

Round Table Topic: Grapevine

Date: 2 March 2019

Moderator: Ginger **Secretary:** Not identified

Identified Topics: Suggested that Ginger share, then discuss how to use Grapevine for service and recovery, sponsorship, etc. Then, open to all for suggestions on same.

1. **What is the benefit of Grapevine?** We publish our own stories, which promote inclusivity. Online affords access to new stories weekly. Compilations are current. For example, “One Big Tent” is a compilation for atheists and agnostics. Others include “Young and Sober,” “Voices of Long Term Sobriety,” and the joke book, “A Rabbit Walks into a Bar.” We are looking into Spanish translations of these books to promote inclusivity. E-book makes them all more accessible. These are the many ways that Grapevine carries the message. There is a tool kit for the 75th anniversary that is available on the website, one-year subscriptions (archives, audio, 12 print, and online issues), one on sponsorship, new 12 Traditions checklist, 75th anniversary stickers, bookmarks. This is good for a Group. Online is a handbook that explains how to be a Grapevine Representative. The Grapevine app is \$24/year. You can get bundles of hardcopy Grapevines. There was discussion on the app versus the website. Terms of each appeal to different groups of people. We may use Grapevines as (a) for military deployment; (b) birthday celebrations for sponsors and sponsees; (c) doctor’s offices as donations; and (d) veterans hospitals as donations. Grapevine is self-supporting through buying subscriptions and books. Collecting names for a potential Grapevine scholarship is a way to carry the message and be self-supporting. How can we send a subscription to inmates? Go online and Grapevine will need a name and address. A good idea is to provide subscriptions and books as raffle items. Providing subscriptions on birthday nights is a good idea. Work with hospitals and institutions to get a lot of names of people who are interested. “Carry the Message Fund” is a Grapevine-sponsored means to gift a subscription to inmates. A YouTube video is coming to explain how to do this. May call and ask for the Outreach Coordinator to get the list of inmates wanting subscriptions. Posters are available at this time. Most likely did not reprint. Ginger will check on the status of the reprinting. You may also pass a can for Grapevine subscriptions at the Group level. Invite any and all to insert their names in the can to win a subscription. In Canada, La Vin is the version of the Grapevine, purchased by both individuals and Groups. There is free shipping every year in December.

2. **Was Grapevine self-supporting in 2018?** No. Revenues were less than expenses due to changes in leadership. Grapevine leadership does not push sales. We need x% increase in sales this month! We don’t promote that. We do focus on non-renewal rates. This rate is better than industry standards. At present, Grapevine is discussing auto-renewal until cancellation. Notification will be part of the process if Grapevine decides to pursue this process. It was suggested that Grapevine add a section for ideas on sharing and carrying the message for any and all standing committees. The “gray pages” were helpful and offered variety. Grapevine workshops show how to write stories, which is another way to carry the message. “How to” is on the website on how to conduct workshops. In 1986, the Conference resolved that because Grapevine is a monthly publication we can be Conference-approved if we follow the Traditions and Concepts. We have about 18-19 E-books available on the website. There was then discussion on Grapevine versus General Service Office and how each operates. Grapevine has blanket approval from Conference.