

VI.

LITERATURE

AGENDA

Conference Committee on Literature

Monday, April 23, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. – Noon

Room – 509/510

Chairperson: John W.

Secretary: Sandra W.

Conference Committee Members

Panel 67

Joyce C.
Steve C.
Bob D.
John W.

Panel 68

Erika H.
Jim M.
Rick M.
Marge M.
Jonathan S.

- ◆ Discussion and acceptance of trustees' committee report.

A. Consider proposed revisions to *Alcoholics Anonymous*:

1. Request to add an appendix reflecting recognition received from the Library of Congress.
2. Request to add the A.A. Preamble and Responsibility Statement.
3. Request to add an endnote to Bill W.'s story acknowledging co-founder, Bob S.

B. Consider request that A.A. (U.S./Canada) publish "The God Word" (a pamphlet currently published by the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Great Britain).

C. Consider request for the development of a pamphlet for atheist and agnostic members.

D. Consider request for the development of a pamphlet based upon A.A.'s Three Legacies.

E. Review report and suggestions on the inclusion of language related to safety in A.A. literature. (over)

Each Conference committee carefully consider their Agenda items and strive to make their recommendations for Advisory Actions to the Conference at the policy level. To be more financially responsible, when a Conference committee recommendation involves a substantial expenditure of money, an estimate of cost and its impact on the budget be part of that recommendation.

CONFIDENTIAL: 2018 General Service Conference Background

- F. Review draft revision of pamphlet “A.A. for the Woman.”
- G. Review draft revision of pamphlet “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic.”
- H. Review draft pamphlet “A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues and Those Who Sponsor Them.”
- I. Review revised draft pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and its Services.”
- J. Review progress report and draft revised text for the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
- K. Review progress report on the update to the pamphlet “Too Young?”
- L. Review progress report on the update to the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”
- M. Consider request for revision to *Living Sober*.
- N. Consider request for the development of a new book combining *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* with *Twelve Concepts for World Service*.
- O. Consider request to update the video “Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure.”
- P. Consider request to change the subtitle of the pamphlet “G.S.R. General Service Representative: May Be the Most Important Job in A.A.”
- Q. Consider request for the development of a new pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women alcoholics.
- R. Consider request to add a section on anonymity to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”
- S. Review matrix of A.A. recovery literature.

Each Conference committee carefully consider their Agenda items and strive to make their recommendations for Advisory Actions to the Conference at the policy level. To be more financially responsible, when a Conference committee recommendation involves a substantial expenditure of money, an estimate of cost and its impact on the budget be part of that recommendation.

2018 Conference Committee on Literature

AGENDA ITEM A: Consider proposed revisions to *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

Background notes:

Excerpt from July 29, 2017 meeting minutes of the trustees' Literature Committee:

The committee discussed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request to add an appendix to *Alcoholics Anonymous* reflecting "recognition received from the Library of Congress.

Excerpt from October 28, 2017 meeting minutes of the trustees' Literature Committee:

The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request to add the A.A. Preamble and Responsibility Statement to *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

Excerpt from January 27, 2018 meeting minutes of the trustees' Literature Committee:

The committee considered and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request to add an endnote to Bill W.'s story in *Alcoholics Anonymous*, acknowledging co-founder, Bob S.

Background:

1. Request from Area 43 to add an appendix to *Alcoholics Anonymous* reflecting recognition received from the Library of Congress.
2. Request from District 29 (Texas) to add the A.A. Preamble and Responsibility Statement to *Alcoholics Anonymous*.
 - i. Conference actions regarding previously submitted requests to add the A.A. Preamble to *Alcoholics Anonymous*.
3. Request from Staten Island Service Assembly (Area 49) to add an endnote to Bill W.'s story in *Alcoholics Anonymous*, acknowledging co-founder, Bob S.

For Submission to G.S.B.

From Area 43- a Motion

September 2, 2016

On July 17, 2016, District 12 unanimously approved the following motion:

That Area 43 considers and submits to the General Service Board and the Literature Committee of the General Service Conference that the following be added to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, (the Big Book) as Appendix 8.

Appendix VIII

2012 Library of Congress Recognition

When this book was published in 1939, the authors hoped to cast it like a chip upon the world wide tide of alcoholism in the hopes it would make a difference. The authors scarcely could have hoped it would prove as influential as it did. The United States' Library of Congress, the world's largest repository of knowledge and information, published a list in June 2012 of the 88 most influential books in America. The list, entitled "Books that Shaped America," included the book Alcoholics Anonymous.

Founded in 1800, the Library of Congress is the United States oldest cultural institution. Curators and experts from throughout the Library of Congress contributed their choices for "Books that shaped America." The Librarian of Congress hoped the list would prompt people to choose to read and discuss the books on the list. The list was also intended to recognize significant works that had influenced American society.

The language of the proposed appendix is secondary to its message. The message and its purpose are twofold. Firstly, this appendix would help readers understand the contemporary significance of a book written in 1939 which contains language that is often thought of as dated. Secondly, like the Lasker Award, this appendix will convey to readers that the program as outlined in the book does indeed work as evidenced by its recognized influence on society.

District 12's July vote followed an initial presentation of the motion at its June meeting. District 12 GSRs were given the opportunity to bring the motion back to their Groups for consideration and ultimately for a group conscience decision at the July meeting. This motion had been forwarded to the District by the Beech Street Big Book group which had unanimously approved the motion at its May 19, 2016 business meeting.

This motion is in keeping with the Traditions and is consistent with past A.A. practices.

1. Adding this appendix is consistent with Tradition 11 and isn't contrary to the notion of practicing attraction rather than promotion. This proposed appendix isn't promoting the book. Anyone reading the appendix would have, in their hand already, a copy of the book. The motion doesn't suggest A.A. advertise the 2012 list and thus try and promote book sales.
2. The addition of this appendix is consistent with Tradition 5 because it helps carry the message. The recommended appendix helps readers of the book, and in particular newcomers, realize the contemporary relevance of the book. The appendix will assist new comers in believing in the effectiveness of the program. It is one thing for an organization's members to claim its beliefs and actions are meaningful, but it is additionally compelling when an unaffiliated entity recognizes the Big Book as having been one of the most influential literary works in American society.
3. The appendix is not in conflict with Tradition 6. The Library of Congress undertook its review without A.A.'s awareness. A.A. did not solicit consideration for this list. No affiliation existed then, or now, between A.A. and the Library of Congress. The 2012 listing simply recognizes the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, but makes not statement about A.A. as an organization.
4. This appendix is much like appendix IV which refers to the Lasker award. The Lasker award, given annually for advances in public medicine, was bestowed upon A.A. as a group in 1951 for its successful approach to alcoholism. Appendix IV was added with the printing of the 2nd Edition in 1955.
5. The proposed appendix is also similar in purpose to appendices III and V. In those two appendices the opinions of medical professionals and religious leaders lend credence to the program of recovery laid out in the book. The proposed appendix acknowledges that the book has indeed had a profound effect upon our society.

This motion was approved by Area 43 with substantial unanimity on August 27, 2016, and is forwarded to the Conference Coordinator for consideration by the G.S.B. or appropriate committee.

**Yours In Service,
Dale R., Delegate
Panel 66, Area 43, New Hampshire**

Request from District 29 (Texas)

This proposal requests consideration to include in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* both the AA Preamble and the Responsibility Statement. The rationale is as follows:

In the spirit of pp. 162-163, from the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*: “Thus we grow. And so can you, though you be but one man with this book in your hand. We believe and hope it contains all you will need to begin;”

It is proposed that our book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, aka ‘the Big Book’ include the:

AA Preamble: Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women 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; and

the Responsibility Statement: 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;

Thereby embracing the concept that our basic text, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, has all the necessary documents, text, et cetera, to initiate and conduct a meeting or found a new group.

In the spirit of pp. 162-163, from the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*: “Thus we grow. And so can you, though you be but one man with this book in your hand. We believe and hope it contains all you will need to begin;”

The Preamble and the Responsibility Statement are both in AA conference-approved literature.

The Preamble says who we are and the Responsibility Statement proclaims our mission.

Our basic text is used as a reference book and it is an asset to include this pertinent information.

To have these widely-used documents added and readily available in the Big Book is an asset for meetings large or small.

**CONFERENCE ACTIONS REGARDING PROPOSALS TO ADD THE A.A.
PREAMBLE AND RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT TO *ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS***

1993

The committee considered a suggestion to add the Preamble to the Big Book and suggested that since most of the Preamble was taken from the foreword to the first edition of the Big Book, no action be taken.

2011

Committee recommendation noted below did not result in Conference Advisory Action:

The committee recommended that the A.A. Preamble be added to the front inside pages of the Big Book and asked that the trustees' Literature Committee provide a report that includes sample placement options, and any other consideration, to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature for review.

2012

The committee considered a request to add the "A.A. Preamble" to the front inside pages of the 'Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and took no action.

Note: Proposals regarding the Responsibility Declaration pertained to changing the wording; the Conference reaffirmed to leave the Responsibility Declaration as originally published. There have been no previous requests to add the Responsibility Declaration to the Big Book.

January 7, 2017

A.A. World Services, Inc.

P.O. Box 459,
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

Hello –

I would like for us to consider adding an endnote to Bill's Story along the lines of:

The story of A.A.'s other co-founder, Dr. Bob S., is found on page 171; "Dr. Bob's Nightmare."

16 ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
they seek. At these informal gatherings one may often see from 50 to 200 persons. We are growing in numbers and power.*
An alcoholic in his cups is an unlovely creature. Our struggles with them are variously strenuous, comic, and tragic. One poor chap committed suicide in my home. He could not, or would not, see our way of life.
There is, however, a vast amount of fun about it all. I suppose some would be shocked at our seeming worldliness and levity. But just underneath there is deadly earnestness. Faith has to work twenty-four hours a day in and through us, or we perish.
Most of us feel we need look no further for Utopia. We have it with us right here and now. Each day my friend's simple talk in our kitchen multiplies itself in a widening circle of peace on earth and good will to men.

*Bill W., co-founder of A.A.,
died January 24, 1971.*

*The story of A.A.'s other co-founder, Dr. Bob S.,
is found on page 171; "Dr. Bob's Nightmare."*

← Something like this.

*In 2006, A.A. is composed of over 106,000 groups.

The reason for this request is that when we started reading "Dr. Bob's Nightmare" in my home group's Big Book discussion, numerous members shared that they did not know Dr. Bob's story is in the Big Book. I have had the same experience with sponsees.

Since Dr. Bob is one of our beloved co-founders, perhaps a little extra effort to point out his story is well-placed.

In love and service,

Lu D
Brooklyn, NY

they seek. At these informal gatherings one may often see from 50 to 200 persons. We are growing in numbers and power.*

An alcoholic in his cups is an unlovely creature. Our struggles with them are variously strenuous, comic, and tragic. One poor chap committed suicide in my home. He could not, or would not, see our way of life.

There is, however, a vast amount of fun about it all. I suppose some would be shocked at our seeming worldliness and levity. But just underneath there is deadly earnestness. Faith has to work twenty-four hours a day in and through us, or we perish.

Most of us feel we need look no further for Utopia. We have it with us right here and now. Each day my friend's simple talk in our kitchen multiplies itself in a widening circle of peace on earth and good will to men.

*Bill W., co-founder of A.A.,
died January 24, 1971.*

*The story of A.A.'s other co-founder, Dr. Bob S.,
is found on page 171; "Dr. Bob's Nightmare."*

*In 2006, A.A. is composed of over 106,000 groups.

2018 Conference Committee on Literature

AGENDA ITEM B: Consider request that A.A. (U.S./Canada) publish “The God Word” (a pamphlet currently published by the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Great Britain).

Background notes:

Excerpt from October 28, 2017 meeting minutes of the trustees’ Literature Committee:

The committee discussed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request that A.A. (U.S./Canada) publish “The God Word” (a pamphlet currently published by A.A. Great Britain).

Advisory Action of 1980 General Service Conference

The pamphlet from Great Britain entitled “A Newcomer Asks” be adopted and adapted.

Background:

1. Request from We Agnostics Group (Kansas City) that A.A. publish “The God Word.”
2. Request from Area 14 that A.A. adopt/adapt “The God Word” (received November 2, 2017).
3. “The God Word” pamphlet available at: <http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/download/1/Library/Documents/Literature%20Downloads/3267%20The%20God%20Word.pdf>

LITERATURE
Item B
Doc. 1

September 14, 2017

A.A. World Services, Inc.
PO Box 459
Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163

Dear A.A. World Services, Inc.

I am writing on the behalf of my group, We Agnostics Kansas City to request that the Trustee Literature Committee consider placing on the agenda at the next General Service Conference a proposal that AA World Services adapt and/or adopt a pamphlet produced by the General Service Office of Great Britain entitled "The God Word."

The pamphlet is popular among our members, and we would like to include it in our newcomer's packets, but it is difficult and expensive to order from the U.K. Our group voted unanimously to bring this request to our Area Assembly as a floor motion. However, our past Delegate suggested that we instead write to the Trustee's Literature Committee, so I am following through with his suggestion. The following is the link to the God Word pamphlet:

<http://www.alcoholicsanonymous.org.uk/download/1/Library/Documents/Literature%20Downloads/3267%20The%20God%20Word.pdf>

I understand there is a history of the General Service Conference adopting other pamphlets from Great Britain, and we believe this pamphlet will fill a need among the general membership of Alcoholics Anonymous in North America. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Yours in service,

Julie K., GSR
We Agnostics Kansas City

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE
2017 NORTH FLORIDA AREA COMMITTEE 2018
Supporting Our Future

November 2, 2017

Joyce C.

Rick W
Conference Coordinator
General Service Office

Dear Rick,

Warm greetings from Area 14, North Florida!

On October 22, 2017 the North Florida Area 14 Business Assembly voted with substantial unanimity the following motion for consideration for inclusion in the agenda for the 68th General Service Conference:

MOVE: That A.A.W.S. Adapt and/or adopt a pamphlet produced by the G.S.O. of Great Britain titled: The "God" Word.

BACKGROUND: There is a pamphlet that was approved by the General Service Conference of Great Britain Titled, The "God" Word, which consists of stories by A.A. members who identify as atheist or agnostic. We would like to have the General Service Conference in North America Consider publishing this pamphlet to be made available for A.A. members in the United States and Canada. It is not possible to purchase the pamphlet from Great Britain for use in the U.S.

:

.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours in Service,

Joyce C.
Delegate, Area14 Panel 67

2018 Conference Committee on Literature

AGENDA ITEM C: Consider request for the development of a pamphlet for atheist and agnostic members.

Background notes:

Excerpt from October 28, 2017 meeting minutes of the trustees' Literature Committee:

The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request for the development of a pamphlet for atheist and agnostic members.

Background attached:

1. Request from District 11, Area 93 (California) for the development of a new pamphlet specifically for atheist and agnostic members.
2. Request from A.A. member for the development of a new pamphlet specifically for atheist and agnostic members.
3. Distribution numbers for "Many Paths to Spirituality."
4. Trustees' Literature Committee 2014 report regarding revised draft pamphlet "Many Paths to Spirituality."
5. Conference Advisory Actions regarding the development of "Many Paths to Spirituality."
6. Current pamphlet "Many Paths to Spirituality" available on G.S.O.'s A.A. website at: http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/search/p-84-many-paths-to-spirituality

Alcoholics Anonymous
Area 93 District 11

December 11, 2016

DATE: December 11, 2016
TO: Rick W, 2017 Conference Coordinator
FROM: Dave L. (DCM), on behalf of District 11, Area 93
RE: Request to Create a Pamphlet for Atheists and Agnostics

We would like to propose an agenda item to create a new AA pamphlet specifically for Atheist and Agnostic members. This would not be a rewrite of the Spirituality Many Paths pamphlet but a brand new pamphlet. We voted on this at our District meeting, and it passed with substantial unanimity.

Outlined here are our reasons for requesting this new piece of AA literature:

- While at the last two PRAASA's I personally heard from Past Trustees who said that the Spirituality Many Paths pamphlet was a good start but that it had actually detoured from the original intent. The original intention was a pamphlet for the Atheist/Agnostic members and newcomers who had a big problem with "the God Thing".
- The delisting and refusal to list Atheist/Agnostic meetings in certain Central Office directories is **not** what AA is all about -- especially since we are *Spiritual* and not Religious. The Toronto lawsuit is a prime example of Central Offices doing something that really goes against the principles of The Traditions. Toronto is not the only Central Office that has done this. There are some in the US doing this too.
- An AA pamphlet like this would go a long way to making sure that AA would have something to affirm that we are in fact spiritual and not religious. Full responsibility would then shift to those Central Offices who continue to refuse to list these meetings.
- This literature would also go a long way to let those newcomers who come to AA that their belief or lack of belief is very much OK and they are welcome with us – like what I experienced when I got here and what kept me here. This might be the one piece of literature that gets them to stay in AA as the AA message of inclusivity seems to be lost or distorted in some places.
- It would also let the membership know that these members are **full** members of AA and **not** members to be marginalized or criticized because of their belief or lack of belief. I have personally been in meetings where a member has talked about being an Atheist/Agnostic and suddenly the rest of the meeting became about everyone's God and how that member "had better get one"!

[Type here]

While I – like many others -- have found a God of my own understanding since I have been here, I did not have one when I first got here and very much resented any mention of God and the constant insistence that I better get one! I nearly left the program several time during my first year over this God thing. I would have treasured being able to find a pamphlet like this and would have been relieved that I was not the only one who believed this way.

I would also like to point out that the UK General Service Office published such a pamphlet this year. It's called The God Word. I know of members who got some copies shipped to them by members in the UK. This was done as one member sending to another member basis, because they will not ship actual orders of these pamphlets to North America because they are a UK pamphlet. This shows that there has already been a demonstrated need for exactly this type of literature.

Please take these points into consideration and add this to the Agenda in 2017.

On behalf of my District, I thank you for your time and your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
David L.
DCM District 11

Subject: 67th General Service Conference Agenda Item Proposal – Request to Produce a Pamphlet for the Atheist and Agnostic

Dear General Service Conference Coordinator

Tradition Five states that it is the PRIMARY PURPOSE of every A. A. group to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. For many decades Alcoholics Anonymous has failed entirely to carry the message to atheists and agnostics. Who knows how many atheists and agnostics have walked into a regular meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous, saw and heard nothing but the word “God”, and walked out of that meeting, never to return. I know that my first encounter with A.A., more than twenty years ago, that I walked out feeling that anything that relied on some non-existent supernatural being would not work for me. I limped along through life for a couple of decades completely unaware of how A.A. could completely change my life and show me how to live. The pamphlet “Many Paths to Spirituality,” while addressing some of the issues atheists and agnostics experience when first encountering A. A., still leaves a lot to be desired. First, no atheist or agnostic would pick up (or click on at the A. A. website) a pamphlet entitled, “Many Paths to Spirituality,” because to an atheist or an agnostic, “spirituality” and “religion” are the same thing. You state as much on page 9 of the pamphlet, “Many Paths to Spirituality.” Given that A. A. has a pamphlet for a very broad array of faiths and minority groups, it seems odd that there is not one for atheists and agnostics. There absolutely needs to be a pamphlet for atheists and agnostics and the title should have “atheist” and “agnostic” in its title in order to increase the chances that they will read it. Second, there is very little mention how atheists and agnostics interpret the steps in ways that are meaningful to them. A pamphlet that contained stories describing the various ways the God intensive steps can be interpreted would be very helpful. Third, it would be nice if the pamphlet also indicated that long term sobriety is achievable with no God at all, using the Fellowship as a higher power. This had been a concern for me until I read a story in the Grapevine where this woman stated that her sponsor had forty years of sobriety using the Fellowship as her higher power. The stories are out there. Supporting Traditions: Tradition 3 and Tradition 5. Tradition 3: The only requirement for A.A. Membership is a desire to stop drinking. It would seem that, given the decades long rejection of creating a pamphlet specifically for atheists and

agnostics, that A.A. General Service is implicitly making a belief in God a requirement for A.A. membership. Creating a pamphlet specifically for atheists and agnostics would go a long way to dispel the preconception that people ignorant of A.A. have, that A.A. is a religious institution, and would increase the chances that an alcoholic atheist or agnostic will be able to find a path to sobriety. Tradition 5: Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. General Service should ask itself, as a group, are we doing everything we can to fulfill our primary purpose, to carry the message to ALL alcoholics who suffer when there is no pamphlet addressing the needs of atheists and agnostics in A.A.? I think not. General Service Conference Coordinator A.A. World Services, Inc. – New York Literature: Request to have a Pamphlet for the Atheist and Agnostic Thank you for your consideration and for your tireless service to our Fellowship.

Respectfully submitted, Shelley B. GSR for We Agnostics, GSO#:708372 Ventura, CA

Many Paths to Spirituality ©2014 P-84

Distribution			
	2014	2015	2016
English	80,728	82,390	56,814
Spanish	893	7,040	3,321
French	1,555	8,300	8,931
Total	83,176	97,730	69,066

[April 2014]

To: Conference Committee on Literature

From: Trustees' Literature Committee

Re: Trustees' report on the draft proposed pamphlet on spirituality

Following the 2013 General Service Conference, the trustees' Committee on Literature, taking into consideration the long and thoughtful discussion held at the 2013 General Service Conference, forwarded the following suggestions to the Publishing Committee:

- Fewer stories and more on the spirituality of A.A.
- Possibly use excerpts from Bill's writings about A.A. spirituality
- Possibly use excerpts from existing A.A. literature about A.A. spirituality
- Possibly use excerpts from stories submitted previously for this project and others (A.A. for the Native American, for example)
- Consider reformatting – potentially in Q & A format

After reviewing a revised draft pamphlet, the trustees' Committee requested two small changes and forwarded a final draft of the proposed pamphlet on spirituality to the 2014 Conference Committee on Literature.

**CONFERENCE ACTIONS REGARDING THE
DEVELOPMENT OF “MANY PATHS TO SPIRITUALITY”**

Advisory Action of the 2014 General Service Conference

The pamphlet on spirituality with the title “Many Paths to Spirituality” be approved.

Advisory Action of the 2013 General Service Conference (floor action)

The draft pamphlet “A.A.—Spiritual not Religious” be recommitted to the trustees’ Literature Committee for additional discussion and brought back to the 2014 Conference Committee on Literature.” *Note: the original recommendation that the “draft pamphlet ‘A.A. Spiritual Not Religious’ be approved” failed*

Additional Committee Consideration of the 2012 Conference Literature Committee

The committee reviewed with appreciation the progress report from the trustees’ Committee on Literature on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are sober in Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee forwarded to the trustees’ Committee on Literature, as requested, input and suggestions, and requested a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Literature.

Advisory Action of the 2011 General Service Conference

That the trustees’ Literature Committee continue to develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are sober in Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee expressed support for the trustees’ efforts to develop a pamphlet which reflects the wide range of spiritual experiences of A.A. members and asked that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought to the 2012 Conference Committee on Literature for consideration.

Additional Committee Consideration of the 2011 Conference Literature Committee

The committee considered the request to reconsider the 2010 Conference Advisory Action that “the trustees’ Literature Committee develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous,” and after thoughtful discussion agreed to take no action. The committee noted that the trustees’ Literature Committee’s report on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality clarifies that the pamphlet under development will reflect a wide range of spiritual experiences of A.A. members.

Advisory Action of the 2010 General Service Conference

The trustees’ Committee on Literature develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous and bring a draft or progress report to the 2011 Conference Committee on Literature.

2018 Conference Committee on Literature

AGENDA ITEM D: Consider request for the development of a pamphlet based upon A.A.'s Three Legacies.

Background notes:

Excerpt from October 28, 2017 meeting minutes of the trustees' Literature Committee:

The committee discussed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request for the development of a pamphlet based upon A.A.'s Three Legacies.

Background:

1. Request from Area 26 for development of a new pamphlet based upon A.A.'s Three Legacies.

Proposed Agenda Item

Area 26 requests that the 68th General Service Conference Literature Committee consider creating a pamphlet on AA's Three Legacies, with emphasis on the history of the Three Legacies and how they work together, and including personal stories of members' experiences with them.

Background: A district in our Area held a workshop on the Three Legacies and could not find pamphlet literature on the topic as a whole. They did find pamphlets on each of the Three Legacies explained individually, and in-depth discussion of each legacy in some of our books, but nothing specifically on the history of the Three Legacies or how they work together.

A web search found two sources quoting a response to a question about the Legacies that Bill W. gave at the 1960 General Service Conference (copy attached), and a speech he gave in 1951 (CD M-87). It was felt that these talks contained some of the information that we would like to see more widely distributed as a pamphlet.

The Area literature committee did some research into other printed literature and did not find anything, beyond a few lines, specifically addressing the history of the Three Legacies together and their relationship to one another. There is a great deal on the history of General Service in our *A.A. Service Manual* and in books such as *AA Comes of Age*. There are also good pamphlets on Recovery and Unity, but there is little that explains how Service and Unity are important to Recovery, how Recovery and Service are important to AA Unity, etc. In meetings, we hear the metaphor of the "three-legged stool," but rarely is it explained. Many members are not familiar with the idea that the Steps guide our Recovery, the Traditions guide our Unity and the Concepts guide our service.

Having this information available in a pamphlet, along with members' stories of their experience with the three legacies, will help members better understand what the Three Legacies are and how they came to be, and help members to relate to them on a personal level.

2018 Conference Committee on Literature

AGENDA ITEM E: Review report and suggestions on the inclusion of language related to safety in A.A. literature.

Background notes:

Excerpt from October 28, 2017 meeting minutes of the trustees' Literature Committee:

The committee discussed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request for the report and suggestions on the inclusion of language related to safety in A.A. literature.

Advisory Action of the 2017 General Service Conference

That the trustees' Literature Committee develop language regarding safety to be incorporated in current and new recovery literature, where appropriate, along with a plan for implementation. The committee requested that the draft language and proposed plan or progress report be brought back to the 2018 General Service Conference.

Background:

1. Trustees' Literature Committee report and suggestions on the inclusion of language related to safety in A.A. literature.

Trustees Literature Committee
Language Related to Safety in A.A. Literature
Report and Suggestions to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature

Background

The 2017 General Service Conference recommended that the “trustees’ Literature Committee develop language regarding safety to be incorporated in current and new recovery literature, where appropriate, along with a plan for implementation. The committee requested that the draft language and proposed plan or progress report be brought back to the 2018 General Service Conference.”

At their July 29, 2017 meeting, the trustees’ Committee chair appointed a subcommittee to “review existing recovery literature, identify places where it may be appropriate to insert the topic of safety, and provide suggestions regarding language.” The subcommittee was asked to report back to the October 2017 meeting.

Report

The subcommittee met via conference call on August 18 to review its scope, discuss background and resources, and determine next steps.

After reviewing the entire matrix of recovery literature, the subcommittee discussed and identified the following literature which would be appropriate for inclusion of safety language:

Living Sober; Twelve Traditions Illustrated; A.A. for the Woman; A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic; A.A. for the Older Alcoholic; A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic; What Happened to Joe?; Too Young?; It Happened to Alice; Young People and A.A.; A.A. for the Native North American; Questions and Answers on Sponsorship; A.A. and the Armed Services; Many Paths to Spirituality

The subcommittee agreed to divide list and discuss in subsequent conference calls.

The subcommittee also discussed in detail the subjectivity when trying to define “safety,” and agreed that a definition similar to the following which was used for a safety workshop at a recent area event might be useful in focusing the language. **Definition of safety: Freedom from the occurrence or risk of injury, danger, loss. Freedom from the occurrence of harassment and bigotry.**

The subcommittee met via conference calls on September 18 and October 2 wherein the literature previously identified was discussed as to the appropriateness of inserting language regarding safety and, suggestions where the language could be inserted.

The subcommittee discussed the section “Where To Find A.A.” and suggests a “global” revision with language regarding safety inserted at the end of the section. The subcommittee suggests asking Publishing¹ to develop a short statement reflecting the importance of individual safety and group meeting place safety.

Notwithstanding the global change noted suggested above, the subcommittee did not believe it would be appropriate at this time to “pepper” every pamphlet with language regarding safety. Conversely, it was the consensus of the subcommittee that the best course may be to: a) except where noted below, focus on the more widely-read non “Third Tradition” pamphlets (i.e., Frequently Asked Questions and Questions and Answers on Sponsorship); b) make note to include language regarding safety, as warranted, at the time a particular “Third Tradition” pamphlet is up for revision.

Suggestions to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature

1. Living Sober

- a. Page 5 (second chapter);
- b. Availing yourself of a sponsor:
 - I. Page 26, 4th paragraph
 - II. Page 27, item B.
- c. Page 29 at the end of item G.; items H and I
- d. Page 77 (chapter 29) prior to the discussion of different types of meetings.

2. The Twelve Traditions Illustrated

- a. Tradition One – “drill down” utilizing language/substance from long form of tradition;
- b. Tradition Four – focus on inclusiveness;
- c. Tradition Five – address newcomers;
- d. Tradition Nine – actions by the group – not “organized” but “accountable”;

It is suggested that developing a relatively short statement seamlessly integrated into the text, as opposed to the use of “boiler plate” language, would be preferable.

3. A.A. for the Woman

- a. Introduction (page 9 at the end of the section) – it was noted that the introduction to the pamphlet is currently being revised and that perhaps a memo to Publishing requesting inclusion of language regarding safety may be an appropriate course of action.

4. A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic

- a. The subcommittee agreed that it would be best to first review the revised draft pamphlet which will be submitted in October, before addressing the inclusion of language regarding safety.

5. Questions and Answers on Sponsorship

- a. Page 9 – add statement with language geared to help newcomer ascertain what is appropriate;
- b. Page 10 – section that discusses “newcomer agreeing with sponsor”;
- c. Page 13 – add additional items to current bulleted list to address the importance of a safe environment, reference resource service material, i.e., “Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare”;
- d. Page 19 – revise statement “can a sponsor be too overprotective or too casual” to address inappropriate behavior;
- e. Page 23 – revise “how does a sponsor help a group” to include language regarding safety.

Finally, some of the language found in the chapter Working with Others in the Big Book; specifically, on page 97, “A drunk may smash the furniture in your home, or burn a mattress. You may have to fight with him if he is violent” was reviewed; noting that most members are advised to take into account the safety of their family members when deciding to bring a new “prospect” with whom they are not familiar into their home. And on page 102, where the penultimate paragraph states in part, “...so never hesitate to go anywhere if you can be helpful. You should not hesitate to visit the most sordid spot on earth on such an errand.” – noting that it is more common practice to go on 12 step calls in pairs. Accordingly, please find the following suggested revision.

6. The Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous* (chapter, “Working with Others”)

- a. An endnote at the end of the chapter “Working with Others” to reflect contemporary shared experience regarding 12 step calls (i.e., going in pairs) and working with new prospects and include helpful resources (i.e., “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship,” and service material “Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare.”

#####

ⁱ Publishing drafted the following paragraph for the trustees’ Public Information Committee for inclusion in the pamphlet “A Brief Guide To A.A.”

Our groups endeavor to provide a safe meeting place for all attendees and encourage a secure and welcoming environment in which our meetings can take place. The formation and operation of an A.A. group resides with the group conscience. Our common suffering as alcoholics and our common solution in A.A. transcend most issues and help us to create as safe an environment as possible to carry A.A.’s message of hope and recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic.

2018 Conference Committee on Literature

AGENDA ITEM F: Review draft revision of pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman."

Background notes:

Excerpt from January 27, 2018 trustees' Literature Committee Meeting

The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature the revised draft pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman" with suggested edits.

Excerpt from July 29, 2017 trustees' Literature Committee Meeting

The committee requested that Publishing revise the pamphlet to reflect the suggestions of the Conference Literature Committee (including consideration of additional stories), and present a revised draft pamphlet at the January 2018 meeting.

2017 Additional Committee Consideration

The committee reviewed the draft pamphlet of "A.A. for the Woman" and offered additional suggestions for the trustees' Literature Committee to consider. The committee looks forward to reviewing a revised draft pamphlet that includes their considerations at the 2018 General Service Conference.

Advisory Action of the 2015 General Service Conference

The pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman" be revised by gathering current sharing from women in A.A., and suggested inclusion of stories from women in the military, single mothers, and women of diverse backgrounds. The committee requested that a draft revised pamphlet or a progress report be brought back to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature.

Background:

1. Memo regarding confidential draft pamphlet.
2. Draft pamphlet "Experience, Strength and Hope: Women in A.A. (formerly "A.A. for the Woman" (**confidential draft for committee members only**).
3. Memo from 2017 Conference Committee to trustees' Literature Committee.

4. Current pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman" available on G.S.O.'s A.A. website at:
http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/search/p-5-aa-for-the-woman

To: Members of the 2018 General Service Conference

From: Sandra W.
Secretary, trustees' and Conference Committees on Literature

Subject: **Confidential** draft pamphlet

As a Conference Committee reviews a new, or extensively revised literature item it is general practice that drafts are reviewed by **committee members only**. This means that the rest of the Conference members will not receive copies of the pamphlet in their background materials for the Conference.

The Conference Committee on Literature will be reviewing the draft pamphlet primarily to determine whether or not the item that has been presented to them meets the intended goals of the pamphlet revision.

Also, as with all Conference-approved A.A. literature, the Conference Committee will be looking at the pamphlet to see "that everything in such literature is in accord with A.A. principles. Conference-approved material always deals with the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous or with information about the A.A. Fellowship." (Concerns about routine grammar, punctuation, editing, etc., will be addressed by the Publishing Department.)

Once the Conference Committee reviews the draft revision of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman," several things may happen. Among them:

- The Committee might approve the pamphlet and recommend the pamphlet be approved by the Conference as a whole.
- If approved by the Conference Committee, experience suggests that copies of the pamphlet are made available to all Conference members with enough time to read it prior to voting on the item.
- The Committee might also send the pamphlet back to the trustees' Committee on Literature with any significant concerns about the proposed pamphlet.

Until a pamphlet is recommended for approval, it is confidential and for committee eyes only. Prior to then, any number of changes might be made by the trustees' Committee on Literature or the corresponding Conference committee. This confidential process ensures that the message that reaches the A.A. Fellowship is a reflection of A.A. as a whole, an assurance made by the Conference-approval process.

LITERATURE
Item F
Doc. 3

Interoffice Memorandum

May 10, 2017

To: Trustees' Literature Committee

From: Sandra W., Literature Coordinator
Secretary, Conference Committee on Literature

Re: Revision of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman"

As you know, the 2017 Conference Committee on Literature reviewed with appreciation the revised draft pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman," and did not forward the draft pamphlet to Conference.

The committee requests that that the trustees' Literature Committee consider the following suggestions for further revisions:

1. Introductory Pages:

The committee agreed that a "comprehensive" revision of the opening (and closing) pages was warranted and felt that elements of the pamphlet were "completely out of touch." For example:

- a. Page 5: Consider removing "Drinking Problem" (excerpt from Ann Landers column), and replacing with questions such as 12 questions found in the pamphlet "Is A.A. for You?"
- b. Pages 7-9: "You are not alone" – consider updating the language to reflect more modern usage.
- c. Consider including language regarding "safety" for women in A.A. (i.e., predatory behavior) and referencing service material "Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare."

2. Stories:

- a. Consider adding additional stories to reflect more diversity (i.e., young person story; older person story; transgender story)

3. Closing Pages:

- a. Pages 35-36: Consider modernizing language in "Where to find A.A" (i.e., include internet and aa.org website).

The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet or progress report at the 2018 General Service Conference.

2018 Conference Committee on Literature

AGENDA ITEM G: Review draft revision of pamphlet “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic.”

Background notes:

Excerpt from January 27, 2018 trustees’ Literature Committee Meeting

The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature the revised draft pamphlet “A.A. for LGBTQ Alcoholic” with suggested edits.

Excerpt from minutes of October 28 and July 29, 2017 trustees’ Literature Committee

The committee reviewed the draft pamphlet “A.A. for the LGBTQ Alcoholic” (formerly, “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic”); requested that the G.S.O. Publishing Department revise the section “Where to Find A.A.” to include language regarding safety, and present a revised draft at the January 2018 meeting.

The committee requested that Publishing revise the pamphlet to include the Conference Committee’s suggestions; and also consider including additional stories and reevaluating the pamphlet title. The committee requested that a revised draft pamphlet be provided for review at the October 2017 meeting.

2017 Additional Committee Consideration

The committee reviewed the draft pamphlet of “Finding Acceptance: A.A. for the LGBTQ Alcoholic” and offered additional suggestions for the trustees’ Literature Committee to consider. The committee looks forward to reviewing a revised draft pamphlet that includes their considerations at the 2018 General Service Conference.

Advisory Action of the 2015 General Service Conference

The pamphlet “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic” be updated to include a wider range of A.A. recovery experience from members who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and gender nonconforming, especially regarding being a newcomer and sponsorship.

Background:

1. Memo regarding confidential draft pamphlet.
2. Draft pamphlet "Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A." (formerly "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic") (***confidential draft for committee members only***).
3. Memo from 2017 Conference Committee to trustees' Literature Committee.
4. Current pamphlet "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic" available on G.S.O.'s A.A. website at: http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/search/p-32-aa-and-the-gaylesbian-alcoholic

To: Members of the 2018 General Service Conference

From: Sandra W.
Secretary, trustees' and Conference Committees on Literature

Subject: **Confidential** draft pamphlet

As a Conference Committee reviews a new, or extensively revised literature item it is general practice that drafts are reviewed by **committee members only**. This means that the rest of the Conference members will not receive copies of the pamphlet in their background materials for the Conference.

The Conference Committee on Literature will be reviewing the draft pamphlet primarily to determine whether or not the item that has been presented to them meets the intended goals of the pamphlet revision.

Also, as with all Conference-approved A.A. literature, the Conference Committee will be looking at the pamphlet to see "that everything in such literature is in accord with A.A. principles. Conference-approved material always deals with the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous or with information about the A.A. Fellowship." (Concerns about routine grammar, punctuation, editing, etc., will be addressed by the Publishing Department.)

Once the Conference Committee reviews the draft revision of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic," several things may happen. Among them:

- The Committee might approve the pamphlet and recommend the pamphlet be approved by the Conference as a whole.
- If approved by the Conference Committee, experience suggests that copies of the pamphlet are made available to all Conference members with enough time to read it prior to voting on the item.
- The Committee might also send the pamphlet back to the trustees' Committee on Literature with any significant concerns about the proposed pamphlet.

Until a pamphlet is recommended for approval, it is confidential and for committee eyes only. Prior to then, any number of changes might be made by the trustees' Committee on Literature or the corresponding Conference committee. This confidential process ensures that the message that reaches the A.A. Fellowship is a reflection of A.A. as a whole, an assurance made by the Conference-approval process.

LITERATURE
Item G
Doc. 3

Interoffice Memorandum

May 10, 2017

To: Trustees' Literature Committee

From: Sandra W., Literature Coordinator
Secretary, Conference Committee on Literature

Re: Revision of the pamphlet "Finding Acceptance: A.A. for the LGBTQ Alcoholic"
(formerly titled "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic")

As you know, the 2017 Conference Committee on Literature reviewed with appreciation the revised draft pamphlet "Finding Acceptance: A.A. for the LGBTQ Alcoholic," and did not forward the draft pamphlet to Conference.

As per an Additional Committee Consideration, the committee requests that that the trustees' Literature Committee consider the following.

The general consensus of the committee was that the "biggest stumbling block was the clunky language and lists that were meant to show inclusivity" but seemed awkward instead. For example, the third paragraph of "Experience, strength and hope" with phrases such as 'transgendered post-surgery,' which is meant to embrace, may more likely serve to alienate members.

1. Introduction:

- a. Page 8: Consider eliminating this page since its broad message is redundant with pages 5 and 7. Alternately, consider including "what A.A. does not do" from page 19 of current pamphlet.

2. Closing Pages:

- a. Consider modernizing language in "Where to find A.A" (i.e., include internet and aa.org website).

The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet or progress report at the 2018 General Service Conference.

Thank you.

2018 Conference Committee on Literature

AGENDA ITEM H: Review draft pamphlet “A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues and Those Who Sponsor Them.”

Background notes:

Excerpt from January 27, 2018 trustees’ Literature Committee Meeting

The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a draft pamphlet “A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues and Those Who Sponsor Them” with suggested edits.

Excerpt from minutes of October 28, 2017 trustees’ Literature Committee

The committee reviewed the draft manuscript “A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues” and requested that the Publishing Department revise to include language regarding safety, where appropriate, and bring a revised draft to the January 2018 meeting.

2017 Additional Committee Consideration

The committee reviewed a progress report from the trustees’ Literature Committee on the development of literature for alcoholics with mental health issues and those who sponsor them. The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft copy or progress report at the 2018 General Service Conference.

Advisory Action of the 2015 General Service Conference

The trustees’ Literature Committee develop literature for the alcoholic with mental health issues. The committee requested that a wide range of A.A. recovery experience be gathered from members with mental health issues, and from those who sponsor such members for inclusion in literature on this topic. The committee requested that a progress report be brought to the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature.

Background:

1. Memo regarding confidential draft pamphlet.
2. Draft pamphlet “A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues and Those Who Sponsor Them” (**confidential draft for committee members only**).

To: Members of the 2018 General Service Conference

From: Sandra W.
Secretary, trustees' and Conference Committees on Literature

Subject: **Confidential** draft pamphlet

As a Conference Committee reviews a new, or extensively revised literature item it is general practice that drafts are reviewed by **committee members only**. This means that the rest of the Conference members will not receive copies of the pamphlet in their background materials for the Conference.

The Conference Committee on Literature will be reviewing the draft pamphlet primarily to determine whether or not the item that has been presented to them meets the intended goals of the pamphlet revision.

Also, as with all Conference-approved A.A. literature, the Conference Committee will be looking at the pamphlet to see "that everything in such literature is in accord with A.A. principles. Conference-approved material always deals with the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous or with information about the A.A. Fellowship." (Concerns about routine grammar, punctuation, editing, etc., will be addressed by the Publishing Department.)

Once the Conference Committee reviews the draft revision of the pamphlet "A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues and Those Who Sponsor Them," several things may happen. Among them:

- The Committee might approve the pamphlet and recommend the pamphlet be approved by the Conference as a whole.
- If approved by the Conference Committee, experience suggests that copies of the pamphlet are made available to all Conference members with enough time to read it prior to voting on the item.
- The Committee might also send the pamphlet back to the trustees' Committee on Literature with any significant concerns about the proposed pamphlet.

Until a pamphlet is recommended for approval, it is confidential and for committee eyes only. Prior to then, any number of changes might be made by the trustees' Committee on Literature or the corresponding Conference committee. This confidential process ensures that the message that reaches the A.A. Fellowship is a reflection of A.A. as a whole, an assurance made by the Conference-approval process.

2018 Conference Committee on Literature

AGENDA ITEM I: Review revised draft pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and its Services.”

Background notes:

Excerpt from January 27, 2018 trustees’ Literature Committee Meeting

The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature the revised draft pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services” with suggested edits.

October 5, 2017 Editorial Note from Publishing Department

The revised manuscript for the pamphlet, “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services,” takes into account comments from the trustees’ Literature Committee, the editorial suggestions from the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature (as provided in their additional committee considerations) and the Advisory Action from the 2015 Conference requesting a comprehensive revision.

As noted briefly at the last meeting (July 2017) of the trustees’ Literature Committee, this pamphlet ultimately does not adequately lend itself to illustration, so I have provided a text-only revision. Should the committee feel strongly that illustration should be included in the final version of the pamphlet, the Publishing Department will provide such for consideration at the January 2018 meeting of the trustees’ Literature Committee.

Once approved by the trustees’ committee, we will have the draft finalized, formatted and proofed for presentation to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature.

Advisory Action of the 2015 General Service Conference

A comprehensive revision to the retitled pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services,” be undertaken by the trustees’ Literature Committee, to better reflect the full range of A.A. services, and that a fully revised draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2016 General Service Conference.

Background:

1. Memo regarding confidential draft pamphlet.
2. Draft pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and its Services” (*confidential draft for committee members only*).
3. May 2016 memo from Conference Committee on Literature.
4. Current pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and its Service Agencies” available at: http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/search/p-18-inside-aa

To: Members of the 2018 General Service Conference

From: Sandra W.
Secretary, trustees' and Conference Committees on Literature

Subject: **Confidential** draft pamphlet

As a Conference Committee reviews a new, or extensively revised literature item it is general practice that drafts are reviewed by **committee members only**. This means that the rest of the Conference members will not receive copies of the pamphlet in their background materials for the Conference.

The Conference Committee on Literature will be reviewing the draft pamphlet primarily to determine whether or not the item that has been presented to them meets the intended goals of the pamphlet revision.

Also, as with all Conference-approved A.A. literature, the Conference Committee will be looking at the pamphlet to see "that everything in such literature is in accord with A.A. principles. Conference-approved material always deals with the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous or with information about the A.A. Fellowship." (Concerns about routine grammar, punctuation, editing, etc., will be addressed by the Publishing Department.)

Once the Conference Committee reviews the draft revision of the pamphlet "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services," several things may happen. Among them:

- The Committee might approve the pamphlet and recommend the pamphlet be approved by the Conference as a whole.
- If approved by the Conference Committee, experience suggests that copies of the pamphlet are made available to all Conference members with enough time to read it prior to voting on the item.
- The Committee might also send the pamphlet back to the trustees' Committee on Literature with any significant concerns about the proposed pamphlet.

Until a pamphlet is recommended for approval, it is confidential and for committee eyes only. Prior to then, any number of changes might be made by the trustees' Committee on Literature or the corresponding Conference committee. This confidential process ensures that the message that reaches the A.A. Fellowship is a reflection of A.A. as a whole, an assurance made by the Conference-approval process.

Interoffice Memorandum

May 5, 2016

To: Trustees' Literature Committee

From: Sandra W., Literature Coordinator
Secretary, Conference Committee on Literature

Re: Revision of the pamphlet "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services"

As you know, the 2016 Conference Committee on Literature reviewed the revised draft pamphlet "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services;" and did not forward the draft pamphlet to Conference. The Conference Committee on Literature looks forward to reviewing further revisions of the pamphlet or a progress report at the 2017 General Service Conference.

As per *Additional Committee Consideration*, the Committee offers to the trustees' Literature Committee the following suggestions for further revisions that better reflect the full range of A.A. services, as indicated in the pamphlet's title:

1. Utilize simple to understand language wherever possible – keep it short and sweet. Consider eliminating the restrictive formatting convention of numbering the sections 1 through 12;
2. Concentrate more on services and less on the service structure;
3. Communicate services provided at all levels in a concise and easy to read manner, and only include the service structure if closely tied to the particular service;
4. Include language about institutions and treatment in the discussion of services offered (and service opportunities);
5. Revise the language regarding the Seventh Tradition to remove the percentages and instead, connect Seventh Tradition contributions to services;
6. Reflect our inverted triangle clearly adjusting the order of information as needed. (i.e., begin with group, followed by G.S.R., assemblies, area, etc.);
7. Include statement detailing the importance of the Committee system;
8. The illustrations throughout the pamphlet lack diversity (i.e., in most instances a white male is shown in a "leadership" position); and
9. Provide a notation as to where the reader could go for more information.

The Committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet or progress report at the 2017 General Service Conference.

Thank you.

2018 Conference Committee on Literature

AGENDA ITEM J: Review progress report and draft revised text for the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”

Background notes:

Excerpt from the January 27, 2018 trustees’ Literature Committee Minutes

The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference on Literature a progress report along with the draft revised text of “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”

Excerpt from July 29, 2017 trustees’ Literature Committee Meeting Minutes

The committee requested that Publishing continue revisions to the pamphlet that include the suggestions of the Conference Literature Committee and present a progress report at the January 2018 meeting.

2017 Additional Committee Consideration

The committee reviewed draft sample illustrations and corresponding revised text for the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.” The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet or progress report at the 2018 General Service Conference.

Advisory Action of the 2016 General Service Conference

The trustees’ Literature Committee undertake a comprehensive revision of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” with a modernized presentation of both text and illustrations to reflect contemporary A.A. experience. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2017 Conference Literature Committee.

Background:

1. Memo regarding confidential draft pamphlet.
2. Progress report and draft revised text for the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” (**confidential draft for TLC members only**).
3. Memo from 2017 Conference Committee to trustees’ Literature Committee.

4. Current pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” available on G.S.O.’s A.A. website at: http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/search/p-43-the-twelve-traditions-illustrated

LITERATURE
Item J
Doc. 1

To: Members of the 2018 General Service Conference

From: Sandra W.
Secretary, trustees' and Conference Committees on Literature

Subject: **Confidential** draft pamphlet

As a Conference Committee reviews a new, or extensively revised literature item it is general practice that drafts are reviewed by **committee members only**. This means that the rest of the Conference members will not receive copies of the pamphlet in their background materials for the Conference.

The Conference Committee on Literature will be reviewing the draft pamphlet primarily to determine whether or not the item that has been presented to them meets the intended goals of the pamphlet revision.

Also, as with all Conference-approved A.A. literature, the Conference Committee will be looking at the pamphlet to see "that everything in such literature is in accord with A.A. principles. Conference-approved material always deals with the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous or with information about the A.A. Fellowship." (Concerns about routine grammar, punctuation, editing, etc., will be addressed by the Publishing Department.)

Once the Conference Committee reviews the draft revision of the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated," several things may happen. Among them:

- The Committee might approve the pamphlet and recommend the pamphlet be approved by the Conference as a whole.
- If approved by the Conference Committee, experience suggests that copies of the pamphlet are made available to all Conference members with enough time to read it prior to voting on the item.
- The Committee might also send the pamphlet back to the trustees' Committee on Literature with any significant concerns about the proposed pamphlet.

Until a pamphlet is recommended for approval, it is confidential and for committee eyes only. Prior to then, any number of changes might be made by the trustees' Committee on Literature or the corresponding Conference committee. This confidential process ensures that the message that reaches the A.A. Fellowship is a reflection of A.A. as a whole, an assurance made by the Conference-approval process.

LITERATURE
Item J
Doc. 3

Interoffice Memorandum

May 10, 2017

To: Trustees' Literature Committee

From: Sandra W., Literature Coordinator
Secretary, Conference Committee on Literature

Re: Revision of the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated"

As you know, the 2017 Conference Committee on Literature reviewed with appreciation the draft sample illustrations and corresponding revised text for the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated."

The committee requests that the trustees' Literature Committee consider the following:

1. In accordance with the 2016 Advisory Action, requesting that the pamphlet undergo a "comprehensive revision," the committee agreed that a total redesign (as opposed to a "spot change") would be most appropriate. The committee also supported keeping the illustrations in the same "style" as the current pamphlet.
2. Regarding the sample illustration of Tradition Three, the committee requests reconsideration of the quote "We are not a bit afraid that you will harm us, never mind how twisted or violent you may be," and asks that a different quote be used instead.
3. Regarding the text of the pamphlet, the committee agreed that revision to reflect modern language and the "way we talk about the Traditions currently" would be valuable.

The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet or progress report at the 2018 General Service Conference.

Thank you.

2018 Conference Committee on Literature

AGENDA ITEM K: Review progress report on the update to the pamphlet “Too Young?”

Background notes:

Excerpt from January 27, 2018 trustees’ Literature Committee Meeting

The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report on the update to the pamphlet “Too Young?”

Floor Action of the 2017 General Service Conference

The pamphlet “Too Young?” be revised to reflect more current collective experiences of young alcoholics and their welcome to A.A.

Background:

1. Progress report on the revision to the pamphlet “Too Young?”

Revision to the Pamphlet “Too Young?”
Progress Report
Saturday, January 27, 2018

Regarding the 2017 Conference Advisory Action that the pamphlet “Too Young?” be revised “to reflect more current collective experiences of young alcoholics and their welcome to A.A.,” the Publishing Department anticipates getting started on this project in Spring 2018. We are currently bringing to completion a number of other projects that have been in development over the past year and will be able to focus on “Too Young?” once these other projects clear through.

Nonetheless, we have been evaluating the pamphlet from both a graphics and editorial perspective and have given some preliminary thought to changing the format of this pamphlet as well as the text. We feel both the material and the audience would lend itself to an animated video presentation, similar in many respects to the video PSA “Doors.” The pamphlet was created over 10 years ago and its “comic book” style seems somewhat dated. Given the directive of the Conference to better reflect current experience of young people, we would like to explore some other, perhaps more current, methodologies for this pamphlet. This thinking is not to preclude the more traditional graphic illustrative approach, but we feel it would be worthwhile to at least investigate additional approaches.

We will continue reporting on this project to the trustees’ Literature Committee as we move forward.

2018 Conference Committee on Literature

AGENDA ITEM L: Review progress report on the update to the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”

Background notes:

Excerpt from the January 27, 2018 trustees’ Literature Committee meeting minutes

The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report on the update to the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”

Excerpt from July 29, 2017 trustees’ Literature Committee Meeting Minutes

At their July 29, 2017 meeting, the trustees’ Committee chair appointed a subcommittee to continue work on the revision of the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” A progress report was presented at the October 28 meeting; it was requested that an additional update report be submitted to the January 2018 meeting.

2017 Additional Committee Consideration

A progress report was submitted to the 2017 Conference Committee on Literature; the committee reviewed and requested that a revised pamphlet or progress report be brought to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature.

Advisory Action of the 2016 General Service Conference

The trustees’ Literature Committee revise the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” to better reflect the experiences of young people in A.A. today.” The committee requested that “a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2017 Conference Committee on Literature.

Background:

1. Progress report on the revision to the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”

**Trustees' Literature Committee's Subcommittee on the Revision to the Pamphlet
"Young People and A.A."
Progress Report
Saturday, January 27, 2018**

Background

The 2016 General Service Conference recommended that the "trustees' Literature Committee revise the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." to better reflect the experiences of young people in A.A. today." The committee requested that "a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought to the 2017 Conference Committee on Literature."

A progress report was submitted to the 2017 Conference Committee on Literature; the committee reviewed and requested that a revised pamphlet or progress report be brought to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature.

At their July 29, 2017 meeting, the trustees' Committee chair appointed a subcommittee to continue work on the revision of the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." A progress report was presented at the October 28 meeting; it was requested that an additional update report be submitted to the January 2018 meeting.

Report

The subcommittee met via conference call on September 29, 2017 to discuss the review and subsequent rating of the submitted stories. The subcommittee agreed that the current crop of over 90 submissions was more than adequate and that a second call for stories would not be necessary.

The subcommittee agreed to review the stories a second time, with each subcommittee member identifying her/his top10-15 choices and forwarding same to the staff secretary by October 26.

The subcommittee met via conference call on November 15 to qualitatively focus on the quality of the stories (as opposed to simply male/female ratio); and determined that the current top tier of 19 stories (culled from the 10-15 top choices of each subcommittee member) represented an age, geographic and gender diversity with an overall consistent A.A. message. The subcommittee also agreed that it would be preferable to replace all of the stories in the current pamphlet.

Rather than submit the top tier stories to the committee at this time, the subcommittee agreed that it would be prudent to wait until the new ACM is appointed to the trustees' Literature Committee in order to benefit from a review from another perspective (i.e., a member currently active in carrying the message to young people).

In the meantime, the subcommittee will continue to review the 19 stories as a full body of work.

2018 Conference Committee on Literature

AGENDA ITEM M: Consider request for revision to *Living Sober*.

Background notes:

Excerpt from the January 27, 2018 trustees' Literature Committee meeting minutes

The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request to revise the book *Living Sober*.

Background:

1. Request from Area 06 (California Northern Coastal) for revision to *Living Sober*.



California Northern Coastal Area 06

www.cnca06.org

P.O. Box 884222, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94188-4222

Rick W, Conference Coordinator
General Service Office
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station

June 3, 2017

Dear Rick,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits. Greetings from California Northern Coastal Area! I am forwarding you this letter to be considered for inclusion on the agenda for the 68th General Service Conference.

At our Post Conference Assembly on May 13, we approved the following motion with substantial unanimity to replace the text that was removed from the book, Living Sober, when it was updated:

“That CNCA moves to reintroduce the following section (From page 6 of the AA Member – Medications & Other Drugs, Revised 2011 and also from the 1998 edition of Living Sober page 89) in “Appendix*” in Living Sober (2012 edition). Placement of the below text will follow the current section **Note to Medical Professionals** (page 90):

‘Some alcoholics require medication.

We recognize that alcoholics are not immune to other diseases. Some of us have had to cope with depressions that can be suicidal; schizophrenia that sometimes requires hospitalization; bipolar disorder, and other mental and biological illnesses. Also among us are diabetics, epileptics, members with heart trouble, cancer, allergies, hypertension, and many other serious physical conditions.

Because of the difficulties that many alcoholics have with drugs, some members have taken the position that no one in A.A. should take any medication. While this position has undoubtedly prevented relapses for some it has meant disaster for others.

A.A. members and many of their physicians have described situations in which depressed patients have been told by A.A.s to throw away the pills, only to have depression return with all its difficulties, sometimes resulting in suicide. We have heard, too, from members with other conditions, including schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, epilepsy and others requiring medication, that well-meaning A.A. friends discourage them from taking any prescribed medication. Unfortunately, by following a layperson’s advice, the sufferers find

that their conditions can return with all their previous intensity. On top of that, they feel guilty because they are convinced that ‘A.A. is against pills.’

It becomes clear that just as it is wrong to enable or support any alcoholic to become readdicted to any drug, it’s equally wrong to deprive any alcoholic of medication, which can alleviate or control other disabling physical and/or emotional problems.””

I understand that this is quite a lengthy request. Our Area has been discussing this motion for over a year. Some of the sharing has been:

“Since this book is often given to newcomers and the pamphlet is not, we want this text back in the book.//Our group feels it is important because there have been personal opinions that can jeopardize people’s sobriety and life. This would be helpful in dispelling misconceptions that exist.// This text is as important for people giving advice on medication as to those who are receiving this advice.//My group was in favor because it is important information. We do not diagnose people or treat medical conditions, and this excerpt is important to include.”

There were 211 voting members. Yes (no count taken, but it was substantial unanimity) No (7) and Abstained (3).

The minority opinion was:

“On medication, I got distracted from the program. My solution was medication. And that allowed me to veer away from AA and nearly relapse.”

There was no motion to re-consider after hearing the minority opinion.

We thank you for your consideration!

With lots of gratitude,

Joann L. [REDACTED]

Delegate Panel 67

California Northern Coastal Area

Living Sober

***Some methods A.A. members
have used for not drinking***

*This is A.A. General Service
Conference-approved literature*

Living Sober
Copyright © 1975; 1998 by
Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.
475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115
All rights reserved.

Mail address:
Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

Forty-third Printing, 2010

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS and A.A.
are registered trademarks® of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 75-328153

ISBN 978-0-916856-04-5

www.aa.org

B-7 125M - 5/10 (BP)

Appendix*

A report from a group of physicians in A.A.

Because this subject is one which goes deeply into the field of medicine, a group of physicians who are members of A.A. was asked to help prepare this material.

The experience of some A.A. members reveals that drug misuse can threaten the achievement and maintenance of sobriety.

Yet some A.A. members must take prescribed medication in order to treat certain serious medical problems.

Experience has shown that this problem can be minimized if the following suggestions are carefully heeded:

1 Remember that as a recovering alcoholic your automatic response will be to turn to chemical relief for uncomfortable feelings and to take more than the usual, prescribed amount. Look for nonchemical solutions for the aches and discomforts of everyday living.

2 Remember that the best safeguard against drug-related relapse is an active participation in the A.A. program of recovery.

3 No A.A. member plays doctor.

4 Be completely honest with yourself and your physician regarding use of medication.

5 If in doubt, consult a physician with demonstrated experience in the treatment of alcoholism.

6 Be frank about your alcoholism with any physician or dentist you consult. Such confidence will be respected and is most helpful to the doctor.

7 Inform the physician at once if you experience side effects from prescribed drugs.

* From the Conference-approved pamphlet "The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs."

8 Consider consulting another doctor if a personal physician refuses or fails to recognize the peculiar susceptibility of alcoholics to sedatives, tranquilizers, and stimulants.

9 Give your doctor copies of this pamphlet [The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs].

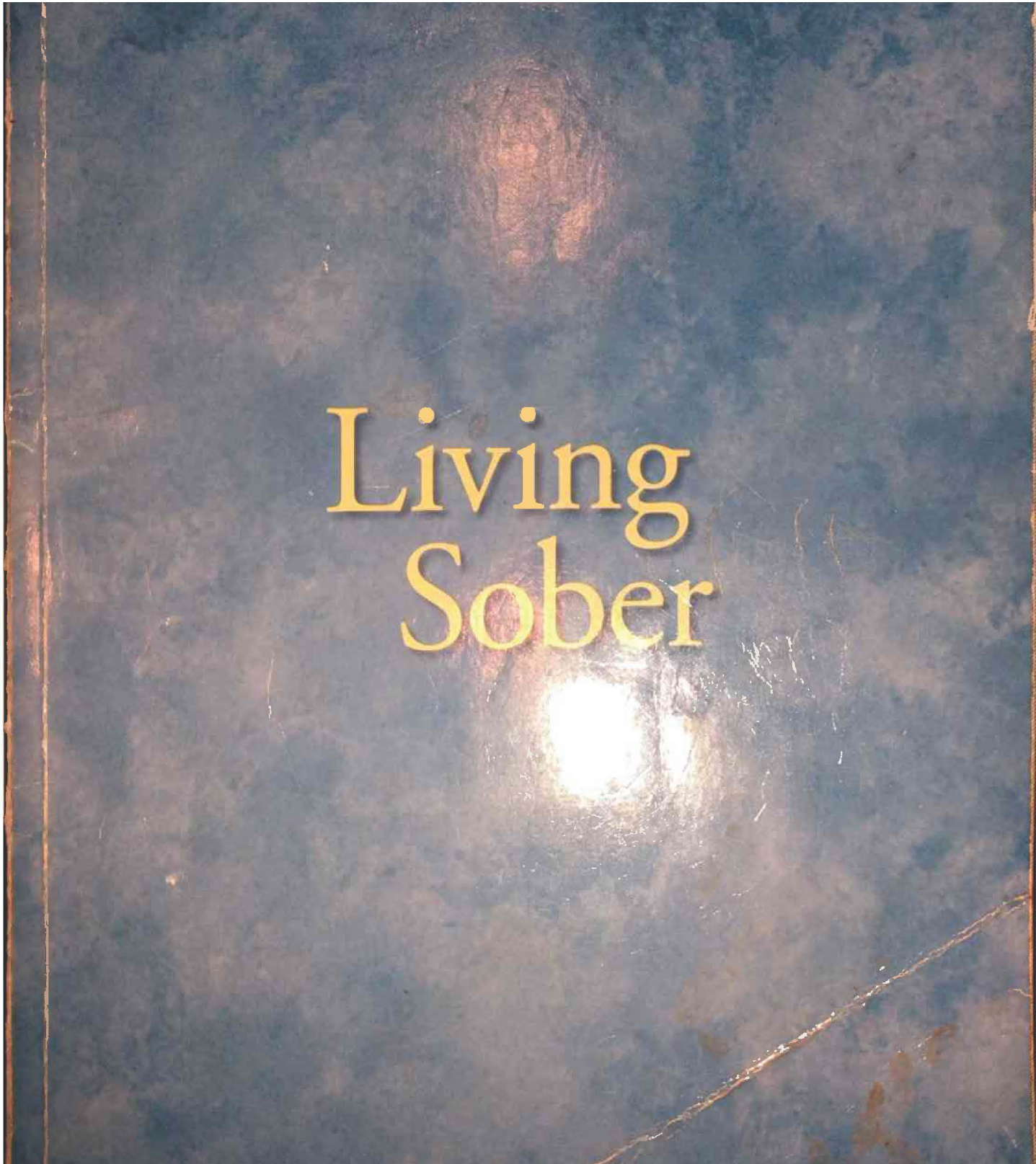
However, some alcoholics require medication...

At the same time that we recognize this dangerous tendency to read-diction, we also recognize that alcoholics are *not immune* to other diseases. Some of us have had to cope with depressions that can be suicidal; schizophrenia that sometimes requires hospitalization; manic depression; and other mental and biological illnesses. Also among us are epileptics, members with heart trouble, cancer, allergies, hypertension, and many other serious physical conditions.

Because of the difficulties that many alcoholics have with drugs, some members have taken the position that no one in A.A. should take any medication. While this position has undoubtedly prevented relapses for some, it has meant disaster for others.

A.A. members and many of their physicians have described situations in which depressed patients have been told by A.A.s to throw away the pills, only to have depression return with all its difficulties, sometimes resulting in suicide. We have heard, too, from schizophrenics, manic depressives, epileptics, and others requiring medication that well-meaning A.A. friends often discourage them from taking prescribed medication. Unfortunately, by following a layman's advice, the sufferers find that their conditions can return with all their previous intensity. On top of that, they feel guilty because they are convinced that "A.A. is against pills."

It becomes clear that just as it is wrong to enable or support any alcoholic to become readdicted to any drug, it's equally wrong to deprive any alcoholic of medication which can alleviate or control other disabling physical and/or emotional problems.



Living Sober

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

LIVING SOBER

Copyright © 1975; 2012 by
Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.
475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115

Mail address:
Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced
in any manner without the written permission of the publisher.

Revised 2012
First Printing, 1975
Forty-sixth Printing, 2013

Large-print edition: *Eighth Printing, 2013*

*This is A.A. General Service
Conference-approved literature*

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS and A.A.
are registered trademarks® of A.A. World Services, Inc.

www.aa.org

Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 75-328-153

ISBN 978-1-893007-37-6

B-25 1.5M - 9/13 (BP)

Printed in the United States of America

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

Appendix*

A report from a group of physicians in A.A.

Because this subject involves important medical decisions, a group of physicians who are members of A.A. and two physicians who are friends of A.A. were asked to review this pamphlet.*

Some A.A. members must take prescribed medication for serious medical problems. However, it is generally accepted that the misuse of prescription medication and other drugs can threaten the achievement and maintenance of sobriety. It may be possible to minimize the threat of relapse if the following suggestions are heeded:

- No A.A. member should "play doctor"; all medical advice and treatment should come from a qualified physician.
- Active participation in the A.A. program of recovery is a major safeguard against alcoholic relapse.
- Be completely honest with your doctor and yourself about the way you take your medicine. Let your doctor know if you skip doses or take more medicine than prescribed.
- Explain to your doctor that you no longer drink alcohol and you are trying a new way of life in recovery.
- Let your doctor know at once if you have a desire to take more medicine or if you have side effects that make you feel worse.
- Be sensitive to warnings about changes in your behavior when you start a new medication or when your dose is changed.

* From the Conference-approved pamphlet "The A.A. Member—Medications and

- If you feel that your doctor does not understand your problems, consider making an appointment with a physician who has experience in the treatment of alcoholism.

- Give your doctor copies of "The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs."

From the earliest days of Alcoholics Anonymous it has been clear that many alcoholics have a tendency to become dependent on drugs other than alcohol. There have been tragic incidents of alcoholics who have struggled to achieve sobriety only to develop a serious problem with a different drug. Time and time again, A.A. members have described frightening and sobriety-threatening episodes that could be related to the misuse of medication or other drugs.

Experience suggests that while some prescribed medications may be safe for most nonalcoholics when taken according to a doctor's instructions, it is possible that they may affect the alcoholic in a different way. It is often true that these substances create dependence as devastating as dependence on alcohol. It is well known that many sedatives have an action in the body similar to the action of alcohol. When these drugs are used without medical supervision, dependence can readily develop.

Many A.A.s who have taken over-the-counter, nonprescription drugs have discovered the alcoholic's tendency to misuse. Those A.A.s who have used street drugs, ranging from marijuana to heroin, have discovered the alcoholic's tendency to become dependent on other drugs. The list goes on and will lengthen as new drugs are developed.

Always consult your doctor if you think medication may be helpful or needed.

Note to medical professionals

Cooperation with the professional community has been an objective of Alcoholics Anonymous since its beginnings. Professionals who work with alcoholics share a common purpose with Alcoholics Anonymous: to help the alcoholic stop drinking and lead a healthy, productive life.

As noted in the introduction, some A.A. members must take prescribed medications. However, our experience indicates that the misuse of prescription medication can threaten the achievement and maintenance of sobriety. The suggestions provided in our introduction are offered to help A.A. members find the right balance and minimize the risk of relapse.

**Some alcoholics
require medication.**

We recognize that alcoholics are not immune to other diseases. Some of us have had to cope with depressions that can be suicidal; schizophrenia that sometimes requires hospitalization; bipolar disorder, and other mental and biological illnesses. Also among us are diabetics, epileptics, members with heart trouble, cancer, allergies, hypertension, and many other serious physical conditions.

Because of the difficulties that many alcoholics have with drugs, some members have taken the position that no one in A.A. should take any medication. While this position has undoubtedly prevented relapses for some, it has meant disaster for others.

A.A. members and many of their physicians have described situations in which depressed patients have been told by A.A.s to throw away the pills, only to have depression return with all its difficulties, sometimes resulting in suicide. We have heard, too, from members with other conditions, including schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, epilepsy and others requiring medication, that well-meaning A.A. friends discourage them from taking any prescribed medication. Unfortunately, by following a layperson's advice, the sufferers find that their conditions can return with all their previous intensity. On top of that, they feel guilty because they are convinced that "A.A. is against pills."

It becomes clear that just as it is wrong to enable or support any alcoholic to become re-addicted to any drug, it's equally wrong to deprive any alcoholic of medication, which can alleviate or control other disabling physical and/or emotional problems.

Some A.A. members who have required medication share their experience:

2018 Conference Committee on Literature

AGENDA ITEM N: Consider request for the development of a new book combining *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* with *Twelve Concepts for World Service*.

Background notes:

Excerpt from the January 27, 2018 trustees' Literature Committee meeting minutes

The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request for the development of a new book combining *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* with *Twelve Concepts for World Service*.

2015 Floor Action that did not result in a Conference Advisory Action

Produce a book combining the Twelve Steps, The Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts for World Service.

Committee Consideration of the 2012 Conference Literature Committee

The committee reviewed a suggestion to produce a book combining *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* with the *Twelve Concepts for World Service* and took no action. The committee noted that the Twelve Concepts for World Service" are suitably placed with the "A.A. Service Manual" and in a stand-alone volume.

Background:

1. Request from Area 05 for the development of a new book combining *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* with *Twelve Concepts for World Service*.

Southern California Area Assembly
of Alcoholics Anonymous
P.O. Box 481193
Los Angeles, CA 90048

October 26, 2017

VIA U.S. MAIL & ELECTRONIC MAIL

conference@aa.org

Mr. Rick W., Conference Coordinator 2018
General Service Conference
General Service Office
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10115

To: Rick W., General Service Conference Coordinator Re:
Agenda Item Proposal for 68th General Service Conference
Literature: 36 Principles: 12 Steps and 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts
Submitted by: Area Assembly, Southern California Area 05

Dear Rick:

Warmest greetings from Southern California Area 05! Our Area Assembly is pleased to submit the following proposal as an agenda item for consideration by the 2018 General Service Conference:

Literature: *That the Conference consider creating a new book of 36 Principles by combining the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions with the book Twelve Concepts for World Service, to be published in English, Spanish and French.*

The suggestion for the new book is that it be virtually identical to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, except that at the point where the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions ends, the new book would continue with the contents of the book Twelve Concepts for World Service. This way, the new book could be used alongside the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions in step studies and other situations where the original "Twelve and Twelve" is used. This proposal does not suggest in any way that any current books be replaced or discontinued.

This Conference Agenda Item proposal was presented at Area Assembly on July 23, 2017 by our Area Registrar, Brian P, debated and approved as amended by over a 2/3rds substantial majority vote of our Area Committee on August 20, 2017, and again approved by over a 2/3rds substantial majority vote of the entire Area Assembly on October 22, 2017, with the instruction that it be submitted as a formal recommendation by Southern California Area 05 as an agenda item for consideration by the 68th General Service Conference.

Southern California Area Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous
P.O. Box 481193 * Los Angeles* CA* 90048

VIA U.S. MAIL & ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Rick W., Conference Coordinator

2018 General Service Conference, General Service Office

Re: Area 05 Agenda Item Proposal for 68th General Service Conference

Literature: 36 Principles: 12 Steps and 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts

October 26, 2017

Page 2 of 2

In all instances, minority opinion was asked for, expressed and considered, and an opportunity for re-vote was afforded.

This agenda item has been proposed before by Area 05 and Area 72 (Western Washington) for the 65th General Service Conference. The proposed agenda item was accepted by the Trustees' Conference Committee and became Agenda Item VI.E. for consideration by the 65th General Service Conference Literature Committee.

At the 65th Conference, the Literature Committee took no action, explaining in their Committee Considerations that:

"The committee reviewed a suggestion to produce a book combining "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" with the "Twelve Concepts for World Service" and took no action. The committee noted that the Twelve Concepts for World Service are suitably placed with The A.A. Service Manual and in a stand-alone volume."

While we in Southern California Area 5 agree that the Twelve Concepts for World Service are indeed suitably placed with the A.A. Service Manual and in a stand-alone volume, we also believe that it would provide great benefit to our Fellowship to have them available in the proposed new volume, and that if it were published, the new volume would perhaps become the most suitable place for the Twelve Concepts *as a book that would include Bill W.'s essays on all of A.A.'s 36 Principles*. We believe the new book would expose the Twelve Concepts *to a wider range of members*, including many long-timers, and generate more participation in General Service and interest in the stewardship, growth and common welfare of our Great Fellowship.

The full text and background of the proposal as approved by our Assembly, its relevance, history and background in our Area and at the Conference, and the many reasons it is now recommended by Area 05, is enclosed or attached *in both English and Spanish*. We hope that the Conference Literature Committee will once again consider this proposal during the 68th General Service Conference.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

In Love and Service,

Thomas B.

Delegate - Panel 67

Southern California Area 05 – Alcoholics Anonymous

Southern California Area Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous
P.O. Box 481193 * Los Angeles* CA* 90048

12x12x12 Book Proposal

68th General Service Conference Agenda Item Proposal – Literature

Presented at Area Assembly July 23, 2017

Approved by Area Committee on August 20, 2017

Approved by Area Assembly on October 22, 2017

Proposal

That Southern California Area 05 ask the Conference to consider creating a new book by combining the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions with the book Twelve Concepts for World Service, to be published in English, Spanish and French.

The idea for the new book is that it be virtually identical to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, except that at the point where the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions ends, the new book would continue with the contents of the book Twelve Concepts for World Service. This way, the new book could be used alongside the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions in step studies and other situations where the original "Twelve and Twelve" is used. This proposal does not suggest in any way that any current books be replaced or discontinued.

Relevance

In Area 05, we typically see participation by less than 5% of our groups at our Area Assemblies. This figure presents to us a truth that there is a vast amount of our groups' wisdom that is missing from our conference process. There is a wealth of knowledge, experiences, and perspectives that is absent from all of the decisions we make as a Fellowship regarding how to use our shared resources at the General Service Office. Whether this is ultimately a problem or simply the nature of things is debatable. What is undeniable is that there is great potential for more involvement in the care of our Fellowship.

Anything we can do to generate more interest in General Service with the Fellowship at large will always be relevant. Each newcomer that we welcome that is fortunate enough to receive our message and stay, will one day need to learn that stewardship of our shared resources and efforts is as fundamental to us as personal recovery and group unity. Like everything else in A.A., there is a great and ever-present need to pass on everything we know to the next group of alcoholics.

History and Background

This idea has been proposed by Area 05 and Area 72 before as an agenda item for the 65th General Service Conference. Some of us still believe in the idea and believe it is worth revisiting, and we hope that the Conference will once again consider this proposal during the 68th General Service Conference.

There was great support for the idea for a "12 and 12 and 12 book" at the annual 4-Area DCM Sharing Session in 2014, in which Areas 05, 08, 09, and 93 participated. It was pointed out that such a book has been approved and published by the Mexican Conference, and is referred to as the '36 Book'.

A proposal to create this book was presented at our May 2014 Spring Assembly, and passed with amendments at our June 2014 Area Committee Meeting and again at our July 2014 Summer Assembly. In October 2014, this proposal was formally submitted to Mary C, the General Service

CONFIDENTIAL: 2018 General Service Conference Background

Conference Coordinator for the 65th General Service Conference on behalf of Area 05 by our Delegate Juan M, our Chairperson Thomas B, and our Literature Chair Marilyn N.

In the proposal, we expressed, as an area, that “At present many A.A. members do not understand the Concepts and would benefit from knowledge of such things as the Rights of Decision, Participation, and Appeal as well as the Warranties of Article 12. Hopefully with greater exposure, by having the thirty-six principles in one book, we would have more support for General Service and a better understanding of the program in general to protect the future of A.A.”

The proposed agenda item was accepted by the Trustees’ General Service Conference Committee and became Agenda Item VI.E. for the Literature Committee at the 65th General Service Conference.

At the Conference, the Literature Committee took no action, explaining in their Committee Considerations that:

“The committee reviewed a suggestion to produce a book combining “Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions” with the “Twelve Concepts for World Service” and took no action. The committee noted that the Twelve Concepts for World Service are suitably placed with The A.A. Service Manual and in a stand-alone volume.”

While we who support this proposal agree that the Twelve Concepts for World Service are indeed suitably placed with the A.A. Service Manual and in a stand-alone volume, we believe that it would be of great benefit to our Fellowship to also have them available in the proposed new volume, and that if it were published, the new volume would perhaps become the most suitable place for the Twelve Concepts as a book that would include Bill W.’s essays on all of A.A.’s 36 Principles. We believe the new book would expose the Twelve Concepts to a wider range of members, including many long-timers and generate more participation in General Service and the stewardship of our Great Fellowship.

2018 Conference Committee on Literature

AGENDA ITEM O: Consider request to update the video “Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure.”

Background notes:

Excerpt from the January 27, 2018 trustees’ Literature Committee meeting minutes

The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request to update the video “Your AA General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure.”

Background:

1. Request from Area 79 to update the video “Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure.”
2. Link to video “Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure”

English: https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/your-aa-general-service-office-the-grapevine-and-the-general-service-structure

French: https://www.aa.org/pages/fr_FR/your-aa-general-service-office-the-grapevine-and-the-general-service-structure

Spanish: https://www.aa.org/pages/es_ES/your-aa-general-service-office-the-grapevine-and-the-general-service-structure

MOTION #3

Motion:

That Area 79 forward a request to the AA World Services, Inc. to update the DVD “Your AA General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure”.

History or Current Practices:

The current DVD “Your AA General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure” was produced in 1992, making it 25 years old, and is 22 minutes in length. Some of the information in the video is out of date, and in updating the video it be shortened to be more consistent with the expectations of today’s generation.

If passed:

The updated DVD could be used to present a current overview of the General Service Structure at GSO and the Grapevine.

If not passed:

The existing DVD will be all that is available for explaining the General Service Structure.

For further consideration:

This video is very useful in helping the fellowship understand the General Service Structure.

Motion submitted by: District 71

MOTION: CARRIED

NOTES:

When showing the DVD, “Your AA General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure” of things that jumped out at us that were dated or needed attention.

- very dated
- Mix of Old literature/new literature
- 47th Conference
- Smoking
- Office on 2 floors then and one now.
- Office looks different after Renos
- Inaccuracies were spotted –Says something to the effect of GSO carries out the wishes of the fellowship instead of the GSB Trustees?
- The triangle needs updating
- Dubbed voices/Sound Quality

2018 Conference Committee on Literature

AGENDA ITEM P: Consider request to change the subtitle of the pamphlet “G.S.R. General Service Representative: May Be the Most Important Job in A.A.”

Background notes:

Excerpt from the January 27, 2018 trustees’ Literature Committee meeting minutes

The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request for a subtitle change to the pamphlet “G.S.R. General Service Representative: May Be the Most Important Job in A.A.”

Research

The subtitle “May Be the Most Important Job in A.A.” was added to the pamphlet in 1977 when it was revised. Below, please find of chart of the various titles to the G.S.R. pamphlet.

1955	General Service Representative: Duties, Qualifications, How Elected, Term of Office
1963	The G.S.R.: What A.A.’s Want To Know About the General Service Representative
1969	The G.S.R.: What He Does... Who Is Best Qualified
1977	G.S.R.: May Be The Most Important Job in A.A.

Background:

1. November 21, 2017 memo requesting subtitle change to pamphlet “G.S.R. General Service Representative: May Be the Most Important Job in A.A.”
2. “Is Your Group Connected to A.A. As A Whole” available on G.S.O.’s A.A. website at: http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-104_en.pdf
3. Current pamphlet “G.S.R. General Service Representative: May Be the Most Important Job in A.A.” available on G.S.O.’s A.A. website at: http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/search/p-19-gsr-may-be-the-most-important-job-in-aa

LITERATURE
Item P
Doc. 1

Memo

Date: November 21, 2017
To: Sandra W. Trustees Literature Committee, secretary
Cc: Cate W. Trustees Literature Committee, chair
From: Racy J. Group Services, G.S.O. Staff
Re: Subtitle change to "The G.S.R." pamphlet

I would like to propose that the trustees Literature Committee consider changing the subtitle (not the title) of the Conference-approved pamphlet "G.S.R. General Service Representative May Be the Most Important Job in A.A." (P-19) to be changed to:

"G.S.R. General Service Representative "The Link Between Your Group and A.A. as a Whole."

On page 2 of this memo you can read further information as to the basis for this request.

As additional background, here is the link to the service piece "Is Your Group Connected to A.A. as a Whole." (SMF-104)

Thank you for this consideration.

cc: Greg T, General Manager, G.S.O.

Background of request and purpose of subtitle change:

In my experience as the staff member on the Group Services assignment, I have found that at times there may be lack of a clear understanding of the General Service Representative's role by potential G.S.R.s and by other group members. I question whether the subtitle in the "G.S.R. General Service Representative **May Be the Most Important Job in A.A.**" pamphlet is the best and most reflective way to communicate what a G.S.R.'s function and experience is in this role.

It is difficult to codify what indeed is "the most important job in A.A."

Some G.S.R.s and rotated G.S.R.s have shared that if anything, their experience was far less about the prestige of their service position but rather the humility that came through their experiences both at the group and by witnessing and participating in services beyond the group level. (Example: Sharing information with their group about services to help the alcoholic, shared experiences within the district, communicating about General Service Conference Agenda items, attending and participation in General Service District Meetings, Area Assemblies, Forums, Service Committees, etc.)

Lastly, if the function of the front page text of the pamphlet is to spark attraction to this meaningful position we might begin that conversation with clearer language as to the position's spiritual function.

Thank you,

Racy J.

2018 Conference Committee on Literature

AGENDA ITEM Q: Consider request for the development of a new pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women alcoholics.

Background notes:

Excerpt from the January 27, 2018 trustees' Literature Committee meeting minutes

The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request for the development of a new pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women alcoholics.

Background:

1. Request from Area 05 for the development of a new pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women alcoholics.

Spanish-Speaking Woman's Pamphlet Proposal

68th General Service Conference Agenda Item Proposal – Literature

Presented at Area Assembly July 23, 2017

Approved by Area Committee on August 20, 2017

Approved by Area Assembly on October 22, 2017

Proposal:

That Southern California Area 05 ask the Conference to consider creating a new pamphlet for the Spanish-speaking Woman Alcoholic.

Background: The Spanish-speaking woman alcoholic has been identified as an underrepresented group in our fellowship. There are many Spanish-speaking groups without alcoholic women members for newcomers to identify with. The pamphlet's purpose would be to extend the hand of A.A. to the Spanish-speaking woman alcoholic by letting her know she belongs in A.A. and that she is not alone.

While the pamphlet *A.A. for the Woman* addresses women alcoholics, there are issues specific to Spanish-speaking women that the pamphlet does not address. A few of those examples are listed below.

- There is often a deep rooted cultural shame associated with being a female alcoholic in the Spanish community.
- Because there are so few women in Spanish-speaking A.A. groups, these women often times find themselves alone in the rooms.
- Many Spanish-speaking women alcoholics are first generation immigrants and do not have access to the same resources available to others. As a result, they may not have anyone outside of the fellowship to help them realize the gravity of their disease.
- There are many Spanish-speaking women alcoholics with little or no family here in the US and Canada, having had to leave most or all of their families in their countries of origin.

This pamphlet would be in line with other pamphlets referred to as “Third Tradition literature” whose purpose is to reach out to specific groups of people to let them know that they have a place in our fellowship.

This literature includes:

- A.A. for the Black & African American Alcoholic
- A.A. for the Native North American
- A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic
- A.A. and the Armed Services
- A.A. for the Alcoholics with Special Needs
- A.A. for the Older Alcoholic-Never Too Late
- A.A. for the Woman
- Too Young
- Young People and A.A.

Often, the alcoholics that these pamphlets were written for do not readily find people like themselves when they first walk into our rooms, which is why these pamphlets can help them to see that they belong, and that we do not have to be exactly alike to share in our common problem and common solution. A pamphlet specifically for the Spanish-speaking female newcomer would help us greatly in carrying the message to them, especially when no other women are present to welcome them, and hopefully help them to stay.

2018 Conference Committee on Literature

AGENDA ITEM R: Consider request to add a section on anonymity to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”

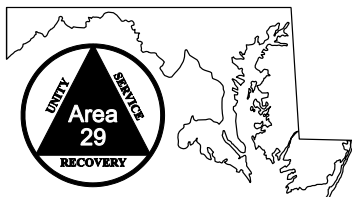
Background notes:

Excerpt from the January 27, 2018 trustees’ Literature Committee meeting minutes

The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request add a section on anonymity to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”

Background:

1. Request from Area 29 Assembly to add a section on anonymity to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”
2. Current pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” available on G.S.O.’s A.A. website at: http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/search/p-15-questions-and-answers-on-sponsorship



Maryland General Service, Inc.
P.O. Box 2651
Westminster, MD 21158
www.marylandaa.org

CONFIDENTIAL – LAST NAMES AND ADDRESSES ARE USED

December 17, 2017

Rick W, Conference Coordinator
General Service Office
P.O. Box 459
New York, NY 10163

Dear Rick,

This letter is an Addendum to be added to the Area 29 background information included with a suggested Conference Literature Committee agenda Item for the 68nd General Service Conference.

The Motion to ***“Add a section on anonymity to the pamphlet Questions and Answers on Sponsorship”*** was brought forward from the Area 29 Committee to the Area Assembly held on December 16, 2017. The Motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor of forwarding to the Conference Coordinator to be included with the original submission. (Area 29 December Assembly had to be rescheduled secondary to inclement weather on December 9, 2017).

Additional Background Information:

- (1) Results compiled from Anonymity Survey completed on December 16, 2017 are attached.
- (2) A Sharing Session on Anonymity was conducted on December 16, 2017 and a general synopsis of comments is attached as additional background information.

Thank you again for your assistance in placing this additional information with the original submission. Please contact me with any questions that you may have on this potential Agenda item.

In Love and Service,

Linda
Linda J

cc:

Area 29 suggested Agenda Item on Literature

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

Area 29 Additional Background Information ~ Potential Agenda item for the 68th General Service Conference

I.) **C.A.R.C. 2 discussion** on the Motion to “Add a section on anonymity to the pamphlet *Questions and Answers on Sponsorship* included the following:

- a) The role of the Sponsor to guide and educate members on anonymity is vital. It could include such things as how anonymity can be violated, how the ripple of an anonymity breach affects you, your family, work, community, future endeavors, the concept of attraction rather than promotion, and protecting other people’s anonymity.
- b) The majority of those members present felt with the increased use of social media there has been an increasing number of AA members posting various references about recovery, i.e., photos at events with members wearing badges, anniversary chips, and discussions regarding Alcoholics Anonymous on public pages and websites. It was noted that while social media has become an integral part of communication and sharing information today, there seems to be a lack of knowledge regarding the AA Tradition of Anonymity.
- c) Some suggested items were proceeding with a poster on anonymity, wallet card, or bookmark, plus add “social media” to the sentence “at the level of radio, press ‘social media’, and television”.
- d) As the discussion ensued, it was duly noted that social media was not the only place anonymity is violated and possibly the place to begin with education is at the sponsorship level.
- e) The C.A.R.C. felt that more members would have an opportunity to view the information on Anonymity if it were placed in the pamphlet, rather than a wallet card. To further substantiate this notion, per the 67th *General Service Conference Final Report*, there were 229,158 *Questions and Answers on Sponsorship* pamphlets distributed in 2016, while only 29,693 Anonymity Wallet Cards. Thus, the information would have the potential to reach a greater audience within the pamphlet.

II.) **Anonymity Table Top Displays, Posters or Any Other Materials**: Panel 66, Area 29 Delegate, Linda J, requested input from the 93 Delegates in the United States and Canada as to whether any Areas currently had anonymity materials, including but not limited to table top displays, posters or power point presentations, used to communicate the importance of anonymity in their Area. 32% of all current Delegates responded that their Area has no anonymity posters and/or displays. One well done power point presentation was received from BC/Yukon. All respondents mentioned that they would very much like to have something visible to use during anonymity workshops and Sharing Sessions.

III.) **Anonymity Survey**: Results of an Anonymity Survey conducted at the Area 29 February 2017 Committee meeting with 41 members participating is attached.

IV.) **“Principles Before Posting” Workshop**: At a workshop held on October 28, 2017 in Annapolis, MD, participants completed a short Survey at the beginning of the workshop with questions regarding a variety of anonymity and social media questions. A detailed summary of those responses is attached.

CONFIDENTIAL: 2018 General Service Conference Background

V.) **Sharing Session on Anonymity**: To be held during the Area 29 Assembly on December 16, 2017, and compilation of input will be forthcoming to Conference Coordinator.*

VI.) **Anonymity Survey**: To be conducted during the Area 29 Assembly on December 16, 2017, and compilation of results will be forthcoming to Conference Coordinator.*

*Area 29 Assembly was originally scheduled for December 9, 2017 so that all information could have been submitted with this potential agenda item in timely fashion. The Assembly was rescheduled to December 16, 2017 due to hazardous and unsafe weather conditions in the state on December 9th.

12/16/2017

ANONYMITY SURVEY **(FROM AREA 29)**

<u>SURVEY</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>		<u>Total</u> <u>Answers</u>	<u>% Yes</u> <u>of Total</u> <u>Answers</u>
	<u>Answers</u> <u>Yes</u>	<u>Answers</u> <u>No</u>		
Do you use a computer for business?	37	15	52	71%
Do you use a computer for personal reasons?	50	2	52	96%
Do you use a computer to communicate within AA?	47	5	52	90%
Do you use email to communicate within AA?	48	4	52	92%
If you send an email to a group of people within AA do you list the email addresses in the TO: field?	19	33	52	37%
If you send an email to a group of people within AA do you list the email addresses in the BCC: field?	34	18	52	65%
Do you communicate with members of AA on social media?	23	29	52	44%
Do you post photos on social media?	23	29	52	44%
Have you posted photos of AA members on social media?	9	43	52	17%
If you have posted photos of AA members, did they agree to it?	10	42	52	19%
Have you tagged AA members on social media?	8	44	52	15%
Do you post any AA approved material on social media?	2	49	51	4%
Have you posted your AA anniversary or anniversary chip on social media?	6	46	52	12%
Have you commented or liked someone's post about sobriety?	20	32	52	38%
Are you aware of your social media's privacy settings?	34	18	52	65%

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

RESULTS OF ANONYMITY SURVEY CONDUCTED AT FEBRUARY AREA COMMITTEE

NOTE: There was actually a good cross-section of those present and who turned in the responses as follows: 15-DCM/Alts; 10-Committee Chair/Co; 8-GSRs; 5-Officers; and 3-PDs (Total of 41). For those who were not present, the moderator asked the 8 questions on the Survey and those present answered on an Answer Sheet provided. No answers were provided, and there was a short discussion period at the end of the session.

1) Is it appropriate for me to talk about my job, where I work and what my position is during an AA meeting? Yes/No

RESPONSES: ½ responded yes and ½ responded either I don't know, question mark (?) or no

2) Can I break my own anonymity? How?

RESPONSES: all accurate responses

3) When area pictures of sobriety chips a violation of anonymity?

RESPONSES: ok if no person in picture or named; when shared outside AA; ok in secret groups; taken when a person's identity is revealed; all GSRs had a question mark or IDK

4) How did the principle of anonymity keep you coming back in the beginning?

RESPONSES: all accurate responses

5) Does Tradition 11 allow us to write up our AA membership and accomplishments in our own obituary?

RESPONSES: no musts; not encouraged; yes (6 of 8 GSRs); depends on family/funeral director

6) When is it appropriate to post pictures from an A.A. Convention or other events online?

RESPONSES: never without a person's permission; OK if no faces; not in public forum; numerous NEVER; on secret pages (no faces); probably not; questioned whether ok on password protected sites; maybe never

7) Is keeping my membership in AA a secret actually practicing the principle of anonymity??

RESPONSES: ½ of the responses were yes or a question mark (?) and the other ½ were no

8) How does anonymity protect our common welfare?

RESPONSES: accurate responses; one question mark response (??)

ANONYMITY SHARING SESSION

Held: December 16, 2017
Area Assembly ~ Area 29/Maryland

General synopsis of the main comments made by members at the Assembly:

- 1) Security camera concern in facilities housing meetings came about in local district sharing session recently.
- 2) 70% of potential employers check social media on applicants; everything is permanent on social media.
- 3) Someone posted on FB and tagged an AA member. Member lost his job after his employer asked if he'd been sober the whole time he had worked at the firm.
- 4) A few felt the short version of the 11th Tradition should be rewritten to add "Internet and social media", rather than thinking folks understand the 62nd General Service Conference statement that the "...wording of 11th Tradition...was implicit in those words". Still, not enough folks know and it doesn't go far enough.
- 5) Ignorance of a Tradition applies to any new problem. We did not have to rewrite the 7th Tradition to meet the financial needs in 2016. The solution is the same for this concern as what we had with the financial crisis last year in AA. If there is a big enough problem, then get the information to the home groups to report at the home group level and suggest that they need to be accountable.
- 6) Another 12th step program was given permission and has changed Tradition wording to add "social media".
- 7) Box 459 recent article spoke about a cashless society and there was a question whether using a "square" for contributions could be an anonymity violation.
- 8) Most people don't check their privacy settings and many do not know how to change them.
- 9) 2013 GSC affirmed that the Traditions are suggestions; there are no AA police; we can educate through workshops and suggest they follow in order to decrease potential online violations.
- 10) A few folks stated they were brushed aside and told "not to worry" when attempting to speak up in a meeting regarding an anonymity violation. One person pointed out that after sharing at a meeting where someone who worked in her firm was present, that employee shared at work about seeing this person at an AA meeting. Have we lost folks to this issue? Maybe this is part of a special interest groups member draw?
- 11) Need to have more information available about what anonymity actually entails in order to decrease the disconnect between what AA members think and what anonymity really means.

CONFIDENTIAL: 2018 General Service Conference Background

- 12) Many believe anonymity is two Traditions and that it is only for the groups. In a time when we are trying to destigmatize alcoholism, it can be increasingly difficult when someone's anonymity is broken.
- 13) Number one task is communication. The real impact will come through heightened awareness and education. It is up to us to share on anonymity in workshops as lack of education is a big part of the problem.
- 14) In response to folks wishing to change the Tradition, page S108 of the *A.A. Service Manual* states... "And It Is Understood: That neither the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous nor the warranties of Article XII of the Conference Charter shall ever be changed or amended by the General Service Conference except by first asking the consent of the registered A.A. groups of the world."
- 15) Facebook groups were important in my initial recovery. Anonymity is really more a matter of humility. I may not care, but I have to protect others.
- 16) On social media, don't friend every person in Alcoholics Anonymous. Also be mindful that Twitter is the land of the outside issues.
- 17) Remember Facebook is public and the exponential connections our posts make in the cyber world. When we break our anonymity, we have to think of who we may be dragging along with us and hurting as well.
- 18) One person made a generic post on his anniversary. He shared that of the 65 people who "liked" his post, 6 he didn't know and 2 he had no clue about. Remember that everything can be seen by anyone.
- 19) A reminder to give members notice if anonymity may be an issue with any upcoming events at the meeting location, i.e., church or community functions.
- 20) Members in the treatment industry have friends on many different levels/committees who know a member is an alcoholic who doesn't drink. The pamphlet on how to talk about our drinking without breaking our anonymity was suggested. It is also important to learn to set up folks to approach us if they have a problem with alcohol without breaking our anonymity.
- 21) It is a breakdown of Home Group, Sponsor and anonymity, and most problems in AA can be traced back to that. If the discussion is not being held at home groups by AA members, then it doesn't go beyond here (our discussions).
- 22) Possibly update the anonymity card to add some of the tips from the Anonymity Online service piece (SMF-197). Then distribute to all groups listed with Alcoholics Anonymous.
- 23) Problem: Communication issue and what's our position on the issue. We need to simplify the anonymity message and make more visual so it can permeate the alcoholic mind.

2018 Conference Committee on Literature

AGENDA ITEM S: Review matrix of A.A. recovery literature.

Background notes:

Excerpt from the January 27, 2018 trustees' Literature Committee meeting minutes

The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature the cover memorandum along with the matrix for review of recovery literature.

Advisory Action of the 2017 General Service Conference

The revised plan for the annual review of recovery literature be implemented, with the first report to be delivered to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature.

Background:

1. Memorandum from trustees' Literature Committee.
2. 2018 matrix of A.A. recovery literature.

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 27, 2018
To: Conference Committee on Literature
From: Trustee's Literature Committee
Subject: Annual review of recovery literature

As per the Advisory Action of the 2017 General Service Conference requesting implementation of an annual review of recovery literature, with the first report to be delivered to the 2018 Conference, we are pleased to submit for your review a matrix of recovery literature.

As requested, the matrix provides copyright dates for each item, as well as identifying items also included in service kits.

Due to a change in the reporting of our website analytics, please note that the corresponding data with respect to downloads and page views prior to December 2017 is not available.

As noted on the matrix, the following projects are currently in process:

1. "A.A. for the Woman" – draft revised pamphlet submitted to 2018 Conference Committee for review;
2. "A.A. for the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic" – draft revised pamphlet (renamed "A.A. for the LGBTQ Alcoholic") submitted to 2018 Conference Committee for review;
3. "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services" – draft revised pamphlet submitted to 2018 Conference Committee for review;
4. "Too Young" – update report on revision to pamphlet submitted to 2018 Conference Committee for review;
5. "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" – update report and revised text submitted to 2018 Conference Committee for review;
6. "Young People and A.A." – update report on revision to pamphlet submitted to 2018 Conference Committee for review.

The newly developed pamphlet (submitted to the 2018 Conference Committee for review) "A.A. for the Alcoholic with Mental Health Issues" will be added to the matrix subsequent to approval by the Conference.

Please also note new requests regarding revisions to the following literature have been forwarded to the 2018 Conference for consideration:

1. *Alcoholics Anonymous*
2. "Living Sober"
3. Pamphlet "G.S.R. General Service Representative: May Be the Most Important Job in A.A."
4. Pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship"
5. "Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure" (video)

CONFIDENTIAL: 2018 General Service Conference Background

CURRENT CATALOGUE OF A.A. LITERATURE (Under Purview of Trustees/Conference Literature Committees)					CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REVIEW				CONFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION			PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2013			PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2014			PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2015			PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2016			PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2017			*2017 PAGE VIEWS AND DOWNLOADS			
Last Review	Years since last review (as of 2017):	Title and Copyright Date	Item ID	Included in Service Kit	Content	Relevance	Usefulness	Outdated Language	Update	Total Revision	Update Not Necessary	EN	SP	FR	EN	SP	FR	EN	SP	FR	EN	SP	FR	EN	SP	FR	EN	SP	FR	Additional Information
1953	64	Twelve and Twelve ©1952	B-02									371,664	22,344	3,721	466,781	22,490	3,620	282,473	18,949	2,684	308,045	20,715	2,729				180532 PV / 64609 DL	45299 PV / 22877 DL	4933 PV / 0 DL	
1973	44	Came To Believe ©1973	B-06									48,454	6,026	1,516	51,874	5,133	1,270	31,874	4,761	1,176	31,595	4,589	908				N/A	N/A	N/A	Only available on online store
2001	16	Alcoholics Anonymous ©1939	B-01									973,150	29,091	6,604	1,166,454	30,319	6,052	779,779	27,054	5,390	854,202	28,470	5,003				33955 PV / 117788 DL	17942 PV / 1637 DL	4820 PV / 0 DL	
2012	5	Living Sober ©1975	B-07									140,113	10,225	2,971	158,501	10,987	3,051	101,867	10,758	2,710	101,861	9,987	2,505				N/A	N/A	N/A	Only available on online store
		Dr. Bob & The Good Oldtimers ©1980	B-08									7,860	1,992	288	7,940	2,160	241	6,259	1,675	232	6,824	1,920	224				N/A	N/A	N/A	Biographical/Only available on online store
		Pass It On ©1984	B-09									6,143	2,495	469	5,793	2,064	445	4,998	2,471	269	5,534	2,164	329				N/A	N/A	N/A	Biographical/Only available on online store
		Experience, Strength and Hope ©2003	B-20									9,631	N/A	337	9,753	N/A	289	7,896	N/A	210	7,980	N/A	122				N/A	N/A	N/A	Archival (stories originally printed in 1-3 Edition Big Book)
1971	46	Twelve Traditions Illustrated ©1971	P-43	CPC COR								55,663	4,935	1,626	52,437	4,431	1,596	47,375	4,247	1,361	50,808	3,277	1,587				1137 PV / 0 DL	1216 PV / 0 DL	50 PV / 0 DL	Currently being updated as per 2016 Advisory Action
1974	43	Inside A.A. © 1974	P-18									34,653	2,031	1,156	35,952	2,705	944	28,625	2,466	1,216	30,150	1,574	1,028				658 PV / 0 DL	96 PV / 0 DL	69 PV / 0 DL	Currently being updated as per 2015 Advisory Action
1986	31	A.A. For The Woman ©1951	P-05									77,639	8,450	1,507	77,242	6,953	1,944	68,936	8,411	903	58,978	5,544	1,402				5976 PV / 81 DL	680 PV / 0 DL	309 PV / 0 DL	Currently being updated as per 2015 Advisory Action
1986	31	Twelve Concepts Illustrated ©1986	P-08									29,821	2,561	1,643	28,448	3,248	1,073	27,911	2,213	1,361	28,511	2,166	1,095				3172 PV / 195 DL	1325 PV / 0 DL	91 PV / 0 DL	
1989	28	A.A. And The Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic ©1989	P-32									29,131	1,839	438	27,649	1,551	261	26,737	1,743	698	25,118	1,593	284				1791 PV / 1 DL	217 PV / 0 DL	38 PV / 0 DL	Currently being updated as per 2015 Advisory Action
1989	28	Is A.A. For Me? ©1989	P-36	ACC								91,029	8,691	1,596	93,052	9,070	1,512	88,659	9,960	1,193	87,727	7,688	1,113				1695 PV / 0 DL	101 PV / 0 DL	123 PV / 0 DL	

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members’ full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 2018 General Service Conference Background

CURRENT CATALOGUE OF A.A. LITERATURE (Under Purview of Trustees/Conference Literature Committees)					CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REVIEW				CONFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION			PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2013			PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2014			PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2015			PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2016			PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2017			*2017 PAGE VIEWS AND DOWNLOADS					
Last Review	Years since last review (as of 2017):	Title and Copyright Date	Item ID	Included in Service Kit	Content	Relevance	Usefulness	Outdated Language	Update	Total Revision	Update Not Necessary	EN	SP	FR	EN	SP	FR	EN	SP	FR	EN	SP	FR	EN	SP	FR	EN	SP	FR	Additional Information		
1991	26	Twelve Steps Illustrated ©1971	P-55	ACC COR								58,606	5,173	1,626	49,337	4,613	758	46,856	3,542	1,631	43,046	3,715	663				1020 PV / 0 DL	297 PV / 0 DL	41 PV / 0 DL			
2001	16	A.A. for the Older Alcoholic ©2001	P-22	ACC PI								43,234	4,324	1,322	40,401	3,693	1,404	38,175	3,202	1,010	34,927	3,668	1,305				1470 PV / 0 DL	90 PV / 0 DL	64 PV / 0 DL			
2001	16	A.A. For The Black & African American Alcoholic ©2001	P-51									26,987	N/A		21,677	N/A		19,359	N/A		16,869	N/A					837 PV / 0 DL	0 PV / 0 DL	2 PV / 0 DL			
2002	15	Your D.C.M. ©1988	F-12									N/A																	533 PV / 1 DL	124 PV / 0 DL	22 PV / 0 DL	
2003	14	What Happened To Joe? ©2003	P-38	ACC								27,679	5,141	865	27,341	4,872	358	22,874	3,730	228	19,882	3,409	603				71 PV / 0 DL	57 PV / 0 DL	6 PV / 0 DL			
2017	12	The A.A. Group ©1965	P-16									78,255	7,108	2,006	81,973	5,692	2,068	78,373	6,948	1,650	76,654	6,172	1,523				5559 PV / 1451 DL	990 PV / 0 DL	242 PV / 0 DL			
2017	11	Too Young? ©1979	P-37	ACC PI								47,740	3,506	1,747	45,264	2,914	1,231	43,850	3,704	1,135	40,223	3,756	1,254				508 PV / 0 DL	107 PV / 0 DL	15 PV / 0 DL	Currently being updated as per 2017 Advisory Action		
2006	10	It Happened To Alice ©1985	P-39	ACC								28,132	4,443	807	26,367	3,895	367	24,209	3,442	298	17,289	2,539	619				131 PV / 0 DL	32 PV / 0 DL	5 PV / 0 DL			
2016	10	Young People & A.A. ©2007	P-04									80,611	9,393	1,445	77,089	5,742	1,512	72,335	7,102	968	69,245	6,673	1,313				6045 PV / 0DL	724 PV / 0 DL	155 PV / 0 DL	Currently being updated as per 2016 Advisory Action		
2008	8	Is A.A. for You? ©1973, 2008	P-03									329,072	47,234	8,532	317,297	47,201	9,347	300,664	51,478	7,232	301,933	46,978	7,454				3320 PV / 553 DL	186 PV / 0 DL	298 PV / 0 DL			
2009	7	A.A. for the Native North American ©1989	P-21									17,995	N/A	599	16,330	N/A	103	14,703	N/A	108	13,763	N/A	502				394 PV / 0DL	21 PV / 0 DL	10 PV / 0 DL			
2017	7	Questions & Answers on Sponsorship ©1976,1983	P-15	TR								266,632	7,051	3,213	254,214	5,744	1,597	239,983	8,233	1,662	229,158	6,053	2,330				4615 PV 869 DL	1400 PV / 0 DL	87 PV / 0 DL			
2011	6	A.A. Member - Medication & Other Drugs ©1984, 2011	P-11	TR CPC								82,741	4,390	1,735	71,804	3,273	1,104	75,504	2,715	851	70,816	3,287	1,066				532 PV / 0 DL	58 PV / 0 DL	6 PV / 0 DL			
2011	6	G.S.R. General Service Representative ©1955	P-19									35,428	2,689	1,686	37,045	2,289	1,260	40,539	1,579	1,279	36,405	3,096	1,366				2383 PV / 0 DL	449 PV / 0 DL	44 PV / 0 DL			

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members’ full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 2018 General Service Conference Background

CURRENT CATALOGUE OF A.A. LITERATURE (Under Purview of Trustees/Conference Literature Committees)					CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REVIEW				CONFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION			PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2013			PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2014			PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2015			PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2016			PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2017			*2017 PAGE VIEWS AND DOWNLOADS			
Last Review	Years since last review (as of 2017):	Title and Copyright Date	Item ID	Included in Service Kit	Content	Relevance	Usefulness	Outdated Language	Update	Total Revision	Update Not Necessary	EN	SP	FR	EN	SP	FR	EN	SP	FR	EN	SP	FR	EN	SP	FR	EN	SP	FR	Additional Information
2012	5	A.A. And The Armed Service ©2002,2007	P-50									12,542	N/A	N/A	11,865	N/A	N/A	10,148	N/A	N/A	7,917	N/A	N/A				407 PV / 0 DL	45 PV / 0 DL	9 PV / 0 DL	
2014	3	Circles of Love and Service ©2014	P-45									35,476	2,349	1,310	54,262	2,940	993	40,038	1,977	1,838	35,568	2,082	737				687 PV / 0 DL	373 PV / 0 DL	32 PV / 0 DL	
2014	3	Many Paths to Spirituality ©2014	P-84									N/A			80,728	893	1,555	82,390	7,040	8,300	56,814	3,321	8,931				769 PV / 0 DL	68 PV / 0 DL	32 PV / 0 DL	
		The Jack Alexander Article About A.A. *Reprinted by Special Permission of Saturday Evening Post ©1941	P-12									17,115	1,932	526	16,741	1,848	366	13,549	2,278	118	11,833	1,150	543				397 PV / 0 DL	187 PV / 0 DL	17 PV / 0 DL	Archival
		A.A. Tradition-How It Developed By Bill W. ©1955	P-17									22,490	1,725	910	25,823	2,192	379	17,126	1,687	487	16,916	1,257	456				568 PV / 0 DL	437 PV / 0 DL	11 PV / 0 DL	Historical
		A.A.'s Legacy of Service By Bill W. ©1969	P-44									10,283	636	319	11,871	804	475	10,717	591	204	10,883	839	417				872 PV / 0 DL	804 PV / 0 DL	21 PV / 0 DL	Historical
		The Co-founders of A.A. ©1973,1975	P-53									10,214	N/A	557	9,702	N/A	116	11,574	N/A	554	11,170	N/A	195				436 PV / 0 DL	46 PV / 0 DL	8 PV / 0 DL	Archival/ Biographical
2011	6	Suggestions for Leading Beginners Meeting	MU-1	Group Handbook																							1995 PV / 0 DL	1834 PV / 0 DL	39 PV / 0 DL	
		Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions	M-89, M-38																								N/A	N/A	N/A	
		Bill's Own Story	VS-21, DV-04																								N/A	N/A	N/A	
		Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure	DV-07																								N/A	N/A	N/A	
*PV/DL #'s Sept-Dec 2017/#'s prior to Sept 2017 not available.																														

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members’ full names and addresses.