



VI. Literature - EN

General Service Conference - Conférence des Services généraux -
Conferencia de Servicios Generales

2025-04-28 08:00 - 2025-04-29 12:00 EDT

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CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background

2025 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM A: Annual review of recovery literature matrix.

Background Notes:

Excerpt from the February 1, 2025, trustees' Literature Committee meeting report:

The committee reviewed the annual matrix of recovery literature and noted the Committee Considerations from the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature requesting footnotes and formatting priorities. The committee and **agreed to forward** to the updated matrix to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature with these requested additions.

2024 Conference Committee on Literature Additional Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed the 2024 Recovery Literature Matrix and noted the need for procedural guidance through rotation memos and a reference to the information provided within the "AAWS Policy on Publication Keeping A.A. Literature Current." The committee requested that a footnote be added to the Literature Matrix referencing the value of this policy as a resource.

The committee requested that the list of formatting priorities, as established by A.A. World Services, Inc. Publishing Department, be included within future Recovery Literature Matrixes.

2017 Conference Advisory Action

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

Background:

1. 2025 Recovery Literature Matrix
2. AAWS Policy on Publication: Keeping Literature Current

Title and Copyright Date	LANGUAGE	PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2020	PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2021	PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2022	PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2023	PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2024	E*2017 PAGE VIEWS AND DOWNLOADS	*2018 PAGE VIEWS AND DOWNLOADS	*2019 PAGE VIEWS AND DOWNLOADS	Additional Information
Alcoholics Anonymous (all print editions)	English	635,818	771,612	808,855	860,449	777,095	33,955 PV 117,788 DL	1,026,528 PV 0 DL	1,033,786 PV 0 DL	
Les Alcooliques Anonymes (all print editions)	French	3,435	3,232	6,497	7,410	6,225	4,820 PV 0 DL	15,546 PV 0 DL	15,805 PV 0 DL	
Alcohólicos Anónimos (all print editions)	Spanish	18,117	24,503	28,120	29,817	32,852	17,942 PV 1637 DL	65,876 PV 0 DL	15,805 PV 0 DL	
Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous	English					71,988				Revisions input into the First Edition. Second Printing version in 2024.
Twelve and Twelve (all print editions)	English	215,198	307,009	293,394	330,202	259,779	180,532 PV 64,609 DL	585,242 PV 0 DL	638,360 PV 0 DL	
12 Étapes et 12 Traditions (all print editions)	French	1,347	1,680	2,048	2,805	2,834	49,33 PV 0 DL	153,786 PV 0 DL	159,117 PV 0 DL	
Doce Pasos y Doce Tradiciones (all print editions)	Spanish	11,810	17,960	21,062	28,701	26,930	45,299 PV 22,877 DL	13,584 PV 0DL	834 PV 0 DL	
As Bills Sees It (all print editions)	English	35,187	32,635	58,757	50,577	35,001				
Réflexions de Bill (all print editions)	French	835	964	1,267	1,738	1,533				
Como Lo Ve Bill (all print editions)	Spanish	1,858	2,798	4,485	4,046	4,204				
Came To Believe (all print editions)	English	16,367	19,473	25,422	26,465	22,652				
Nous en Sommes Venus à Croire (all print editions)	French	407	384	850	658	708				
Llegamos a Creer (all print editions)	Spanish	2,857	2,594	5,253	6,140	6,234				
Daily Reflections (all print editions)	English	78,689	108,931	95,965	110,186	93,506				
Réflexions Quotidiennes (all print editions)	French	1,299	1,781	2,896	2,843	2,915				
Reflexiones Diarias (all print editions)	Spanish	4,646	6,366	7,489	9,161	9,721				
Living Sober (all print editions)	English	71,614	83,452	94,699	108,386	84,665				
Vivre... Sans Alcool (all print editions)	French	5,184	1,753	2,699	3,152	3,560				
Viviendo Sobrio (all print editions)	Spanish	976	8,493	10,499	12,967	13,406				
Dr. Bob & The Good Oldtimers	English	4,751	3,368	7,926	5,969	5,007				
Dr. Bob et Les Pionniers	French	103	79	225	276	245				
El Dr. Bob Y Los Buenos Veteranos	Spanish	1,020	1,766	1,784	2,871	1,604				
A.A. Comes of Age	English	5,122	7,436	6,100	7,002	5,181				
Le Mouvement des AA Devient Adulte	French	26	88	214	170	196				
AA Llega a su Mayoría de Edad	Spanish	1,267	2,523	2,318	2,652	2,515				
Pass It On ©1984	English	3,231	3,990	4,243	5,020	3,545				
Transmets-le	French	96	72	347	340	241				
Transmítelo	Spanish	1,408	2,046	3,194	2,926	2,596				
Experience, Strength and Hope ©2003	English	5,131	5,610	6,863	8,056	6,477				SB-20 published in 2023
Expérience, Force & Espoir	French	60	85	195	179	121				
Experiencia, Fortaleza y Esperanza	Spanish				3,015	2,959				
Twelve Traditions Illustrated ©1971	English	22,885	22,976	29,190	41,914	30,812	1,137 PV 0 DL	3,950 PV 1,184 DL	3,543 PV 1,093 DL	

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Douze Traditions Illustrées	French	361	658	718	1,031	1,183	50 PV 0 DL	242 PV 74 DL	194 PV 82 DL	Updated illustrations in 2023.
Doce Tradiciones Ilustradas	Spanish	1,753	1,813	2,111	1,623	854	1,216 PV 0 DL	3,603 PV 1,189 DL	3,888 PV 945 DL	
Twelve Concepts Illustrated ©1986	English	10,712	13,914	16,281	20,466	18,292	3,172 PV 195 DL	11,600 PV 2,539 DL	6,767 PV 1,413 DL	
Douze Concepts de Service Mondial Illustrés	French	513	356	683	569	614	91 PV 0 DL	264 PV 83 DL	229 PV 66 DL	Minor editorial updates in 2023 and 2024.
Doce Conceptos Ilustrados	Spanish	1,133	1,181	1,773	1,985	1,115	1,325 PV 0 DL	3,496 PV 805 DL	2,062 PV 437 DL	
Is A.A. For Me? ©1989	English	30,832	37,451	47,031	59,365	50,397	1,695 PV 0 DL	5,469 PV 1,025 DL	5,512 PV 1,122 DL	
Les A.A. sont-ils Pour Moi?	French	326	307	2,207	1,205	806	101 PV 0 DL	275 PV 38 DL	361 PV 64 DL	Revised draft being reviewed by 2025 Conference Committee on Literature
¿Es A.A. para Mí?	Spanish	6,032	3,975	9,376	9,953	13,264	101 PV 0 DL	351 PV 101 DL	513 PV 113 DL	
Twelve Steps Illustrated ©1971	English	21,495	18,892	26,425	31,286	32,810	1,020 PV 0 DL	3,564 PV 943 DL	3,713 PV 887 DL	
Douze Étapes Illustrées	French	465	212	844	2,235	909	41 PV 0 DL	204 PV 69 DL	186 PV 61 DL	Revised and printed in new format in 2023.
Doce Pasos Ilustrados	Spanish	2,570	1,066	3,849	1,144	1,115	297 PV 0 DL	936 PV 220 DL	1,255 PV 204 DL	
A.A. for the Older Alcoholic ©2001	English	12,544	12,084	13,982	23,568	9,320	1,470 PV 0 DL	5,030 PV 725 DL	6,463 PV 872 DL	
Les A.A. pour l'alcoolique plus âgé	French	431	35	825	898	1,062	64 PV 0 DL	268 PV 72 DL	295 PV 56 DL	Revised pamphlet in 2024.
A.A. para el Alcohólico de Edad Avanzada	Spanish	867	1,615	1,715	2,432	1,178	90 PV 0 DL	493 PV 99 DL	543 PV 117 DL	
Black in A.A.	English	6,542	7,355	9,591	15,850	16,028	837 PV 0 DL	2,678 PV 436 DL	2,992 PV 431 DL	
Les Noirs chez les AA EXPÉRIENCE, FORCE ET ESPOIR	French					220				Minor editorial updates in 2024.
Ser negro en AA EXPERIENCIA, FORTALEZA Y ESPERANZA	Spanish					163				
Your D.C.M. ©1988	English	4,258	5,155	5,716	7,106	7,303	533 PV 1 DL	1,830 PV 447 DL	1,768 PV 433 DL	
What Happened To Joe? ©2003	English	5,755	5,969	6,767	10,082	7,670	71 PV 0 DL	607 PV 125 DL	647 PV 121 DL	Retired per 2024 GSC.
Jean... face à son problème d'alcool	French	100	54	416	104	470	6 PV 0 DL	52 PV 0 DL	37 PV 0 DL	
Lo que le Sucedió a José	Spanish	1,218	2,913	2,561	2,194	242	57 PV 0 DL	173 PV 39 DL	486 PV 46 DL	
The A.A. Group ©1965	English	28,428	36,363	28,214	81,763	43,835	5,559 PV 1,451 DL	17,719 PV 5,971 DL	19,270 PV 3,623 DL	Editorial updates in 2023 and 2024.
Groupe des A.A.	French	828	568	1,308	1,377	1,092	242 PV 0 DL	542 PV 188 DL	313 PV 131 DL	
Grupo de A.A.	Spanish	3,213	4,677	2,695	9,277	3,609	990 PV 0 DL	3,037 PV 710 DL	2,293 PV 492 DL	
Too Young? ©1979	English	14006	13,118	19,550	13,471	0	508 PV 0 DL	1,487 PV 242 DL	1,729 PV 247 DL	Retired per 2023 GSC.
Trop jeune?	French	394	207	594	174	0	15 PV 0 DL	69 PV 0 DL	65 PV 0 DL	
¿Demasiado Joven?	Spanish	1639	2,079	2,727	1,232	0	107 PV 0 DL	313 PV 105 DL	364 PV 85 DL	
It Happened To Alice ©1985	English	6,070	7,365	7,061	10,218	7,668	131 PV 0 DL	625 PV 124 DL	586 PV 109 DL	Retired per 2024 GSC.
L'histoire de Nicole	French	74	323	416	164	263	5 PV 0 DL	25 PV 0 DL	25 PV 0 DL	

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¡Le Sucedió a Alicia!	Spanish	712	2,209	1,929	1,889	175	32 PV 0 DL	84 PV 29 DL	225 PV 36 DL	
Young People & A.A. ©2007	English	22785	25,894	36,161	46,744	39,134	6,045 PV 0 DL	19,185 PV 1,459 DL	16,172 PV 1,364 DL	Revised in 2023.
Les jeunes et les A.A.	French	143	407	1,095	693	1,470	155 PV 0 DL	500 PV 60 DL	308 PV 52 DL	
Los Jóvenes y A.A.	Spanish	1736	3,476	3,589	5,851	5,584	724 PV 0 DL	2,295 PV 386 DL	2,377 PV 327 DL	
Is A.A. for You? ©1973, 2008	English	128,427	143,965	197,697	197,338	177,800	3,320 PV 553 DL	8,974 PV 2,602 DL	7,471 PV 1,818 DL	
Les A.A. sont-ils pour vous ?	French	3,292	2,879	6,726	6,575	7,904	298 PV 0 DL	1030 PV 213 DL	1,151 PV 235 DL	
¿Es A.A. para Usted?	Spanish	22,161	24,128	40,805	34,394	39,216	186 PV 0 DL	629 PV 201 DL	642 PV 201 DL	
A.A. for the Native North American ©1989	English	5,199	4,813	7,021	9,353	8,529	394 PV 0 DL	1,685 PV 254 DL	1,472 PV 225 DL	Revised pamphlet forwarded to 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.
A.A. et les autochtones d'Amérique du Nord	French	20	83	415	312	119	10 PV 0 DL	61 PV 0 DL	60 PV 0 DL	
A.A. para el Native Norteamericano	Spanish	NA	235	216	462	127	21 PV 0 DL	92 PV 26 DL	109 PV 33 DL	
Questions & Answers on Sponsorship ©1976,1983	English	87,330	100,568	149,876	161,025	137,883	4,615 PV 869 DL	17,795 PV 4,401 DL	14,727 PV 3,115 DL	Revised pamphlet forwarded to 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.
Questions & Réponses sur le Parrainage	French	735	734	1,381	1,355	1,180	87 PV 0 DL	243 PV 90 DL	190 PV 56 DL	
Preguntas y Respuestas Sobre el Apadrinamiento	Spanish	3,912	4,610	7,694	7,622	6,212	1,400 PV 0 DL	3,537 PV 611 DL	2,362 PV 416 DL	
A.A. Member - Medication & Other Drugs ©1984, 2011	English	26,251	23,014	31,437	41,434	31,020	532 PV 0 DL	1,517 PV 1,863 DL	13,433 PV 1,354 DL	Minor editorial updates in 2024.
Les membre des AA face à la Médication et Autres Drogues	French	373	238	767	915	960	6 PV 0 DL	15 PV 55 DL	350 PV 31 DL	
Miembro de A.A.—Los Medicamentos y Otras Drogas	Spanish	999	1,395	1,663	2,612	1,785	58 PV 0 DL	171 PV 148 DL	2416 PV 115 DL	
A.A. And The Armed Service ©2002,2007	English	4,545	4,255	6,295	8,388	5,920	407 PV 0 DL	1,276 PV 216 DL	1,140 PV 163 DL	Minor editorial updates in 2025.
Circles of Love and Service ©2014	English	13,224	14,288	18,234	21,927	22,029	687 PV 0 DL	2,427 PV 590 DL	2,309 PV 517 DL	Minor editorial updates in 2023.
Cercles d'amour et de Service	French	357	341	547	597	465	32 PV 0 DL	111 PV 37 DL	80 PV 23 DL	
Círculos de Amor y Servicio	Spanish	831	1,299	1,014	1,926	1,557	373 PV 0 DL	1,501 PV 238 DL	1,489 PV 173 DL	
Many Paths to Spirituality ©2014	English	18,031	19,613	27,777	38,517	31,044	769 PV 0 DL	3,180 PV 2,069 DL	2,152 PV 557 DL	Minor editorial updates in 2023 and 2024.
Différentes Avenues vers la Spritualité	French	2,268	3,522	3,863	3,371	4,662	32 PV 0 DL	361 PV 429 DL	86 PV 35 DL	
Muchas Sendas Hacia la Espiritualidad	Spanish	1,127	1,521	1,607	1,332	1,469	68 PV 0 DL	93 PV 43 DL	340 PV 91 DL	
G.S.R. General Service Representative: "Your Group's Link to A.A. as a Whole" ©2018	English	12,582	14,195	23,911	29,991	24,099	2,383 PV 0 DL	7,641 PV 0 DL	6,156 PV 1,377 DL	Minor editorial updates in 2023 and 2024.
Le RSG représentant auprès des Services généraux – le lien de votre groupe aux AA dans leur ensemble	French	760	351	897	734	684	44 PV 0 DL	157 PV 0 DL	207 PV 66 DL	
RSG - Representante de servicios generales: El enlace de su grupo con la totalidad de A.A.	Spanish	1,189	1,283	1,669	2,571	1,838	449 PV 0 DL	1,830 PV 0 DL	2,054 PV 301 DL	
Women in A.A.	English	25,055	25,866	35,665	42,079	34,277	5976 PV 81 DL	992 PV 1,182 DL New: 860 P	5976 PV81 DL	

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AA por la femme	French	449	176	1,178	1,438	816	309 PV 0 DL	33 PV 131 DL New: 0 PV	309 PV0 DL	Updated in 2018. Minor edit updates in 2023 and 2024.
Las Mujeres en A.A.	Spanish	2,553	4,293	6,085	5,687	835	680 PV 0 DL	1 PV 412 DL New: 0 PV	680 PV0 DL	
Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A. ©2018	English	9,353	12,899	18,756	24,570	19,147	1,791 PV 1 DL	6,906 PV 826 DL New: 0 PV	981 PV331 DL	Revised in 2018. Minor edit updates in 2024.
Expérience, Force Et Espoir - Les alcooliques LGBTQ des AA	French	147	335	638	566	729	38 PV 0 DL	4 PV 24 DL New: 0 PV	117 PV48 DL	
Experiencia, Fortaleza Y Esperanza – Los alcohólicos LGBTQ en A.A.	Spanish	901	1,186	1,581	1,141	2,472	217 PV 0 DL	1 PV 160 DL New: 0 PV	206 PV90 DL	
Inside A.A. ©2018	English	14,644	15,565	18,746	23,946	12,918	658 PV 0 DL	5,606 PV 729 DL	2,857 PV 678 DL	Updated in 2018. Minor edit updates in 2023 and 2024.
La structure des AA	French	371	355	400	709	480	69 PV 0 DL	142 PV 30 DL	235 PV 37 DL	
Dentro de A.A.	Spanish	1,087	986	1,633	1,714	1,130	96 PV 0 DL	328 PV 109 DL	395 PV 115 DL	
Experience, Strength and Hope: A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues — and their sponsors ©2018	English	11653	13,974	19,122	25,151	20,314		41 PV 410 DL	396 PV 1,130 DL	Minor edit updates in 2023 and 2025.
Expérience, Force Et Espoir - Les aa pour les alcooliques atteints de maladie mentale — et ceux qui les parrainent	French	54	306	675	857	792		15 PV 0 DL	41 PV 0 DL	
Experiencia, Fortaleza, Esperanza: A.A. para los alcohólicos con problemas de salud mental — y sus padrinos	Spanish	267	755	603	1,061	1,458		3 PV 54 DL	20 PV 108 DL	
Experience, Strength and Hope: The "God" Word	English	9353	12,899	22,823	31,076	29,288	1,791 PV 1 DL	52 PV 342 DL	2,629 PV 1,538 DL	
Expérience, Force Et Espoir – Le mot « Dieu » Membres agnostiques et athées chez les AA	French	147	335	2,567	3,771	1,223	38 PV 0 DL	0 PV 47 DL	274 PV 186 DL	
Experiencia, Fortaleza Y Esperanza – La palabra "Dios" Los miembros de A.A. agnósticos y ateos	Spanish	901	1,186	1,270	1,910	1,384	217 PV 0 DL	8 PV 64 DL	427 PV 243 DL	
The Jack Alexander Article About A.A. *Reprinted by Special Permission of Saturday Evening Post ©1941	English	4382	4,191	6,029	7,619	5,213	397 PV 0 DL	1,272 PV 347 DL	883 PV205 DL	Archival
Article de Jack Alexander sur les A.A.	French	14	133	197	118	287	17 PV 0 DL	83 PV 46 DL	59 PV 0 DL	
Artículo de Jack Alexander Acerca de A.A.	Spanish	554	900	1,408	474	1,224	187 PV 0 DL	577 PV 191 DL	505 PV 122 DL	
A.A. Tradition-How It Developed By Bill W. ©1955	English	9007	7,611	13,584	15,674	10,349	568 PV 0 DL	1,991 PV 648 DL	1,436 PV 448 DL	Historical
La Tradition des A.A. et son Développement par Bill W.	French	94	32	306	188	77	11 PV 0 DL	94 PV 40 DL	91 PV 25 DL	
La Tradición de A.A.—Cómo se Desarrolló	Spanish	820	1,568	1,410	1,527	1,015	437 PV 0 DL	1,399 PV 419 DL	1,427 PV 251 DL	
A.A.'s Legacy of Service By Bill W. ©1969	English	3482	3,148	6,232	5,146	4,785	872 PV 0 DL	2,844 PV 685 DL	2,061 PV 427 DL	Historical
L'héritage des services des A.A.	French	257	3	231	172	198	21 PV 0 DL	93 PV 22 DL	67 PV 1 DL	

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El Legado de Servicio de A.A.	Spanish	700	615	491	843	193	804 PV 0 DL	2,885 PV 614 DL	2,842 PV 444 DL	
The Co-founders of A.A. ©1973,1975	English	5058	6,093	4,246	6,733	4,083	436 PV 0 DL	2,314 PV 332 DL	1,403 PV 181 DL	Archival/ Biographical
Les Deux Fondateurs des A.A.	French	335	366	121	267	147	8 PV 0 DL	60 PV 15 DL	40 PV 0 DL	
Los Cofundadores de Alcohólicos Anónimos	Spanish	313	558	559	558	593	46 PV 0 DL	194 PV 60 DL	154 PV 30 DL	
Anonymity Display Card ©1993	English	373	943	1129	1186	1114				
Affichette Sur L'anonymat	French	0	32	29	14	52				
Tarjeta de Declaración de Anonimato	Spanish	13	67	473	162	175				
Suggestions for Leading Beginners Meeting	English	241	254	0	414	505	1,995 PV 0 DL	7,952 PV 915 DL	352 PV 556 DL	
Suggestions pour réunions de débutants	French	1	0	9	0	0	39 PV 0 DL	108 PV 15 DL	1 PV 0 DL	
Sugerencias para Coordinar Reuniones de Principiantes	Spanish	44	23	20	1	0	1,834 PV 0 DL	8,272 PV 794 DL	402 PV 751 DL	
Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions	English	80, 1	66, 0	36, 0	76	63	N/A			
Bill's Own Story	English	1, 85	0, 82	0, 205	0, 129	137	N/A			
Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure	English	31	43	94	312	4	N/A			
Votre BSG	French	1	1	0	0	0				
Su Oficina de Servicios Generales de A.A., el Grapevine, y la Estructura de Servicios Generales	Spanish	5	17	0	0	0				

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1/6/2020

**A.A. WORLD SERVICES, INC., POLICY ON
PUBLICATION: KEEPING A.A.
LITERATURE CURRENT**

This policy sets forth the standards for determining whether or not a new piece of literature, or changes to an existing piece of literature, needs consideration by the General Service Conference prior to publication by A.A.W.S.

Definitions

"Literature" means books and pamphlets published by A.A. World Services, Inc. and intended for public distribution. The term does not include Service Pieces.

"Service Pieces" are printed material produced by A.A. World Services, Inc. for the information of the Fellowship. They describe shared experience and current practice on matters of interest to the Fellowship, and are a convenient method of providing answers to frequently asked questions concerning matters of practical concern or historical interest to members of the Fellowship. Examples include workbooks, guidelines, newsletters, bulletins and flyers.

"Editorial Changes" to an existing piece of Conference-approved Literature means (1) correction of typographical errors and errors of grammar or syntax, (2) correction of erroneous statements of fact, (3) updating of historical and statistical information, and (4) correction of cross references to other material necessitated by changes in such other material.

The "Format" of a piece of literature means the manner in which the content of the literature is arranged and presented to the reader. Examples include hard cover, soft cover, large print, standard size, pocket size, audio, Braille, video for ASL, digital and electronic (suitable for reading on electronic devices such as smart phones, tablets, and computers).

Submission of Literature to the General Service Conference

A new piece of Literature or any change to an existing piece of Conference-approved Literature other than Editorial Changes and new or changed Formats, will not be published by A.A. World Services, Inc. prior to approval of such literature by the General Service Conference.

The content of a piece of literature presented for final approval to the Conference will be in fully edited condition, with no expectation of further change being made prior to publication other than as may be specified by the Conference in granting its approval.

Unless otherwise specified in the Advisory Action of the Conference approving a new or amended piece of Literature, A.A. World Services, Inc. will have full authority, without need of further Conference action, to (a) select the Format or Formats in which the approved Literature will be produced, (b) make, from time to time, needed Editorial Changes; provided, however,

that no Editorial Change will be made to the Big Book's Preface, the Forewords, "The Doctor's Opinion," the first 164 pages (Chapters 1-11), "Dr. Bob's Nightmare," or the Appendices without prior Conference approval of such change, and (c) translate the approved Literature

into any language, and in connection therewith to modify or replace illustrations, photos, and other visual art in a manner reasonably designed to conform them to the culture of the expected readership.

Scope and Process for Editorial Updates of Conference-Approved Literature

When considering items for revision, the following criteria will guide the editorial process:

- Does the material use outdated language, jargon, or references?
- Does the material utilize the most current science about alcoholism?
- Does the material focus on inclusivity and represent A.A.'s broad diversity?
- Does the material draw on A.A. history in a way that is relevant and necessary?
- Does the material effectively address the audience to whom it is directed? (Target audience input will be sought in the review process)

In order to proactively update the broad inventory of Conference-approved pamphlets and other A.A. Literature in a timely fashion, A.A.W.S. will:

1. Regularly present to the Conference, through the Trustees' Literature Committee or other appropriate trustees' or Conference committee, a selection of pamphlets or other Conference-approved Literature items that have been edited or summarized for revision by the Publications Department. (This would either be part of or supplementary to the annual Recovery Literature Matrix provided to the Conference Literature Committee by the Trustees' Literature Committee - see note below.)
2. The appropriate trustees' or Conference committee, at its discretion, will consider the proposed revision and forward it on to either the appropriate Conference committee for their consideration or to the Conference as a whole for final approval.
3. If approved by the Conference, the Publishing Department will update each item without further change being made other than as may be specified by the Conference in granting its approval.
4. Once the item has been given Conference-approval, the items will be translated and existing inventory of the prior version will be discontinued and replaced with the new material.

NOTE: Any and all new literature will be proposed by the Conference as per current practice, and nothing herein will preclude guidance from the Conference regarding any additional titles or categories of literature to be reviewed and/or updated. [A procedure for literature review was requested by the 2016 General Service Conference, recommending that "the trustees' Literature Committee develop a plan that includes a systematic schedule for the annual review of recovery literature items, taking into consideration the following: content, relevance, and usefulness; and prioritized by time span since last review. The committee requested that the plan also include an annual report, to be forwarded to the Conference Literature Committee, reflecting the results of their review and any other items for proposed updates or revisions." The plan was accepted by the 2017 GSC.]

December 2019

Acknowledged/Accepted by 2020 General Service Conference

A.A. World Services, Inc., Policy on Publication: Keeping A.A. Literature Current

1	The A.A.W.S. Publishing Department reviews selected pamphlet, book, or other item for presentation to A.A.W.S. for revision according to the following criteria: • Does the material use outdated language, jargon, or references? • Does the material utilize the most current science about alcoholism? • Does the material focus on inclusivity and represent A.A.'s broad diversity? • Does the material draw on A.A. history in a way that is relevant and necessary? • Does the material effectively address the audience to whom it is directed?	A.A.W.S. Editorial Staff, A.A.W.S. Board
2	Proposed revisions are forwarded from A.A.W.S. to the relevant trustees' or Conference committee for review.	Relevant Trustees' or Conference Committee
3	The relevant Conference committee evaluates the proposed revision for presentation to the full Conference for final approval.	Conference Committee
4	The full Conference considers the proposed revisions. If approved, the revised item will be Conference-approved literature.	General Service Conference
5	Once approved, the Publishing Department will proceed with translation into French and Spanish and discontinue prior inventory.	A.A.W.S. Publishing Dept.

December 2019

2025 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM B: Review draft of the revised pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.” (P-55)

Background notes:

Excerpt from the November 2024 trustees’ Literature Committee meeting report:

The committee reviewed a draft of the pamphlet with new illustrations. The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature the draft of the pamphlet, “Twelve Steps Illustrated.”

2024 Conference Committee on Literature Additional Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed a progress report on revisions to the pamphlet, “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.” The committee requested that a new draft, partial draft, or progress report be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.

2022 General Service Conference Advisory Action:

The trustees’ Committee on Literature continue to make edits to the draft pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated” with a new draft or progress report to be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature, keeping in mind: color, diverse expressions of spirituality and accessible interpretation of meaning in the illustrations. (Floor Action)

Secretary’s note: Previous history and actions on this item are located in the History and Actions for the Conference Committee and trustees’ Committee on Literature.

Background:

1. Draft pamphlet “Twelve Steps Illustrated” (P-55) *
Current pamphlet “[Twelve Steps Illustrated](#)” available on GSO’s A.A. website.
2. Memo to Committee regarding confidential background

***For members of this Conference committee only and are not available for duplication or distribution beyond the committee.”**

April 2025

To: Members of the 2025 General Service Conference
From: Rainer L., 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 be getting 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 pamphlet "Twelve Steps 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 "Conference-approved," 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.

CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background

2025 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM C: Review draft of the revised pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American” (Retitled “Indigenous People in A.A.”)

Background notes:

Excerpts from the February 1, 2025, trustees’ Literature Committee meeting report:

The committee reviewed the updated draft pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American” (retitled “Indigenous People in A.A.”). The committee **agreed to forward** the draft pamphlet to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.

2024 Conference Committee on Literature Additional Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed a progress report on revisions to the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.” The committee noted that the introduction section has been drafted and that outreach efforts have been efficient, effective, and resulted in an increased number of story submissions. The committee requested that a draft or progress report be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.

2021 General Service Conference Advisory Action:

The pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American” be updated to include language that is both respectful and inclusive of all Indigenous peoples as well as add fresh stories and updating inaccuracies contained in the current pamphlet and that a draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature. (Floor Action)

Secretary’s note: Previous history and actions on this item are located in the History and Actions for the Conference committee and trustees’ Committee on Literature.

Background:

1. Draft pamphlet “Indigenous People in A.A.” (originally titled “A.A. for the Native North American”)*
Current pamphlet “[A.A. for the Native North American](#)” available on GSO’s A.A. website.
2. Memo to Committee regarding confidential background
3. 2025 Progress Report

***For members of this Conference committee only and are not available for duplication or distribution beyond the committee.”**

April 2025

To: Members of the 2025 General Service Conference

From: Rainer L., 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 be getting 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 pamphlet "Indigenous People in A.A.", 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 "Conference-approved," 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.

February 2025 Progress Report for the Working Group to revise the
AA for the Native North American Alcoholic Pamphlet.

In response to the 2021 Advisory Action that “the pamphlet ‘A.A. for the Native North American’ be updated to include language that is both respectful and inclusive of all Indigenous peoples as well as add fresh stories and updating inaccuracies contained in the current pamphlet,” a working group was formed, comprised of indigenous members of the A.A. fellowship, and chaired by Gerry R., ACM on the trustees’ Literature Committee. The working group met monthly from its inception and twice monthly during August and September 2024 to complete a new introduction, story selection, and cover design.

Last year, Staff developed a story rating tool, modified for cultural suitability, in accordance with the suggestions of members of the working group. That tool was used to aid in the selection of stories which represent a broad cross-section of indigenous communities, as well as to ensure narrative content which carried A.A.’s message of hope and identification. The stories selected include voices from the following communities and geographies:

- San Felipe Pueblo
- Lakota Sioux
- Tlingit
- Ojibwe
- Kanaka Maoli
- Nisga’a
- Micmac
- Comanche
- Athabaskan
- Nebraska
- New Mexico
- North Dakota
- New Brunswick, Canada
- California
- Washington
- Hawaii
- Ontario, Canada
- British Columbia, Canada
- Oklahoma
- Alaska

A total of thirty (30) stories were submitted from members of the A.A. Fellowship who identify as members of many different tribes and Indigenous communities throughout the U.S. and Canada. There are sixteen (16) stories in the current pamphlet. Therefore, the working group is reading, evaluating and rating forty-six (46) stories for their potential inclusion in the new pamphlet.

Fifteen stories were sent forward as recommended content for the revised pamphlet. The stories recommended by the working group include six stories from the current pamphlet and nine newly submitted stories. The pamphlet still sits at 48 pages.

The recommended title for the new pamphlet is, “Indigenous People In AA.” New cover art, developed by an indigenous artist, has also been selected by the working group for the revised pamphlet.

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2025 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM D: Review progress report on the development of the Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos* - Spanish.

Background notes:

Excerpt from the February 1, 2025, trustees' General Service Conference committee meeting:

The committee reviewed a progress report on the development of a Fourth Edition of *Alcohólicos Anónimos* and **agreed to forward** the report to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.

2024 Conference Committee on Literature Additional Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed a progress report on the development of the Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos* – Spanish. The committee noted that the story submissions reflect a broad and diverse cross-section of the A.A. fellowship, reflecting each of A.A.'s Three Legacies. The committee requested that a draft manuscript or progress report be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.

2021 Conference Advisory Action:

A Fourth Edition of the book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership, and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

Secretary's note: *Previous history and actions on this item are located in the History and Actions for the Conference committee and trustees' Committee on Literature.*

Background:

1. 2024 Progress Report: Fourth Edition of the book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos* - Spanish

2024-25 trustees' Literature Committee

Working Group developing a Fourth Edition of *Alcohólicos Anónimos*

Progress Report February 2025

2024 Conference Committee on Literature Consideration:

“The committee reviewed a progress report on the development of the Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos* – Spanish. The committee noted that the story submissions reflect a broad and diverse cross-section of the A.A. fellowship, reflecting each of A.A.’s Three Legacies. The committee requested that a draft manuscript or progress report be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.”

2021 Conference Advisory Action:

“A Fourth Edition of the book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership, and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.”

January 2025 Additional Notes:

A schedule was developed in association with the Language Services department to support the delivery of new chapter translations. These are generally being provided on a bi-monthly basis, with a pause built in between mid-January and mid-May to allow for the translation of background and the Final Report.

Since the schedule was developed, there has been an unexpected delay associated with the translation of the World Service Meeting Report and 2024 holiday schedules. It is not expected that the short-term delay will affect the overall timeline for the development of the Fourth Edition of *Alcohólicos Anónimos*. A revised timeline from Language Services includes the completion of Chapter 10 on April 7, 2025, before returning to the previous schedule with the completion of Chapter 11 on June 2, 2025.

A new member was added to the Working Group from Area 87 Southwest Quebec.

October 2024 Progress Report:

The Working Group is actively looking for two new members, one from Canadian, and the other from Puerto Rico.

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We are continuing to rereading the stories rated 3, 4, or 5. These stories will receive new ratings to inform the decision for story suggestions in the draft of the Fourth Edition of the Big Book in Spanish.

Revision and review of the chapter “Working With Others” has been completed. We are currently reviewing Chapter “To Wives.”

July 2024 Progress Report:

The Scope of the Working Group for the development of a draft Fourth Edition of the book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos* includes:

- 1) Include a diverse group of A.A. members from the target audiences who can bring perspectives from a variety of ethnic, geographic, dialect and age perspectives.
- 2) Solicit input on the needed improvements for stories to be relevant to the target audiences.
- 3) Discuss and solicit input if needed to define themes for sections of stories.
- 4) Develop a method of outreach to foster significant amounts of submitted material.
- 5) Develop a process for selection of personal stories.
- 6) Ascertain which editorial elements of the revision are maintained by the GSO Publishing department.
- 7) Work with publishing to ensure a review of the basic text translation that encompasses the diversity of the Spanish speaking population.
- 8) Utilize other related work as needed to optimize the development of a draft version of the book.

The Working Group meets monthly via Zoom, The Working Group welcomes Paz P., General Service Trustee. We are delighted to have her as a member of the working group; her energy and enthusiasm will contribute in a very positive way to this project. The Working Group is composed of a diversity of members, with extensive experience from the Spanish-speaking AA community within the AA structure in the United States and Canada. Most of them are fluent in English and all are fluent in Spanish.

We are reading and rating the current stories of the Third Edition Big Book in Spanish. Once this is accomplished, we will consider a number of stories for suggestion for the draft of the Fourth Edition Big Book in Spanish.

The stories submitted by the Spanish-speaking AA community have all been read and rated by the committee. We have rated the story submissions on a scale of 1-5 and noted a broad range of content and demographic characteristics. Our next commitment is to

2

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CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background

reread the stories rated 3 and higher to refine story selections to reflect the best submitted stories.

The following chapters are revised and ready: Foreword, The Doctor's Opinion, Bill's Story, There Is a Solution, More About Alcoholism, We Agnostics, How It Works, and Into Action.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
4EBB Project	Oct. 24	Nov. 24	Dec. 24	Jan. 25	Feb. 25	Marh 25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Apr-26
Revisar el Capitulo 7 y 8	√	√														
Leer Historias 3 edition		√	√													
Revisar El Capitulo 9		√	√													
Revisar Capitulo 10				√	√											
Agregar 2 Miembros al Comité			√													
Leer Historias 3, 4, 5			√	√	√	√	√	√	√							
		Board Weekend		Board Weekend			Conl			Board Weekend			Board Weekend			
Sugerir Historias 3EBB				√												
Revisar capitulo 11									√	√						
La Pesadilla del Doctor Bob											√	√				
Revisar Apendices													√	√		
Sugerir un borrador 4EBB en Espanol														√		
76 Conferencia Servicios Generales 2026																√

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2025 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM E: Review progress report-on the development of the Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

Background notes:

Excerpt from the February 1, 2025, trustees' Literature Committee meeting:

The committee reviewed the progress report and summary on the development of a Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The committee **agreed to forward** revised progress reports providing updates from the most recent materials to the oldest materials to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.

2024 Conference Committee on Literature Additional Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed a progress report on the development of the Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The committee looks forward to a progress report or draft manuscript to be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.

2021 Conference Advisory Actions:

A Fifth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action that: "The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Preface, the Forewords, 'The Doctor's Opinion,' 'Dr. Bob's Nightmare,' and the Appendices remain as is," and that a progress report be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

Pending its development, the draft Fifth Edition of the Big Book would include a new foreword, an updated preface and updates to expand on existing ideas in Appendices III and V.

Secretary's note: *Previous history and actions on this item are located in the History and Actions for the Conference Committee and trustees' Committee on Literature.*

Background:

1. 5th Edition Summary Report

**2024-25 trustees' Literature Committee
Fifth Edition Big Book Subcommittee Summary Report**

The subcommittee is charged with implementing the following Advisory Actions:

- A Fifth Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect current membership, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action that: "The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, 'The Doctor's Opinion,' 'Dr. Bob's Nightmare,' and the Appendices remain as is,"
- Pending its development, the draft Fifth Edition of the Big Book would include a new Foreword, an updated Preface and updates to expand on existing ideas in Appendices III and V.

The subcommittee approached the goal of presenting a draft 5th Edition to the 75th General Service Conference with an understanding this is an optimistic aspiration. After considering the workflow, activities of the Publishing Department, and the need for full discussion, the subcommittee recognized that the presentation of draft material was not feasible. A working timeline was presented to effectively conclude the project prior to reconvening a 2025-26 subcommittee, but not in a manner consistent with the timeline to approach the 75th GSC.

To date, we have:

1. Identified likely 4th Edition "keepers"
2. Read and rated the previously selected 5th edition story submission "keepers"
3. Consulted with current and past Class A trustees on Appendices III and V
4. Reached out to Publishing regarding the new Foreword and updated Preface

Updated stories to better reflect the current membership:

The subcommittee built on the work of the sub-committees for the 5th Edition and thank them for their work. We also thank the 2,393 members of the Fellowship who submitted their personal stories for consideration.

The previous subcommittees reduced the new submissions under active consideration to 159 (1,522 pages). The subcommittee members each read and rated each story. The subcommittee will be sifting the number down to roughly 50 for sharing with trustees' literature and conference literature committees. The final number of new stories for the 5th edition will most likely be in the range of 25-35.

Subcommittee members prepared and presented their concerns and appreciations on January 13, 2025, accepting 35 stories for eventual review by the trustees and Conference Committees and agreed on continuing review and discussion on 19 others.

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The subcommittee agreed to complete their review of 19 additional stories by January 29, 2025, and will hold its next meeting between February 10 and 14, 2025.

The subcommittee has identified seven keepers from the Fourth Edition, in addition to “Dr. Bob’s Nightmare.” Four additional Fourth Edition stories were identified as possible keepers, pending the review and selection of new submissions.

Updates to expand on existing ideas in Appendices III and V:

The subcommittee consulted with the trustees’ CPC committee in review of “The Medical View on A.A.” and “The Religious View on A.A.” appendices. Current Class A trustees, Sister Judith and Al Mooney, trustee emeritus Ward Ewing, and past Class A trustee John Fromson, were interviewed or have shared their thoughts through correspondence.

Separate documents have been synthesized into a summary document which was sent to the Publishing Department for the drafting of updated Appendices. The subcommittee hopes to contemporize opening paragraphs, clean up the current content, and add additional materials in conclusion.

Updated Foreword and Preface:

The Foreword and Preface are in the purview of the Publishing department, to be written after the stories are chosen and the appendices updated. The drafting of the Foreword and Preface are the final stages in completing a draft edition before submitting the draft for committee review.

Conclusion:

Traditional practices from previous editions included the trustees’ Literature Committee reviewing story selections. Following the trustees’ review, story selections were forwarded to the Conference Committee on Literature for an opportunity to note objections. The subcommittee discussed the manner for considering this feedback, noting potential value in reviewing objections by committee majority or requiring a shared objection from both a member of the Conference Committee on Literature and the trustees’ Literature Committee.

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Project	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Constitute 5th Ed Sub-Committee	√											
Discuss & clarify process for story selection		√	√									
Select 4th Ed keepers		√	√	√								
Read & rate 5th Ed keepers			√	√	√	√	√	√				
Select shortlist of 5th Ed keepers									√			
Consult CLC and TLC on 4th Ed keepers and 5th Ed shortlist									√	√		
Final selection of 4th Ed keepers and new stories											√	
Edit new stories												√
Discuss and clarify scope/process for Appendices III and V			√									
Consult on Appendices III and V						√	√	√				
Update Appendices III & V									√			
Review updated Appendices										√		
Write Foreword and update Preface (Post 75th GCC)												
	Sub-Committee Tasks											
	Publishing Department Tasks											

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2025 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM F: Review draft of the developed video animation of the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated”.

Background notes:

Excerpt from the February 1, 2025, trustees’ Literature Committee meeting report:

The committee reviewed the script and draft of the Twelve Concepts animated video. The committee **agreed to forward** the draft video and script to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.

The 72nd General Service Conference passed an Advisory Action that:

The video animation of the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated” (currently published by the General Service Board of A.A. Great Britain) be adapted and produced by the Publishing Department. The committee requested a progress report or rough cut be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.

2023 Additional Committee Consideration:

The committee discussed an update on the adaptation of the video animation of the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" published by the General Service Board of A.A. Great Britain. The committee acknowledged that the project of adapting the video for use in the U.S./Canada structure is pending for budgetary reasons. The committee looks forward to a report on the status of this project being brought to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature.

Excerpt from the October 28, 2023, trustees’ Literature Committee meeting report:

The committee reviewed a progress report on a video animation formatted “Twelve Concepts Illustrated,” including cost estimates submitted by the Publishing Department. The committee agreed to forward to the 2024 Conference Committee on Literature the progress report and cost estimates.

The Conference Committee on Literature at the 74th General Service Conference made the following Additional Committee Consideration:

CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background

The committee reviewed a progress report on the video animation of the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated." The committee requested that the project proceeds with Phase II Option I to include the translation of narration voiceover and visual text into French and Spanish.

Work was completed on the English adaptation on October 15, 2024. French and Spanish recordings are currently underway.

Secretary's note: Previous history and actions on this item are located in the History and Actions for the Conference Committee and trustees' Committee on Literature.

Background:

1. Draft revisions to video script and video link*
2. Memo to Committee regarding confidential background.

***For members of this Conference committee only and are not available for duplication or distribution beyond the committee."**

April 2025

To: Members of the 2025 General Service Conference

From: Rainer L., 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 be getting 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 Twelve Concepts animated video, 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 "Conference-approved," 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.

2025 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM G: Review draft of the revised pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.” (P-15)

Background notes:

Excerpt from the February 1, 2025, trustees’ Literature Committee meeting report:

The committee reviewed the updated draft pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” and **agreed to forward** the draft pamphlet to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.

The committee also reviewed a report detailing the work of the subcommittee and **agreed to forward** the report to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.

2024 Conference Committee on Literature Additional Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed a progress report on revisions to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.” The committee noted that much of the work was outside of the scope of the committee consideration from the 2023 Conference Committee on Treatment/Accessibilities. The committee requested that the work going forward reflect the 2023 Treatment and Accessibilities suggestion to “consider updating the pamphlet ‘Questions and Answers on Sponsorship’ to add language on working with alcoholics with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities.” The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.

2023 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities Additional Committee Consideration:

The 2023 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities requests that the trustees’ Literature Committee consider updating the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” to add language on working with alcoholics with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities.

2023 Conference Committee on Corrections Additional Committee Consideration:

The 2023 Conference Committee on Corrections agreed to forward to the trustees’ Committee on Literature a suggestion to consider inclusion of language

CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background
related to sponsorship of persons in custody in the pamphlet "Questions & Answers on Sponsorship."

Secretary's note: Previous history and actions on this item is located in the history and actions for the conference committee and trustees' committee.

Background:

1. 2025 Progress Report
2. Draft pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship." (P-15)*
Current pamphlet "[Questions and Answers on Sponsorship](#)" available on GSO's A.A. website.
3. Memo to Committee regarding confidential background.

***For members of this Conference committee only and are not available for duplication or distribution beyond the committee."**

2024-25 trustees' Literature Committee
"Questions & Answers on Sponsorship"
Update Report

The subcommittee reviewed and discussed the Committee Considerations of the 2024 Conference Committee on Corrections and 2023 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities (CCTA) for additional content within the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" (P-15).

The subcommittee agreed that additional language would be beneficial to provide a usable reference and subsequently forwarded for review and approval.

The subcommittee also drafted, refined, and recommended a new section to address the CCTA consideration requesting "to add language on working with alcoholics with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities," and presented the draft pamphlet to the full committee for review.

The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed the updated draft pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" at their February 1, 2025 meeting and agreed to forward the drafted pamphlet to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.

Additional notes:

The subcommittee reviewed the project history, noting that the Additional Committee Consideration from 2024 Conference Committee on Literature was based upon a progress report and not drafted material. The subcommittee agreed to retain the work done by the previous subcommittee while adding additional content addressing sponsorship for neurodivergent members. (The additional content was developed in association with the Corrections assignment and the Treatment and Accessibilities assignment.)

Subcommittee members noted inconsistencies within different pamphlet sections and recognized a potential benefit to aligning these content sections. The subcommittee felt that the pamphlet could better fulfill its intended purpose by conveying clear and concise information with a unified voice and requested input on whether a larger review of the pamphlet for content and consistency would be beneficial.

####

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April 2025

To: Members of the 2025 General Service Conference

From: Rainer L., 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 be getting 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 Twelve Concepts animated video, 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 "Conference-approved," it is confidential and for committee eyes only. Prior to then, any number of changes might be made by the trustees'

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CONFIDENTIAL: 74th General Service Conference Background

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.

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2025 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM H: Review progress report on the development of a pamphlet for the Asian and Asian-American alcoholic.

Background notes:

Excerpt from November 2, 2024, trustees' Nominating Committee meeting report:

The committee requested the committee secretary prepare two memos to the trustees' Literature Committee to begin the search process for these two ACMs.

Excerpt from July 27, 2024, trustees' Literature Committee meeting report:

Development of a pamphlet for the Asian and Asian-American alcoholic: The committee discussed the 2024 Conference Advisory Action requesting the development of a pamphlet for Asian and Asian-American alcoholics. The committee considered elements of workload and finance, noting the benefits which ACMs have brought to recent literature projects through the involvement of members of the intended audience. The trustees' Literature Committee agreed to forward a memo to the trustees' Nominating Committee requesting an ACM from the Asian-American community.

2024 Advisory Action

A pamphlet on the Asian and Asian-American alcoholic in A.A. be developed and that a draft or progress report be brought to the 2025 General Service Conference. (Floor Action)

Secretary's note:

An ACM search announcement was distributed to the Fellowship in February 2025, with an April 15, 2025, deadline date. It is anticipated that a working group or subcommittee will be formed after an ACM is identified and in place, and that an update report will be provided to the 2026 General Service Conference.

2025 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM J: Consider request that the Twelve Concepts for World Service and essays on the Twelve Concepts for World Service be included in the current publication, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

Background notes:

Excerpt from the November 2, 2024 trustees' Literature Committee meeting report:

The committee considered the request “that the General Service Conference include the Twelve Concepts for World Service and essays on the Twelve Concepts for World Service in the current publication, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, thereby changing it to *Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts*” and **agreed to forward** to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.

Secretary's note: Previous history and actions on this item are located in the History and Actions for the Conference Committee and trustees' Committee on Literature.

Background:

1. PAI #23 submission form.

PAI 23

General Service Conference (GSC) Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Area 73, West Virginia, requests that the General Service Conference include the twelve concepts for world service and essays on the twelve concepts for world service in the current publication, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, thereby changing it to Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

Limited exposure to the Twelve Concepts for World Service.

Lack of knowledge and understanding throughout A.A. as a whole in the following areas.

- General knowledge or even the existence of the twelve concepts
- A.A. members' privileges and responsibilities through the rights of decision, participation and appeal
- How the voice of our fellowship is heard and acted upon
- Fundamental principles regarding A.A. leadership
- The importance of selecting the right leaders to ensure unity at all levels of our fellowship.
- Guiding principles of the GSC, General Service Board, and our operating corporations, A.A. World Services, and Grapevine Inc.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a

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CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background

broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

This item was brought as a motion to Area 73's 2023 Fall Assembly by the area alternate chair. The motion was discussed and passed with substantial unanimity (57 yay, 9 nay, 1 abstain). Minority opinion was voiced with no motion to reconsider.

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

While the Service Manual has historically been the primary source for members to access the concepts, it is not a widely used book, and is rarely used by those new to A.A. The 12X12, on the other hand is one of the most widely distributed publications. Per the 2024 Recovery Literature Matrix, in 2022 and 2023 there were 293,394 and 330,202 (623,596 total) printed versions of the Twelve and Twelve distributed by AAWS. In contrast, there were 17,492 and 24,308 (41,800) copies of the service manual distributed in the same time period. That means that the twelve and twelve was in 581,796 more peoples' hands than the service manual.

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

More widespread exposure to the Twelve Concepts for World Service will increase knowledge and understanding in all the problem areas referenced above.

Including the concepts in a more widely used publication will provide increased opportunities for members in the fellowship to discuss the concepts in group settings.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Paul H., Delegate A73, P73

(7) Final comments:

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CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background

Area 73 realizes that similar PAIs have been submitted to multiple conferences. This submission for the 75th GSC serves to convey widely expressed need throughout the fellowship and to provide the following “new information” in support of the publication.

1) Historically the “A.A. Service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service” has been reproduced annually, but since 2021 it has been placed on a three-year reproduction cycle. In the event that changes are made to the concepts essays, this three-year window provides ample time to schedule printings and deplete currently stocked inventory.

2) Recent activity within A.A. has stimulated interest and participation in general service. In fact, one of the workshop topics at the 74th GSC was “Connecting Home Groups to the Conference Throughout the Year, to Better Inform the Group’s Conscience.” Some of the questions posed in these workshops ask how we make general service work more accessible, and how to engage members in general service. Providing the concepts in a widely distributed publication furthers those ends.

For historical reference, it’s worth noting the following quote from Bill Willson. When addressing the third GSC in 1953 he presented the events leading up to the publication of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. In his address he stated,

“So, then somebody said, ‘Well we don’t want to put the traditions out separately from the steps because most of the alkies will want to buy the steps but maybe they won’t be so interested in the traditions. So why don’t we clamp the two together and they’ll buy a book, maybe to read the steps and we’ll thus snare them into reading something about these traditions on which our future unity depends.’”

Area 73 feels that clamping these now three together, we can “thus snare them into reading something about” these concepts on which our future unity depends.

Finally, Area 73 trusts AAWS experience and expertise, so we won’t provide minute details on how to incorporate the concepts and essays into the publication or give guidance on whether or not to continue publishing the 12X12 along side the 12X12X12.

2025 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM K: Consider request to update the book *Living Sober*.

Background notes:

Excerpt from the November 2, 2024, trustees' Literature Committee meeting report:

The committee considered the request “to explore the idea of a substantial overall/upgrade to this vital book [*Living Sober*]” and **agreed to forward** to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature the PAIs for *Living Sober* revisions combined into a single item with the request to “consider the scope of revision and update to the book *Living Sober*.”

Secretary's note: Previous history and actions on this item are located in the History and Actions for the Conference Committee and trustees' Committee on Literature.

Background:

1. PAI #34, #64, #106, #90, #92, #121, and #122 submission forms

General Service Conference (GSC) Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Begin the process to create a second edition of the book Living Sober and report results to the 2026 General Service Conference.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

This popular book is now about 50 years old and therefore cannot yet contain useful information such as use of the internet and associated social media. Also, a complete rewrite into current plain language would make it still more useful to newcomers.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

We've discussed this with several individuals who found this book to be their most useful literature in early sobriety, so our delegate asked that this PAI be brought to the area for approval and submission to the Conference. It passed with substantial anonymity (~ 50-2) at our 7/21/24 area assembly.

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

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CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background

In 1998 the GSC addressed PAs targeting this book, which were submitted by area 53, primarily to address better compliance with our traditions. Reviewing these, one staff member suggested a complete rewrite even then.

In 2012 several changes were incorporated to address archaic language.

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

While the cost of a rewrite is substantial, the expected increase of a new edition should quickly offset this upfront expense. A newer, more readable book could substantially support our mandate to carry our message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

(7) Final comments:

We might hope that the new author might mimic the gentle humor of the original book that was so important to those of us who feared that sobriety might mean that we would never laugh, or even smile, again.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background**General Service Conference (GSC) Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form****(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.**

That the Living Sober booklet be updated to reflect the new tips available for staying sober in the post pandemic world.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

The Living Sober booklet is one of our most popular booklets given to our newcomers. It has not been updated for many years. For example, our pamphlets address neurodivergent members who may need additional ways to assist them which could be included.

New members now have access to our materials on various media platforms, through virtual meetings and groups as well as traditional methods. It is important to include how to locate us on You Tube, Instagram, etc.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

The item was discussed at our Area Assembly September 7, 2024, and passed by substantial unanimity. This PAI is being submitted on behalf of Area 42.

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

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The Financial Conference Report (73rd) shows that the Living Sober booklet is sold more often than any other. It outsells the Service Manual three to one.

According to the 74th GSC manual publishing department report, Living Sober is the third most distributed eBook.

Living Sober is the third most sold audiobook following Alcoholics Anonymous and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. (Audiobooks are used in our Corrections venues.)

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

New members will have more experience available to them in the early days of their sobriety and feel better supported between meetings. New experience, strength, and hope for members reaching out for help virtually or in person in the booklet.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

(7) Final comments:

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CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background

General Service Conference (GSC) Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Motion: The Trustees and the Literature Committee create a Second Edition of the booklet Living Sober.

The Second Edition would update the existing chapters and add additional chapters to reflect the Digital Revolution and other changes in society, which have occurred since the booklet was first published in 1975.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

In our District, the Living Sober booklet is often given to newcomers and is used by groups in Beginners Meetings. It is a great resource as it contains tools and illustrations to help people stay sober. It is a practical publication as it provides methods to change the patterns, the thoughts and the habits associated with alcoholism.

The Living Sober booklet was copyrighted in 1975. Since then, the Digital Revolution has transformed the way we live, work and communicate. Email, texting, smart phones, and social media did not exist in 1975. Since the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, Alcoholics Anonymous meetings have migrated to electronic platforms and video conferencing.

Many newcomers who are coming into Alcoholics Anonymous were born after 1975 and have grown up in the digital era. People communicate through text messaging, email and by posting on social media. Some of the newer members of Alcoholics Anonymous who came into the fellowship since the Covid-19 pandemic, have come in without having attended in-person meetings. The advances in technology have created both benefits and challenges to people who are learning to live their lives one day at a time without using and abusing alcohol.

The Living Sober booklet should be updated to reflect the changes in our society so that it can continue to be a resource. Alcoholism and human nature have remained consistent over the years. However, lifestyles and the way in which people communicate have changed. If the booklet is updated, new chapters can be added to offer additional tools for individuals who live in a digital society which did not exist when the booklet was written. If the booklet is not updated, there is a concern that it will be overlooked or dismissed as an antiquated relic and its message and wisdom will be lost.

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(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

District 14 – Area 44 District 14 is Jersey City, New Jersey

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

The Living Sober booklet was copyrighted in 1975. Since 2000 there have been three Advisory Actions related to Living Sober.

In 2012, minor changes were made to some of the outdated terms and practices. There were some additional changes within the chapters “Changing Old Routines,” “Avoiding Dangerous Drugs and Medications,” “Seeking Professional Help,” and “Going to A.A. Meetings.”

In 2018, text was added to the section title “Note to Medical Professionals” to clarify the position concerning the use of medication to control or alleviate disabling physical, mental and emotional conditions.

In 2022, a paragraph concerning safety in meetings and the need to keep the focus on our common welfare and the primary purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous was added.

The three Advisory Actions are helpful, but do not address some of the fundamental changes that have occurred in the past 50 years. Living Sober has not been updated to reflect the changes in our society that have been brought about by the changes in technology. From time to time, the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous has been updated, and a Fifth edition is forthcoming. Living Sober would benefit from a second edition.

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

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Living Sober will continue to be used by new and old members of Alcoholics Anonymous as a viable resource. If the booklet is not updated, it could be dismissed as “old school” and irrelevant. A revised edition would be consistent with the process of periodically reviewing and revising conference approved literature. A revised edition would make it easier for members to identify and to implement the suggestions contained in the booklet.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

(7) Final comments:

The members of District 14, Area 44 (Jersey City, NJ) strongly believe that a revised edition of Living Sober would help us to fulfill our primary purpose.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background**General Service Conference (GSC) Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form****(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.**

Celebrating 50 years of Living Sober (1975 – 2025) we ask that the trustees' Literature Committee explore the idea of a substantial overall/upgrade to this vital book that has sold over 7 million copies and made AA understandable and accessible to many of us. The two overall ideas we are proposing for Living Sober in the 21st Century are:

- A)** Update the language of the existing 31 chapters (contemporary use of pronouns and examples, capturing online as well as in-person AA connections (Zoom, podcasts, social media) and,
- B)** Expand with more that has been revealed about living sober since 1975, aiming this 50th anniversary project towards maybe a 50-chapter booklet (purely suggestive)

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

The Living Sober booklet is one our most popular resources discussed in our meetings for it's practicality. However, it has not been updated for many years. For example, an updated Living Sober booklet could address post pandemic on-line meeting format, etiquette, and security; recovery resources in various social media platforms; and address choices available among specialized groups such as women's, men's, LGBTQIA, BIPOC, secular, neuro-divergent, trauma survivors, etc.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

Group #429538 Beyond Belief Cincinnati Agnostics and All Others, an AA group active for three and a half years is submitting this request based on a group conscience vote of support.

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(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

The 73rd GSC Final Conference Report reports that the Living Sober booklet is sold more than any other. It outsells the Service Manual Three to one. The 74th GSC manual Publishing Dept Report lists Living Sober as the third most distributed e- book and audio book (after Alcoholics Anonymous and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions).

Living Sober has been helpful for members of any and all beliefs--religious, agnostics, humanist, atheist, secular AA groups.

The 2020 Great Britain Membership Surveys asked members about their belief in a higher power. Most include a belief in a higher power helpful to their AA sobriety but in a followup question, "Is your higher power religious or secular?" 2/3 answered "secular." While we do not know the irreligious (no belief in Gods) population in USA/Canada, a modest but growing number on secular AA groups could help newcomers to AA with our "educational variety" literature speaking to the practicalities of 21st century AA way of life.

Small revisions to Living Sober have been Advisory Actions in 1983, 1998, 1999, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2018. While adding new chapters hasn't been entertained, our discussion groups and coffee-time chat adds to the support of new topics being well received.

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

Supporting this practical, secular narrative of AA helps assuage concerns of many newcomers, and people who refer potential members to us, that AA language is too religious (supernatural/God-centric) for today's irreligious persons with alcohol use disorder. There is plenty of AA literature about the Steps, Traditions, and early AA life. Living Sober, while not intended for everyone, is a great publication that showcases the educational variety (Appendix II) of AA experience and can be helped to articulate the many paths to living and thriving in sobriety.

People of minority faiths, or any other that don't subscribe to a providential God can better see themselves in this AA experience, strength and hope, that is not theoretical, it is the collective experiences of hundreds of thousands or millions of AAs and speak to people with alcohol use disorder (alcoholism) born in the 21st century.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background

(7) Final comments:

An updated Living Sober would provide an honest, plain language, 21st century look at actual experience of how people can live sober in AA today. It would be so easy to add more of what we know, more of what the existing 31 chapters look like this century. AA membership is declining since the turn of the century inside the USA/Canada and, outside, the decline is larger. We believe a revived Living Sober could demonstrate that AA is of relevance and value today for newcomers seeking recovery from their alcohol use disorder.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background**General Service Conference (GSC) Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form****(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.**

Celebrating 50 years of Living Sober (1975 – 2025) we ask that the trustees' Literature Committee explore the idea of a substantial overall/upgrade to this vital book that has sold over 7 million copies and downloaded countless more times and made AA understandable and accessible to many of us. The two overall ideas we are proposing are:

- A) Update the language of the existing 31 chapters (contemporary use of pronouns and examples, capturing online as well as in-person AA connections (Zoom, podcasts, social media) and,
- B) Expand with more that has been revealed about living sober since 1975, aiming this 50th anniversary project towards maybe a 50-chapter booklet (purely suggestive)

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

The Living Sober booklet is one our most popular resources discussed in our meetings for it's practicality. In fact, our group was named after the booklet (Freethinkers Living Sober Group). However, the booklet has not been updated for many years. For example, an updated Living Sober booklet could address post pandemic on-line meeting formats, etiquette, and security; recovery resources in various social media platforms; and address choices available among specialized groups such as women's, men's, LGBTQIA, BIPOC, secular, neuro-divergent, trauma survivors, etc..

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting

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Group #714321 Freethinkers Living Sober Cottonwood of the Verde Valley, Arizona, an AA group active for ten years is submitting this request based on a group conscience vote of support. Unfortunately, we only became aware of this idea recently, so we weren't able to take it to District 14-141 or Area03 meetings. We will be sending this to them as well, to make them aware of our suggestion.

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

The 73rd GSC Final Conference Report reports that the Living Sober booklet is sold more than any other. It outsells the Service Manual Three to one. The 74th GSC manual Publishing Dept Report lists Living Sober as the third most distributed e-book and audio book (after Alcoholics Anonymous and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions).

Living Sober has been helpful for members of any and all beliefs--religious, agnostics, humanist, atheist, secular AA groups.

The 2020 Great Britain Membership Surveys asked members about their belief in a higher power. Most include a belief in a higher power helpful to their AA sobriety but in a follow-up question, "Is your higher power religious or secular?" 2/3 answered "secular." While we do not know the irreligious (no belief in Gods) population in USA/Canada, a modest but growing number on secular AA groups could help newcomers to AA with our "educational variety" literature speaking to the practicalities of 21st century AA way of life.

Small revisions to Living Sober have been Advisory Actions in 1983, 1998, 1999, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2018. While adding new chapters hasn't been entertained, our discussion groups and coffee-time chat adds to the support of new topics being well received.

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

Supporting this practical, secular narrative of AA helps assuage concerns of many newcomers, and people who refer potential members to us, that AA language is too religious (supernatural/God-centric) for today's irreligious persons with alcohol use disorder. There is plenty of AA literature about the Steps, Traditions, and early AA life. Living Sober, while not intended for everyone, is a great publication that showcases the educational variety (Appendix II) of AA experience and can be helped to articulate the many paths to living and thriving in sobriety.

People of minority faiths, or any other that don't subscribe to a providential God can better see themselves in this AA experience, strength and hope, that is not theoretical, it is the collective experiences of hundreds of thousands or millions of AAs and speak to people with alcohol use disorder (alcoholism) born in the 21st century.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

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(7) Final comments:

An updated Living Sober would provide an honest, plain language, 21st century look at actual experience of how people can live sober in AA today. It would be so easy to add more of what we know, more of what the existing 31 chapters look like this century. AA membership is declining since the turn of the century inside the USA/ Canada and, outside, the decline is larger. We believe a revived Living Sober could demonstrate that AA is of relevance and value today for newcomers seeking recovery from their alcohol use disorder. An updated Living Sober would provide an honest, plain language, 21st century look at actual experience of how people can live sober in AA today. It would be so easy to add more of what we know, more of what the existing 31 chapters look like this century. AA membership is declining since the turn of the century inside the USA/Canada and, outside, the decline is larger. We believe a revised Living Sober could demonstrate that AA is of relevance and value today for newcomers seeking recovery from their alcohol use disorder.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 75th General Service Conference Background**General Service Conference (GSC) Proposed Agenda Item Submission Form****(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.**

Celebrating 50 years of Living Sober (1975 – 2025) we ask that the 75th General Service Conference ask the trustees' Literature Committee to explore the idea of a substantial overhaul/ upgrade to Living Sober, which has made AA understandable and accessible to many. The two overall ideas we are proposing are:

- A) Update the existing 31 chapters to reflect our 21st century AA life: on-line as well as in-person AA gatherings, meeting apps, podcasts (Grapevine, AAWS etc.), and social media, etc. and,
- B) Expand with more chapters (More has been revealed) about living sober experiences since 1975, aiming this 50th anniversary project towards maybe a 50-chapter booklet (purely suggestive, not directive).

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

1) Revision avoids reification and reduced relatability and effectiveness.

2) Living Sober is the last collection of original thought produced in book (or booklet) form under the

category, "conference approved." We recognize great new pamphlets from AAWS, a contemporary language of AA life in print, audio and podcast, thanks to AA Grapevine. Also true, AAWS books for 50 years have been backward looking, celebrating the words of founder Bill W (Daily Reflections, Our Great Responsibility, Pass it On, Plain Language Big Book). An expanded and updated Living Sober would be a newer, relevant AAWS contribution that helps members and groups share today's AA-life in book/booklet form. We believe a new Living Sober reminds everyone that AA history isn't something that happened way back when; our history continues and evolving literature about alcoholism today helps overcome any suggestion that AA is last century's solution for people who struggle with their alcohol use.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who

is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the

value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

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Living Sober, holds a special role from many agnostic/atheist (secular) AA groups because of the pragmatic advice and experience. Beyond Belief Agnostics & Freethinkers (D10 Area 83) and Queen Street West Secular Afternooners (D12 Area 83) come together to submit this proposal, as discussed and voted on by overwhelming unanimity of our groups.

Further, we seek support for our intention is coming to district(s) to discuss an Area 83 Eastern Ontario/International motion to support "Overhauling Living Sober" at the 75th General Service Conference agenda item. As expressed at the Eastern Canadian Regional Forum, our delegate welcomes the topic being brought to Area 83. District 12's September 2024 meeting discussed and voted in the affirmative to support the Queen Street W. Secular Afternooners motion to request that Area 83 entertain supporting this initiative ahead of the 75th GSC with substantial unanimity.

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

Living Sober has been helpful for members of any and all beliefs--religious, agnostics, humanist, atheist, secular AA groups, since 1975 for newcomers and long timers and the wider AA community, with over 7 million copies printed.

The 2020 Great Britain Membership Surveys asked members about their belief in a higher power. Most include a belief in a higher power as a helpful factor to their AA sobriety; in a follow-up question, "Is your higher power religious or secular?" 2/3 answered "secular." While we do not know the irreligious (no belief in Gods) population in USA/Canada, our modest but growing number on secular AA groups help some newcomers to accept AA with our "educational variety" literature such as Living Sober. In meetings that read Living Sober, the need for a 21st century updated has been observed as something that would better reflect today's AA way of life, helping the still suffering newcomer and members.

Small revisions to Living Sober have been Advisory Actions in 1983, 1998, 1999, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2018. While adding new chapters hasn't been entertained, AA's discussion groups and coffee-time chat adds to the support of new topics being well received by AA as a whole. The breadth of subjects addressed in The A.A. Grapevine podcast and magazine exemplify a broader array of topics on the minds of members, not yet reflected in Living Sober.

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

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Supporting this practical, secular narrative of AA helps assuage concerns of many newcomers, and people who refer potential members to us, that AA language is too religious (supernatural/God- centric) for today's irreligious persons with alcohol use disorder. There is plenty of AA literature about the Steps, Traditions, and early AA life. Living Sober, while not for everyone, has appealed to over 7 million readers, showcasing the "educational variety" (Appendix II) of AA experience, helping articulate the many paths to living and thriving in AA sobriety.

A 21st century overhaul helps illustrate to professionals that AA is serious about, "AA is not religious," as this practical and universally applicable book illustrates.

People of minority faiths who don't subscribe to a providential God can better see themselves in this AA experience, strength and hope in Living Sober. Also "our more religious members" can better understand how these secular ideas of Living Sober form a legitimate, sustainable sobriety for those of us with no supernatural belief (A Newcomer Asks, The "God" Word). It will be an updated tool for everyone.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

(7) Final comments:

In the 70s, Living Sober was a breath of fresh air, an honest, plain language, contemporary look at actual experience of how people like me could live sober in AA today. It would be so easy to codify more of what we know and breathe today's language into the existing 31 chapters. I live in Canada which, according to GSO membership estimates has less AA members than at the turn of the century. Outside USA/Canada the decline is larger. While I understand the difficulty with accurately assessing members I see smaller groups, fewer youth and less active members. I believe a revived Living Sober could demonstrate that AA is for everyone and as relevant today as it was when I came here in the 1970s.

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Background**

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(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Celebrating 50 years of Living Sober (1975 – 2025) we ask that the trustees' Literature Committee explore the idea of a substantial overall/upgrade to this vital book that has sold over 7 million copies and made AA understandable and accessible to many of us. The two overall ideas we are proposing for Living Sober in the 21st Century are:

- A)** Update the language of the existing 31 chapters (contemporary use of pronouns and examples, capturing online as well as in-person AA connections (Zoom, podcasts, social media) and,
- B)** Expand with more that has been revealed about living sober since 1975, aiming this 50th anniversary project towards maybe a 50-chapter booklet (purely suggestive).

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

The Living Sober booklet is one our most popular resources discussed in our meetings for its practicality. However, it has not been updated for many years. For example, an updated Living Sober booklet could address post pandemic on-line meeting format, etiquette, and security; recovery resources in various social media platforms; and address choices available among specialized groups such as women's, men's, LGBTQIA, BIPOC, secular, neuro-divergent, trauma survivors, etc.

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Make it

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value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

Group #00042566 Secular Sobriety (Tulsa, an AA group active for six years, is submitting this request based on a group conscience vote of support.

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People of minority faiths, or any other that don't subscribe to a providential God can better see themselves in this AA experience, strength and hope, that is not theoretical, it is the collective experiences of hundreds of thousands or millions of AAs and speak to people with alcohol use disorder (alcoholism) born in the 21st century.

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ITEM L: Discuss *Plain Language Big Book* review process.

Background Notes:

At a special GSB meeting on January 15, 2025, thoughts were shared by the trustees' Literature Committee around the development of a process for addressing suggested revisions to the *Plain Language Big Book*.

Excerpt from trustees' Literature Committee February 1, 2025 meeting report:

The committee was re-briefed on the General Service Board discussions in anticipation of a large volume of proposed changes to the PLBB. The committee agreed to forward the discussion memo to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.

Background:

1. Discussion of PLBB Amendment Process memo
2. Editorial vs substantive definitions letter

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MEMORANDUM

To: Teresa J – Chair Trustees Literature Committee
From: Scott H – Chair GSB
Subject: Discussion of Plain Language Big Book (“PLBB”) Amendment Process.
Date: January 23, 2025

Further to our discussion at our special GSB meeting on January 15, 2025, where I was tasked to put together some thoughts for discussion by Trustees Literature Committee (“TLC”) as to a plan for dealing with suggested changes to the PLBB, I offer this memo as a starting place for TLC’s discussion. Please feel like you can decide to simply send this report to the Conference Literature Committee (“CLC”) for input: amend it in any way you think reflects better ideas or send no report at all.

As I note below, ultimately the process to receive suggested changes is a GSB process, but input from CLC will be invaluable in ensuring that we ultimately find a way to reach an informed conscience of our whole Fellowship.

In the short time the Plain Language Big Book has been available we have had a lot of feedback, ranging from expressing concerns and expressing intentions to submit Proposed Agenda Items (PAIs) requesting for changes, to compelling stories about the effectiveness of the PLBB as a tool in settings ranging from Corrections to Treatment, to the home group. As has been discussed, there is a concern we find a process that allows suggestions for changes to the PLBB to be considered in a credible and productive way, that respects the Conference process, prior Conference actions from the 71st, 73rd and 74th Conferences, and the fact that this is a translation for accessibility and relatability purposes (as per the Conference) and not a more typical piece of literature. Any changes to the text intended to clarify content could also impact the integrity of the translation, rendering the material less accessible and relatable.

With as much interest as there is in the PLBB it is difficult to predict how many suggestions for changes may be made, but if there are many, we need to have a process, so our Board, Office, and Conference have capacity for other work important to our Fellowship. Further, we need to ensure each suggestion is given careful consideration and matters that are raised frequently are noted as such.

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Given the PLBB` is a translation, it seems any suggestions for changes would require a qualified professional consultant be involved to ensure the integrity of the translation, and to offer an objective assessment of accessibility and relatability to support informed decisions.

This is a matter that should be considered by the Conference Literature Committee (“CLC”) as whatever process is established and how that process evolves will be one that will necessarily involve CLC. I have heard some concern about limits on the ability of CLC to make edits to the text of the PLBB when it was approved at the 74th GSC. I understand the challenge between the usual freedom to make changes to our literature and the concern about substituting our own non-professional opinions on translation. We would seem to be best served in relying on the work of the qualified professional consultant in editing, particularly in light of the sharing we have received about the effectiveness of the PLBB as currently written.

It occurs to me the resolution of this concern is found in not making changes that are editorial in nature, but in considering those changes that are substantive in nature (affect the actual message in a substantive way). This would be in keeping with our overall approach to publishing.

I have attached an email from David R. that offers a brief description of the differences between editorial and substantive changes. If the GSB decides to forward an idea like this to CLC for consideration, we should gather a more formal memo from Publishing to help guide this understanding of the difference.

My suggestion would be that editorial changes would not be considered by the Conference, but substantive changes would be considered and would be routed through TLC with the aid of a qualified professional consultant. In order to respect the translation process, my thought would be that any changes forwarded to CLC by TLC would be on an “accept or reject” basis. If rejected, suggestions could be made by CLC to go back to the consultant and TLC for further review. That course would seem to respect the Conference actions already in place, the integrity of our ongoing Conference process and the value of professional translation.

While at first glance this might seem to be limiting of CLC autonomy, it seems (at least to me) to make the decisions about changes more credible and stay away from editorial wordsmithing on the floor. If the accepted process is accepted or rejected, then ongoing wordsmithing discussions would be limited but still possible.

It is consistent with the ideas expressed in Concept IX in ensuring that the best resources are available to both CLC and TLC to see that changes are objectively considered in light of the whole of the text of the PLBB and are not subjectively considered on different bases from Conference to Conference. If the PLBB is to remain effective to meet accessibility needs as a translation, then that seems to need to be how changes are considered.

In order to take a considered approach to any changes, it would seem prudent not to consider any changes for a period of time, maybe until the 77th GSC in 2027. This will allow time for the Fellowship to have a sufficient experience with the PLBB so that any proposed changes are considered on the basis of experience. We can get a measure of the effectiveness of the PLBB as a tool for reading the Big Book before we make changes. Changes could then be aimed at making a more effective tool based on experience.

This period would also allow TLC to consider how proposals for changes would come forward. While I am not sure what the volume might be, it is possible that the usual PAI process might overwhelm TLC and the Literature assignment. Even if it does not overwhelm the TLC and Literature assignment, it could result in an unnecessarily long PAI list. This is not to prevent any needed changes, in fact, this will allow for proposals to be reviewed in a context that more easily allows time for discussion of ideas and concern instead of all the time being spent managing an administrative process.

However they are collected, these suggestions for changes would need to be sorted into editorial and substantive.

While there are many possibilities for the process, it seems that we need time to communicate with CLC and the Fellowship to determine what may allow a considered, equitable, and objective basis for review and consideration.

I have included an outline/flow chart below as one idea of a process.

I think we should ask CLC to comment on the process that might be used, including the example of one possible process on the flow chart. I say comment because I think the process is up to TLC and GSB, but we want some assurance that CLC feels included for its role in considering changes. It seems that providing lists of the suggestions that have been sorted allows CLC to request a second look at any suggestion and see topics where there is high interest in review. This may mean the change process is slow.

With a delay in considering changes until the 77th GSC, there will be some time to explore possible processes. One idea that could be explored would be to have the TLC subcommittee (with consultants) available to CLC to consider suggestions for changes to proposals that are rejected. Obviously, there is much to consider and coordinate for that, including the expense of having consultants on standby, the ordering of agenda items for CLC (such items would seem to need to be at the top, but may not be the committees' priority), the addition to the workload of other translation services needed, and other matters.

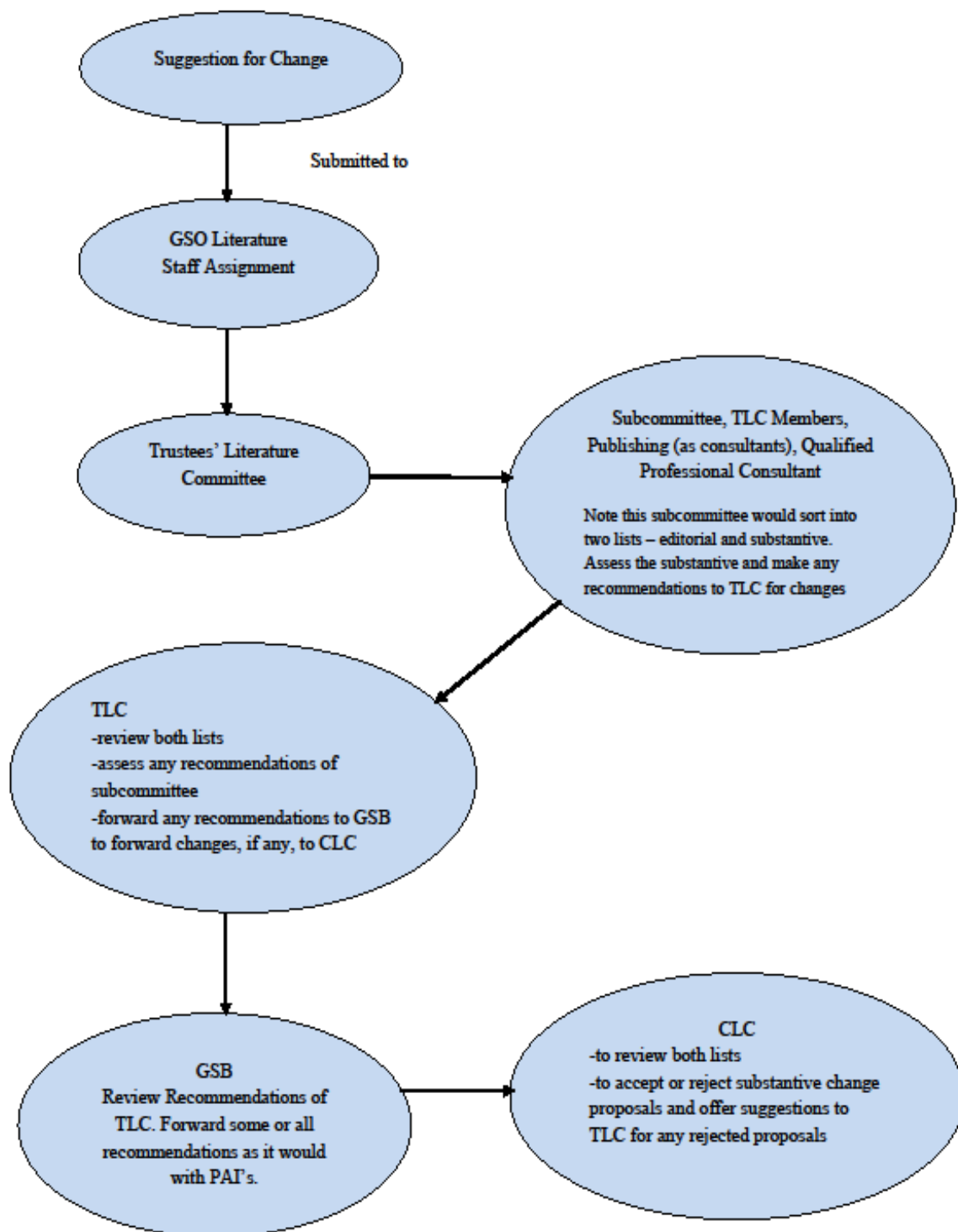
There is some precedent for asking to hold suggestions for changes to Literature. There was a Committee Consideration in 2020 as follows:

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The committee considered it proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations, and large print versions of the book Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, can be addressed with a common solution.

The committee requested that the trustees continue to explore this topic. The committee requested that the trustees' make available to the Fellowship, as soon as possible, in Spanish, English, and French, the presentation "The Big Book: Researching Issues, Possible Tools and Access (70th General Service Conference 2020)" that was presented to the committee during their May 2, 2020, agenda reduction meeting. The committee noted the importance for the Fellowship to be informed about the nature of the accessibility challenges with regard to A.A. literature. The committee requested that a progress report be brought back to the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature.

As with the 2020 Committee Consideration, it seems as though TLC may want to endeavor to provide a progress report on further development of a process to the CLC at the 76th GSC.



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Hi Scott,

I have conferred with our Managing Editor William G., and here's what I'd like to share:

Editorial changes

In general, "editorial changes" involve revisions that correct errors of fact, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Correcting a *misuse* of a word, such as: *they're* as opposed to *their* or *there*; *affect* vs. *effect*, *complement* vs. *compliment*, *fewer* vs. *less* — following accepted grammar and style.

Punctuation — use of em dashes, commas, parentheses, brackets, italics, semicolons — these should conform to standard style employed throughout a publication or line of publications.

Word choice — this is often highly subjective. One person's "*deadly*" is another person's "*lethal*," or "*fatal*," if you get my drift.

Other situations often considered "editorial" in nature include: decisions to add x subhead here; Add y footnote there, cross-reference z here and there.

Substantive revisions

Making revisions because of a substantive / significant sort [think: **substance**] because they are integral to AA's program would involve careful consideration.

Is something content-wise, in our 12 Step spiritual program of recovery from alcoholism ...*mis-represented* --- or lacking in *significant content*, as it stands?

Is something *added* in the content that is contrary to the original content?

Is something *added* in the content that is not aligned with AA's principles? for example, of AA being *inclusive*, *never exclusive*?

Has the essential meaning of something of *core substance to the program been altered*?

As in our beloved program, reminders of the slogans: First Things First, Live and Let Live, and Easy Does It, to my mind seem relevant.

I do hope this helps!

David, Publishing Director

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