thinking about the importance of making meetings (WASHINGTON, D.C.)

SPONSORSHIP
Lots and lots of help 50
Mary, Sydney, Kathleen, Neena and the "move a muscle" lady...they were all exactly what she needed (TEQUESTA, FLA.)

EMOTIONAL SOBRIETY
Life's little lessons 55
More and more each day, her pre-kindergarten students remind her of the wonder of sobriety (GEORGETOWN, TEXAS)

INTO ACTION
Detour 59
On an icy road, the five headed north for a big night of AA. Turns out a more valuable night awaited them (SPRINGFIELD, ILL.)

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ON THE COVER (Featured Section)

On the Cover is the "Featured Section" or theme that appears in each issue. Some AA members may think the entire issue is about this theme. Still, there are many more articles and features inside as well.

- ## ROTATING DEPARTMENTS
- Newcomers
 - Emotional Sobriety
 - Steps and Traditions
 - Spiritual Awakenings
 - Home Groups
 - Into Action
 - Young People
 - Our Personal Stories
 - What's on Your Mind?
 - Sponsorship
 - Fun in Sobriety
 - Into Action

- ## IN EVERY ISSUE
- Dear Grapevine
 - If Walls Could Talk
 - Discussion Topic
 - AA News
 - At Wit's End
 - (Humor/Jokes)
 - Alcoholism at Large



DOES YOUR GROUP HAVE A *GRAPEVINE* SUBSCRIPTION?

What Subscription Packages Does Grapevine Offer?

For information on the formats and devices that subscribers can choose from, refer Part I in the Table of Contents. Click on the links below to see current subscription packages and pricing at the AAGrapevine website.

US Subscriptions CLICK HERE	Canada Subscriptions CLICK HERE	International Subscriptions CLICK HERE
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To contact Customer Service with any questions...

[CLICK HERE!](#)

How Do GVRs Place Subscription Orders for their Groups?

AAGrapevine offers four different ways to place subscription orders.

Online CLICK HERE <i>(Credit cards only)</i>	Telephone CLICK HERE <i>(Credit cards only)</i>	Mail-in CLICK HERE <i>(Checks, money orders or credit cards)</i>	Fax CLICK HERE <i>(Checks, money orders or credit cards)</i>
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To contact Customer Service by email with any questions...

[CLICK HERE!](#)

Is it Possible to Get Back Issues of Grapevine?

Your group or individual group members can purchase “back issues” of *Grapevine*. Perhaps there’s interest in a particular story or topic or special issue. Or the group is looking for a stack of back issues to take along for Twelfth Step work. To go to the *Grapevine* online store...

[CLICK HERE!](#)



How Is Anonymity Protected When Shipping to Subscribers?

Issues of *Grapevine* are mailed to subscribers in special packaging to protect anonymity of recipients. The return address is simply “Grapevine,” no references to AA.



**Actual shipping package –
inside are 10 issues of *Grapevine*.
Note: more recent shipping
envelopes have been white.**



HOW CAN GVRs ENCOURAGE THEIR GROUPS TO SUBSCRIBE TO *GRAPEVINE*?

Make Regular Announcements in Meetings

GVRs say that making regular announcements about *Grapevine* increases interest in *Grapevine*. Here are some of their suggestions. Of course, there is only so much GVRs can talk about in a 1-2 minute announcement, so many GVRs rotate topics from meeting to meeting. Here are seven suggestions:

1. ***Alert your group when a new issue of Grapevine is available.*** Past GVRs say holding up an issue helps group members understand the the topic of an announcement about *Grapevine*.
2. ***Let your group know about each month’s “featured section.”*** This section includes 6-8 stories that reflect a theme, such as “Sponsorship,” “Young & Sober,” and “Relapse.”
3. ***Give your group a taste of a story in the featured section.*** This might be the story feature on the magazine’s cover.
4. ***Let your group know about Grapevine’s other articles and features.*** Some members may think that the entire magazine is about the “featured section,” when there’s always much more!
5. ***Let your group know about recent Grapevine innovations.*** See this section on innovations in Part I of this workbook.
6. ***Keep your group informed about Grapevine news.*** For suggestions on sources of information, see this section in Part V of this workbook: “Informing the Group.”
7. ***Let your group know about “featured sections” in upcoming issues – members may be interested in submitting articles.*** Remember, AA members write the articles that appear in *Grapevine*.

*To submit articles and other material
for publication Grapevine...*

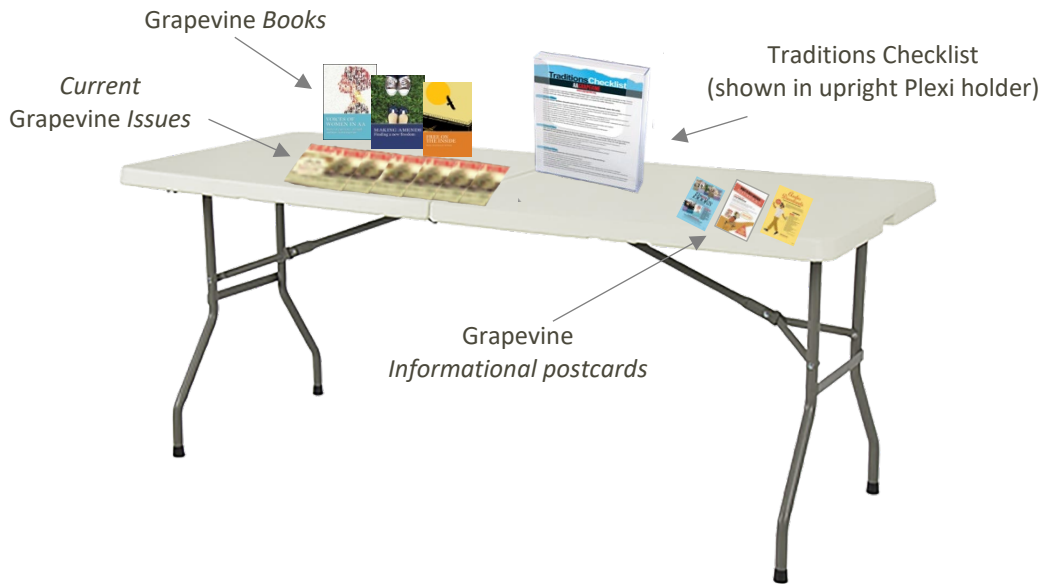
CLICK HERE!



Set Up a Grapevine Display in the Meeting Room

The literature table is a familiar sight in meeting rooms and has an important role to play in helping AA members learn about and purchase our literature. GVRs may see an opportunity in having a **Grapevine literature table**, where current issues, books and other material can be displayed and offered for sale. Of course, some meeting rooms are not large enough to accommodate a display table (or have one available). Some GVRs have also had to improvise when there is little or no storage available for *Grapevine* materials.

Proposing a Grapevine literature display is an excellent place to start. GVRs typically find the group's GSR to be a valuable ally; good relations, based on a shared purpose of carrying the message, are important!



Even More Ideas...
GVR Resources

[CLICK HERE!](#)

Even More Ideas...
AAGRAPEVINE Store

[CLICK HERE!](#)



Propose Participation in the “Carry the Message” Project

The “Carry the Message” Project helps get *Grapevine* issues into the hands of more alcoholics. Here’s how it works...

AA groups (or individual members) can purchase *Grapevine* gift subscriptions that will be matched with other alcoholics in need who are getting and staying sober. *Grapevine* receives requests from prisons, jails, detoxes, recovery centers, senior centers, veterans groups, and others. One group allocates a portion of its budget to purchase 9 or 10 “Carry the Message” gift subscriptions every quarter.



WANT TO HELP ANOTHER ALCOHOLIC?

2021
CARRY THE MESSAGE PROJECT

GRAPEVINE & LA VIÑA are Great Twelfth Step Tools!

Give a gift subscription to an alcoholic who needs it. Great for:

- Sponsees • Newcomers • Prisons • Detoxes • Doctor's Offices
- Group Celebrations • District and Area Events • Giveaways

Get your group, district, area or AA friends to join in.
Carry the Message, it's easy!

Go to aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message to get started and see our new Carry the Message video at www.youtube.com/c/AAGrapevine

For more information

CLICK HERE!



Invite Submissions to Grapevine

Grapevine invites AA members to submit material for publication in the magazine. Here are a few suggestions...

- **Submit Stories Articles for Publication:** *Grapevine* invites AA members to submit articles. Why? Because AA members, not professional magazine authors, write the articles that are published in each issue of *Grapevine*. For more information, see this section in Part II: “How Can GVRs Encourage Members to Submit Articles to *Grapevine*?”
- **“If Walls Could Talk”:** *Grapevine* invites AA groups to submit photos of their meeting spaces to a regular department in issues of *Grapevine* – “If Walls Could Talk.” This is a gallery of photos of meeting spaces (respecting anonymity!). GVRs typically introduce the idea in announcements in meetings and then propose submissions at group business meetings.



For information on how to submit photos...

[CLICK HERE!](#)



- **Enter the Photo Contest for *Grapevine's* Annual Wall Calendar:** *Grapevine* holds a competition to select photographs for the magazine's annual calendar. The competition is open to any AA member. Contributors of selected photos receive a complimentary copy of the Wall Calendar in which their image appears and a *Grapevine* Pocket Planner.

Grapevine Annual Wall Calendar



For more information on how to submit photos...

CLICK HERE!

Commemorate Group Member Anniversaries with Grapevine or La Viña Gift Subscriptions

A Sunday morning “As Bill Sees It” meeting in California gives members celebrating one year of sobriety *Grapevine* or *La Viña* gift subscriptions. This is also great way to introduce AA members to *Grapevine*. Gift certificates can be for print or digital subscriptions or a combined print + digital subscription. There are price breaks – the more you buy, the more you save!



For more information on purchasing print magazine gift subscriptions...

CLICK HERE!



Alert Your Group to Grapevine’s “Daily Quote” that Is Delivered Each Day Via Email

Start your day with an inspiring quote from stories that have been published by *Grapevine*. The editors of Grapevine select quotes that express “experience, strength, and hope.” The quotes arrive each morning via email. AA members sign up with their email addresses (at now expense to them).



***Grapevine Daily Quote
for January 23, 2022***

*To subscribe...
(be sure to check the box “Grapevine Daily Quote”)*

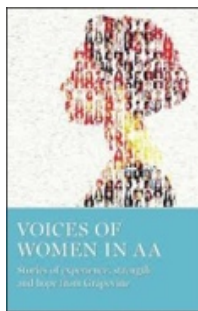
CLICK HERE!



HOW GVRs CAN INTEREST GROUPS MEMBERS IN GRAPEVINE BOOKS?

Display a Selection of Grapevine Books in the Meeting Room

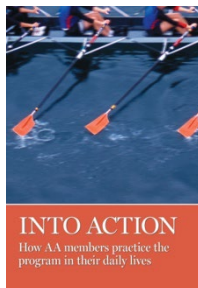
When a creating a new *Grapevine* book, the editors begin select a theme and then dig into the archive for stories. The story archive dates back to 1944. The stories provide a wide range of experience, strength and hope for readers. There are dozens of *Grapevine* books in English and Spanish. Here are two examples:



VOICES OF WOMEN IN AA

Sixty-one inspiring stories from women, spanning early AA, when some groups did not welcome a woman coming in the door, to today, when women are leading meetings in far-flung places, including in war zones.

GVRs: A women's group in California has used this book in their literature meeting.



INTO ACTION: How AA Members Practice the Program in Their Everyday lives

This collection of *Grapevine* stories, written by AA members, young and old, and with different lengths of sobriety, highlights how members practice the Twelve Steps, use our literature and slogans, and get into service.

GVRs: Groups have used this book in literature meetings.

Where to Begin

Ask at your group's business meetings about buying and displaying *Grapevine* books. It is advisable to place an order only after the group has approved the expenditure. *Grapevine* invites GVRs to familiarize themselves with the books.

To visit the Grapevine online bookstore...

CLICK HERE!



Include Grapevine Books in Regular Announcements

GVRs have found that making regular announcements in AA meetings about *Grapevine* books is key to generating interest among members. The books are less well known in the fellowship than the magazine. (At the same time, the books have been very popular.) GVRs typically find that group members want to know what the books are about.



Five of the many books published by Grapevine in both English and Spanish

Four Suggestions for Making Grapevine Announcements in Meetings

1. ***Highlight a GV book and let the group know the book's theme.*** In the *Introduction* to each book, there is a brief statement describing the theme.
2. ***Find a story in the book that has something that appeals to you – and let the group know about it.*** If the GVR likes the book, members will, too. The GVR also comes to know what their group members are interested in.
3. ***Let the group know how many stories are in the book.*** The number of stories is typically mentioned in each book's *Introduction* (or if all else fails, count the stories listed in each book's table of contents). This helps members get a picture of what the book offers.
4. ***GVRs often feature one book at a time in an announcement, although perhaps not in every announcement.*** GVRs have found it helpful to think about what they can accomplish over their terms rather than feeling that they have to get everything done in a few meetings.



HOW CAN GVRs ENCOURAGE MORE TWELFTH STEP USE OF *GRAPEVINE*?

Carry the Message Project

AAGRAPEVINE’s Carry the Message Project helps get issues of *Grapevine* and *La Viña* into the hands of more alcoholics. For more information, see the \i section in Part I: “Propose Participation in the Carry the Message Project.” You can also **click on image at right** to go to *Grapevine*’s website.



Corrections & Treatment Facilities

Corrections and treatment facilities typically welcome donations of *Grapevine* and *La Viña*. Some facilities allow AA groups to bring in meetings. AA groups often bring issues of *Grapevine* and *La Viña* with them – and leave them behind. Some facilities do not allow outside AA groups. In these cases, *Grapevine* and *La Viña* may be the only exposure to AA that the inmates and patients receive. If your group is interested in donating *Grapevine* and *La Viña* issues to corrections or treatment facilities, contact your local Inter-group office or your Area’s Corrections and Treatment Committee as well as Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee (CPC).

Newcomer Welcome Kits

Some AA groups give newcomers “welcome kits” that may include a meeting list, a copy of *Living Sober*, and a pamphlet. If your group has such a kit, consider adding in a *Grapevine* issue. If your group does not do this, consider proposing that newcomers receive an issue of *Grapevine*. Discussing these at your group’s business meeting is the place to start.

Grapevine Publishes Stories by Groups Sharing Their Experience, Strength, and Hope

All groups face challenges at different times. Perhaps the collection basket does not bring in enough contributions to meet the rent. Or maybe the landlord is upset with the group. *Grapevine* issues include stories about how groups face such issues and how they apply the Traditions. Your group may have such experience to share. The GVR might propose in a business meeting that a group member write an article on the experience and submit it for publication in *Grapevine*.

HOW CAN GVRs ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO SUBMIT ARTICLES TO *GRAPEVINE*?

Why Is It Important for Group Members to Submit Articles?

AA members (and the occasional friend of AA) write the articles that appear in *Grapevine*, not professional writers. The spirit of *Grapevine* is one alcoholic (the writer of a story) sharing with another alcoholic (the reader of a story). GVRs can help *Grapevine* by encouraging the members of their groups to submit stories for publication.

Are There Submission Guidelines?

Yes. Click on the button below to go to the *Grapevine* website for submission guidelines.

For Submission Guidelines...

CLICK HERE!

Many AA members who submit stories found it useful to look at the *Grapevine* Editorial Calendar. Each month, *Grapevine* publishes stories that reflect a monthly theme, such as “young in sobriety” or “sober travel.” These themes often inspire AA members to start writing. Importantly, each issue is comprised of a variety of articles, not only those related to the featured topic. If an article reaches *Grapevine* after the deadline passes for a specific issue, it will be considered for a future issue, nonetheless.

For Editorial Calendar

CLICK HERE!

A month or so after a group member submits an article, a GVR may get this question from a group member: *Why hasn't Grapevine published my story yet?* Well, there can be a number of reasons. Keep in mind that *Grapevine's* editors start selecting articles for an issue at least five months before an issue's cover date. Also, *Grapevine* receives many submissions. The size of editorial staff is small, so the process of reviewing stories takes time. The editors only send notices to authors when their stories have been selected. If your story is not selected initially, we may well use it in the future.



How Can GVRs Reassure Members Anxious about Writing Articles?

Below is a list of typical “hesitations,” followed by some “reassuring thoughts” that GVRs have offered with some success.

Frequent Concern	Consider This...
<p>“I’m not a writer.”</p> <p>→</p>	<p>If you have written a Fourth Step inventory, a Ninth Step amends letter, or even an email or a text to a friend, you can write a <i>Grapevine</i> article. It is <i>what</i> you say, not <i>how</i> you say it, that matters. <i>Grapevine</i> editors look for the language of the heart.</p>
<p>“I don’t know how to spell.”</p> <p>→</p>	<p>You don’t need to know how to spell to write a <i>Grapevine</i> article! You don’t need perfect grammar either. Leave all that to <i>Grapevine</i> editors to check before publication.</p>
<p>“I wouldn’t know what to write about.”</p> <p>→</p>	<p>Everyone needs a little inspiration. Here a few ideas that should help spark ideas. Leaf through a few <i>Grapevine</i> issues. Read several stories that catch you eye. CLICK HERE to check out <i>Grapevine</i>’s editorial calendar that lists topics of upcoming issues.</p>
<p>“I don’t have experience that would help anyone.”</p> <p>→</p>	<p>Each and every alcoholic has a story, the story of how they came to AA and their journey in AA. Experience, strength and hope. No one can tell your story, but you! And someone needs to read it. One alcoholic sharing with another.</p>
<p>“I can’t deal with a rejection letter.”</p> <p>→</p>	<p><i>Grapevine</i> does <u>not</u> send rejection letters. Submissions are kept on file for consideration for future issues.</p>

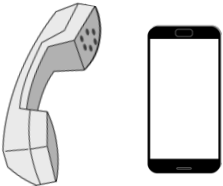
Group Members Also Have the Option of Recording Their Stories over the Telephone

For those who simply cannot write their stories down, there is the option – recording them. Selected recordings will be posted on the AA *Grapevine* website and transcribed for publication in the print and online editions of the magazine. Below is information to help guide members in the process. To participate, AA members need a current *GV Online* or *GV Complete* subscription. *Grapevine* does not collect recordings from speakers at AA meetings.

GVRs! You might consider recording your own stories to be able to share you experience with members of your groups.

Two Ways to Record Your Story

OPTION A:
Record over the Phone



Call our dedicated voicemail box at 559-726-1216 to record your story. Note that long distance charges may apply.

OPTION B:
Create Audio File, then Email to GV



Use your smartphone or other mobile device or digital recorder, to record your story and send it in.

For more information on recording your story...

CLICK HERE!



Other Ways to Contribute Material to GV Besides Writing Stories

Two Different Opinion Departments

If you can write a “Letter to the Editor” of a newspaper or leave a comment on a website, you already know how to write for *Grapevine*. The magazine offers two “editorial departments” – “Dear Grapevine” and “What’s on Your Mind?” – that some AA members find easier to write for. Pick up an issue of the *Grapevine* to see examples.

Dear Grapevine

This is the magazine’s letters section. Readers share thoughts on recent articles and current topics in AA. This is like writing a “letter to the editor” of a newspaper.

What’s on Your Mind?

In this section, readers share thoughts and opinions about meetings, recovery and AA. There may be more controversial material here than in the rest of the magazine.

At Wit’s End: GV’s Jokes and Cartoons Department

Grapevine invites AA members to submit jokes and cartoons to a monthly department in the magazine, *At Wit’s End*. The subject matter for submissions should be about AA, service, meetings, drinking, newcomers and related topics for the magazine’s monthly department, *At Wit’s End*. *Grapevine* also invites AA members to submit captions for the monthly “Caption Contest.”

AA members are invited to submit jokes for the *At Wit’s End* page.

At Wit's End

Shopping spree
A woman was shopping at a busy mall with her husband. At one point, she looked up and noticed that her husband was nowhere to be found, so she called his cell phone to ask where he was. He picked up and said, "Honey, do you remember the jewelry store we went into five years ago where you fell in love with that diamond necklace that we couldn't afford and I told you I'd get it for you one day?"
The wife, crying, replied, "Yes, I remember!"
"Well," he said, "I'm in the bar next to that jewelry store."
PAUL C. Oceanside, Calif.

GOT ANY JOKES?
We need your jokes about chronic, alcohol, bars, sponsors, and sobriety. Heard any good ones? Send them to us at aa@grapevine.org, please.

GRAPEVINE CAPTION CONTEST
Below is the winner of last month's caption contest. Visit our website at www.aagrapevine.org to see previous winners or to submit a caption!

God gave us brains to use
One morning, a wife woke up to loud noises in the kitchen. Oh no, she thought, Bill's been drinking again.
Upon entering the kitchen, she saw her husband swinging a flyswatter vigorously.
"What are you doing?" she asked.
"Killing flies," he replied. "I've killed five so far. Three males and two females."
Puzzled, she asked, "How can you tell their gender?"
"Simple," he replied. "The three males were on a glass of beer and the two females were on the phone."
KEITH G. Evansville, Ind.

Mission impossible
Two drinks walk out of a bar.
MIKE M. San Francisco, Calif.

...and then I realized, please pardon the phrase... a little hair of the dog.
-GEOFF T., Philadelphia, Pa.

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GV “Caption Contest.” Each month a cartoon drawn by an AA member, but *without* a caption, is posted on the GV website. AA members are invited to submit their own funny captions. **CLICK HERE** to see the current cartoon. Submit a caption!

For more information on submitting jokes, cartoons, and other material...

[CLICK HERE!](#)

WHAT IS A “DISTRICT GV Rep”?

The District GV Rep serves as the link between AA groups and their GVRs – and the Area service structure. They are elected or selected by the trusted servants in a district. In keeping with Tradition Four, it is up to each District to decide how to organize its *Grapevine* committee and what to call it. Some Districts have separate committees, one for *Grapevine* and one for *La Viña*. Other Districts have a single committee for both.

WHAT DOES A DISTRICT GV REP DO?

1. Encourage groups in the District to elect or appoint GVRs.
2. Keep an up-to-date list of group GVRs/RLVs in the District.
3. Chair the District *Grapevine/La Viña* committee.
4. Stay in contact with all GVRs in the district and share ideas with them.
5. Hold meetings for GVRs/RLVs in the District.
6. Make sure that GVRs have magazine flyers and order forms.
7. Keep the Area *Grapevine* Chair updated on progress in the District.
8. Keeps the District informed about *Grapevine* news. To keep up with news about *Grapevine*, see Part IV for possible sources.
9. Send each new GVR’s name, address, and group to the *Grapevine* office through AAGrapevine.org (if the GVR has not already done so).



SUGGESTIONS WHEN VISITING GROUPS

Visits from the District GV Rep can have a real impact on a group. Here are six suggestions that have enhanced visits by other District GV Reps in the past:

1. **Many District GV Reps have found it helpful to contact a group's overall chair prior to attending a meeting with the intention of discussing Grapevine.** Most groups will want to find a way to make a visit happen, but some may decline, which is their prerogative. Having this settled in advance makes for a more productive visit. A conversation in advance also offers the opportunity to learn about the group's history with *Grapevine* and their needs.
2. **Once cleared with a group's overall chair, a District GV may want to set up a Grapevine display in a meeting room on the date of the visit.** Connecting with the meeting set-up person and literature chair to find space for a display that does not conflict with their needs will likely be appreciated; perhaps the overall chair and the group's GVR, if they have one, can help making these connections
3. **It is neither possible, nor advisable, to attempt to cover every aspect of Grapevine in a single visit.** This may seem obvious, but that may be an annual visit at best, so the urge is often to make the most of it. Prioritize. What might the group need? Perhaps an introduction to *Grapevine*? Or perhaps a discussion of the ways *Grapevine* can enhance a group's Twelve Step activities? Or a pitch for why having a GVR would benefit the group?
4. **Ensure that the group has a supply of magazines and other Grapevine items.** The District GV Rep may find that many groups are not aware of what "today's *Grapevine*" has to offer.
5. **Let the group know about Grapevine's website – AAGrapevine.org – and the many features that it offers.** The website has recently been refreshed to be more engaging and easier to navigate. *Grapevine* offers a variety of formats to suit the needs of AA members far more than in the past. Refer back to Part I for examples.
6. **Encourage registration with the Grapevine office.** See "Contact List" on the page that precedes this workbook's Table of Contents. Note that a group can register with Grapevine, even though they may not currently have a GVR.

ORGANIZING SPECIAL *GRAPEVINE* EVENTS

Many District committees set up *Grapevine* displays at:

- District meetings
- District workshops
- Share-a-Days
- Monthly intergroup speakers' meetings
- Annual banquets such as Spiritual Breakfasts

SUGGESTIONS ON HAVING MEETINGS WITH *GRAPEVINE* REPS

1. Most District *Grapevine* Committees meet at regularly scheduled district meetings.
2. To welcome new GVRs, one District chair had her committee make "Welcome" kits. The kits included information about the GVR's duties, a registration form (with a stamped and addressed envelope) to send to the *Grapevine* office, and subscription forms.
3. Another District GV Rep had the *Grapevine* committee make up folders with information about the magazine, the *Grapevine* website and popular *Grapevine* postcards that provide snapshots of different initiatives. The folders went GVRs at the monthly general service meeting.
4. One District GVR regularly holds informal, idea-swapping brunches at a local restaurant for the twenty-five GVRs in his district.



PART IV: Area *Grapevine* Chairs

WHAT IS AN “AREA *GRAPEVINE* CHAIR”?

The Area *Grapevine* chair, a position in the AA service structure, may be elected or appointed, depending on the Area’s practice. In some Areas, Chairs are drawn from participants in the existing service structure. Each Area decides whether their *Grapevine* chair has a vote at the Area assembly. In Areas that are geographically large, Area chairpersons might have co-chairs to cover the territory.

WHAT DO AREA *GRAPEVINE* CHAIRS DO?

Once District GV Reps are in place and an Area *Grapevine* committee has been established, the Area *Grapevine* chair:

1. Helps create enthusiasm for *Grapevine* and *La Viña* by sharing news about *Grapevine* in the Area.
2. Holds *Grapevine/La Viña* committee meetings.
3. Meets with District GVRs/RLVs to exchange ideas on how to encourage groups to elect GVRs and how to help them.
4. Keeps an ongoing list of GVRs/RLVs and keeps the *Grapevine* office up to date on their addresses.
5. Leads *Grapevine* or *La Viña* workshops or holds other special events.
6. Makes sure that *Grapevine* and *La Viña* are included in the planning of workshops and presentations for Area events.
7. Sets up displays, sells subscriptions, keeps a supply of *Grapevine* items on hand for sale.



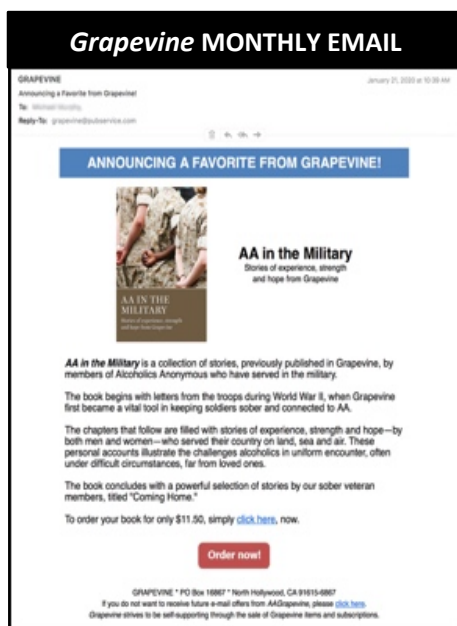
PART V: Service Event Ideas

In Part V, *Grapevine* has compiled ideas for service events that may be useful for GVRs, District GV Reps and Area GV Chairs:

- Informing the Fellowship
- Organizing Workshop and Other Special Events
- Working with Groups
- Setting-up *Grapevine* Displays

INFORMING THE FELLOWSHIP

This section lists several *Grapevine* information tools that GVRs, District GV Reps and Area GV Chairs can take advantage of. Keeping the fellowship informed about *Grapevine* – new issues, books, website features and more – is a vital service on behalf of the magazine.



Grapevine publishes a monthly email about the latest issue, products and offers. Area *Grapevine* Chairs may want to pass some of it along to their Areas.

After registering, GVRs, District GV Reps, and Area GV Committee Members (those providing an email addresses) are automatically signed up to receive the monthly email.

To register as a GSR or other GV service position and receive the monthly email...

CLICK HERE!



Grapevine and/or La Viña News (Monthly Newsletters)

This is an essential monthly communication from AAGrapevine that is rich in information about *Grapevine*.



To read and subscribe...

[CLICK HERE!](#)

SERVICE TOOLS: Flyers & Post Cards

Grapevine and *La Viña* publish flyers and post cards that highlight projects and new publications – Area *Grapevine* Chairs and *La Viña* chairs can pass along to AA members and groups. Below are four examples.



For more information...

[CLICK HERE!](#)

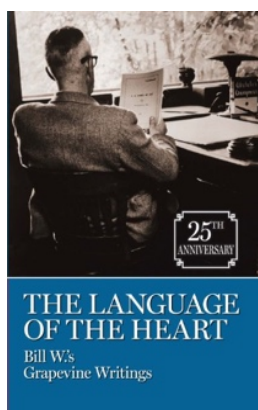


WORKING WITH GROUPS

Many groups welcome the jolt of energy and enthusiasms that GVRs, District GVRs and Area GV Chairs can bring to groups. Some groups will be less interested and that is their right in AA. Keep the spirit of the Fourth Tradition in mind when working with groups. This section briefly describes ways GVRs, District GVRs and Area GV Chairs can introduce more Grapevine into the life of a group.

Starting Grapevine Literature Meetings

Groups report that there are many advantages to having discussion meetings based on *Grapevine* or *La Viña*. The discussions stay centered on solid AA sharing and the principles of AA. Groups draw from many parts of the magazine for meetings. Here are two popular formats:



**The Language
of the Heart
MEETING**



**Discussion Topic from Grapevine Issue
MEETING**



Four Other Possible Meeting Formats Using Grapevine Literature

1. Members pass recent *Grapevine* issue around the room, each member reading selections, then opening up to sharing on reading.
2. The meeting listens to an audio story and share on what was heard.
3. A quote from *Grapevine* is the meeting's topic for sharing.
4. The theme of a *Grapevine* issue's Special Section is used as a topic for sharing.



Letting Groups Know How They Can Donate Subscriptions to Alcoholics in Need

Donating gift subscriptions is often the most effective way to reach AA members and potential members who come in contact with an array of institutions and organizations. District and Area *Grapevine* Committee members might coordinate on these campaigns.

Preparing a Mail Campaign

Some Areas have created mail campaigns to reach out to various institutions and organizations that may be interested in *Grapevine* or *La Viña* for the people they serve: (1) letter of introduction with brief discussion of AA, *Grapevine* and *La Viña*; (2) complimentary subscription (paid for through a sponsorship by an AA group, District or Area); and (3) a few issues of *Grapevine* and *La Viña*.

Compiling a List of Institutions and Organizations to Contact

Here are a selection of possible institutions and organizations to contact: Jails, police departments, prisons, holding facilities, juvenile correctional programs; public libraries; high school, college, university, vocational school libraries; detox units, treatment, rehab facilities; counselors' offices in schools; doctors' and dentists' offices; senior citizen centers and residences; youth shelters; homeless shelters and soup kitchens; churches, synagogues, retreat centers; hospitals, clinics, VA hospitals, community centers.

Sample Donation Letter

Dear _____:

Enclosed you will find recent issues of *AAGrapevine*, the monthly international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous, and of *La Viña*, AA's Spanish-language magazine. Both magazines emphasize first-person accounts of AA experiences with alcoholism, recovery, and service. Like AA meetings themselves, *Grapevine* and *La Viña* are tools to help the recovering alcoholic stay sober.

We hope that after you have reviewed the magazines, you will want to have them available for your readers. If this is the case, an AA member or group will be happy to sponsor a subscription for you, making it possible to add the magazines to your periodicals collection at no cost to you.

If you decide you would like to receive *Grapevine* or *La Viña*, please let us know and we will enter a subscription in your name. The magazine will begin arriving in four to six weeks.

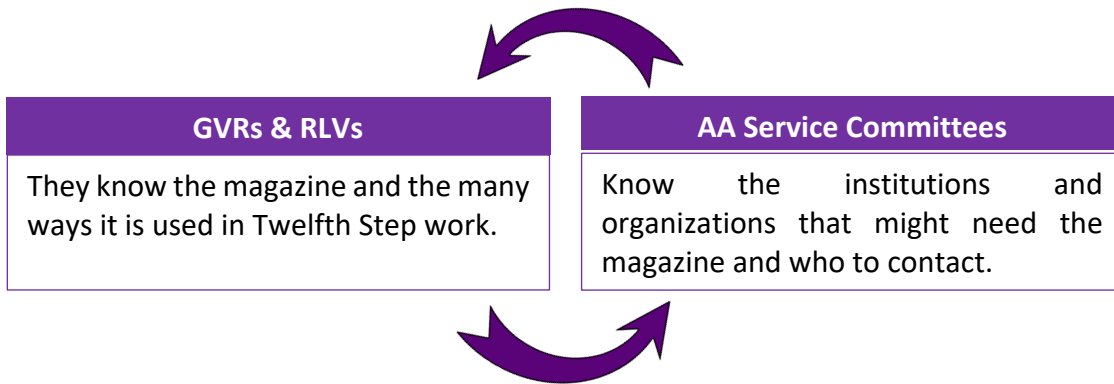
Thank you for your consideration.



WORKING WITH AA SERVICE COMMITTEES

The General Service Conference has recommended *Grapevine* Reps and Committees consider partnerships with other service committees to increase use of the *Grapevine* as a tool in carrying the message; each offers valuable experience and knowledge\.

The Benefits of Collaboration: Sharing Experience, Knowledge, Ideas & Hope



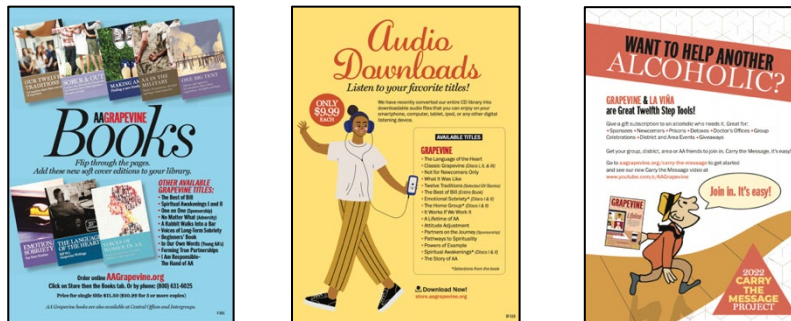
Grapevine and other service committees have developed events like these by working together:

<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #d3d3d3; margin: 0;">Treatment Facilities Committees</p> <p>AAGrapevine, Inc. Treatment Facilities Committees have worked together in several areas to provide GV and La Viña subscriptions to alcoholics newly discharged from treatment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #d3d3d3; margin: 0;">Public Information Committees</p> <p>In one Area, the Grapevine and PI committees set up programs encouraging groups to contact high schools and offer 1-year subscriptions of the magazines and website.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #d3d3d3; margin: 0;">Hospitals & Institutions Committees</p> <p>A <i>Grapevine</i> committee distributed back issues to an ER in a local hospital after contacting each hospital by phone to explain the purpose of the project with the help of CPS committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #d3d3d3; margin: 0;">Correctional Facilities Committees</p> <p>Several committees helped GVRs and RLVs with campaigns to send subscriptions to people in correctional programs. The GV office also receives lists every month from the Corrections desk for the Carry the Message Project.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #d3d3d3; margin: 0;">Central Offices or Intergroups</p> <p>Occasionally, Grapevine and literature committees are invited to participate in the monthly meetings and quarterly booking exchanges at their local intergroup.</p>	



CREATING GRAPEVINE DISPLAYS FOR AA EVENTS

Grapevine and *La Viña* displays at AA events introduce members to the full array of publications. **Posters** and **postcards** can highlight a current issue or tie *Grapevine* to the event's theme.



Three examples of Grapevine postcards that are suitable for a Grapevine display or meeting's literature table

Displays range in depth and breadth, depending on the ambitions of the GV trusted servants involved, budget and available event space. See next page for examples. Displays are often stocked with current and back issues of *Grapevine*; *Grapevine* books; information about AAGrapevine.org; and examples of *Grapevine*'s content-related items such as the annual wall calendar. Displays typically contain the following handouts and give-aways. Here are several ideas:

HIGHLIGHTS OF GRAPEVINE OR LA VIÑA HISTORY

One *Grapevine* chair had a set of magazines dating from 1956 bound and added to a traveling *Grapevine* display to give people a sense of early *Grapevine*.

CONFERENCE APPROVAL

Another chair put a poster of General Service Conference recommendations and Advisory Actions about *Grapevine* – a fast, graphic way to present significant *Grapevine* and *La Viña* history.

“GOODIE BAGS”

One GVR came up with an idea to wrap groups of *Grapevine* and *La Viña* items on special themes in plastic bags. For the Home Group: Slogans, the Serenity Prayer, a back issue, and the book *Into Action*. For Beginners: a current issue, copy of the *Grapevine Beginners' Book* and the Preamble.

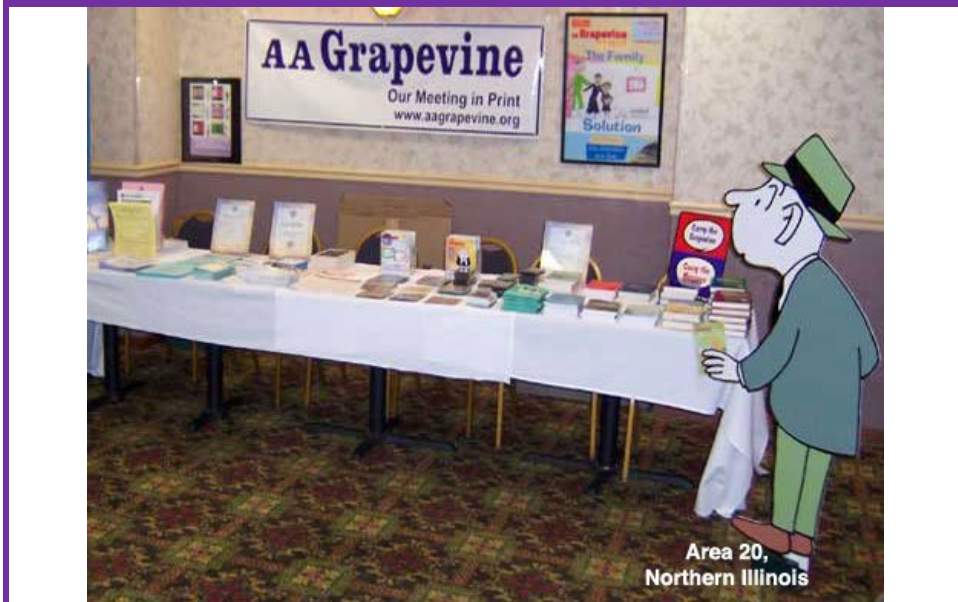


Gallery of Displays

Area 20: No. Illinois



Area 03: Arizona



Area 45: So. New Jersey, 54th Convention



Area 49: Southeast New York State



WORKSHOPS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Grapevine and *La Viña* workshops can be held at almost any AA event or celebration. They are almost always on the agenda at regional forums, and many Areas and Districts now make the magazines one of the topics to be discussed at service workshops, inviting someone knowledgeable about *Grapevine* to give a presentation.

Examples of Workshop Formats

Districts and Areas have developed a variety of formats. Here are five examples:

EXAMPLE #1: *Today's Grapevine*

- PURPOSE** To inform and inspire AA members about today's *Grapevine*
- FORMAT** A panel presentation with audience Q&A
- PARTICIPANTS** Moderator plus 2-3 speakers
- PROGRAM**
- Each speaker is given a topic to discuss reflecting their knowledge/experience
 - Possible topics:
 - ⇒ Online edition of the magazine
 - ⇒ How groups use *Grapevine* in Twelfth Step activities
 - ⇒ *Grapevine* Books
 - Audience Q&A

EXAMPLE #2: *Grapevine* Writing Workshop

- PURPOSE** To ease anxiety among AA members about writing articles and give them experience in writing
- FORMAT** A panel presentation with audience Q&A
- PARTICIPANTS** Moderator plus writing instructor, usually someone in the fellowship who is skilled in teaching writing and has experience leading workshops
- PROGRAM**
- Instructor leads writing exercises, so attendees can leave with the draft of an article to submit
 - Audience Q &A

For **Audio and Writing Workshop guidelines**, please contact the GVR/RLV Coordinator...
gvrca@agrapevine.org



EXAMPLE #3: “Record Your Story” Workshop

- PURPOSE** To inform and inspire AA members about recording their stories (without having to write them) for Grapevine
- FORMAT** Similar to the writing workshop (Example #2)
- PARTICIPANTS** Moderator plus “recording” instructor
- PROGRAM**
- Why Grapevine offers this service
 - Review of procedures to record stories
 - Tips on recording (see page 34 of this workbook)
 - Listen to 2-3 stories currently available
 - Set up recording demonstration
 - Audience Q&A

EXAMPLE #4: Carrying the Message with *Grapevine*

- PURPOSE** To inform and inspire AA members about all the ways *Grapevine* is an effective 12th Step service tool.
- FORMAT** Panels of 3 speakers plus moderator and audience Q&A
- PARTICIPANTS** Moderator plus 3 speakers
- PROGRAM**
- Moderator provides overview of what makes *Grapevine* a great service tool and highlights project such as Carry the Message
 - If possible, show *Grapevine* service “tutorials” that are posted on YouTube. (For more information, see this section in Part I: “*Grapevine* launched a YouTube channel.”)
 - Speakers share how they and/or their groups have used *Grapevine*
 - Audience Q&A

EXAMPLE #5: GVR Bootcamp

- PURPOSE** To inform and inspire AA members serving, or interested in serving, as GVRs
- FORMAT** Panels of 3 speakers plus moderator and audience Q&A
- PARTICIPANTS** Moderator plus 3 speakers
- PROGRAM**
- Moderator provides overview GVR position
 - Speakers share how they support *Grapevine* as GVR
 - Audience Q&A



Organizing Special Grapevine Events

In addition to workshops, GVRs, DGVRs and Area GV Chairs can also host events in support of Grapevine and/or La Viña. Use your creativity!

Three Examples:

- **Grape-A-Thons**: A series of discussion meetings over a single day on the Steps, Traditions, Concepts, group issues, spirituality, and other AA topics based on *Grapevine* articles. This idea came from an Area Chair in Colorado.
- **Grapevine or La Viña Week**: One event culminated in a Grapevine Roundup featuring an open speakers meeting, a dance, a hayride, a bonfire, and a barbecue, with free Grapevines for all and a prize of a year's subscription for best costume.
- **Grapevine and La Viña Awareness Month**: An anniversary event was launched when an Area assembly voted to designate June as "*Grapevine* Month" and the idea has since been tried in other areas. *La Viña* celebrates its anniversary during the month of July. Throughout the month, special efforts were made to encourage subscriptions and to encourage groups to elect a rep if they did not have one. Group officers were asked to help increase awareness of the magazine.

Information Packets

Information packets put together from complimentary material sent by the Grapevine office were handed out at one event by greeters as participants arrived. The packets included a special cartoon drawn up by a local member for a caption contest; winners were awarded Grapevine subscriptions for their efforts.

How the Grapevine Office Can Help

The *Grapevine* office is ready to help setting up a *Grapevine* or *La Viña* workshop or event. *Grapevine* staff members are available as speakers, *Grapevine* events or other AA functions. Staff members can give presentations on *Grapevine* or *La Viña* and share experiences. It is understood that when such invitations are extended, the staff person's expenses are paid by the committee that issued the invitation. Please contact the GVR/RLV Coordinator: 212-870-3018 (Tel) or gvrca@agrapevine.org (email).



Glossary

AREA A geographical division in AA's General Service Conference. There are 93 Areas in North America (U.S. and Canada). Each Area elects a Delegate to the General Service Conference. The Area has regularly meetings, typically called "assemblies."

AREA CHAIR The chairperson of an Area geographical division within a state or province. Some states or provinces have only one area; in heavily AA-populated places, there may be two, three, or more areas in the state or province. For example, Illinois is divided into three areas: Chicago, No. Illinois, So. Illinois.

AREA GRAPEVINE CHAIR Typically appointed by the overall area chair. Sets up *Grapevine* committees and coordinates *Grapevine* activities at the area level. Establishes District GVRs where needed. Acts as a resource for District GVRs in the area. Plans workshops and gives talks on *Grapevine*.

AREA ASSEMBLY A meeting of GSRs, district committee members (DCMs), and area officers to discuss area affairs and, every other year, to elect a delegate and committee officers. Area *Grapevine* committees often set up displays of *Grapevine* magazines, books and other media and offer them for sale. A group GVR is not a voting member of this body but may attend for informational purposes or to assist the area *Grapevine* committee.

DELEGATE Person elected at the Area assembly to represent the Area at the annual General Service Conference meeting and bring back to the Area the results of the Conference meeting.

DCM Elected by the GSRs in a district to represent them at the area committee meeting. Typically chairs the district meeting.

DISTRICT Division of AA groups within an area that is represented by a district committee member (DCM).

DISTRICT GV REP A *Grapevine* representative at the District level who serves as a link between GVRs and the District and Area structure.

DISTRICT RLV A *La Viña* representative at the District level who serves as a link between group RLVs and the district and area structure.



GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 1) The structure involving committee members, GSRs, and delegates in an Area; 2) the annual meeting of Conference delegates each April in New York.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER (DCM) Elected by the GSRs in a District to represent them at Area committee meetings and to coordinate the District's service activities.

GVR Grapevine Representative. The liaison between *Grapevine* and the group. Elected by the members of a group, usually the GVR's homegroup. Serves a two-year term.

GSR General Service Representative. Elected by a group to represent it at the area level. GSRs vote for the District Committee Member (DCM), Area Delegate and other officers at the Area level. A local AA group often has both a GSR and GVR, who are encouraged to co-ordinate on activities where appropriate.

GRAPEVINE OFFICE The magazine's physical offices at the General Service Office (GSO). The address is:

AAGrapevine, Inc.
475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10015
Tel: 212-870-3400

OTHER MEDIA Formerly called "special items." *Grapevine* and *La Viña* wall calendar, pocket planner, tapes, reprints.

REGION A geographic grouping of several states or provinces from which a regional trustee is elected to serve on the General Service Board.

RLV *La Viña* Representative. The liaison between *Grapevine/La Viña* and the group. Elected by the members of the group, usually the Rep's homegroup. Serves a 1- or 2-year term.

