

July 2024  
Edition

# Area 51 Delegate's Beaming Beacon



## Concept 7

**The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the AA purse for final effectiveness.**

This Concept describes the balance between the legal authority of the Trustees and the traditional authority of the Conference. A certain tension is built in with checks and balances. The Trustees have complete legal power over the funds and services. In Concept 6, we learned the Trustees operate under the close observation, guidance and sometimes directions of the Conference. The Conference always has superior power. The ultimate power of the Conference comes from the traditional rights of the Conference Charter, the large majority of Delegates chosen by the groups, and the ultimate power to deny funds. Since Trustees have no financial interest in holding their jobs, it is unlikely they would legally contest the sustained will of the Conference Delegates and the Areas they represent. However, the Trustees do have the responsibility to say no to a conference suggestion in certain circumstances, but that would be rare.

### Information to Share

- Opening for AAWS Non-trustee Director – Resumes due by [July 1st!](#) [Link](#)
- Member Engagement Survey for the 2025 International Convention [Survey](#)
- AAWS Highlights, March 2024 [Link](#)
- “What Happened to Joe” & “It Happened to Alice” Retirement Clearance Sale [Link](#)
- 2 Class A (Non-alcoholic) Trustees Vacancies. Resumes due August 31st [Link](#)

### The 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition with a touch of Concept 7 (A musing from your Delegate)

7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Long Form: The AA groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those AA treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated AA purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

I think about all of the dollars that AA members place in the basket. I watch the treasurers collect those dollars and I think about those who came before us and their dollars. Did they think about the newcomer who couldn't look up from her shoes when she walked in the doors of our rooms? Did they think about making sure the group would have a place to meet, literature on the table for me to read? Pamphlet racks to look at, as if I knew what was going on? The spiritual nature behind that dollar is significant. Does the GSB recognize the spiritual significance behind the checks that groups send in order to keep our services afloat? They consider the newcomer googling how to stop drinking, looking at different methods of carrying the message, answering the phones at GSO, and most importantly what they can do to help the groups carry the message of recovery through our 12 Steps. The General Service Board consists of 14 alcoholic and 7 nonalcoholic Trustees (We do have an alcoholic Board Chair, so 15 alcoholics). They are invested in something they believe in and receive no salary. That is a spiritual principle that guides our service structure. AA relies on people volunteering their time for the sake of the movement not for the dollar. In Concept 7, we find out about the power of the purse, which is withholding funds in order to express displeasure in a service entity's actions. Be that an individual, a Group, a District, an Area, or GSO. However, it is not often talked about that the power of the purse can go in the opposite direction. Do I think about how my dollar in the basket at my homegroup goes to first pay rent, provide literature, pay for our GSR to attend Area Assemblies, and coffee (Could we do better on the snacks)? You bet. Attend business meetings to hear the Treasurer's report and talk about sending money down the triangle. Twelve Step work is the life blood of Alcoholics Anonymous, no doubt. Collectively as a Fellowship, we can make sure that AA is seen by those who are looking for us. The General Service Board and the Staff at GSO work extremely hard to make our 12 Step work possible. Did the GSB have to dip in to the Prudent Reserve? Yes. Why? The Trustees and the GSO staff won't stop work to help us carry the message because we had a pandemic or inflation. That is the spiritual significance of the dollar in the basket to me traveling through our service structure. The responsibility lies with the Fellowship. [F-203 Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet](#)

Each group ought to have a conversation on how they divvy up their Seventh Tradition contributions. [“Where Money and Spirituality Mix”](#)

### Inside the Delegate's Rocket Ship

- July 2 – First Tuesday Service Manual Study
- July 11-14 - 77<sup>th</sup> NC State Convention. Language of the Heart [www.aanconvention.com](http://www.aanconvention.com)

box 459

**Box 459 Winter 2024**  
2 new GSO Staff Members  
(You might recognize one!)  
2025 International  
Convention  
Inside AA Finances

**At Wits End:**  
A Grapevine  
Joke

### Wisdom from the Couch

Barbara's sponsor suggested she go to see a therapist, so off she went. Therapist: Barbara, you need to learn to really love yourself. Barbara: But I'm not my type.

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