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**TREATMENT &
ACCESSIBILITIES**

AGENDA

Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities

Sunday, April 18, 2021, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Monday, April 19, 2021, Noon – 3:15 p.m.

Via videoconference

Chairperson: Bill L.

Secretary: Irene D.

Conference Committee Members

Panel 70

Marilyn F.

Paul H.

Bill L.

Thad N.

Panel 71

Jimmy A.

Trudy D.

Thomas W.

Karla Y.

+Agenda item forwarded from the 70th G.S.C.

- ◆ Discussion and acceptance of trustees' committee report.
- A. Review progress report on the pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic."
- B. Review a progress report on audio interviews with A.A. members who are in the Armed Forces.
- C. Review contents and format of Treatment Kit and Workbook.
- D. Review contents and format of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.

NOTE: 1989 Conference Advisory Action

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.

2021 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities

ITEM A: Review progress report on the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic.”

Background notes:

From the January 31, 2021 trustees’ C.P.C./Treatment and Accessibilities Committee:

The committee received a verbal update regarding the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic.” The committee noted that additional stories would be helpful for the development of the pamphlet. The committee requested that the staff secretary release another call for stories with a deadline no later than March 15. The committee suggested that a subcommittee to work on story selection might be formed at the July 2021 meeting. The committee **agreed to forward** a progress report to the 2021 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

From the November 1, 2020 trustees’ C.P.C./Treatment and Accessibilities Committee:

The committee discussed the update of the pamphlet, “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic.” The progress report provided by the staff secretary noted that seven stories have been received to date and the committee agreed with the staff request to explore additional avenues for requesting shared experience between now and December 15, 2020. The committee looks forward to an update report from the staff secretary at the January 2021 meeting.

From the August 1, 2020 trustees’ C.P.C./Treatment and Accessibilities Committee:

The committee reviewed the 2020 Conference committee consideration on updating the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic,” and discussed ways to obtain a broad and diverse representation of A.A. experience. The committee asked the staff secretary to reopen a call for stories with the intent of including a detailed description of the type of story needed. The focus of this call for stories is to obtain a wider representation of stories from older A.A. members. Staff will request the help of regional trustees to target the needed geographic areas.

As a way to inspire the Fellowship on the topic of “A.A. and the Older Alcoholic,” the committee asked the staff secretary to send a request to AA Grapevine to develop a book including shared experience from older alcoholics. The committee suggested forwarding the current submitted stories received on “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic” to the Grapevine senior editor for potential use by Grapevine. The staff secretary will provide a progress report at the October 2020 meeting.

2020 Additional Committee Consideration

The Conference Treatment and Accessibilities committee reviewed the progress report on updating the pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic." The committee noted that the submitted stories did not indicate a broad and diverse representation of A.A. experience and suggested a reopened call for stories based on the following experiences provided by trustees' C.P.C./Treatment and Accessibilities Committees:

- Ethnic, cultural and LGBTQ communities
- Lifestyle diversity
- Got sober later in life
- Veterans from the Vietnam War or later
- Hearing loss or mobility issues
- Online or telephone A.A. meetings
- Dementia or Alzheimer mental health issues
- Spiritual pathways

The committee looks forward to a progress report or draft pamphlet to be brought to the 2021 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

Excerpt from the trustee's C.P.C/T.A. Committee February 2, 2020 meeting report:

At their meeting, the trustees' committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities a progress report on the update to the pamphlet "A.A. and the Older Alcoholic."

Excerpt from the trustees' C.P.C/T.A. Committee November 3, 2019 meeting report:

The committee heard a verbal report on the update to the pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic." The committee asked the staff secretary to send an additional request for sharing on "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic" to include accessibilities committees in a broader distribution list. The committee suggested changing the deadline of December 15, 2019, to a later date and that a progress report be provided at the February 2020 meeting.

Excerpt from the trustee's C.P.C/T.A. Committee July 28, 2019 meeting report:

The trustees' Committee chair appointed a subcommittee to begin work on the revision of the pamphlet "A.A. and the Older Alcoholic," and requested that a progress report be presented at their November 3, 2019 meeting.

2019 Conference Advisory Action:

The pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never too Late" be updated with a revised introduction; current and inclusive stories; reference to online A.A.; and an updated "How Do I Find A.A." section. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet brought back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

Excerpt from the trustee's C.P.C./T.A. Committee January 27, 2019 meeting report:

The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2019 Conference Treatment and Accessibilities Committee a proposal that the pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late" be revised.

Background:

1. Progress report on the pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic."
2. Current pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late" available on G.S.O.'s A.A. website at: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/public-information-committees/p-22-aa-for-the-older-alcoholicnever-too-late

To: 2021 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities
From: Irene D., Secretary, Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities
Subject: Progress report on the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic”.

In consultation with the subcommittee Chair, a request for stories was sent on August 12, 2019, with a deadline of December 15, 2019. A ranking matrix with which to review the new stories was developed and distributed to the subcommittee members.

On August 20, 2020, the staff secretary sent a new request for stories with a deadline of December 15, 2020, five stories were received.

To follow up on the January 15, 2020 extended deadline, a total of 44 stories submissions were compiled, it was noted that the stories submitted had an equal participation of female and male A.A. members, as well as a broad regional representation.

Following up on the 2020 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities additional consideration expressing that the submitted stories did not indicate a broad and diverse representation of A.A. experience, the additional request for stories included the option to send submissions on audio format to help with possible accessibilities barriers that prevent senior population to fully participate in the effort to update the pamphlet. To date, 31 stories have been received in written format and one in audio.

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2021 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities

ITEM B: Review a progress report on audio interviews with A.A. members who are in the Armed Forces.

Background notes:

From the January 31, 2021 Trustees' Committee on C.P.C./Treatment and Accessibilities (TC-C.P.C. T/A) Report:

The committee listened to one final draft of an audio interview by the appointed committee member (ACM) and an A.A. member in the military. The committee expressed appreciation for the work being done and noted the effectiveness of the interview format for carrying the A.A. message to alcoholics in the Armed Services. The committee asked the secretary to work with the Publishing department to finalize the three remaining audio interviews by the ACM and A.A. member from the military. The committee **agreed to forward** a progress report to the 2021 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

Excerpt from TC-C.P.C. T/A November 1, 2020, Meeting Staff Report:

The Publishing Department and the Communications Services Department are working on a military audio project. The plan is a work in progress for the post-production of four military interviews recorded and produced by appointed committee member, George W., with the goal to bring a final draft to the 2021 General Service Conference.

Excerpt from TC-C.P.C. T/A August 1, 2020, Meeting Report:

The committee listened to the unedited audio interviews conducted by the ACM with A.A. members in the military and asked the staff secretary to work with Publishing on post-production of the recordings. The committee asked staff to request the Communication Services department to explore the appropriate placement of the military audio interviews in other A.A.W.S. digital platforms.

Excerpt from TC-C.P.C. T/A July 28, 2019, Meeting Report:

The appointed committee member will work with staff to develop the process and timeline for recording audio interviews with military professionals to be posted online. Recording will begin once the details are in place.

Excerpt from TC-C.P.C. T/A November 3, 2019, Meeting Staff Report:

The appointed committee member, George W., is developing a timeline for recording audio interviews with military professionals and is providing a list of potential interviewees. The Publications Department has provided a cost estimate and post-production processes.

Excerpt from TC-C.P.C. T/A February 2, 2020, Meeting Report:

The committee received a progress report regarding interviews with military personnel from Appointed Committee Member George W. Two of four interviews have been completed, one with a female pilot and another with a retired military captain. The committee looks forward to a progress report from the A.C.M. at their August 2020 meeting.

2019 Conference Advisory Action:

The trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities develop anonymity-protected audio interviews with military professionals about their experience with A.A. as a resource for posting online.

Background:

1. 1.8.21 Progress report submitted by Publishing Department.
2. 4.15.21 Final draft audio files of four interviews with A.A. members in the Armed Forces:
 - a. Dave W. - Navy Captain
 - b. Dee K. - Female - AirForce Pilot
 - c. John C. - Army - Combat Medic
 - d. John W. - Marine Corps -Warnt Ofcr

1.8.21 Progress report submitted by Publishing Department
Military Audio Production 2021

Production will be editing audio clips from a preexisting podcast show featuring recovering alcoholics serving in the U.S. military. These service members will be sharing their personal journeys with alcohol that lead them each into recovery. A sample audio clip will be provided for approval.

For aesthetics, each audio recording will be accompanied by slates in place of the podcast's moderator/show host. The slates will read the question being asked and only the speaker will be heard answering the question. If the audio clip is approved, we will move forward with the editing of the remaining audio clips we have as assets.

All final files will be provided in an MP4 format and include accessibilities features such as closed captioning.

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2021 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities

ITEM C: Review contents and format of Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook.

Background notes:

Kits and Workbooks for C.P.C., Corrections, Public Information, Treatment and Accessibilities are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference.

Between Conferences, ideas for changes to a Workbook or to the contents of a Kit may be received. These may be reviewed by the appropriate trustees' Committee and implemented. Alternatively, the trustees' Committee may choose to forward an idea to the Conference Committee for review. Members of the Conference Committee then have an opportunity to review proposed changes to a Workbook or Kit during the next General Service Conference.

The Treatment Committee Workbook (M-40I) is contained in the Kit. The content list of the Treatment Committee Kit is available on G.S.O.'s website, aa.org, with hyperlinks to most items listed.

Note: Workbooks and Kits are service pieces, and suggested changes to their content do not become recommendations; rather, they are put forth as Additional Committee Considerations.

Changes to the Kit

The 2020 Treatment and Accessibilities Conference Committee reviewed the Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook and forwarded the following suggestions to the trustees' Committee on C.P.C/TA

- Remove video "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous."
- Include the video, "Young People in A.A."
- Include pamphlet, "LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A." (P-32)
- Include the pamphlet "The God Word" (P-86)
- Put together A.A. Guidelines on Treatment."

From the August 1, 2020 trustees' C.P.C./Treatment and Accessibilities Committee:

The Committee discussed the 2020 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities committee consideration and asked the staff secretary to implement the requested changes. The Committee also requested a summary of the process for adding new items to existing hard copy kits.

Background:

1. Memo on Digital Service Kits
2. Treatment Committee Kit Contents List (See G.S.O.'s A.A. website at www.aa.org/treatmentkit)
3. Treatment Committee Kit (**Sent under separate cover to Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities members**)

MEMO

To: Trustee Chairs who have Service Kits

From: Staff Coordinator

January 30, 2021

Subject: Discussions about Service Kits

At their January 29, 2021 meeting, the A.A.W.S. Board continued discussing the 2020 P.I. Committee Consideration which shared concerns on the relevancy of a print copy workbook and kit for P.I. Committees. The board also noted the P.I. Committee's suggestions to explore the development of an A.A. Service Committee app and the possible creation of a new digital PDF version of the P.I. Workbook.

The board noted that we tend to have a "print-first" approach to the service material we publish, and that approach can sometimes delay updates. We are forced to consider questions like "Do the number of changes warrant tossing out significant printed inventory? Do we make revisions and reprint in all three languages even though we may have lots of inventory in one or two of those languages?" Many feel that we should evolve to a digital or web-based approach as our publishing model.

Knowing that many Conference committees have standing agenda items to review the service kits and workbooks, the Board sees this as an opportunity for broader sharing on this topic. Rather than start with the notion of a kit needing to be a physical binder, perhaps the following questions could be discussed to generate wider sharing:

- Could web-based kits offer the ability to easily implement more up-to-date content?
- Should we consider the development of an A.A. Service Committee app?
- What is the role of the new website in making digital versions of workbooks and other service material more available?
- Could PDF versions of workbooks be more easily shared, and perhaps customizable by local committees?
- Could we offer options like a photocopied print-out on request to those without electronic access?
- What digital assets could be integrated into online workbooks to aid local service committee services. (Examples: Email templates, links to videos on aa.org or the A.A.W.S. YouTube Channel, links to the Meeting Guide app, C.P.C. and Accessibilities videos etc.)

CONFIDENTIAL: 71st General Service Conference Background

Based on the recent experience of going digital-only for some of our publications – even if only temporarily due to the pandemic – there could also be financial savings. This is part of a broader discussion the A.A.W.S. Board is having, informed by several departments at G.S.O. including Publishing, Tech Services, and Staff Services. We welcome your experience and insight!

CONTENTS OF TREATMENT COMMITTEE KIT

The contents of this kit list is also available for viewing at www.aa.org/treatmentkit

Front Pocket:

Suggestions for Use of DVDs and Magazine (Rev. 03/17) (F-185)

Three Ring Section:

List of Kit Contents (this page) (Rev. 10/20) (F-167)

WORKBOOK: Treatment Committee Workbook (M-40I)

A.A. GUIDELINES:

Sharing the A.A. Message with the Alcoholic Who Is Deaf (Rev. 12/16) (MG-13)

Treatment Committees (Rev. 02/12) (MG-14)

Accessibilities for All Alcoholics (Rev. 12/16) (MG-16)

CATALOG/ORDER FORMS:

Literature Catalog (includes A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine material) (F-10)

Treatment Committee Literature Discount Package Order Form (Rev.10/14) (F-39)

LOCAL EXPERIENCE

Some suggestions for possible use of this section (Rev. 04/09) (F-186)

OTHER RESOURCES:

Information on Alcoholics Anonymous (F-2)

Fellowships Similar to A.A. (Rev. 06/17) (SMF-38)

Back Pocket:

Young People's Video (DV-10)

Where Do I Go From Here? (F-4)

About A.A. (Summer 2020) (F-13)

Primary Purpose Card (F-17)

Central Offices/Intergroups/Answering Services U.S. & Canada (F-25)

G.S.O.s/Central Offices/Intergroups/Answering Services Overseas (F-59)

Serving All Alcoholics (F-107)

A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Request **replace with updated version** (F-183)

A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Volunteer **replace with updated version** (F-184)

This is A.A. (P-1)

Is A.A. for You (P-3)

The A.A. Member - Medications and Other Drugs (P-11)

Questions and Answers on Sponsorship **replace with updated version** (P-15)

The A.A. Group (P-16)

A Newcomer Asks (P-24)

A.A. in Treatment Settings (P-27)

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LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A. (P-32)

Problems Other than Alcohol (P-35)

Speaking at Non-A.A Meetings (P-40)

A Brief Guide to A.A. (P-42)

Twelve Traditions Illustrated (P-43)

If You Are a Professional (P-46)

Bridging the Gap **replace with updated version** (P-49)

A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic **replace with updated version** (P-51)

The God Word (P-86)

History and Highlights of Actions: General Service Conference Committee on
Treatment and Accessibilities (F-74)*

History and Actions: Trustees' Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities (F-78)**

AA GRAPEVINE RESOURCES

AA Grapevine magazine (F-41)

AA Grapevine Today/La Viña (One Page Flyer) (F-188)***

A.A. Grapevine: Spirituality and 'God Talk' (F-202)*

** This document may be requested in electronic or paper format from the staff member on the assignment. Available in English, French and Spanish.*

*** This document may be requested in electronic or paper format from the staff member on the assignment. Available in English only.*

****Available through the AA Grapevine website on their resources page at:*

www.aagrapevine.org/get-involved

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2021 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities

ITEM D: Review contents and format of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.

Background notes:

Kits and Workbooks for C.P.C., Corrections, Public Information, Treatment and Accessibilities are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference.

Workbooks and Kits are service pieces. Any suggested changes to their content from the Conference committee are put forth as Committee Considerations rather than recommendations.

Between Conferences, ideas for changes to a Workbook or to the contents of a Kit may be received. These may be reviewed by the appropriate trustees' Committee and implemented, or the trustees' Committee may choose to forward an idea to the Conference Committee for review.

Background:

1. Memo on Digital Service Kits
2. Accessibilities Kit Contents List (See G.S.O.'s A.A. website at <http://www.aa.org/accessibilitieskit.org>)
3. 2019 Conference Committee on TA Accessibilities Kit Suggestions
4. Accessibilities Kit **(Sent under separate cover to Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities members only)**

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From: Staff Coordinator

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CONTENTS OF ACCESSIBILITIES KIT

The contents of this kit list is also available for viewing at www.aa.org/accessibilitieskit

Front Pocket:

A.A. For the Older Alcoholic (Large print)	(P-22)
This is A.A. (Large print)	(P-56)
Frequently Asked Questions About A.A. (Large print)	(P-57)
Accessibilities for All Alcoholics	(P-83)
A.A. and the Armed Services	(P-50)
Serving All Alcoholics	(F-107)
Experience, Strength and Hope: The "God" Word Agnostics and Atheist	(P-86)

Three Ring Section:

List of Kit Contents (this page) (Rev. 10/20)	(F-182)
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WORKBOOK: Accessibilities Workbook	(M-48I)
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A.A. GUIDELINES:

Sharing the A.A. Message with the Alcoholic who is Deaf (Rev. 12/16)	(MG-13)
Accessibility for All Alcoholics (Rev. 12/16)	(MG-16)

SERVICE MATERIAL:

Loners-Internationalists Meeting Information Sheet (<i>LIM</i>) (Rev. 10/16)	(SMF-123)
Accessibilities Check List (12/16)	(SMF-208)
Online Meetings/Online Groups (Rev. 06/20)	(SMF-124)

PUBLICATIONS:

Box 4-5-9: Sign of the Times (Spring 2014)	(F-36A)
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CATALOG/ORDER FORMS:

Literature Catalog (includes A.A.W.S. and AA Grapevine material)	(F-10)
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Back Pocket:

Is A.A. For Me?	(P-36)*
Too Young?	(P-37)*
What Happened to Joe?	(P-38)*
It Happened to Alice!	(P-39)*
Speaking at Non-A.A Meetings	(P-40)
The Twelve Steps	(P-55)*

History and Highlights of Actions: General Service Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities	(F-74)**
History and Actions: Trustees' Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities	(F-78)***

AA GRAPEVINE RESOURCES

AA Grapevine Magazine Accessibilities Issue	(F-41B)
AA Grapevine Today/La Viña Hoy (one page flyer)	(F-188)****

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** Illustrated, Easy-to-Read Pamphlets*

*** This document may be requested in electronic or paper format from the staff member on the assignment. Available in English, French and Spanish.*

**** This document may be requested in electronic or paper format from the staff member on the assignment. Available in English only.*

*****Available through the AA Grapevine website on their resources page at www.aagrapevine.org/resources*

Rev. 10/20

F-182

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the 71st 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.

MEMO

Date: May 20, 2019
To: Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities
From: Rick Walker, Accessibilities and Remote Communities Assignment
Re: Considerations for Accessibilities Kit

The 2019 Conference committee on Treatment and Accessibilities requested that the following considerations regarding the Accessibilities Kit be forwarded to the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities:

- Welcome Letter should mention "How To Get Started" (page 6) of Accessibilities Workbook right off the top of the letter.
 - Welcome letter notes "suggested activities on page 10. "Suggested Activities" start on page 8.
- Literature Guide – what's included in this kit and what to do with it - should be created and added to the Workbook. (Similar to C.P.C.)
 - After the above Literature Guide is created and added to the Accessibilities Workbook, the Literature Guide should be mentioned in the Welcome letter right after the note on "How to Get Started" so people know what to do with the pamphlets included in the Accessibilities Kit.
- Change P-83 to "Access to AA – Members Share on Overcoming Barriers" on Kit Contents Page.
- Add pamphlet "The God Word"
- Update/Replace "About AA" Spring 2014 titled "A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs" – There are no special alcoholics.
- Add information on visiting members who are confined to hospital rooms
- Create a contents list
- Add more recent issues of *Box 4-5-9* issues
- Update Workbook
 - Add suggestions for working with the elderly/elder community
 - P-10, Include information on smart phone apps with talk to text
 - P-11-12, Add info on Online Intergroup
 - P. 24, add a reference to *L/Remote Communities* mentioned on page 15 of Accessibilities Workbook.
 - Mention of the Remote Communities kit should be added.
 - P-25, Simplify the information on how to find Accessibilities resources in the Literature Catalog

CONFIDENTIAL: 71st General Service Conference Background

- FAQ on A.A.
 - The only religious perspective seems Christian, but there is no mention of spirituality
 - Intro seems sexist
- Remove items:
 - GV access item
 - “A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs”
 - Look for ways to provide this information electronically, rather than in paper

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