THE GRAPEVINE WORKBOOK

A Resource for Grapevine Reps and Others in Service

Created by AA GRAPEVINE
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

I am responsible. 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO</th>
<th>HOW</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GVR/RLV Coordinator</strong></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:gvrc@aagrapevine.org">gvrc@aagrapevine.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Customer Service** – about subscriptions to *GV or La Viña* | Email: preguntas@aagrapevine.org  
Mail: Grapevine, PO Box 2516,  
Williamsport, PA 17703  
La Viña, PO Box 1261, Williamsport, PA 17703 |
| **Customer Service** – about GV items & other orders | Email: customerservice@aagrapevine.org |
| **Customer Service** – about GV online (e.g., resetting passwords) | Email: customerservice@aagrapevine.org |
| **GV office in New York**  
(Bilingual) | Mail: Grapevine, 475 Riverside Drive 11th Floor,  
New York, NY, NY 10115  
Tel: (212) 870-3018, Mon-Fri, 9 am-5 pm EST |
| **Subscription Orders** – by telephone  
(*credit cards only*) | **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  
(*credit cards only*) | Fax #: (570) 322-2063 (7 days/24 hours)  
[CLICK HERE](#) to print order forms (scroll down) |
| **Subscription Orders** – by mail  
(*check, money order or credit card*) | 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@aagrapevine.org |
| **Questions** – about magazine or editorial content | Email: senioreditor@aagrapevine.org |
| **Questions** – reprints or copyright issues | Email: jbryan@aagrapevine.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*  
* GIF or JPEG formats only | Grapevine: gveditorial@aagrapevine.org  
La Viña: manuscritoslv@aagrapevine.org |
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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?”


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
Grapevine & La Viña apps are now available!

Take GV & LV wherever you go!

Click here

www.aagrapevine.org/apps
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. AA Grapevine 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

“Complete” subscriptions

CLICK HERE !  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.

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**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.

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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!

![YouTube Channel](image)

*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....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How to Succeed as a Grapevine Rep (1 min, 37 sec)</th>
<th>AA Grapevine... Celebrates 75 Years! (1 min, 24 sec)</th>
<th>Carry the Message Project (1 min, 29 sec)</th>
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<td><img src="image" alt="Video" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brief overview on being a Grapevine Rep (GVR)</td>
<td>About Grapevine’s 75th Anniversary Toolkit, a package of recovery tools</td>
<td>How GVRs can help get Grapevine issues to alcoholics in need</td>
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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 ...
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...*
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!]

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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 AAgrapveine.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**

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<tr>
<th>FULL NAME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAILING LIST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMAIL ADDRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GROUP’S FULL NAME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GROUP’S LOCATION (CITY AND STATE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISTRICT # *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AREA # *</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*If uncertain about these, you might ask your group’s GSR or email the GVR Coordinator (gvrc@aaagrapevine.org).

**STEP 2: Contact Grapevine to Register**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>To register online:</th>
<th>CLICK HERE!</th>
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</table>
| 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! |
WHAT IS A GRAPEVINE REPRESENTATIVE?

A Grapevine Representative (GVR) is an AA member who serves as the link between AA Grapevine – 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 AA Grapevine 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.

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

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.
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

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.”
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.
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.

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

ON THE COVER
(Featured Section)

A mother’s dilemma
Thanks to her online home group, neither an injury nor a need for childcare can keep her from AA.

Newcomers
How his own situation led him to a better understanding of other members’ needs.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>US Subscriptions</th>
<th>Canada Subscriptions</th>
<th>International Subscriptions</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLICK HERE</td>
<td>CLICK HERE</td>
<td>CLICK HERE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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
  - (Credit cards only)

- **Telephone**
  - CLICK HERE
  - (Credit cards only)

- **Mail-in**
  - CLICK HERE
  - (Checks, money orders or credit cards)

- **Fax**
  - CLICK HERE
  - (Checks, money orders or credit cards)

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 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 in 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!
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.

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.
• **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](image)

*For more information on how to submit photos.... [CLICK HERE!]*

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**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!

![Gift Bag](image)

*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 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...*
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.

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 “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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequent Concern</th>
<th>Consider This…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“I’m not a writer.”</td>
<td>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 <em>Grapevine</em> article. It is what you say, not how you say it, that matters. <em>Grapevine</em> editors look for the language of the heart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I don’t know how to spell.”</td>
<td>You don’t need to know how to spell to write a <em>Grapevine</em> article! You don’t need perfect grammar either. Leave all that to <em>Grapevine</em> editors to check before publication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I wouldn’t know what to write about.”</td>
<td>Everyone needs a little inspiration. Here a few ideas that should help spark ideas. Leaf through a few Grapevine issues. Read several stories that catch you eye. <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> to check out Grapevine’s editorial calendar that lists topics of upcoming issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I don’t have experience that would help anyone.”</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I can’t deal with a rejection letter.”</td>
<td><em>Grapevine</em> does not send rejection letters. Submissions are kept on file for consideration for future issues.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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...
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.”

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

- Informing the Fellowship
- Working with Groups
- Organizing Workshop and Other Special Events
- 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:

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.

Four Other Possible Meeting Formats Using Grapevine Literature

The Language of the Heart

MEETING

Discussion Topic from *Grapevine* Issue

MEETING

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*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GVRs &amp; RLVs</th>
<th>AA Service Committees</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>They know the magazine and the many ways it is used in Twelfth Step work.</td>
<td>Know the institutions and organizations that might need the magazine and who to contact.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment Facilities Committees</th>
<th>Public Information Committees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAGrapevine, Inc. Treatment Facilities Committees have worked together in several areas to provide GV and La Viña subscriptions to alcoholics newly discharged from treatment.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospitals &amp; Institutions Committees</th>
<th>Correctional Facilities Committees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A <em>Grapevine</em> 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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Central Offices or Intergroups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occasionally, Grapevine and literature committees are invited to participate in the monthly meetings and quarterly booking exchanges at their local intergroup.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

Displays range is 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 AA Grapevine.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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PURPOSE</th>
<th>To inform and inspire AA members about today’s Grapevine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FORMAT</td>
<td>A panel presentation with audience Q&amp;A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTICIPANTS</td>
<td>Moderator plus 2-3 speakers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PURPOSE</th>
<th>To ease anxiety among AA members about writing articles and give them experience in writing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FORMAT</td>
<td>A panel presentation with audience Q&amp;A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTICIPANTS</td>
<td>Moderator plus writing instructor, usually someone in the fellowship who is skilled in teaching writing and has experience leading workshops</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 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...

gvrc@aagrapvine.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 gvrc@aagrapevine.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.