

VI.

LITERATURE

AGENDA

Conference Committee on Literature

Monday, April 24, 2023, 9 a.m. – Noon

Room: TBD

Chairperson: Jenn D.

Secretary: Irene D.

Conference Committee Members

Panel 73

Pete B.
Tomy G.
James O.
Crystal S.

Panel 72

Jenn D. *
Janet F.
Michael K.
Steve L.
Eloy M. **

- ◆ Discussion and acceptance of trustees' Committee report.
- A. [Annual review of recovery literature matrix.](#)
- B. [Review draft pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies.](#)
- C. [Review draft of the revised pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated."](#)
- D. [Review draft of the revised pamphlet "Young People and A.A."](#)
- E. [Review progress report regarding update of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic."](#)
- F. [Review progress report regarding update of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American."](#)

NOTE: 1989 Conference Advisory Action

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

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- G. Review progress report regarding development of a Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos*- Spanish.
- H. Review progress report regarding the translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language.
- I. Review progress report regarding development of a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.
- J. Review revised draft of the existing version of the pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
- K. Review revised draft of the Literature Committee workbook.
- L. Review request to update the pamphlet “Do You Think You're Different?”
- M. Discuss new proposed agenda items (PAI's) related to the Plain Language *Big Book* Translation.
- N. Update on the video animation on the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated.”
- O. Discuss request to revise the pamphlet “Too Young.”
- P. Review update on the proposal for *Big Book* or *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* study guides.

2023 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM A: Annual review of recovery literature matrix.

Background Notes:

Excerpt from the January 28, 2023 trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature an interactive digital file with the Recovery Literature Matrix available on the Conference committee's dashboard folder.

Excerpt from the October 29, 2022 trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee discussed the matrix of A.A. recovery literature and all A.A. pamphlets and noted the ongoing revision of A.A. pamphlets by committee members.

2022 Conference Committee on Literature consideration:

The committee reviewed the 2022 matrix of A.A. recovery literature. The committee agreed to follow up with the Publishing Department with suggestions regarding the usefulness and purpose of the recovery literature matrix and looks forward to reviewing the matrix at their meeting during the 2023 General Service Conference.

Excerpt from the January 29, 2022 trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee agreed to forward to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature the reformatted annual review of recovery literature matrix.

Excerpt from the July 1, 2021 trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee discussed the literature matrix and noted that consideration is underway for it to be included as background for the agenda item related to pamphlet updates per the A.A.W.S. print policy. The committee reviewed the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature consideration which requested consideration of a more defined process for review and approval of the pamphlet updates, as well as the suggestion to include the GSO Publishing department workflow and literature matrix in the background for pamphlet updates per the print policy.

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The committee agreed that the chair will research options for possible clarifications and improvements and report back to the October 2021 meeting.

Excerpt from the April 2017 Conference Literature Committee Meeting Report

The Conference Literature committee recommended 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. 2023 Recovery Literature matrix ***-Dashboard-Committee Only-Confidential***

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2023 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM B: Review draft pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies.

Background Notes:

Excerpt from the January 28, 2023, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed and **agreed to forward** to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature a draft of the update to the pamphlet "AA's Three Legacies," with a suggestion to replace a quotation from an A.A. member of an A.A. structure in another country.

Excerpt from the October 29, 2022, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee received a report from the Publishing Department about the update of the pamphlet "AA's Three Legacies." The committee looks forward to a progress report at the January 2023 meeting.

2022 Conference Committee on Literature consideration:

The committee reviewed a draft pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies and offered additional suggestions for the trustees' Literature Committee to consider. The committee requested that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.

Excerpt from the October 30, 2021 trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed and **agreed to forward** to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature the progress report regarding the development of a draft pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies.

Excerpt from the July 1, 2021 trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee discussed the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature's committee consideration regarding development of a pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies. The committee noted the suggestions related to the length of the pamphlet, the need for more relatable and accessible language. The committee agreed that the chair will reach out to the incoming Conference Committee on Literature chair to explore if more details on the suggested changes might be shared.

The committee requested that the Publishing department provide a progress report at the October 2021 meeting.

2018 Conference Advisory Action

The trustees' Literature Committee develop a pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies, with emphasis on the history of the Three Legacies, how they work together and including personal stories of members' experiences with the Three Legacies and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature.

Background:

1. January 2023 Progress Report on the pamphlet "A.A.'s Three Legacies"
Confidential-Committee Only-Dashboard
2. Memo to TCL_July 2022(Confidential-Committee Only-Dashboard)
3. 10-08-2021-Publishing Department Progress Report (Confidential-Committee Only-Dashboard)
4. 1.12.21 Email from G.S.O. Executive Editor related to draft pamphlet "Recovery, Unity and Service: Our Three Legacies."
 - 4a. January 2021 Publishing Department's draft pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies **Confidential-Committee Only-Dashboard**
5. 12.20.19 Publishing Department progress report on the development of a pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies
6. 11.2.19 Trustees' Literature Subcommittee on the Development of a Pamphlet Based on A.A.'s Three Legacies progress report

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1.12.21 Email from GSO Executive Editor related to the draft of the pamphlet
"Recovery, Unity and Service: Our Three Legacies."

To: Literature assignment, Steve S.
From: Ames S., GSO Executive Editor

Attached is the most current draft of the proposed pamphlet "Recovery, Unity and Service: Our Three Legacies" for distribution to the trustees' Literature Committee. Please also pass along the following editorial/process notes:

The stories were selected from the group of submissions that were solicited from the Fellowship and subsequently reviewed by a subcommittee of the trustees' Literature Committee. The selection was provided to the full trustees' Literature Committee in October 2020 and the committee agreed to move the selection forward for a final draft.

Per the July 2018 trustees' Literature Committee meeting, the initial subcommittee agreed that the pamphlet should be structured in the following way:

Part 1: INTRODUCTION Open with an explanation in contemporary language describing A.A.'s Three Legacies and how they work together.

Part 2: HISTORY OF OUR THREE LEGACIES A section on the history of A.A.'s Three Legacies in contemporary language using quotes from Bill W.'s writings from less common sources including *A.A. Comes of Age*, *Language of the Heart* and *Our Great Responsibility*.

Part 3: EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH AND HOPE Member stories sharing the experience, strength and hope of individual A.A. members related to the Three Legacies. Additionally, a selection of brief excerpts was added from the stories selected by the subcommittee that were not used in full, titled "Spotlight on Service," highlighting specific aspects of working with the Steps, Traditions and Concepts from a personal perspective.

I believe this draft captures the intent of the original Conference Advisory Action and the subsequent discussion by the trustees' Literature Committee. I am grateful to have had an opportunity to work on this pamphlet and look forward to the deliberations of both the trustees' Literature Committee and the Conference Committee on Literature.

With best wishes,
Ames

Ames S.
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sweeta@aa.org
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Interoffice Memorandum

December 20, 2019

To: Steve S., Literature Assignment
From: Ames S., Executive Editor
Re: Progress Report on Three Legacies pamphlet

Following the last meeting of the trustees' Literature Committee, the committee agreed to forward the submitted stories along with additional content and organization of content suggestions for the pamphlet to the Publishing Department. With this material now in hand, the Publishing Department will begin the creative process of selecting final content, developing appropriate graphics and putting together an update or pamphlet draft for review by the trustees' Literature Committee at subsequent meetings in 2020.

**Trustees' Literature Subcommittee on the
Development of a pamphlet
Based on A.A.'s Three Legacies**

Saturday, November 2, 2019

Background

The 2018 (68th) General Service Conference recommended that the trustees' Literature Committee develop "a pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies, with emphasis on the history of the Three Legacies, how they work together and including personal stories of members' experiences with the Three Legacies, and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature."

At the July 27, 2019 meeting, the trustees' Committee chair appointed a subcommittee composed of Cathy B. (chair) and Katie H. to continue the work of the previous subcommittee on the development of the pamphlet. It was requested that the subcommittee present a progress report to the November 2, 2019 meeting.

Process

Following the July 2018 trustees' Literature Committee meeting, the initial sub-committee of Mark E., chair, Cindy F., Doug G. and Katie H. held a meeting on December 6, 2018 and reviewed its scope and discussed the need to consider the pamphlet format and content, the basis of evaluation for stories and the rating grid to be used. As of the deadline of November 19, 2018, forty-six submissions were received.

The subcommittee agreed on a format for an Excel spread sheet for each reviewer to use to evaluate and provide any comments for each submission.

The subcommittee agreed that the pamphlet open with an explanation in contemporary language describing A.A.'s Three Legacies and how they work together, followed by a section on the history of A.A.'s Three Legacies in contemporary language using quotes from Bill W.'s writings from less common sources including A.A. Comes of Age, Language of the Heart, as well as the forthcoming book, Selections of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970 (working title).

These opening sections would be followed by members' stories sharing experience, strength and hope related to A.A.'s Three Legacies. The subcommittee agreed that evaluation of the stories would include each of the Three Legacies as well as how they work together and their relation to group life and other settings. For future subcommittee members, the subcommittee emphasized the importance of including comments during the review of the stories. A progress report was submitted to the January 2019 Trustees Literature Committee.

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The subcommittee comprised of Cathy B. and Katie H. continued the work of the previous committee and along with Mark E., completed the review and rating of all 46 submissions.

The subcommittee evaluated the 46 story submissions, and determined the following:

1. Story submissions – The subcommittee determined that the story submissions effectively described our three legacies and how they relate to groups and in our lives. It was the consensus of the subcommittee that six stories (10, 11,14, 15,16, 19) did not meet the same threshold as the remaining stories, and that only the top rated twenty (20) stories should be forwarded for consideration. The subcommittee has confidence in the editing and expertise of the Publishing Department to make any final decisions regarding story selection and content.
2. Format – The subcommittee recognizes that the audience for this pamphlet will be primarily A.A. members who are more established in recovery and recommends a traditional pamphlet styled format be utilized to create the document.

The current subcommittee is in agreement with the previous subcommittee that the pamphlet open with an explanation in contemporary language describing A.A.'s Three Legacies and how they work together, followed by a section on the history of A.A.'s Three Legacies. These opening sections would be followed by members' stories sharing experience, strength and hope related to A.A.'s Three Legacies.

3. Content – Full stories from the submissions should be integrated as well as quote(s) from the 1960 conference talk by Bill W. referenced in the original motion in addition to Bill W.'s writings from less common sources. Sources may include A.A. Comes of Age, Language of the Heart, as well as the newest book, Selections of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970.
4. Where relevant, illustrations may be included that visually present how the three legacies work together and can be interwoven in our groups as well as our lives.

The subcommittee is grateful to the fellowship for taking the time to submit their stories and to the trustees' Literature committee for the opportunity to serve.

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2023 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM C: Review draft of the revised pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.”

Background Notes:

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

The committee reviewed and **agreed to forward** to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature a draft of the revised pamphlet “Twelve Steps Illustrated.”

Excerpt from the October 29, 2022, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The committee received a report from the Publishing Department about the update of the pamphlet “Twelve Steps Illustrated” (P-55) including the hiring of a designer who will implement Conference revisions. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the January 2023 meeting.

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.

Excerpt from the January 29, 2022, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed and **agreed to forward** to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature the revised draft pamphlet “Twelve Steps Illustrated.” The committee requested that Publishing department forward to the 2022 Conference Committee on

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Literature a memo that provides context behind the pamphlet design.

The committee noted that the word “down” in the text of Step One (“The Bottle has me down”) may be associated with mental health stigma and suggested that Publishing consider an alternative phrasing.

Secretary note: the change of wording is reflected in the background 1.b.

Excerpt from the July 1, 2021, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The committee discussed the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature’s committee consideration regarding the pamphlet “Twelve Steps Illustrated.” The committee received a verbal update from the Publishing department and expressed their appreciation for the work being done.

The committee requested that the Publishing department provide a written progress report at the October 2021 meeting.

2021 Conference Committee on Literature consideration:

The committee reviewed the progress report regarding the pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated” and requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

Synopsis of committee excerpts July 2019 through January 2021:

From July 27, 2019, through January 2021 the trustees’ Literature Committee noted that updating the pamphlet, “Twelve Steps Illustrated” was pending the outcome of updates to the pamphlet, “Twelve Traditions Illustrated,” since the work was interrelated.

2019 Conference Advisory Action

The trustees’ Literature Committee update the pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated” and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2020 General Service Conference.

At the July 2018 meeting of the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities (C.P.C./T.A.), the chair appointed a subcommittee to pursue efforts to support carrying the message to A.A. members who are Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing. In addition, the subcommittee reviewed accessibilities literature, continuing an evaluation of support for accessibilities issues within the Fellowship.

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The subcommittee did a review of accessibilities literature and made proposals for changes to these pieces. They noted multiple requests for simplified language literature coming to G.S.O. and to the General Service Conference from various sources in the past years.

The committee felt that a new version of the pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated" is warranted to capture a simplified language that reflects the meaning of the Steps more effectively than the current version and that includes quality illustrations. The committee wants to ensure that any such simplified language product does not lose the powerful meaning of our steps/message, but that it becomes accessible to more individuals with low reading levels.

At their January 2019 meeting, the trustees' Committee on C.P.C./T.A. accepted the report of the subcommittee and agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Literature Committee a proposal that the pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated" be enhanced with additional language and illustrations that reflect the meaning of the Steps. The committee noted that the changes to service material proposed by the subcommittee will be implemented as these items come up for reprint.

Background:

1. 2023 Pub. Dep. Progress report:
 - 1.a P-55_(NEW)_Twelve_Steps_Illustrated_M17 **Confidential-Committee Only-Dashboard**
2. Memo to trustees' Literature Committee_July 2022 - Confidential-Committee Only-Dashboard.
3. Memo to CCL_02-2-22
 - 3.a P-55_(NEW)_12_Steps_Illustrated_M16 - **Confidential-Committee Only- Dashboard**
4. 2021 Pub.Dep_Progress_Report
 - 4.a 12Steps_Art_Samples - **Confidential-Committee Only-Dashboard**
 - 4.b P-55_Twelve_Steps_Illustrated M15 - **Confidential-Committee Only-Dashboard**
5. 12.20.19 Progress report from Publishing Department
6. Current pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated" available on G.S.O.'s A.A. website at: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/aa-literature/p-55-twelve-steps-illustrated

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MEMO

Date: February 2, 2022

To: 72nd Conference Literature Committee

Cc: Trustees' Committee on Literature, Chair

From: Publishing Department

Re: ADDENDUM from Publishing regarding the design process for revision of "The Twelve Steps Illustrated"

The Trustees' Committee on Literature, at their January 2022 meeting requested that the Publishing department forward to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature a memo that provides context behind the pamphlet design.

Design process for revision of "The Twelve Steps Illustrated."

As the Publishing department considered the revision to "The Twelve Steps Illustrated," in relation to the recent revisions accepted by the Conference for "Experience Has Taught Us: Our Twelve Traditions Illustrated," certain design elements became clear. We wanted to maintain a similar "look" and "feel" for the two revisions but recognized some fundamental differences between the two projects. For the pamphlet illustrating the Traditions, we utilized a mechanical art approach, using a style that was also used for earlier video PSAs. This seemed appropriate as the style was especially accommodating to depicting "actions," which fit with the action-oriented Traditions. However, with the pamphlet illustrating the Steps, we realized we needed a slightly different, more expressive approach, since it was necessary to illustrate the often subtle yet powerful emotions undergirding the Steps themselves – in other words, it was a much more private

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and personal approach that would be needed to graphically evoke the impact of the Steps versus the more generalized “actions” contained in the Traditions. With that understanding, we sought out a different artist whose strength was in articulating emotion through expression, rather than the more modernistic style employed for the Traditions pamphlet. This allowed us to pursue a broad and diverse set of illustrations, reflective of our membership, that delved into and represented the emotive aspect of the Steps, expressing the highly personal nature of the Steps and how they impact individual members.

To achieve some of the continuity of design that we sought, we used the same layout format for the two pamphlets and further connected them graphically through color and type style. Essentially, while the illustration approach is different for each pamphlet (for the reasons noted above), the additional design elements help to unite the two pamphlets with a similar “look and feel.”

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MEMORANDUM

To: Literature Desk
From: Publishing Department
Re: Progress Report for Trustees' Literature Committee
Date: October 8, 2021

Agenda Item D:

Review progress report regarding the pamphlet "Twelve Steps Illustrated."

Progress Report:

In response to the committee consideration from the 71st General Service Conference Committee on Literature requesting that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature, the Publishing department is working with a professional illustrator to revise and update the graphics for the "Twelve Steps Illustrated" pamphlet. We are currently reviewing concept sketches and will move to full illustrations for presentation to the trustees' Literature Committee prior to the January 2022 meeting.

Work samples from the artist are attached for information, along with the original pamphlet.

Action requested: Review pamphlet text for any proposed changes. (Note: the Publishing department suggests that the text remain as is, but if there are any specific changes that the committee feels need to be made, we will do so as we match the drawings and the text during the next developmental stage.)

Executive Editor
General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous
475 Riverside Drive, 8th Floor
New York, New York 10115
www.aa.org

Interoffice Memorandum

December 20, 2019

To: Steve S., Literature Assignment

From: Ames S., Executive Editor

Re: Progress Report on “Twelve Concepts Illustrated” and “Twelve Steps Illustrated” pamphlets

While updates to the three illustrated pamphlets covering A.A.’s Steps, Traditions and Concepts have come through the Conference process separately and at different times, as an overall strategy, the Publishing Department feels it would be most effective to develop them with some interactivity and coordination.

The “Twelve Traditions Illustrated” pamphlet was the first to be presented for updating, and the Publishing Department has been working on this project for a number of years. It seems that a final version of the revision is ready to be presented to the Conference for approval. Nevertheless, some questions that came up during the process of revising this pamphlet may well apply to the pamphlets on the Steps and Traditions also (questions relative to the critical interplay between text and graphics, how much should the original text be altered or revised, what illustration style would be best suited to carry the message most effectively, etc.). For this reason, the Publishing Department would like to hold off on further exploration of the more recent two requests for revision of the pamphlets on the Steps and Concepts until the revision to the Twelve Traditions pamphlet has been approved.

This will help to provide Publishing with a general “template” with which to work and will allow us to more appropriately direct the design and text revisions requested. Of course, each pamphlet (Step, Traditions, Concepts) has different needs and approaches that will have to be applied, but having a clear sense from the Conference regarding the work we undertaken so far with the Traditions Illustrated pamphlet will help move the remaining two pamphlets forward more readily.

So, at this point, we are holding off with any firm creative decisions about the “Twelve Steps Illustrated” and “Twelve Concepts Illustrated” pamphlets pending further discussion by the trustees’ and Conference Literature Committees in 2020 regarding the “Twelve Traditions Illustrated” pamphlet.

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2023 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM D: Review draft of the revised pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”

Background Notes:

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

The committee reviewed and **agreed to forward** to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature a draft of the revised pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”

Note from secretary: The revised draft reflects minor updates requested by the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

2022 General Service Conference Advisory Action:

The committee recommended that the draft of the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” be approved.

Excerpt from the October 30, 2021, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature the progress report regarding the draft pamphlet “Young People in A.A.”

Excerpt from the July 1, 2021, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The committee discussed the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature’s committee consideration regarding the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” including additional suggestions to foster a greater diversity of stories and images of members. The committee received a verbal report from the Publishing Department which included the request for more specifics regarding the suggestions. The committee agreed that the chair will gather information from the incoming Conference Committee on Literature chair for more details on the suggestions.

The committee expressed their appreciation for the draft version and work done up to this point, noting that the pamphlet accomplishes an engaging visual representation of A.A. recovery experience. The committee noted that the pamphlet should offer ways to find A.A. literature attuned with the targeted audience and suggested additional items be included in the resource listing, such as the link to the A.A.W.S. YouTube channel and AA Grapevine books and others.

The committee requested that the chair provide an update on suggestion details and that the Publishing department provide written progress report at the October 2021 meeting.

2021 Conference Committee on Literature consideration:

The committee reviewed the draft update of the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” The committee expressed appreciation for the project being deferred to 2021 due to overall budget constraints and the potential video production expenses as part of the update to this item. The committee also expressed appreciation for the pamphlet’s format in terms of how the shared experience, strength and hope is presented.

The committee provided additional suggestions to foster a greater diversity of stories and images of members and requested that an updated draft pamphlet and/or samples of other potential formats of the pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

Excerpt from January 30, 2021, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature the draft revised pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” The committee suggested that the Publishing department forward the stories that were submitted but not included in the pamphlet for consideration in the A.A. Grapevine.

Excerpt from the October 31, 2020, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The committee discussed the Publishing department’s progress report regarding the pamphlet “Young People in A.A.” The committee reviewed Publishing’s workflow plan with estimated costs, projected resource requirements and project priorities which includes this item. The committee looks forward to receiving a draft pamphlet and/or project report at the January 2021 meeting.

Excerpt from the August 1, 2020, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The trustees’ Literature Committee discussed the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature’s committee consideration regarding the pamphlet “Young People in A.A.” and requested that the Publishing Department provide a progress report which includes estimated costs, projected resource requirements and project priorities at the October 2020 meeting.

2020 Conference Committee on Literature Consideration:

The committee reviewed a progress report on the revision of the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet and/or samples of other potential formats of the pamphlet at the meeting of the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature.

Excerpt from February 1, 2020, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The trustees’ Literature Committee reviewed and **agreed to forward** to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report on the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”

Excerpt from November 2, 2019, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed with appreciation the reports from committee members related to gathering shared experience from A.A. members at Young People and Alcoholics Anonymous Conferences. The committee expressed support for the Publishing Department to explore options for integrating art for the pamphlet as well as podcast versions of the pamphlets. The committee requested that the Publishing Department continue work to revise each pamphlet and bring back updated progress reports or draft pamphlets and/or samples of other potential formats of the pamphlet to the February 2020 meeting.

Excerpt from July 27, 2019, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee also reviewed the draft pamphlet for the update of "Young People and A.A." and progress to date.

The committee discussed shared experience being gathered from Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous Conferences including locally produced literature items. Committee members, chair, Beau B. and appointed committee member, Katie H., will attend the upcoming International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous to continue gathering shared experience related to the pamphlet development and provide a report to the committee at the November 2019 meeting.

Synopsis of committee excerpts following 2016 Advisory Action until July 2019:

The trustees' Literature committee reviewed ongoing developments, including submitted stories, as well as progress reports from the Publishing Department as well as a TLC subcommittee. The Conference Committee on Literature reviewed progress reports during this period of time as well.

2016 General Service Conference Advisory Action:

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

Background:

1. 2023-01 Draft of the revised pamphlet "Young People and A.A."-M1 **Confidential - committee only-Dashboard Files**
 - 1.a Draft of the revised pamphlet "Young People and A.A." Mockup.
Confidential - committee only-Dashboard Files

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2. 2021-12-1 Email from GSO Executive Editor related to the draft of the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”
 - 2.a 2021-01 Draft of the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” **Confidential – committee only-Dashboard Files**
 - 2.b 2021-10 Publishing department’s progress report to trustees’ Literature Committee on the draft of the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”
3. 2019-12-20 Publishing department’s progress report to Literature assignment on the pamphlets “Young People and A.A.” and “Too Young?”
 - 3.a January 2021 Publishing Department’s draft update to the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” **confidential – committee only- Dashboard Files**
4. 2019-11-02 Progress report on Young People in AA related activity from trustees’ Literature committee (TLC) chair and TLC Appointed Committee Member (ACM)
5. 2018-11-13 email with local sharing submitted by trustees’ Literature Committee Appointed Committee Member (ACM)
6. Current pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” available on G.S.O.’s A.A. website at: <https://www.aa.org/young-people-and-aa>

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1.12.21 Email from GSO Executive Editor related to the draft of the pamphlet "Young People and A.A."

To: Literature assignment, Steve S.
From: GSO Executive Editor

Attached is the most current draft of the proposed pamphlet "Young People and A.A." for distribution to the trustees' Literature Committee. Please also pass along the following editorial/process notes:

The stories were selected from the group of submissions that were solicited from the Fellowship and subsequently reviewed by a subcommittee of the trustees' Literature Committee. The selection was provided to the full trustees' Literature Committee in October 2020 and the committee agreed to move the selection forward for a final draft.

There was a considerable amount of discussion within the committee during the early development of revisions for this pamphlet that focused on "breaking the mold" of the standard collection of stories in order to generate more "snackable bites," considering how YP often "consume" their information. The new approach of breaking the stories up into the "What We Were Like, What Happened, What We Are Like Today" format was road tested to general approval. To underscore this approach and guide readers through the three sections, graphics were employed by our design team to complement the text. These graphics are meant at this point to be suggestive only. They will continue to evolve once the text of the pamphlet has been approved. Ultimately the graphic presentation of the pamphlet falls under the purview of the Publishing Department, and we will continue developing the design concurrent with the trustee and Conference committee's review and (hoped for) approval of the text.

It has been a pleasure working on this pamphlet and we all look forward to any further deliberations or guidance that may be provided.

With best wishes,

Executive Editor, GSO

MEMORANDUM

To: Literature Desk
From: Publishing Department
Re: Progress Report for Trustees' Literature Committee
Date: October 8, 2021

Agenda Item G:

Review progress report regarding pamphlet “Young People in A.A.”

Progress Report:

Attached is proposed revised text for the pamphlet “Young People in A.A.” The text and graphics have been edited and presented here in revised form in response to the commentary provided in a committee consideration from the 71st General Service Conference Committee on Literature and in discussion with the incoming chair of the Conference Committee on Literature. As noted in the committee deliberations of the TLC:

The committee discussed the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature’s committee consideration regarding the pamphlet “Young People in A.A.” including additional suggestions to foster a greater diversity of stories and images of members...

The committee expressed their appreciation for the draft version and work done up to this point, noting that the pamphlet accomplishes an engaging visual representation of A.A. recovery experience. The committee noted that the pamphlet should offer ways to find A.A. literature attuned with the targeted audience and suggested additional items be included in the resource listing, such as the link to the A.A.W.S. YouTube channel and AA Grapevine books and others.

Proposed text and graphics have been reconfigured to address the request for additional diversity and more relatable and accessible ways to find A.A. literature that are attuned to the target audience.

Action requested: Review revisions for any additional edits and move pamphlet forward to the 2022 General Service Conference for approval.

Executive Editor

www.aa.org

Interoffice Memorandum

December 20, 2019

To: Literature Assignment

From: Executive Editor

Re: Progress Report on “Young People and A.A.” and “Too Young?”

At the November 2019 meeting of the trustees' Literature Committee an update was provided by ACM Katie H. and General Service Trustee Beau B. on gathering shared experience from A.A. members at Young People in A.A. Conferences regarding these two pamphlets. The update provided a number of options to explore for ongoing development of text and integration of artwork, as well as suggestions for development of podcast versions of the pamphlets.

Since the meeting, the Publishing Department has continued work on revision of the pamphlets, reaching out to some graphic designers who have done work within the YPAA service community, and look toward providing updated progress reports, draft pamphlets and/or samples of other potential formats of the pamphlet to the trustees' Literature Committee at subsequent meetings in 2020.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

**LITERATURE
Item D
Doc 4**

November 2, 2019 progress report on Y.P.A.A. related activity from the TLC chair and TLC A.C.M.

(Excerpt from September 30, 2019 email from Beau B., TLC Chair)

Dear Literature Committee,

We attended the 61st International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (ICYPAA) on August 23-25. Our Appointed Committee member Katie H. was invited to run two round table style sessions for capturing feedback on recent thinking and revision concepts for the pamphlet Young People and A.A. In total we met with 25-30 people and received helpful input on title, artwork, the new concept, ideas for avatars, formats (audio, video and printed). We were grateful to the Publishing department for providing printed copies of the new concept for review and discussion. Providing these physical examples were instrumental in soliciting constructive and actionable feedback.

The actual feedback from these sessions will be provided in an overall summary from Katie however it should be noted that this type of interaction was very well received by the participants and promoted a level of engagement and understanding from all participants that would be difficult to replicate in other ways.

I would like to thank the committee for their trust and open mindedness in supporting this activity. Our pamphlet will not only be better as a result we successfully engaged and opened more minds to the conference process as well.

(Excerpt from September 16 email from Katie H., TLC A.C.M.)

I appreciated the opportunity to travel to Boston for the International Conference of Young People in AA (ICYPAA) and was equally fortunate to have been given two sessions on the agenda to have an open dialogue with two groups about literature. Thanks for sharing advance copies of the new Young People in AA pamphlet. The format change was well received.

Attaching all of my notes from these focus groups as well as sessions with Virginia State Conference of Young People in AA (VSCYPAA), All California Young People in AA (ACYPAA) and a YPAA breakout room at Pacific Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA).

Discussion Summary:

- There were several interesting conversations around quizzes. Debate started with the location and placement of the quizzes – at the beginning instead of the end and vice versa as well as having both. The thought process was around identifying before and/or after reading the stories and how that would affect the “truthfulness” of the participants answers. We also talked about having multiple quizzes. Everyone seemed to like the idea of the questions throughout the pamphlet to help break it up as well. The popularity of Buzzfeed quizzes sparked this conversation – ideas went around like “what type of alcoholic are you?” Everyone agreed that quizzes keep their interest and would make the pamphlet more engaging.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

- Overall, the design and graphics were not well received. We discussed a more modern look, even something like utilizing one single, bold color. No graphics. Overall, wanted a more modern, simplistic/minimalist look. As I had felt, the pamphlets appear too “sciencey” and like something found in a classroom. Minimalism would help usher the pamphlets into modern design. Also talked about a different size of a pamphlet or glossy to make it stand out and stand apart.
- Discussion around a contest for design and suggestions around various designers in the YPAA community who are talented at event flyers. I had been thinking of a YPAA designer from the west coast and someone from Florida in attendance had actually mentioned her by name and her talented work and said he also gravitated toward her design style and encouraged us to reach out to her for ideas. This led to a spirited discussion around letting the YPAA community create its own design.
- QR codes seem to be of continued interest. The ability to easily find a pamphlet online was well received as well as the recognition that paper pamphlets on literature tables was still vital.

Summary of Recommendations:

- Strongly recommend a modern design. The use of a single, bold color. No graphics. Modern, minimalist font.
- Recommend developing a design contest to create cover design and/or avatar from the YPAA community.
- Format change was well received. The caution here is that the pamphlet maintains a logical flow from each part of the story. Suggestion is to have clear instructions of “follow the story” as well as graphics/symbols that are eye catching and modern that help guide the reader through the stories.
- Consider adding quiz questions throughout pamphlet, especially if the current proposed format change is not adopted. Adding questions throughout would break up the stories and provide a visually appealing pamphlet.
- Consider a new name for pamphlet or a provocative subtitle (see notes)

We can discuss these findings further at the next board weekend or I would be happy to have a conference call in order to share a little more of the spirit of discussion with Ames and publishing. Please let me know if you think that would be helpful!

In love and service,

Katie H.

Appointed Committee Member
Trustee’s Literature Committee

ICYPAA Literature Session 8/23 - 8/24/2019

Thursday, August 22, 2019

7:22 AM

Young People in AA Pamphlet

Format Change:

Like = 18

Dislike = 1

Commentary/Recommendations:

- Shocking title - something that almost challenges the reader
 - "But try to Get to them to see it!"
- References to YPAA conferences
- What is YPAA?
- Love the concept/format change
- Videos for accessibilities
- Most of the participants utilize a mix of reading and listening to podcasts
- Felt too much like Text book
 - Bible Study
 - Geometry class
- Needs modernize
- Quiz in the back
- What kind of alcoholic are you?
- Pamphlet of quizzes
- Not appealing
- Title revisions
- "You're right you are too young"
- More quotes from the Big Book sprinkled throughout
- App based literature device makes the most
- Search bar
- The format works - not sure about using the "what it was like, what happened, what it is like now"
- Snapchat bitmoji or image?
- One participant thinks that this could replace the too young pamphlet and he used the too young pamphlet
- Quizzes as you go - almost like an activity book
- Needs explanation into the what the format is
- "Pick one and go" instruction
- Title something more provocative
- Picture or image of the person works over symbol

ACYPAA Literature Session 7/7/2019

Thursday, August 22, 2019
7:38 AM

Too Young Pamphlet

Needs Updating?

Yes = 12

No = 1

Notes

- Too Young Pamphlet felt "too different" - young people want to feel included in AA, not always set apart
- More YPAA information included in all pamphlets directed to young people
- Everyone liked the checklist and quizzes
- New title might be nice
- Design needs to be minimalist and more modern - single bold color

VSCYPAA Literature Session 6/16/2019

Thursday, August 22, 2019
7:22 AM

Sharing notes:

- "Member's Eye View" was first pamphlet picked up. Was directed to it from an old timer and was incredibly useful to member for understanding the fellowship. Refers to it often
- Participant explained that she did an online search for help with alcoholism and found an AA Questionnaire checklist that was useful and it led her to a meeting
- Participant remembered seeing the Too Young Pamphlet when she was 15-16, before she came into AA, but didn't understand the message
- Participant referred to the literature rack looking "too sciencey" or something that was related to the church. Also thought it felt like a doctor's office
- Another participant said he never picked up a pamphlet nor was directed to the pamphlets
- Many people brought up the idea of young people's videos on YouTube or utilizing podcasts
- Available links to ICYPAA or YPAA home pages
- Orientation video or information about AA in general
- Conscience of the group was positive toward digital content links and QR codes for literature for their phones
- More images than words
- One-page flyer would be beneficial

PRAASA YPAA Session 3/3/2019

Thursday, August 22, 2019

7:30 AM

Sharing notes:

- One participant said she had never seen YP literature pamphlets
- Participant brought up the idea of 30 second animated videos online
- "More current, more often" - discussion around how we are constantly out of date because of the process. Is there a quicker way to adopt and adapt to change?
- PDFs may not work for 16-year-olds
- The message needs to be easily digestible
- QR codes felt like a good idea overall
- Discussion moved toward google and SEO and the desire from the group for more online presence
- Many people called out that the local YPAA groups should be making videos
- Discussion around "What is YPAA" brochure - many people within the fellowship do not understand what a Young People's Committee is - discussion broadened to internal vs external messaging
- Overall, group agreed that paper pamphlets were still valuable
- Participant said she read every pamphlet but didn't relate to the images of the Too Young Pamphlet
- One person mentioned that their district is using targeted ads on Facebook
- Desire for audiobooks
- Age is not the barrier - alcoholism is the barrier
- Additions to the AA Group pamphlet regarding YP meetings

11.13.18 Email with local sharing submitted by Katie H., Trustees' Literature Committee Appointed Committee Member

Hi Ames,

Hope you are doing well on this Tuesday morning. I spent time with three regional Young People's Committees (EBYPAA, SACYPAA and YOLYPAA) from Northern California and had 45 minute discussions about the "Too Young?" Pamphlet as well as their recommendations and experiences with AA Literature. Below are a couple of the notes that I captured from these discussions.

- QR Codes on pamphlets linking to AA.org in order to view the pamphlets online and/or links to YouTube content. In my opinion, this should be high priority. Interesting to note that even though I brought copies of the pamphlet, everyone went to their phones to look up the pamphlet. It is my personal experience as well that I utilize my iPhone for looking up most information. Having this data in a user friendly format online would be great as well. The PDF of the pamphlet is not as friendly. Developing this content in an online format would be useful.
- Shorter format – the "Young People in AA" pamphlet has all the stories and it is long. The suggestions was that a "visual" pamphlet would be more effective if it wasn't as long.
- "Keep it simple" – some of the stories felt TOO specific to the majority. Although there were three people within these groups that actually said "This character. This is me." The rest did not identify.
- More focus on the Questionnaire piece. Everyone felt that was helpful.
- More emphasis that there are Young People's meetings and conferences – local meetings to state, regional and international conferences
- Characters less stereotypical and more generic
- Pamphlet is very dark and gloomy – add more hope and more color at the end
- Overall needs to be more modern
- Development of YouTube videos would be the primary way to move forward in order to have young people find answers to questions about alcoholism

Something interesting to note: I met very few people who had any experience with reading AA Pamphlets in early recovery. However, I did meet 1 girl who told me a story that I would like to share. She explained that she walked into her first meeting at 15. She had a typical experience of a young person in AA in that she was surrounded by people she didn't think she could relate to. She sat down in the meeting and saw on the wall a pamphlet that was graphic and looked like a cartoon. She grabbed it and saw the title "Too Young?" and knew it was for her. She said she didn't hear a thing in the meeting and read the pamphlet cover to cover. She is now 17 years old and 2 years sober.

Thanks,

Katie H.

[Back to Agenda](#)

2023 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM E: Review progress report regarding update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic.”

Background Notes:

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

The committee reviewed and **agreed to forward** to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature the final progress report on the update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic.”

Excerpt from the October 29, 2022, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed the progress report from the working group for the update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic” that shared information on how outreach activities for the project motivated enthusiasm and a growing level of engagement among the black community in A.A. The committee appreciated the ongoing work and looks forward to a progress report at the January 2023 meeting.

Excerpt from the July 30, 2022, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed the working group progress report that shared information about its activities, including writing workshops and interviews with the working group members on the AA Grapevine Podcast. The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report at the October 2022 meeting.

Excerpt from the January 29, 2022, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The committee **agreed to forward** a progress report to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

The committee acknowledged the working group’s innovative outreach efforts and approach to story submissions.

Excerpt from the July 1, 2021 trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The committee discussed the 2021 advisory action regarding the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic” stating that the pamphlet be updated to include fresh stories and a new title that is respectful and inclusive.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

The committee noted considerations of inclusivity such as French and Spanish language black communities, as well as the limited scope of population defined as “African- American,” such as the black community in Canada and the Caribbean.

The committee noted the importance of participation from members of A.A. from the primary target audiences in the process of updating this pamphlet. The chair requested that committee member, Vera F., establish a working group and lead the implementation of a process for the pamphlet update.

The scope of the working group on the update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African American” pamphlet is as follows:

- 1) Include a diverse group of A.A. members from the target audiences who can bring perspectives from a variety of ethnic, geographic, linguistic and age perspectives.
- 2) Solicit broad input on the current pamphlet and needed improvements, to inform the development of priorities for new stories from these diverse cultural perspectives.
- 3) Develop a method of outreach to foster significant amounts of submitted material.
- 4) Develop a process for selecting received stories.
- 5) Work toward development of a respectful and inclusive title.

The committee requested that the staff secretary support Vera’s efforts and that a working group progress report be provided at the October 2021 meeting.

2021 Conference Advisory Action, that:

The pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic” be updated to include fresh stories and a new title that is respectful and inclusive and that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

NOTE: A paragraph from the committee recommendation was moved to considerations by rule of the presiding Conference chair and is below:

2021 Conference Committee on Literature consideration

The committee expressed appreciation for the tentative plans outlined by the trustees’ Literature Committee to foster expedience with moving forward on revision of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic.” The committee noted the importance of involving members of the community from the intended primary audience of the pamphlet in the development of the pamphlet, including providing input for a title that is respectful and inclusive of members throughout the U.S. and Canada.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

Excerpt from January 30, 2021 TLC Meeting Report:

The committee reviewed a draft memo to the Conference Literature committee related to the request to update the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic." The committee **agreed to forward** the memo as part of the background of this committee which is already being forwarded for the agenda item under consideration by the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature.

Excerpt from the October 31, 2020 trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed reports related to informing discussions on the request that the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic" be updated to include fresh stories and a new title that is respectful and inclusive.

The committee reviewed the Publishing department's report related to potential updating of the pamphlet which included input addressing content relevancy as well as approaches that might be most effective for attracting numerous personal stories.

The committee also discussed a progress report from the Subcommittee on the Possible Updates to the Pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic," including that the subcommittee has also explored approaches which might be most effective for fostering significant amounts of submitted stories.

The committee noted the subcommittee's highlighting of working groups which are comprised of primary target audiences to inform discussions on updating pamphlets for those audiences. The committee agreed with the subcommittee's suggestion that for any prospective update, the consideration of an appointed consultant on the trustees' Literature Committee might be appropriate.

The committee noted that the unique procedures of the 70th General Service Conference resulted in this agenda item also being forwarded from the 70th Conference to the 71st Conference. The committee **agreed to forward** the report and background of this committee as background to the agenda item under consideration by the 71st General Service Conference.

Excerpt from the August 1, 2020 trustees' Literature Committee report:

The trustees' Literature Committee discussed the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature's recommendation that the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic" be updated to include fresh stories and a new title that is respectful and inclusive. This item did not receive enough time for a vote during the abbreviated 70th General Service Conference. The committee also discussed the placement of this item on its agenda as a result of a 70th General Service Conference Floor Action and subsequent forwarding of the item from the trustees' General Service Conference Committee to the trustees' Literature Committee. The committee discussed that the recommendation and Floor Action were both impacted

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

by agreed- upon procedures adopted for the unique, abbreviated 70th General Service Conference.

The committee agreed that while the recommendation was not voted on at the 70th General Service Conference, significant support was present for the pamphlet to be updated. The committee noted that the pamphlet in its entirety has not been updated since 2001. To inform discussions on the possible updating of this pamphlet, the chair appointed a subcommittee comprised of Nancy M., chair, Mike L. and Amalia C. to:

1. To explore what approaches might be most effective for reaching out to foster significant amounts of submitted stories for when the pamphlet update may be approved.
2. Gather shared experience to inform discussions for updating stories and making the pamphlet as relevant as possible.

The committee suggested that the subcommittee make use of working groups comprised of primary target audiences to inform discussions on possibly updating the pamphlet. The committee requested the subcommittee provide a progress report at the October 2020 meeting.

The committee also requested that the Publishing department review the pamphlet for relevant potential updating and provide a report at the October 2020 meeting.

Excerpt from June 26 memo regarding trustees' General Service Conference Committee Report

The trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference discussed the process it would follow for considering the floor actions. Most of the committee determined that the next stop for these items was the appropriate trustees committee to discuss. The following was agreed upon by the Conference to be considered:

Floor Action #4: The committee considered and **agreed to forward** to the trustees' Literature Committee the 70th General Service Conference floor action that "the pamphlet 'A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic' be updated to include fresh stories and a new title that is respectful and inclusive."

NOTE: Agreed upon practices for the handling of Floor Actions at the 70th General Service Conference resulted in the following item being placed on the August 2020 Conference Literature committee agenda (see agenda item 28):

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CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

Consider an item related to request to update the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic.”

Excerpt from 2020 Conference Literature Committee Report

Consider updating the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic.”

The committee recommended that the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic” be updated to include fresh stories and a new title that is respectful and inclusive.

NOTE: Because the full 2020 Conference did not have sufficient time for discussion and vote on the committee’s recommendation, the item was forwarded to the 71st General Service Conference. This action was based on agreed upon practices for the 70th General Service Conference.

Excerpt from November 2, 2019 TLC Meeting Report:

The committee reviewed additional background and discussed the 2019 Conference floor action which resulted in an Advisory Action:

That the proposed floor action that “The pamphlet ‘A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic’ be updated and a progress report and/or a draft be presented to the 2020 General Service Conference” be committed to the trustees’ Literature Committee.

The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature a request that the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic” be updated. The committee recognized the need for the pamphlet to be updated and looks forward to discussion at the 2020 General Service Conference.

Excerpt from July 27, 2019 TLC Meeting Report:

The committee discussed the 2019 Conference floor action which resulted in an Advisory Action:

That the proposed floor action that “The pamphlet ‘A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic’ be updated and a progress report and/or a draft

be presented to the 2020 General Service Conference” be committed to the trustees’ Literature Committee.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

The committee requested the staff secretary explore additional background information to provide for the committee to review the topic further at the November 2019 meeting.

2019 Conference Advisory Action

Note: The following FLOOR ACTION resulted in an Advisory Action:

The proposed floor action that “The pamphlet ‘A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic’ be updated and a progress report and/or a draft be presented to the 2020 General Service Conference” be committed to the trustees’ Literature Committee.”

NOTE: A motion to commit or recommit a recommendation (or floor action) is a procedural action. It does not approve or disapprove the recommendation under debate, nor does it mean that the recommendation will be implemented. The motion to recommit moves the discussion of the recommendation from the floor of the Conference to a trustee’s committee or corporate board.

Background:

1. January 2023 Progress Report
2. October 2022 Progress Report
3. Progress report working group on the update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American”
4. Compilation of background items from July 2019 to July 2021 related to the consideration to update the pamphlet, “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic” to be considered from trustees’ Literature Committee for the Conference Committee on Literature
5. Current pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic” available on G.S.O.’s A.A. website: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/aa-literature/p-51-aa-for-the-black-and-african-american-alcoholic

Back to Agenda

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January 2023 Progress Report work group for update of the pamphlet “A.A. for Black and African American Alcoholic.”

Work group met on December 6, 2022, and January 3, 2023.

Final story selection:

The working group reviewed a spreadsheet with 37 stories rated five. The group preceded to vote on final selection of stories and was unanimous on 3 stories. Eight stories received 2/3 vote. After some discussion on rounding out the final selection, the group agreed to include one of the stories that received 2 votes. The stories selected reflect a wide range of experience and demographics.

The group agreed on suggestions for title, and introduction of pamphlet to be forwarded to AAWS Publishing department along with a design draft of the pamphlet made by one member of the working group.

In gratitude and service,

Vera F.
Chair Workgroup

October 2022 Progress Report: Workgroup for update of the pamphlet: “AA for the Black & African American Alcoholic”.

Following the July 2022 trustee Literature Committing meeting, the working group met via zoom on two separate occasions: 8.2.22 and 9.13.22

- *Irene gave the working group a preview of the page on aa.org featuring upload of members stories through the page “Submit Your Story” located on the A.A. website. The site includes automatic signing of copyright. The working group agreed this will be a useful tool and looked forward to including this information in our outreach efforts to members.*
- *The PowerPoint used for writing workshops was updated to include more information on the copyright process.*
- *Writing workshops were held on August 13th in A07 and A54. On Sept 30th in A19 and Oct 1 in A29. These virtual and in person writing workshops offered opportunities for direct engagement with members. They provided not only an opportunity to gather feedback and stories from members, but they also help to inform them about the conference process/structure, which also led to discussing Concepts, particularly Concepts 1, 4, and 6.*
- *Thirty-three stories have been submitted.*

Most of the work this quarter focused on the following:

Rating tool:

- *We reviewed the initial rating tool used to establish the criteria that the working group will use in rating stories.*
- *The rating tool includes diversity of background, gender identity, culture, etc.*
- *The rating tool will help us create a “keepers” list and help capture a wide range of experiences.*

Reading submitted stories:

The working group prepared for the first read and evaluating of stories by reading and discussing 3 stories from the current pamphlet “AA for the Black & African American Alcoholic”. This exercise was helpful and produced a robust discussion on what makes a good story. Consensus was the goal of the pamphlet is reaching today’s newcomer alcoholics through a wide range of experience, strength, and hope. Noting that if a story does not have experience, strength, and hope then the story does not meet the goal of the pamphlet.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

First pass reading of 15 stories submitted members were given 15 stories to read and rate them using the rating tool. A “keepers” list was created for a second review. This process will be repeated with stories submitted between now and the Oct 31st deadline.

Goals for next quarter

- *Continue gathering stories*
- *Another round of announcements to members: Memo to Conference, Meeting guide app, Literature Chairs, Intergroups/Central Offices*
- *Review and finalize list of stories for publishing*
- *Send chosen stories to the Publishing Dept by December 2022*
- *Discuss possible titles, format, design, and introduction for consideration by Publishing Dept.*

The subcommittee expresses its gratitude to the trustees' Literature committee for this opportunity to serve.

Oct 2021 Progress Report: Workgroup for update of the pamphlet: AA for the Black & African American Alcoholic

Process:

In Aug of 2021 the Workgroup for the update of the pamphlet: AA for the Black & African American Alcoholic was formed. The workgroup consists of 7 AA members representing a variety of ethnic, geographic, linguistic and age perspectives. These members are well acquainted with the pamphlet's target audiences The workgroup met via zoom on 9.7.21 & 10.6.21.

9.7.21

- welcome, introductions, the group reviewed the scope of the workgroup
- Identified who the pamphlet is for: Black Alcoholics, Black people who are potential alcoholics or questioning if they are alcoholics. Black professionals who come in contact and/or work with black alcoholics, AA members who work with/sponsor black alcoholics.

The work group used the following set of questions for discussion and feedback:

Questions to consider regarding the pamphlet, A.A. for the Black & African American Alcoholic:

- **What general or specific types of experience or expression are missing from the pamphlet?**
- **Are there any specific issues or topics that are not adequately addressed in this pamphlet that would be helpful to include in a revised version?**
- **Does the pamphlet provide the kind of identification necessary to relate individually to Black alcoholics and to resonate within the Black community in general?**
- **Does it adequately reflect the experience of Black alcoholics/members of AA?**
- **Is the pamphlet relevant to today's AA audience?**
- **Does it adequately reflect the experience of Black alcoholics/members of A.A.?**

- **Are there any specific issues or topics that are not adequately addressed in this pamphlet that would be helpful to include in a revised version?**
- **New title? Any suggestion for a new title?**

10.6.21

Outreach for stories beyond the service structure:

The workgroup members discussed broadly the topic of outreach for stories beyond the service structure and recognize that to reach a broader segment of Black AA members nontraditional methods of communication may be necessary. The group discussed strategies for outreach to AA members beyond the service structure. Some of these include attending meetings and events in BIPOC communities, outreach to the eight national and longstanding fraternities and sororities at the alumni level and through their corporate offices, and Black churches

The workgroup agreed that the call for stories should also include local and area PI, C.P.C., Accessibilities, Archives, Treatment-Remote Communities and Corrections committees, Local A.A. Central Offices/Intergroups and Grapevine/LaVina Magazine.

Workgroup leader will contact Regional Forum Chair to see how to go about getting a couple of writing workshops for the revised pamphlet AA for Black and African American Alcoholic on the schedule of these local forums. This method was used in gathering stories from Spanish Speaking women in AA in the creation of that pamphlet. We would like to do the same thing.

Call for stories

Responses from the questionnaire helped in creating a list of the type of diverse stories and broad background that reflect the Black communities

The workgroup looked at a few examples of call for stories

The workgroup agreed on a tentative date to initiate call for stories in January 2022.

The workgroup expresses its gratitude to the trustees' Literature committee for this opportunity to serve.

Final Report

“Reaching Out to African-American Alcoholics”
October 28, 2018

Background:

On two separate occasions in two separate locations, Rich P., Northeast regional trustee and Carole B., general service trustee, were approached by A.A. members asking that the General Service Board do something to help suffering African-American alcoholics. (The most recent 2014 Membership Survey estimates that only 4% of A.A. members are black, while white membership is estimated at 89%.) Rich and Carole discussed their separate conversations and decided to conduct a conference call with a number of African-American members within the service structure, reaching out to black members currently serving as delegates, G.S.O. staff, trustees, past trustees, and including Ed and Mac, the members who approached Rich and Carole. Conference calls were held on June 12, June 24 and July 22, 2018.

Some of the findings of this group dovetail with the G.S.B. Strategic Plan. Within this report, the group suggests actions that will help reach African-American alcoholics. When these actions are in line with actions outlined in the G.S.B. Strategic Plan (“Strategic Plan”), it is so noted. The actions of the Strategic Plan that are related to this work are listed at the end of this document.

[Item P1.2 of the Strategic Plan relating to contacting Area delegates to identify underrepresented sectors of the A.A. population in their Areas was exercised relative to the African-American A.A. community by the formation of this informal work group.]

Within the Fellowship:

In some places, meetings are segregated. In others, there are very few black members in meetings. Comments from the group covered a number of perspectives:

1. “In many meetings, including service events, I’m the only black person in the room.”
2. “I got sober in an all-white group.”
3. “We focus on white professionals and don’t consider black professionals.”
4. “The G.S.B. membership reflects what the fellowship looks like.”
5. “There have only been eight black trustees in A.A.’s 80 years.”
6. “I was so happy to meet Elaine McD. when she was chair. I went home and told my home group that a black woman was chair of the General Service Board. I was so excited.”
7. “I was shocked that my area elected a black person as their delegate.”
8. “As a black area delegate, I have not been invited to districts to give my report because of my color.”

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Racism exists within the meetings of A.A. When it is brought up, people often say it is an outside issue; yet members being mistreated, called names based on their skin color, is an inside, not outside, issue.

Reaching Newcomers:

Some things were noted that could be done to reach out to African-American alcoholics, some as simple as welcoming black people at all A.A. meetings, trying to make them feel more comfortable.

Additionally, many African Americans are lifelong members of sororities and fraternities. There are eight national and longstanding black fraternities and sororities. At the alumni level, these groups, through their corporate offices, historically have involved themselves in matters of deep concern to black people. (P1.4).

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity: <http://www.apa1906.net/>
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority: <http://www.aka1908.com/>
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity: <https://kappaalphapsi.org/>
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity: <http://www.oppf.org/>
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority: <https://www.deltasigmatheta.org/>
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity: <http://phibetasigma1914.org/>
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority: <http://zphib1920.org/>
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority: <http://www.sgrho1922.org/home>

This would be a natural resource for sharing information about Alcoholics Anonymous.

Reaching Professionals (CPC) & Using Public Information (PI) Sources (Items P1.4 and 4.2 of the Strategic Plan):

Alcoholics Anonymous needs to build ongoing and consistent relationships with black pastors and social workers, working with the following organizations and others:

National Bar Association
National Associations of Black Social Workers
National Medical Association
National Hispanic Medical Association
Association of Black Psychologists

Reaching out to black media outlets, e.g., radio, TV, and print, to carry the A.A. message, would also provide greater contact and awareness of A.A. within the African-American community.

Here are examples of the top ten African-American Influenced Radio and TV Stations:

<https://www.cision.com/us/2012/06/top-10-african-american-influenced-radio-stations/>
<https://www.steveharveyfm.com/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Joyner_Morning_Show

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<https://www.bet.com/>
<http://www.oprah.com/app/own-tv.html>.

Getting involvement from Class A trustees, especially but not exclusively the African-American and other minority members of same (both past and present) is vital in the CPC/PI context.

Conventions:

The Hispanic membership and YPAA conventions are enthusiastic. Some thought has been given to having a convention for African-American A.A. members. On a broader scale, however, efforts should be made at all A.A. events to include black A.A. members and nonalcoholic friends of A.A. as speakers/panelists.

A.A. Literature:

As part of the current initiative to ensure that A.A.W.S. Conference-approved literature is accessible to all (i.e., those with visual, auditory and learning challenges), G.S.O. staff is looking at how our literature could be more inclusive. For example, the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic" has not been revised since it was originally published in 2001. Additionally, a number of CPC, PI, and other pamphlets could be updated to be more inclusive.

It was also discussed that the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, is in part disconcerting to many black people. (Some use the Akron Central Office pamphlet "A Guide to the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous" rather than the Big Book.)

Regional/Special Forums:

Much discussion has been had about Special Forums and it is not clear that this is the best option for expanding the discussion of diversity and inclusivity. The G.S.O. staff suggested it might be better to have ongoing inclusivity workshops at Regional Forums. (Item P1.6 of the Strategic Plan)

Spotlighting the Topic of Diversity and Inclusivity within the Fellowship:

Use *Box 4-5-9* and *AA Grapevine* to include ongoing columns on diversity and inclusivity, specifically stating that this is not an outside issue and affects us reaching the still-suffering alcoholic. Racism, gender identification, sexism, religion and related barriers are outside issues except as they relate to Twelfth Step work.

AA Grapevine has run stories from African-American members, some of which do speak of issues of fitting in or inclusion. In the last few years, *Grapevine* has run at least two special issues dealing specifically with diversity which included African-American members. The editors are very conscious that African-American members

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be pictured as often as possible in photos and illustrations. (Item P1.7 of the Strategic Plan)

Another action step would be to ask for presentations or workshops at the General Service Conference to discuss the topic of inclusivity.

Additionally, text could be added within the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” to discuss how groups could be more inclusive (i.e., add to suggested questions under group inventory).

From G.S.B. Strategic Plan

Goal 1: The A.A. Fellowship will become more inclusive and accepting, and thereby A.A. will experience an increase in membership as more people are introduced to recovery.

- P1.1: The G.S.B. will bring an inclusivity focus to all aspects of our services. The G.S.B. will suggest each service committee and the two affiliate boards will first undertake an inventory of its materials and services with an eye toward inclusion and acceptance.
- P1.2: The G.S.B. will contact Area delegates to identify underrepresented sectors of the A.A. population in their Areas.
- P1.3: The G.S.B. will suggest to A.A.W.S. that it make electronic versions of select foreign-language pamphlets available on aa.org and allow them to be made available on Area websites (or linked from).
- P1.4: The G.S.B. will pursue relationships with professionals who work with ethnic/cultural groups that are underrepresented in A.A. as a proportion of population and will encourage the Fellowship to do likewise.
- P1.5: The G.S.B. will suggest to the General Service Conference that they utilize Conference time to focus on how the fellowship can engage in sustained outreach with diverse populations as part of doing service.

Goal 4: Identify new places and audiences to bring the A.A. message of hope:

- P4.2: The G.S.B. will request management and staff to analyze staffing and responsibilities, and suggest to G.S.B. a list of potential events that a trustee or nontrustee director might attend. This should include identifying and contacting leadership of professional organizations.

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9.13.19 Memo with member letter from G.S.O. Executive Editor regarding the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic"

I wanted to pass along the attached commentary regarding the pamphlet "AA for the Black/African American Alcoholic." It was provided by one of the freelance copyeditors (an A.A. member and an African American) who worked on the editorial review and reprinting of this pamphlet a year or so ago when we redesigned the cover.

It would seem to be pertinent background material as the trustees' Literature Committee grapples with the question (per Conference request) of whether or not to revise and update this pamphlet.

If you need contact details or any other information, please let me know.

Many thanks,
Ames

February 27, 2018 Letter from member to G.S.O. Executive Editor regarding the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic"

Hey Ames,

I have two concerns:

1) Style for African Americans many publications hyphenate this when it's an adjective, and they leave it open when it's a noun.

African=American, adj.
African American, noun

2) And here, I hope I'm not overstepping. When it comes to racism, AA is better than most American institutions. But it is part of the system and does reflect society at large.

For instance, look at AA governance: NTIG, no people of color. And I don't know the minutes at GSO, but I don't recall seeing many on my Friday tour.

And sometimes Black folks do face discrimination in white meetings: They are ignored, made to feel unwelcomed, or sometimes a speaker will make snide remarks about race (this actually happened to me on the East side).

Black folks don't allow racism and discrimination to run us away, but we have to deal with these issues in the Fellowship.

My two cents' worth –
Jamie

Distribution Numbers P-51 AA for the Black/African- American Alcoholic	
2005	
2006	27,140
2007	27,238
2008	28,801
2009	24,319
2010	23,421
2011	19,000
2012	26,580
2013	23,987
2014	21,677
2015	19,359
2016	16,869
2017	18,800
2018	18,612
2019 - July	10,012
Total Distribution 2005 - 2019	305,815

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

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November 2, 2019 email from CPC assignment regarding request to update the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic"

This year, I visited several C.P.C. exhibits: American Society of Addictions Medicine, Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, American Society of Addiction Medicine, and The American Corrections Association. I also attended The Bridging the Gap Weekend Workshop in Sacramento, CA. I took the opportunity to ask people their thoughts on if updating this pamphlet would be helpful. The answer was yes:

- Professionals familiar with the pamphlet felt it was long overdue, and asked for strong examples of successfully staying sober in A.A. One professional said that anything we can do to give hope. A.A. does come to a facility, but most of them are white but most of the people in my facility are not.
- An A.A. member, also an African-American, who volunteered at a C.P.C. exhibit said that we are not pushed out, but not welcomed in either, and new stories sharing how to get through all that would be great. I retired here and know what I have to do to stay sober, but what about the new guy or gal?
- One C.P.C. chair shared that new stories would be a great opportunity for participation. She told me that she **wanted** to ask African-Americans in her district, (following the Box 459 article) but could not find anyone in the area to talk to. Instead she had to go to N.A. meetings in her district, and there were many African-American and Hispanic people. She learned that most African-Americans felt they were Alcoholics, but were going mostly to N.A. because people were friendlier and helpful.

In my experience on the C.P.C./TF assignment, I believe that the heart of A.A. is in our handshake. I share this pamphlet with the professional community. This one is woefully out of date, and could send a mixed message to professionals from underserved communities.

Diana L.

Diana L., Coordinator

Cooperation with the Professional Communities

212-870-3107 cpc@aa.org

<https://www.aa.org/>

https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/information-for-professionals

Part I:

Trustees' Literature Committee History and Actions: "A.A. for the Black and African Alcoholic" Pamphlet

January 29, 2000 Trustees' Committee on Literature:

Pamphlet for the Black/African American Alcoholics

Jim C., chair of the subcommittee, reported that the subcommittee received 34 stories for the proposed pamphlet and was pleased with the wide variety of experience reflected in term of gender, age, location and background. The subcommittee agreed to forward 15 stories to the Publications Department for editing. The subcommittee will probably receive the edited stories in May for review. The trustees' Literature Committee anticipates seeing a rough draft of the pamphlet at the July meeting. A progress report will be prepared for the Conference Literature Committee for their consideration in April.

July 29, 2000 Trustees' Committee on Literature:

Pamphlet for the Black/African American Alcoholics

Jim C. reported that the subcommittee working on a pamphlet for Black/African American alcoholics met by conference call on Tuesday, July 11 to discuss the 14 edited stories they had received for review. They discussed the stories in a general way and agreed that the stories are in need of additional editing. Some specific suggestions were passed on to the Publications Department. The subcommittee looks forward to receiving reworked stories in September which will allow time to study the stories and discuss them through another conference call prior to the October meeting of the trustees' Literature Committee.

October 28, 2000 Trustees' Literature Committee:

Pamphlet for Black/African American Alcoholics

David S., subcommittee chair, reported that the subcommittee working on a pamphlet for Black/African American alcoholics met by conference call on Monday, October 23, 2000 to discuss reworked stories. There was agreement that the stories are vastly improved. The subcommittee will forward suggestions for some additional and minor copy editing and for cutting some proposed stories to the Publications Department. The Publications Department will present a manuscript including the final stories and introductory text which will reflect the content of the final selected stories for discussion at the subcommittee's next conference call.

The committee chairperson will send a letter to Tony H. thanking him for his incredible contribution to the reworking of these stories.

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January 27, 2001 Trustees' Literature Committee:

Pamphlet for Black/African American Alcoholics

David S., subcommittee chair, reported on committee activities to date and the time sequence involved in presenting a draft manuscript to the trustees' Literature Committee.

The committee agreed to forward the draft pamphlet for the Black/African American Alcoholic as presented with one revision, deletion of the section titled "You're Needed Here" in the proposed introduction.

This draft manuscript will be forwarded to the 2001 Conference Literature Committee on a "for-their-eyes-only" basis adhering to the principle of the "right of decision," and not brought forward for any other general distribution until publication.

Three letters expressing opposition to this pamphlet received before January 15, 2001 will be forwarded to the Conference Literature Committee.

January 27, 2007 Trustees' Literature Committee:

"Can A.A. Help Me Too? Black/African Americans Share Their Stories"

The committee discussed and agreed to forward a suggestion that the title of the pamphlet "Can A.A. Help Me Too?" subtitled 'Black/African Americans Share Their Stories' be changed to "A.A. and the Black/African American Alcoholic" to the 2007 Conference Committee on Literature for consideration.

July 28, 2007 Trustees' Literature Committee:

2007 Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations: The committee reviewed the 2007 Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations from the Conference Committee on Literature. Publications director, Chris C., reported the following:

- The pamphlet title "Can A.A. Help Me Too?" has been changed to "A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic," and is available.

Part II

Conference Literature Committee Advisory Actions and Committee Considerations: “A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic” Pamphlet

1999

It was recommended:

A draft copy of a pamphlet directed to the Black/African American alcoholic be developed and brought back to the 2000 Conference Literature Committee for review.

2000

Additional committee consideration:

The committee reviewed the trustees' Literature Committee's progress report on the development of a pamphlet for Black/African American alcoholics, expressed appreciation for the wide net cast to obtain stories and looks forward to reviewing a draft of the proposed pamphlet at 2001 General Service Conference.

2001

It was recommended:

The pamphlet “Can A.A. Help Me Too?- Black/African Americans Share Their Stories” be approved.

Additional committee consideration:

In order to give the General Service Office Publications Department adequate time to collect releases from the authors of the stories in the pamphlets “Can A.A. Help Me Too?- Black/African Americans Share Their Stories” and “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic- Never Too Late,” the committee agreed that these pamphlets remain confidential until publication.

2007

It was recommended that:

The title of the pamphlet “Can A.A. Help Me Too?” subtitled “Black/African Americans Share Their Stories” be changed to “A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic.”

G.S.O. Archives/2019

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1.30.21 Memo with attached background from the trustees' Literature Committee to the 2021 Conference Literature Committee

MEMO

January 30, 2021

From: The trustees' Literature Committee (TLC)

To: The 2021 Conference Literature Committee (CLC)

RE: Consider update to the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic"

This correspondence is to provide additional context to the background submitted for the 71st General Service Conference related to the consideration of whether or not to update the pamphlet, "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic."

The trustees Literature Committee in 2020-21 agreed that while the update was not voted on during the 70th General Service Conference, significant support was present for the pamphlet to be updated. The unique procedures for the 70th Conference, developed to contend with the global pandemic, resulted in a lack of time for a vote.

Support was reflected, in large part, by the 2020 Conference Literature Committee's recommendation to update the pamphlet to include fresh stories and a new title that is respectful and inclusive. Conference support was also demonstrated in the floor action to update the pamphlet not being declined, which resulted in the proposed agenda item returning to the TLC.

Following the Conference, the TLC agreed to continue exploring the need and approaches for a possible update of the pamphlet. These efforts were undertaken without any presumed outcome of the 71st General Service Conference. Also, the TLC moved forward with full understanding and acknowledgement that the decision of whether or not to update the pamphlet lies within the purview of the Conference.

To support the informed group conscience discussions for the 71st General Service Conference, the TLC is forwarding background from its efforts during the past year. This background includes reports with input gathered to address content relevancy of the pamphlet, as well as approaches that might be most effective for attracting numerous personal stories in the event that there is a Conference Advisory Action for an update.

Thank you for your consideration and service!

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10.31.20 Progress report from the 2020-21 Subcommittee regarding the possible update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic”

Excerpt from the subcommittee’s September 10, 2020 meeting report

The subcommittee discussed its scope and the general context of the agenda item under consideration.

The subcommittee discussed practices and possibilities for approaches to attract more voluminous sharing of experience, strength and hope. The subcommittee reviewed the development process for the pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women in A.A.

Once stories were submitted, sixty in total, Amalia C. envisioned Spanish-speaking women from each region in the U.S. and Canada to serve on a working group to review and suggest stories for selection to include in the pamphlet.

Amalia reached out for participation, including by attending an A.A. Conference for Spanish-speaking women, in order to attract eight women to serve the working group. Ultimately, four women helped with reading and suggesting stories for selection. Amalia developed a rating grid with relevant categories which was reviewed used a rating grid with review categories which was developed by Amalia and agreed upon for use by the working group.

The working group compared ratings and discussed in a group conscience which stories to forward as suggestions to the trustees’ Literature Committee. Some of the stories were fully agreed upon to forward, while others were partially agreed upon and forwarded so more stories than likely will be in the pamphlet at publication are being forwarded. Amalia noted that art work was also submitted and forwarded but not noted for inclusion.

The subcommittee discussed the consideration for A.A. members from the pamphlet’s target audience to be involved in each part of the update process.

The subcommittee discussed next steps including the need to identify a process in terms of how we would get a request out for shared experience in more effective ways for the audience intended to be reached, as well as eventual formats in which the content might be published. The subcommittee discussed possible avenues and platforms that might be specific to members in the African American community for attracting their sharing of stories. The subcommittee agreed to continue discussions at the next meeting.

The subcommittee chair requested the staff secretary forward the A.C.M. nominating procedure to her and the subcommittee agreed to consider the nominating procedure for appointing and A.C.M.

Subsequent conversations were held with David N., Chair of the Literature Trustee Committee and Michele G., General Service Board Chair, and it was suggested that the subcommittee review the Nominating Committee procedure on Consultants. The subcommittee chair requested the staff secretary forward the procedure as background for the subcommittee’s next meeting.

Excerpt from the subcommittee’s September 30, 2020 meeting report

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The subcommittee discussed nominating procedures for selecting consultants. The subcommittee agreed that a consultant for the possible updating of the pamphlet would be helpful for:

- Researching and identifying processes and platforms for requesting shared experience to attract more voluminous sharing of experience, strength and hope from within the identified population for the pamphlet.
- Developing ideas to obtain relevant content that may include written stories as well as additional tools for effectively carrying the A.A. message
- Identifying a diverse working group (by age, gender, geography, etc.) to review content which eventually will be gathered as shared experience.

The committee noted that any possible selection of a consultant would be pending the decision by the 2021 General Service Conference of whether or not to update the pamphlet.

The subcommittee discussed next steps and agreed to present a progress report to the trustees' Committee on Literature for discussion and suggestions for the process going forward.

10.31.20 Pamphlet review report from the Publishing Department regarding the possible update of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic"

"A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic"

Editorial Review and Commentary

Submitted by Ames S. GSO Executive Editor

October 2020

This pamphlet, now under consideration for revision, has been a part of A.A.'s collection of literature focused on special populations since 2001. It was first introduced to the Fellowship under the title, "Can A.A. Help Me Too? -- Black/African Americans Share Their Stories" in 2001 and was retitled in 2007 to the current version. It follows a practice of special-interest pamphlet production, covering different segments of the A.A. population such as women, young people, Native North Americans, LGBTQ, those with mental health issues, older alcoholics, agnostics and atheists, those with accessibility issues, inmates and members of the armed services.

In order to effectively update this pamphlet, a review of its current status and relevance to the community it is intended to serve was informally undertaken, with responses offered by a number of A.A. members, among them GSO staff and administration and a freelance editor working for the Publishing department. All of the respondents are people of color.

In summary, the principal points that should guide the revision:

- The pamphlet needs new stories, reflective of the broad diversity of experience within the black community -- preferably shorter and in greater number;
- The stories need to speak to today's Fellowship in language that is forthright and accessible to "modern day" readers;
- The stories should not shy away from the difficulties often faced by black A.A. members in attending A.A. meetings, service events and other aspects of the Fellowship.

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Below are responses from three readers, and attached are a Grapevine story that is referenced in one of the responses and an historical look at "Carrying the Message in the Black Community" (a GSB General Sharing Session presentation from 1986).

Some other comments provided by readers:

The pamphlet needs to underscore these main ideas:

1. Alcoholic Black people have the same emotions as alcoholic white people. Alcoholic Black people have the same disease of alcoholism as do alcoholic white people.
2. A.A. members can carry the message and work with Black people who are new to A.A. Instead of letting a pamphlet stand on a rack, or maybe just a handshake, the majority of the A.A. fellowship needs to give a hand that remains extended out, one day at a time.
3. The Fellowship needs to demonstrate that we get there is a problem and need to do more.
4. The stories need to impart personal experiences getting sober and staying sober even when white people were not welcoming or ignored them. If white people were welcoming and inclusive, how did they deal with that? Did they go to meetings where everyone looked like them or were they the only one? or few?
5. There is a reluctance of some Black /People of Color A.A. members to affiliate in the service structure. The uneven Triangle - Although we have Traditions and long-term sobriety, we do not approach all newcomers from different skin tones, cultures and backgrounds to make sure they are involved in all aspects of the Fellowship.

As progress develops on the revision of this pamphlet, we need to make sure to reach out broadly within the Black A.A. community for additional input and shared experience. As noted in the comments, it has been a long time since this pamphlet was updated and much has changed, both within the A.A. community in general and the Black community in particular. We need to reflect those changes and offer Black alcoholics a meaningful and enduring pathway to recovery.

Submitted by B.B.

A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic

- Is the pamphlet relevant to today's audience?

The stories are real and may reflect the disease of alcoholism. I am not sure if these stories would resonate with today's audience.

- Does the pamphlet provide the kind of identification necessary to relate individually to Black alcoholics and to resonate within the black community in general?

The pamphlet does provide identification to me. Being an African-American woman mid-sixties from Southwest Tennessee. The era I was raised in was the sixties/seventies. My story is very similar to most stories in the pamphlet. The younger generation may not relate

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to those (dated) stories. The younger generation's experiences internally might be the same. The experience itself (identification) may differ.

- Does it adequately reflect the experience of Black alcoholics/members of A.A.?

The pamphlet does not reflect a wide range or broader diversity of Black/African- Americans in A.A. Such as, Professionals, Ministers, Inmates, Sexual orientation, ethnic -- a wider range of the culture who found sobriety.

- Are there any specific issues or topics that are not adequately addressed in this pamphlet that would be helpful to include in a revised version?

The stories always end similarly. Many come being dually addicted. Some found A.A. through Detox, Treatment. Correctional, jails. Some were offered other fellowships.

- Any suggestion for a new title?

People Like Me (from the Grapevine Issue August 2019)
Experience, Strength and Hope: People of Color

Submitted by C.C.

African American Alcoholic

- Is the pamphlet relevant to today's AA audience?

Although the themes of the stories are real and many of the stories might be reflective of alcoholics who are older, I do not know if these stories would resonate with today's AA audience.

- Does the pamphlet provide the kind of identification necessary to relate individually to Black alcoholics and to resonate within the Black community in general?

This pamphlet provides identification to me. I'm a 68 year old, Midwestern (southern), heterosexual, product of the sixties who attended both segregated and integrated institutions. I found exact pieces of my story in almost every one of the stories in the pamphlet. I question whether younger alcoholics would have the same external experience although the core experience might be the same.

- Does it adequately reflect the experience of Black alcoholics/members of AA?

A number of the stories appear similar. The pamphlet doesn't have stories about blacks who have a non-conforming sexual orientation, racial view, profession, age, ethnic, geographic or cultural background. Also blacks who got sober in prison, black upper middle class drunks, blacks who were going to church, mosque, etc. In general, a wider diversity of background.

- Are there any specific issues or topics that are not adequately addressed in this particular pamphlet that would be helpful to include in a revised version?

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Experiences of black alcoholics always end well in the pamphlet.. Many black alcoholics are not welcomed in AA and are rerouted to Narcotics Anonymous, especially in the prison system.

- Any suggestions for a new title? *Working on some suggestions.*

Submitted by J.B.

Is the pamphlet relevant to today's AA audience?

I hadn't thought of this before, but "relevant to today's AA audience" is a notion that should be applied to all AA literature. And this pamphlet probably is not relevant to anybody under 60. We Baby Boomers all had similar experiences: boys singing on the street corners, girls giggling and anxious about going to parties, parents having weekend parties that allowed us to cadge drinks the next morning—and in some cases, even while the party was going on. I'm not sure that my 40- and 50-year-old friends had similar experiences growing up. My 44-year-old son grew up with the drunk parents, but his social life was waaay different from his older sister's and from his parents. Those electronic games, their music—almost a different culture.

Since the early 2000s, this world *really* has changed. And I think technology has changed us: We no longer live the way we used to. This pamphlet doesn't speak to how computers and technology have increased our isolation. I don't know if it's appropriate to bring this up, but to me there's one important, sad, and destructive aspect of technology that's seldom spoken of openly: I'm pretty sure drinking/drug use, computers, and pornography comprise the "social" lives of many, many people. I have two male friends whose lives have been emptied of nearly anything else. One of them surely has issues with alcohol (I know because I used to drink with him), but any mention of AA ends the conversation. I'm willing to bet that this particular illness (?) with technology applies to men of all races—I just wonder if it's affecting Black guys more. Usually everything does. As I said, this probably isn't the place for me to have brought this up. But it's true.

So. How can the harmful side of technology and its influence on us be conveyed in our literature? I have no idea, especially because things are changing so fast. I just know that I (at 73) identified with several of the pamphlet's current stories. My early drinking years had similar features to theirs. But I wonder whether my younger friends in AA would be interested in them. [Hope you're getting responses from some younger Black people.]

Does the pamphlet provide the kind of identification necessary to relate individually to Black alcoholics and to resonate within the Black community in general?

Does it adequately reflect the experience of Black alcoholics/members of AA?

I think the personalities and backgrounds were varied and did cover many of the ways we live the "Black experience."

What did not resonate for me was their collective AA experience. I can only speak for myself, but I have attended all-White meetings where I encountered a general lack of interest. And then there were times at a couple of (East Side) meetings that I have felt a coldness and a stand-offish attitude, not-quite-open hostility. I have been stared (glared) at and treated as an outsider. But that does *not* happen often. The White folks I have met over the years nearly always have been welcoming and have tried to make sure that I felt comfortable. They seemed genuinely

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interested in me. (It's just that after five years in the program, I had the urge to be around people who look like me. My sponsor [who is White] sent me to St. Nicholas.)

I think, however, that if the pamphlet is supposed to represent our real experiences, the issue of discrimination and non-acceptance has to be addressed.

I know I'm not the only person who has had not-so-wonderful AA encounters. Seems disingenuous not to acknowledge that they exist. And at some point, somewhere (probably not here though), we have to address the scarcity of African Americans in General Service. We Black AAs cannot place all the blame on our fellow White AAs. We need to be doing a lot more as well.

What general or specific types of experience or expression are missing from the pamphlet? Are there any specific issues or topics that are not adequately addressed in this particular pamphlet that would be helpful to include in a revised version?

Would it be a good idea to include the experiences of gay Black men and women? I've never thought to ask my gay friends whether they were ever made to feel "less than" after they joined the fellowship. Which is weird, because I just lost a very dear friend, a gay man—we often talked about racism but I don't recall discussions about racism within AA. And he never said anything about discrimination because of his sexuality. Wish I had thought of it....

New title?

No ideas. If I get one, I'll send it to you. Quick.

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2023 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM F: Review progress report regarding update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.”

Background Notes:

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

The committee reviewed and **agreed to forward** to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report on the update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.”

Excerpt from the October 29, 2022, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The committee received a report on the update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American” that shared the creation of the working group and their first meeting, noting that the members of the group represent a wide diversity from the indigenous communities of US and Canada, and that their outreach efforts would include members of the community in Hawaii, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Canada, among others. The committee appreciated the ongoing work and looks forward to a progress report at the January 2023 meeting.

2022 Conference Committee on Literature Considerations:

The committee reviewed a progress report on the update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.” The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.

Excerpt from the July 30, 2022, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The committee received a verbal update regarding the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American” and the progress to date. The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report at the October 2022 meeting.

An appointed committee member (ACM) has been selected and the candidate’s name has been forwarded to the trustees’ Nominating Committee for review and submission to the full General Service Board.

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Excerpt from the January 29, 2022, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed the progress report regarding the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American" and requested that an appointed committee member (ACM) be named to move forward the pamphlet revision process including the call for stories.

The committee also requested that the topic be placed as a standing item on future committee agendas. The committee acknowledged that the Hawaiian indigenous community is part of the Native North American population, and that the pamphlet revision could include stories focusing on a broad representation of indigenous people.

Excerpt from the July 1, 2021, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee discussed the 2021 advisory action regarding the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American Alcoholic."

The committee noted the importance of participation from members of A.A. from the primary target audience in the process for updating this pamphlet.

To support a potential committee consultant and working group, the committee requested that the Publishing department gather background material including distribution rates of the pamphlet as well as written reviews for suggested improvements to the existing pamphlet from members of the primary target audience. The committee requested that Carolyn W., Irma V. and Marita R. be asked to share connections with A.A. members from indigenous communities and nations throughout the U.S./Canada service structure.

The committee requested that the Publishing department provide a progress report and that the secretary include background material for review during the October 2021 meeting.

2021 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.

Note: This Advisory Action stemmed from a Floor Action.

2021 Conference Committee on Literature consideration:

The committee considered the request to update the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American." The committee noted its extensive agenda load resulting in part from the pandemic-affected 2020 General Service Conference. Rather than rush

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through agenda items, the committee agreed to request that discussion on this item continue with the trustees' Literature Committee and that consideration be made to forward the item to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

Excerpt from the January 30, 2021 trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee considered updating the pamphlet, "A.A. for the Native North American," and noted the need for an overall update including ensuring that the language is respectful and more effective at carrying A.A.'s message. It was recognized that research will likely be necessary for a comprehensive revision.

The committee **agreed to forward** the item to the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature.

Background:

1. January 2023 Progress Report
2. October 2022_NAP Progress Report
3. 2021 Publishing Department Progress Report
4. 12.2.20 Email from Area 79 Delegate related to motion passed to request update of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American."
5. Area 79 Request to consider updating the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American."

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**Progress report working group regarding update of the pamphlet
“A.A. for the Native North American.”**

The Trustees' Literature Committee Appointed Committee Member (ACM) Gerry R. selected the members of the working group comprised of Indigenous A.A. members that represent nine different tribal nations from Canada and the U.S., including Hawaii.

The working group agreed to the scope of the working group on the development of a pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American” as follows:

- 1) Include a diverse group of A.A. members from the target audiences who can bring perspectives from a variety of ethnic, geographic, linguistic and age perspectives.
- 2) Solicit broad input on the current pamphlet and needed improvements to inform the development of priorities for new stories from these diverse cultural perspectives.
- 3) Develop a method of outreach to foster significant amounts of submitted material.
- 4) Develop a process for vetting received stories.
- 5) Work toward development of a respectful and inclusive title.

The Committee has begun utilizing various methods of outreach for solicitation of new stories, including a Fellowship-wide call for submissions. The working group is looking for stories which reach out to the Indigenous newcomer and invites them to identify as alcoholic while emphasizing a wide range of experience, strength, and hope.”

###

**Native American Pamphlet Committee
Quarterly Report
Gerry R - Chair
October 29, 2022**

The Native American Pamphlet (NAP) Committee's first meeting is scheduled to be held via Zoom during the first week in October. A verbal update of the results that meeting will be provided at the meeting of the Trustee's Literature Committee (TLC) during the October Board Weekend.

Given that this is the first quarterly report of the (NAP) Committee, I feel it would be appropriate to utilize a Composition, Scope, and Procedure format to establish a clear understanding of our operational guidelines and a reference point for future reports.

Composition

The following Advisory Action was approved by the 71st General Service Conference:

"The pamphlet 'A.A. for the Native 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 progress report or a draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature."

A search was conducted to find an appointed committee member (ACM) by the TLC this Spring. After conducting interviews of candidates, the TLC met and approved the forwarding of Gerry R. to the Trustees' Nominating Committee, which then forwarded his name to the full General Service Board for approval at the July 2022 quarterly meeting.

The TLC then requested that Gerry R. form a working group made up of members of our target audience with a note that the indigenous communities of Hawaii asked to be included in this pamphlet.

The TLC also requested that Gerry R. establish and lead the implementation of the process for the pamphlet update. This process will note that the indigenous community of Hawaii asked to be included in the pamphlet.

On September 14, 2022 Gerry R. forwarded the following list of committee members, with their tribal affiliations and sobriety dates, to Irene D. secretary of the TLC.

Gerry R – Northern Cheyenne, MT. 12-17-1990

Julie M – First Nation, Tahltan. 9-28-1992

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Myron E – Navajo. 2-20-1992
Kunane D – Native Hawaiian/Chinese. 2-6-2000
Caron Y – Comanche. 6-29-1997
Daniel S – Rosebud Sioux. 11-16-2015
Tana C – San Felipe Pueblo. 12-16-2016
Lousie LV – Cree and Ojibway. 6-07-1975
Angel G - Umonhon (Omaha) Nation. 1-27-2014

Scope

The Scope of the working group as determined by the TLC is as follows:

- 1) Include a diverse group of A.A. members from the target audiences who can bring perspectives from a variety of ethnic, geographic, linguistic and age perspectives.
- 2) Solicit broad input on the current pamphlet and needed improvements to inform the development of priorities for new stories from these diverse cultural perspectives.
- 3) Develop a method of outreach to foster significant amounts of submitted material.
- 4) Develop a process for vetting received stories.
- 5) Work toward development of a respectful and inclusive title.

Procedure

During the NAP committee's first meeting, we intend to take some time to get acquainted with each other before beginning a review of the history of the A.A. for the Native North American Pamphlet. We will also review the more recent GSC and GSB actions that brought this working group into being.

An initial review of the pamphlet will be conducted allowing for general thoughts and observations pertaining to both the current pamphlet and possible improvements to it.

A publication timeline will be reviewed, including the necessity for establishing a timely deadline for a call for stories from the Native American members of our Fellowship.

Finally, the group will establish a regular, monthly meeting time, utilizing the Zoom video conferencing platform to conduct its business.

Conclusion

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On a personal note, I would like to express my gratitude to the Trustee's Literature Committee, and the General Service Board, for this opportunity to be of service to the two most important communities in my life, A.A. and Native Americans. I feel I must note that, I had decided during the application process that, if I were selected as the ACM, my first and most important objective would be to make a request to ensure that mine was not the only Native voice heard from in the course of this revision. I had resolved to quickly express this concern, but was surprised and grateful when Marita R, chair of the TLC informed me that my first duty as ACM was to develop a committee of Native Americans to ensure the successful completion of an A.A. pamphlet for Native Americans, by Native Americans. What a great way to begin! Nea'eseo! (Thank you all!)

MEMORANDUM

To: Literature Desk
From: Publishing Department
Re: Progress Report for Trustees' Literature Committee Date: October 8, 2021

Agenda Item I:

Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.”

Progress Report:

As noted in the minutes of the August 2021 meeting of the trustees literature Committee: "To support a potential committee consultant and working group, the committee requested that the Publishing department gather background material including distribution rates of the pamphlet as well as written reviews for suggested improvements to the existing pamphlet from members of the primary target audience."

Below are some distribution figures and a brief history of the pamphlet. The Publishing department, however, has no written reviews in our files, nor any mechanism for developing such reviews of the current pamphlet from members of the primary target audience. This is perhaps something that could be developed by the working group looking into sharing connections with A.A. members from indigenous communities and nations throughout the U.S./Canada service structure.

In terms of the distribution rates, based on figures from Final Conference Reports over the 10 years since the latest revision, the numbers have been trending down in English after a slight bump up between 2009-2010 following the revision, with multiple fluctuations in French and Spanish.

	English	French	Spanish
2019	11,199	111	150
2018	13,413	279	16
2017	14,120	86	-
2016	13,763	502	-
2015	14,703	108	-
2014	16,330	103	-
2013	17,995	599	-
2012	16,587	408	-
2011	13,912	311	-
2010	18,126	670	-
2009	14,605	259	-

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As noted in Conference reports and other resources, the following actions were recommended relative to the development of this pamphlet:

1985: The general manager designate a staff person to coordinate and pull together (at the General Service Office), all available information about spreading the A.A. message to the native North American population, including but not limited to (1) translation of their languages and dialects, (2) experiences of various A.A. groups in their contact with these populations and to explore with a view toward consolidating and expanding A.A.'s experience in these areas; to report back to the 1986 General Service Conference through whatever committee the general manager feels is appropriate. (Floor Action)

1987: A pamphlet for the Native North American be prepared by the trustees' Literature Committee and brought back to the 1988 General Service Conference.

1988: The manuscript for the Native North American not be approved as presented, but that this manuscript be returned for editing to include consideration of the references to drug addiction, chemical dependency, "junkie" and "clean" and then upon completion of editing be approved for publication.

2006: The pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American" be revised.

2009: The revised draft pamphlet, "A.A. for the Native North American," be approved.

2018: New cover design developed and translated into Spanish for the first time.

2021: 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.

Executive Editor

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12.2.20 Email from Area 79 Delegate related to motion passed to request update of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American."

From: Gail P.
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 5:22 PM
To: Conference <conference@aa.org>
Subject: Motion from Area 79

Hi Patrick – I completely forgot to send you this motion that was passed at our recent Voting/Election Assembly in Area 79. I hope and pray that it is not too late and do let me know if you require anything else.

With love in service,
Gail
Gail P
BC Yukon Area 79
Delegate, Panel 69



BC Yukon Area 79
www.bc.yuko.naa.org General
Service Committee

PO Box 421 1 4 • Vancouver, BC V5S 4R5 • Tel (604) 435-2181

FLOOR ACTION #2

Motion:

That the Conference Literature Committee consider updating the pamphlet P-21, (A.A. for the Native North American) to reflect more current language, current stories, and populations.

History or Current Practices:

In recent years the term Native American has been widely used but is falling out of favor with some groups and the term Indigenous People is now preferred.

Terms such as First Nations are commonly used but are not fully inclusive of Indigenous groups such as Metis or Inuit. Currently the stories in this pamphlet are not dated. This pamphlet was first published in 1989 and reviewed by the Conference Literature Committee in 2009.

Publication distribution has been on a steady decline and is currently one of the least distributed AAWS pamphlets. There are estimated 5.2 million Indigenous people in the United States. There are estimated 2.13 million Indigenous people in Canada. The current pamphlet states we have approx. 4 million Native people in both the United States and Canada, when in fact there are over 7 million Indigenous people in North America.

If passed:

Updating the pamphlet with the term Indigenous People instead of Native North American would be more reflective of all Indigenous communities.

We as members of Alcoholics Anonymous may reach more Indigenous people that are fighting the disease of Alcoholism. Indigenous people may identify with a timeline attached to stories that are reflective of the year they were written. The addition of new stories may help the new member relate. The current numbers of Indigenous people in Canada and the United States would be more accurate.

If not passed:

We will continue to use the incorrect verbiage Native North American instead of Indigenous people. As a result, we as members of Alcoholics Anonymous may not be reaching many of the Indigenous people/communities that are fighting the disease of Alcoholism. Indigenous people will continue to be underrepresented in Alcoholics Anonymous.

For further consideration:

That the forward be reviewed, and the verbiage be modernized to reflect current times.

Motion submitted by: Panel 69 Literature Committee, October 2020

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2023 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM G: Review progress report regarding development of a Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos* - Spanish.

Background Notes:

Excerpt from the January 28, 2023, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed and **agreed to forward** to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report regarding the Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos*-Spanish.

The committee noted that the Appointed Committee Member (ACM) and chair of the working group for the development of the Fourth Edition of the *Alcohólicos Anónimos*-Spanish book to date, will rotate in April 2023 and a request for a new ACM has been forwarded to the trustees' Nominating Committee.

Excerpt from the October 29, 2022, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed a progress report regarding development of a Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, sharing updates on recent writing workshops at the A.A. Hispanic National Convention of US/Canada, Hispanic Women in A.A. Forum in San Diego, California, and the Pacific Regional Forum. The committee expressed their gratitude for the ongoing work and looks forward to a progress report at the January 2023 meeting.

Excerpt from the July 30, 2022, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed a progress report regarding development of a Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, including outreach efforts to encourage participation from the intended audience. The committee noted that funding to support outreach efforts has been added to the budget.

The committee also noted that the working group has begun the review of the translation updates made by Publishing department's professional translator of the first 168 pages of the Third Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos* to be included in the Fourth Edition, allowing an accurate and culturally appropriate translation of the A.A. message.

The committee also discussed GSO office processes in place to receive personal stories on audio platforms and noted that although progress has been made, the office does not have the necessary technology and resources to process audio stories.

The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report at the October 2022 meeting.

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Excerpt from the January 29, 2022, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed and agreed to forward a progress report from the working group to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature regarding development of a draft Fourth Edition of the book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*.

The committee agreed on a motion initiated by the working group lead to accept stories from the broad diversity of Hispanic A.A. members in the US/Canada structure only, noting that countries outside the US/Canada structure can obtain licenses from AAWS that would allow original stories from their respective countries to be included in Big Book editions they publish themselves.

Excerpt from the October 30, 2021, trustees' Literature Committee report:

To support efforts to expand ways to submit stories, the committee requested the secretary seek input from La Viña editor on ways to use online or audio story submissions.

The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report that includes a list of upcoming Hispanic events as well as potential outreach efforts at Spanish linguistic districts and Central Offices at the January 2022 meeting.

Excerpt from the July 1, 2021, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee discussed the 2021 advisory action regarding the development of a draft Fourth Edition of the book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*.

The committee acknowledged the challenges to create a book in a language that encompasses the diversity of the Spanish speaking population. The committee noted the importance of the Publishing department and GSO's Spanish editor as important resources to support the development effort.

The committee noted the importance of participation from members of A.A. from the primary target audience. The committee also noted the efficacy of a workgroup instead of a subcommittee.

The chair requested that appointed committee member (ACM) Amalia C. establish a working group to lead the implementation for the creation of the Fourth Edition of the Spanish language Big Book. The committee acknowledged the value of Amalia's expertise as a native Spanish speaker, three years' experience as an ACM on the committee and her effective guidance and coordination for the development of the pamphlet "Hispanic Women in A.A."

The committee agreed to the scope of the working group on the development of a draft Fourth Edition of the Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, to be as follows:

- 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.

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- 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 committee requested that the staff secretary support Amalia's efforts and that a working group progress report be provided at the October 2021 meeting.

2021 Conference Advisory Action:

The committee recommended that 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.

Background Note: The agenda item to consider development of a Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos* was forwarded from the 70th General Service Conference to the 71st G.S.C.

Background:

1. July 2022-January 2023 Summary Progress Report
2. January 2022 Progress report workgroup on the draft Fourth Edition of the book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*
3. 2021 Progress report workgroup on the draft Fourth Edition of the book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos - Dashboard File*
4. History of the Third Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos - Dashboard File*
5. 1.6.20 Report on feedback received by Publishing Department related to the Third Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos - Dashboard File*

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Working Group on the Development of the 4th Edition of Alcohólicos Anónimos

July 2022

The group has been meeting regularly on a monthly basis and although we have not received any translation review drafts from Editorial, we have concentrated on ways to reach the Hispanic community and ignite the flame of love for our Book we know is in their heart.

We realize we need to make in person presentations and it takes time and money to be everywhere, yet presentations and workshops are being brought to areas, districts and groups. The call for stories is now being placed on a dedicated Story Submission page on the AA website in Spanish thanks to Irene's efforts, where guidelines can be read, stories can be uploaded, the receipt and acknowledgement can be obtained automatically and the copyright document can be signed digitally.

A.A. Grapevine Publisher, Chris C. has authorized the use of La Viña, LV News and to publish our announcement and has agreed to a mention on the podcast. And we are grateful beyond belief because La Viña is really the only mass media tool we have as an organization to reach the Hispanic community.

Secretary is working on sending invitations to the Delegates to the National Hispanic Convention as well as to the Hispanic Intergroup offices.

I have been placed on the agenda to present at the opening session of the National Hispanic Convention and we will have a writing workshop at the event as well.

October 2022

The Group continues to meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday and the bulk of our effort this trimester has been on reaching the Hispanic members and providing the information on this Advisory Action and the necessary information to submit their stories. Many members were not even aware of this until they attended an in person workshop.

We have had and continue to have writing workshops on line and in person wherever possible; most recently at the National Hispanic Convention in Boston and at the Pacific Regional Forum in Utah. The Hispanic Women's Workshop in Atlanta will also have our Working Group member, Lupe, facilitating a writing workshop on October 1st.

The stories have started to trickle down – as of now, 75 stories have been received, but only 25 have signed copy right forms and the office is making efforts to procure them. People have actually writing their story during writing workshops and handed it in right there.

The group is considering format and content of a rating tool that provides means for identifying solid Experience Strength and Hope as well as ample diversity and inclusion.

At the onset of this project, the editorial department agreed to provide the translation revision of the basic text chapter by chapter as it was done, (the editor offered monthly intervals), to

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me so the working group can read, comment and ask questions if necessary. As of now we have received the Prologues to The Doctor's Opinion and Bill's Story and we have responded with our comments.

The chair of the working group also met on December 1st 2022 with G.S.O. Publishing director and the manager of the newly created Language Service department to discuss and recalibrate the timeline of the 3rd Edition Big Book Spanish Translation revision of the first 168 pages to be included in the Fourth Edition BB Spanish Update.

January 2023

Monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday of the month continue and we have added two members to the group, Zoraida Z. from LA and MaRosa R. from Northern Texas. Their addition is intended to provide more consistency and continuity to the work as well as wider perspective for the story selection process.

We had writing workshops at events as late as the beginning of December and I got calls from members trying to submit their stories as late as December 14th. The deadline was December 15th, 2022. A tentative estimate of stories received is 108 stories with signed publishing rights, 50 stories with pending publishing rights, 3 stories written in English and 1 story written in French. The majority of the stories submitted were hand-written and need to be transcribed. We have all agreed to use the rating tool we prepared based on the one used by the subcommittee for the development of the 5th Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The plan is to receive 10 stories monthly, which will be read and rated by each group member and the rating sheets will be submitted to Irene within 3 weeks for her to compile ratings and comments, which will be discussed at our monthly meeting as we go through the selection process.

The manager of G.S.O.' Translation department has created a timeline for the 3rd Edition Big Book in Spanish. The working group will receive Chapter Two by mid-December and one chapter every other month moving forward. We now have received Chapter Two and the group has read it, asked questions and made comments.

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WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP THE 4TH EDITION OF ALCOHÓLICOS ANÓNIMOS

January 2022

Progress report to the Trustee's Literature Committee

We are using the same timeline as the one for the Fifth Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous as a guideline and realize that adjustments might be made along the way as needed, but trudge we must!

With the help of the Literature Desk Coordinator, we have a Call for Stories to be presented for committee approval and to be distributed immediately thereafter. We also have a standardized one page informational and inviting announcement along with a guide to writing workshops to be used by any of our group members at any event possible. We have compiled a list of events to attend and make presentations as well as writing workshops. I am waiting for some historic material from Archives and hope to put together a Power Point Presentation that can be shown at the larger events including PRAASA, NERAASA and the US-Canada Hispanic Convention as well as any Regional Forums we might be able to attend.

The Southeast Regional Forums provided space for a workshop which was last minute and there were technical issues for people trying to come into it, but it was good practice for me. I attended the Spanish Woman's Workshop in Arizona the first weekend of December and they are excited about doing workshops in their areas. I have started a list of volunteers who are willing to help organize story wring workshops.

We have so far been asked to give informational talks and have gone to two groups and a district in area 6.

The draft of the revised translation to the forwards to the Dr.'s Opinion has been received and the group will discuss it at the next meeting on January 11th. We look forward to a continuous flow from and to the Spanish editor.

There is a lot of interest on the part of one fellowship member and some of his friends in directly intervening in the technical part of reviewing the translation and my response is that we have a Publishing department responsible for the editorial process and professional services have been acquired for this work. Our Editor, Ames has graciously agreed to respond when needed.

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2023 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM H: Review progress report regarding the translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language.

Background Notes:

Excerpt from the January 28, 2023, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed and **agreed to forward** to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report regarding the translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language. The committee noted that a print copy of the available plain language chapters will be provided for review by Conference members during the 2023 General Service Conference in a room that will be hosted by members of the trustees' Literature committee. The committee also agreed that the draft plain language chapters will be presented in its current English plain language version.

Excerpt from the October 29, 2022, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed a report regarding the translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language that included the progress and challenges of the work being done by the writer and the subcommittee. The committee expressed their gratitude for the ongoing work and looks forward to a progress report at the January 2023 meeting.

Excerpt from the July 30, 2022, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed a progress report regarding the translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language. The committee initiated a conversation on respecting A.A.'s spiritual foundations by keeping the Twelve Steps intact and in place in Chapter 5 and placing a possible differently formatted/designed plain language translation afterwards. The committee requested that the discussion be continued at the October 2022 meeting.

The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report at the October 2022 meeting.

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Excerpt from the January 29, 2022, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed and agreed to forward a progress report, including an addendum dated January 18, 2022, from the Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) subcommittee to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature regarding translation of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language.

Excerpt from the October 30, 2021 trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed the subcommittee progress report including the development of a plan for consultation and oversight which will be updated at the next meeting. The committee also received a verbal update from the Publishing department regarding ongoing work with the Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) subcommittee on recruiting from a wide pool of plain-language professionals for this project.

NOTE: This agenda item emerged from another agenda item which, after January 2019 until April 2021, was as follows:

*Consider if 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.

(*For reference to history and actions of the trustees and Conference Literature committees)

2021 Conference Advisory Action

It was recommended that a draft version of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition)*, be translated into plain and simple language and be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible and that a progress report or draft be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

Background:

1. TABB subcommittee January 2023 Progress Report
2. TABB subcommittee Progress Report October 2022

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3. 2022 Progress report subcommittee on Plain Language version of Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition)
 - a. Addendum_TABB Subcomm Report - ***Dashboard Files***
4. Progress report subcommittee on Plain Language version of *Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition)*-
 - a. TABB subcommittee Roadmap_10-27-21 - ***Dashboard Files***
5. Feb 2022_Publishing Dep Reprt_ Plain_Lang_ BB project

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Progress report regarding the translation of the book
Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition) in to plain and simple language.

A formal agreement between AAWS and the writer was finalized on May 28, 2022. The writer has submitted chapters to Publishing, as well as the preface, the foreword, and the beginnings of a glossary.

The TABB subcommittee has requested to review final drafts of whatever completed material is available on a quarterly basis, after editorial review and revisions. Each committee member provided feedback including suggested changes, with an expectation of additional rounds of refinements to ensure the tone and tenor of each chapter is faithful to the guidance and suggestions contained in the Big Book.

This is no ordinary translation. The enormity of the task and the importance of getting it right is not lost on the subcommittee.

The Publishing Department has committed to providing the subcommittee with written updates monthly.

The Publishing Department's estimate is for the completion of one chapter a month. The writer has kept to that pace across the year. That would mean a final draft of the project by May/June of 2023.

Given the fellowship's deep and wide interest in this project, the subcommittee has given great consideration to how to balance well-defined delegated authority with unity and transparency. In consultation with the Trustees Literature Committee, we recommend that the Conference Literature Committee be provided with all available chapters that are completed by March 31 for their restricted review during pre-Conference hours.

We also recommend that chapters be made available to all Conference member who may wish to read them. That said, we believe the only way to ensure confidentiality in the process was to have that happen in a highly controlled environment. As in a proctored test, with no cellphones or recording devices. Individuals can sit and read the proposed chapters in a room monitored by members of the Trustees Literature Committee.

While admittedly highly unusual, we felt that this translation merited an unorthodox approach.

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A committee member asked for clarity about plain language translation and whether gender changes are part of the inferred scope of the work in the Conference Advisory Action - for example when 'men and women' are changed to 'people'.

At a February 15, 2022, meeting the topic was discussed and the TABB subcommittee noted that plain and simple language does not always lend itself to referring to individuals or groups by gender. It was also noted that using various gender terminology inconsistently throughout the book would be challenging for the reader.

It was emphasized that there is no intent or desire to remove gender from the text. It was agreed that where there is a reference to someone who has a gender in the text the use of gender should be retained (examples included mother and father, reference to males such as Bill, Bob, Jim etc. as he or him).

Article 3 of the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board make clear that the Steps themselves should not be modified, altered, or extended. The subcommittee expects the final treatment of Chapter 5 to be consistent with that guidance.

We have had only the most preliminary discussions on how to approach coming up with what the translation should be titled. It's a fraught topic and will be given considerable thought in the months to come.

Addendum to TABB Subcommittee Report January 18, 2022

The TABB Subcommittee and members of the GSO Publishing Department met today to discuss the plain language translation samples received from the prospective vendors and consider the selection of a vendor. After comprehensive review and thoughtful consideration, a vendor was selected.

It is requested by the TABB Subcommittee that the Trustees Literature Committee consider making the following examples of plain language translation available to the Conference Committee on Literature. It should be noted that these are only examples, excerpts pulled from the initial submissions of prospective vendors. The process will involve multiple drafts, and ongoing feedback from the GSO Publishing Department and the TABB Subcommittee resulting in editing and revisions. None of this has taken place with the material included here. These are raw samples from a vendor's first attempt to translate this text, without guidance or input.

One could question the decision to share such unrefined material with the Conference Committee on Literature, however the rationale for offering this early material is that the TABB

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Subcommittee knows that there is a high level of interest in the process for the plain and simple language translation; and that there are those with concerns regarding the intent of this project.

It is hoped that this early transparency, and of sharing materials that have yet to even be edited, will serve to provide the Conference Committee on Literature the opportunity to see exactly where this project is at this point in time and offer any early feedback that they may have.

Alcoholics Anonymous (The Big Book)	Excerpt (from unedited raw sample material)
We believe, and so suggested a few years ago, that the action of alcohol on these chronic alcoholics is the manifestation of an allergy; that the phenomenon of craving is limited to this class and never occurs in the average temperate drinker. These allergic types can never safely use alcohol in any form at all; and once having formed the habit and found they cannot break it, once having lost their self-confidence, their reliance upon things human, their problems pile up on them and become astonishingly difficult to solve.	We believe that alcohol affects chronic alcoholics differently than it affects average drinkers. It interacts with their bodies almost like an allergy, forcing them to behave in unusual and unpredictable ways. The intense cravings that chronic alcoholics experience almost never happen for occasional drinkers. For anyone with this alcohol “allergy,” though, cravings may be constant and hard to control. This means chronic alcoholics can never safely use alcohol in any form at all. Once they have experienced alcohol’s affects, they will form a drinking habit quickly and struggle to stop. They will lose self- confidence, neglect their relationships, and watch their problems pile up, feeling totally unable to solve them.
Frothy emotional appeal seldom suffices.	Begging these people to stop drinking never helps.
And it means, of course, that we are going to talk about God. Here difficulty arises with agnostics,	It also means that we are going to talk about God. If you aren’t sure that God exists—in other words, if you are an agnostic— this may worry you.

Alcoholics Anonymous (The Big Book)	Excerpt (from unedited raw sample material)
Our stories disclose in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now. If you have decided you want what we have and are willing to go to any length to get it – then you are ready to take certain steps.	Many of the stories we share in this book describe the experiences that we had as AA’s founders. What we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now. If you want what we have— and are willing to work hard to get it—then you are ready to get started.

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<p>Many of us exclaimed, "What an order! I can't go through with it." Do not be discouraged. No one among us has been able to maintain anything like perfect adherence to these principles. We are not saints. The point is we are willing to grow along spiritual lines. The principles we have set down are guides to progress. We claim spiritual progress rather than spiritual perfection.</p>	<p>If this is your first time reading through these steps, they may seem difficult ... or even impossible. Do not be discouraged. No one has ever carried out these steps perfectly. We are not saints. We are simply people who are willing to grow, both spiritually and personally. These principles are here to guide our progress. And our shared goal is spiritual progress, not spiritual perfection.</p>
<p>In trying to make these arrangements our actor may sometimes be quite virtuous. He may be kind, considerate, patient, generous; even modest and self-sacrificing. One the other hand, he may be mean egotistical, selfish and dishonest. But as with most humans, he is more likely to have varied traits.</p>	<p>And as they try their best to control all the parts and players, they may seem kind, patient, generous. On the other hand, they may seem mean, selfish, and dishonest. Since they're human, they most likely show a mix of these traits.</p>
<p>We never apologize to anyone for depending upon our Creator. We can laugh at those who think that spirituality is the way of weakness. Paradoxically, it is the way of strength. The verdict of the ages is that faith means courage.</p>	<p>And we are not ashamed of relying on God, or of needing God. We know that our faith and trust isn't a sign of weakness, it is a sign of strength. Faith is a kind of courage, just as trusting God is a kind of courage.</p>
<p>With few exceptions, our book thus far has spoken of men. But what we have said applies quite as much to women. Our activities in behalf of women who drink are on the increase. There is every evidence that women regain their health as readily as men if they try our suggestions. But for every man who drinks others are involved – the wife who trembles in fear of the next debauch; the mother and father who see their son wasting away.</p>	<p>So far, this book has spoken only to alcoholics themselves. But every person who drinks involves other people in their alcoholism. There may be a spouse who dreads the next drinking spree, children who fear their drunk parents, or mothers and fathers who see their grown children getting sicker and sicker.</p>

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TABB sub-committee report - October 2022

The current TABB subcommittee was formed after the 72nd General Service Conference. The subcommittee consists of John W., chair, Jimmy D., and Clint M.

The sub-committee met four times (May 27, June 21, August 17, and September 22). David R., Julia D., and Ames S. from the Publishing Department joined our June meeting, as did “the writer”. David and Julia joined again for our September meeting.

Progress Report

A formal agreement between AAWS and the writer was finalized on May 28. The writer has submitted five chapters to Publishing, as well as the preface, the foreword, and the beginnings of a glossary.

On August 31, four chapters (*the Doctor’s Opinion*, *Bill’s Story*, *There is a Solution*, and *More About Alcoholism*) were shared with the TABB subcommittee after editorial review and revisions.

Each committee member provided feedback at the September 22 meeting. We will be submitting further feedback, including suggested changes, with an expectation of additional rounds of refinements to ensure the tone and tenor of each chapter is faithful to the guidance and suggestions contained in the Big Book.

This is no ordinary translation. The enormity of the task and the importance of getting it right is not lost on the subcommittee.

Next Steps

The TABB subcommittee has requested to review final drafts of whatever completed material is available on a quarterly basis, so we can provide timely reports to the Trustees Literature Committee.

Project Completion

The Publishing Department’s current estimate is for the completion of one chapter a month. That would mean a final draft of the project by May/June of 2023.

Recommendations

Given the fellowship’s deep and wide interest in this project, the subcommittee has given great consideration to how to balance well-defined delegated authority with unity and transparency.

To that end, we recommend that the Conference Literature Committee be provided with any fully edited chapters that are completed by December 31 for their restricted review

and feedback.

We also recommend that Chapters 3 and 5 be made available to any Conference member who may wish to read them. That said, we believe the only way to ensure confidentiality in the process was to have that happen in a highly controlled environment. Basically, as if one was taking a proctored test, with no cellphones or recording devices. Individuals can sign out a chapter and read it in a room monitored by members of the Trustees Literature Committee. We would work with the Trustees Conference Committee to schedule hours and location during Conference week. While admittedly highly unusual, we felt that this translation merited an unorthodox approach.

Gender

A committee member asked for clarity about plain language translation and whether gender changes are part of the inferred scope of the work in the Conference Advisory Action - for example when 'men and women' are changed to 'people'.

At a February 15, 2022 meeting the topic was discussed and the TABB subcommittee noted that plain and simple language does not always lend itself to referring to individuals or groups by gender. It was also noted that using various gender terminology inconsistently throughout the book would be challenging for the reader. It was emphasized that there is no intent or desire to remove gender from the text. It was agreed that where there is a reference to someone who has a gender in the text the use of gender should be retained (examples included mother and father, reference to males such as Bill, Bob, Jim etc as he or him).

Other outstanding items

Article 3 of the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board make clear that the Steps themselves should not be modified, altered, or extended. The subcommittee expects the final treatment of Chapter 5 to be consistent with that guidance.

We have had only the most preliminary discussions on how to approach coming up with what the translation should be titled. It's a fraught topic and will be given considerable thought in the months to come.

**Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) Subcommittee Report
Submitted to Trustees Literature Committee January 2022**

At their July 2021 meeting, the Trustees Literature Committee formed a subcommittee with the scope of the subcommittee is as follows:

Request TLC member Carolyn W, with fellow members John W and Mike L, serve on a subcommittee that will research various study guide workbook tools as directed by the Conference Committee on Literature (CCL) and related agenda submissions and track the development of the Plain & Simple Language Big Book. The subcommittee will note the CLC's request that the book be "developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible".

The subcommittee will strive to:

1. *Research various study guide workbook tools and report back to the TLC.*
2. *Review feedback from the Fellowship on RIPTAB video*
3. *Coordinate with the GSO Publishing Department (GSO PD) to oversee and develop feedback related to:*
 - *Topics of direction and scope as requested by GSOPD*
 - *Content of RFP/RFI (desired samples)*
 - *Any limits to the content to be translated.*
 - *Review of samples and GSO PD recommended vendors*
 - *Other work as needed to support the GSO PD and implementation of the advisory action*

The subcommittee adopted the name "TABB" (Tools to Access the Big Book). The TABB Subcommittee has met 10 times from August to December 2021 and has 2 additional meetings scheduled in January 2022.

At the August TABB Subcommittee meeting, the work was prioritized as:

- In collaboration with the GSO Publishing Department establish a roadmap for the Plain Language Big Book that reflects key project timelines and roles of the General Service Conference, Trustees Literature Committee/General Service Board, TABB Subcommittee, and the GSO Publishing Department and provide this roadmap to TLC at the Q4 meeting.
 - The roadmap was updated at the meeting of the TABB Subcommittee and the GSO PD on December 8, 2021 and the revised version is attached to this report (pages 3-5).
- Initiate work with GSO PD on vendor selection for the Plain Language Big Book, with an aim to have sample translation materials available for review to TLC for the Q1 2022 meeting.
 - On track for sample reviews in January 2022 and vendor selection by GSO PD and TABB Subcommittee on January 18, 2022.
 - TLC to discuss and determine process to share sample translations with the CLC.
- Once the vendor selection process is in motion, concurrently work on the above items #1-3 of the subcommittee's objectives as stated by TLC.
 - See below

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**Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) Subcommittee Report
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ITEM	STATUS	FOLLOW-UP REQUIRED
1. Research various study guide workbook tools and report back to the TLC.	Completed. See attached report (page 6).	Pending TLC action.
2. Review feedback from the Fellowship on RIPTAB video.	Completed in August 2021, prior to initiating the subcommittee's work. See attached summary (page 7).	None.
<i>3. Coordinate with the GSO Publishing Department (GSO PD) to oversee and develop feedback related to:</i>		
a) Topics of direction and scope as requested by GSO PD	Ongoing when and as requested by GSO PD	None
b) Content of RFP/RFI (desired samples)	Completed. RFI was directed to identify and select vendors who can translate to plain language with the objective of comprehension at a 5 th grade reading level. The RFI was sent to vendors with experience in various sectors such as health care, education, and spirituality. Desired samples were determined to be Chapter 5 (in its entirety) and selected additional portions of the text.	None
c) Any limits to the content to be translated.	Apply the standard GSO PD practice of translation of the abridged version (preface, forwards, Doctor's Opinion, Bill's Story, Chapters 1-11, Dr. Bob's Nightmare, Appendices. (Excludes the other personal stories.)	Determine how to present the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions in accordance with Article III of the Conference Charter. Consider pros and cons of translating Bill's Story and Dr. Bob's Nightmare.
d) Review of samples and GSO PD recommended vendors	In progress January 2022	Aiming for Vendor selection to be completed Jan 18, 2022
e) Other work as needed to support the GSO PD and implementation of the advisory action	TLC delegated review and consideration of proposed agenda items pertaining to the work of this subcommittee to TABB.	Reviewed by TABB Subcommittee. See attached summary report (pages 8-10).

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Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) Subcommittee Report
Submitted to Trustees Literature Committee January 2022

TABB Subcommittee Roadmap

The plain language Big Book is a translation process, and there are existing workflows to guide the GSO Publishing Department processes. This roadmap is intended to align the TABB Subcommittee and the Trustees Literature Committee with these processes and document any modifications deemed necessary for this project. It is recognized by all involved that while we can draw from prior translation experience this project has unique elements. The TABB Subcommittee has determined that clarity regarding the process, timelines, and the roles of the GSC/CLC, GSB/TLC, TABB Subcommittee and the GSO Publishing Department are essential.

Date	General Service Conference	Trustees Literature Committee and GSB	Subcommittee (TABB)	Publishing Department
April 2021	Advisory Action: A draft version of the book, <i>Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition)</i> , be translated into plain and simple language and be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible and that a progress report or draft be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.			
August 2021		Trustees Literature Committee (TLC) created a "Subcommittee to Track development of the Plain Language Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous and Research Workbooks" this subcommittee was denoted as the Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) subcommittee.	Initial meetings to review scope, discuss approach to the assigned work and discuss RFI.	Initial meetings to review scope, discuss approach to the assigned work and discuss RFI.

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**Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) Subcommittee Report
Submitted to Trustees Literature Committee January 2022**

Date	General Service Conference	Trustees Literature Committee and GSB	Subcommittee (TABB)	Publishing Department
September 2021			Reviewed RFI, provided input (5 th grade reading level, include vendors with plain language experience in various sectors) Drafted Roadmap. Discussed proposed portions of the BB to be included for sample requests.	Finalized and distributed RFI to prospective vendors.
October 2021		Verbal report from TABB Subcommittee and acceptance of Roadmap; and received report from GSO Publishing Dept	Review and discussion regarding workbooks and study guides. Proposal drafted for presentation to TLC at their Q1 2022 meeting	Report to TLC
November 2021			Vendor selection discussions with GSO Publishing Dept and TABB: Consider RFI Responses Review objectives and timelines	Vendor selection discussions with GSO Publishing Dept and TABB: Consider RFI Responses Review objectives and timelines
December 2021			Vendor selection discussions with GSO Publishing Dept and TABB: Shortlist for sample requests Discuss project budget Update Roadmap Consider and discuss proposed agenda items referred to TABB by TLC	Vendor selection discussions with GSO Publishing Dept and TABB: Shortlist for sample requests Discuss project budget Update Roadmap

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**Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) Subcommittee Report
Submitted to Trustees Literature Committee January 2022**

Date	General Service Conference	Trustees Literature Committee and GSB	Subcommittee (TABB)	Publishing Department
January 2022			<p>Vendor samples due, to be reviewed by GSO Publishing Dept and TABB Subcommittee with the aim of vendor selection by January 18, 2022 and samples from the selected vendor available to share with TLC</p> <p>TABB Subcommittee report to TLC for inclusion in background to CLC</p>	<p>Vendor samples due, to be reviewed by GSO Publishing Dept and TABB Subcommittee with the aim of vendor selection by January 18, 2022 and samples from the selected vendor available to share with TLC</p> <p>GSO Publishing Dept report to TLC</p>
February 2022			<p>Joint Meeting (TABB and GSO PD) with selected vendor to discuss project path forward including communications, timelines, and milestones.</p> <p>Update Roadmap to reflect plan established with GSO Publishing and vendor for review at the Q3 TLC meeting</p>	<p>Joint Meeting (TABB and GSO PD) with selected vendor to discuss project path forward including communications, timelines, and milestones.</p>
April 2022	Receive progress report from TABB Subcommittee, and report from GSO PD.		Attend Joint Meeting with CLC to answer any questions and hear any feedback.	
May 2022		TLC Chair to advise regarding composition of 2022/2023 TABB Subcommittee and ensure that Roadmap updated Feb 2022 is provided to the new TABB Subcommittee members.	TBC	

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Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) Subcommittee Report Submitted to Trustees Literature Committee January 2022

WORKBOOKS AND STUDY GUIDES

The Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) subcommittee met to discuss possible approaches to study guide workbook tools, and we reviewed previous work by the 2019-21 subcommittees on Researching Issues, Possible Tools and Access to the Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous* (RIPTAB) as well as Fellowship feedback on the RIPTAB report/video. One reason for the initiation of the RIPTAB subcommittee was to consider an approach to the ongoing requests for a workbook and/or study guide and this discussion has continued in the current TABB subcommittee.

Subsequent to the TABB subcommittee's initial discussion there was an additional proposed agenda item (PAI) submitted for the 72nd General Service Conference (GSC) to create "a Big Book Workbook to assist in understanding and accessing the content". In the PAI it was stated that this should be instead of the Plain Language Big Book. The Trustees Literature Committee (TLC) took no action on this PAI but forwarded the proposal to the TABB subcommittee for review to ensure that the rationale and suggestions offered by the submitters could be considered by the subcommittee.

After review of the work done by the prior subcommittees and careful deliberation, we suggest the following approach (if there are no Recommendations or Committee Considerations regarding workbooks or study guides at the 72nd GSC):

1. TLC seek shared experience through the Delegates, also encouraging broad Fellowship feedback (perhaps via the Meeting Guide app) regarding which of the following options are most in keeping with the needs of wishes of the Fellowship:

Option 1 - Take no action, as suggested by the 1985 advisory action which reaffirmed previous Conference actions that there was no need for a Step study guide.

Option 2 - Turn to the Grapevine and leverage its ample archive of articles on practicing the Steps to show variation in approach and style. Future Grapevine podcasts could serve a supplemental role and help enrich this effort.

Option 3 – Create a General Service Conference approved study guide workbook to aid in studying the Twelve Steps. Possibly with inclusion of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts.

Note: We envision Options 2 and 3 to primarily be a print-based product, with the potential of supporting and/or companion material via digital, video, and/or podcast.

2. TLC forward an agenda item to consider these 3 options to the 73rd GSC for their consideration or action, and that the Fellowship feedback received be included with any other background material required to support an informed group conscience.

Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) Subcommittee
Report Submitted to Trustees Literature Committee
January 2022

RIPTAB VIDEO FEEDBACK SUMMARY

At the 70th General Service Conference, the Conference Committee on Literature requested the trustees make available the presentation “The Big Book: Researching Issues, Possible Tools and Access”. A video of the presentation was produced and distributed to the Fellowship with a request for feedback. The Fellowship responded, and the following summary represents the comments received. Respondents included individuals, groups, districts, and special events scheduled to view and discuss the video. There were four questions asked:

- *Should the Trustees’ Literature Committee explore possible solutions that could help make our message more available?*
 - Overwhelming support from respondents (79% affirmative).
- *If so, what additional information would be helpful to determine if additional items are needed to increase accessibility and relatability to the A.A. program?*
 - Research on the literacy rate of the general A.A. population.
 - Information on the cost of a plain language translation.
 - More information on literacy needs of people in custody.
 - A Group-type inventory with a report back to the Fellowship.
 - Examples of outcomes from previous efforts, both good and bad.
 - A comprehensive look at who is not here and why.
- *Would a translation into modern or simple language help?*
 - Support for a translation from those who submitted feedback (66%).
- *What tools would help others understand our program of recovery? Workbooks? Dictionaries?*
 - Footnotes in the Big Book.
 - Conference approved Workbooks.
 - Akron Topic Guide.
 - Short videos.
 - Dictionaries.
 - Easy to read guide to the Steps.
 - Pamphlets.
 - Addendum on gender terms.
 - Multi-media approach.
 - Graphic art.
 - Updated stories in the 5th Edition.
 - Podcasts.

There was a consensus from the respondents that regardless to the development of additional tools or translations the first 164 pages of the Big Book should remain unchanged. If needed, footnotes or addendums could be added to the text, either on the specific pages referenced or in a Forward to the book. There were several respondents who expressed they were initially opposed to any plain language translations or workbooks, but once they learned more about the accessibility issues identified in the presentation, they changed their opinions and were either supportive of a translation or open to the idea of a translation.

**Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) Subcommittee
Report Submitted to Trustees Literature Committee
January 2022**

The Trustees Literature Committee received 11 Proposed Agenda Items (PAI) for the 72nd General Service Conference pertaining to translation of the book Alcoholic Anonymous into plain and simple language. While the TLC “took no action” on these proposals, they forwarded them to the TABB Subcommittee for review and consideration.

The TABB Subcommittee reviewed all PAIs in their entirety, including all additional background material included with the submissions when applicable. It is not the role of the TABB Subcommittee to debate the points made by the submitters and we will not attempt to do so in this report. But it is important to note that careful review of each of these proposals has served to guide and inform the subcommittee, and to affirm some of the decisions made thus far. The TABB Subcommittee wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude for these submissions. Some examples of how, exactly, some of these concerns are being addressed are included below. Note that this is not intended to be a direct response to each individual PAI. Rather, this is an effort to identify where there have been specific actions taken that relate to PAIs received.

A summary of the PAIs is attached at the end of this report for your reference. The PAIs included several different ideas. For the ease of reporting, the TABB Subcommittee has grouped them as follows:

1) Discontinue, rescind, or stop the development of a draft plain and simple language Big Book

8 of the 11 PAIs requested that the translation be discontinued, rescinded or to stop the development of a draft version. The TABB Subcommittee felt that the Conference Literature Committee could provide direction regarding the future of this project upon their review of the progress report.

Of note in these proposals were concerns regarding political intentions, eradication of God, and removal of all gendered language. The TABB Subcommittee can affirm that the objective is to achieve a translation into plain language that meets the accessibility needs of those with a 5th grade reading level. The RFI that was sent to prospective vendors noted specifically that we are seeking “simplification of vocabulary, syntax and style to bring it into alignment with current plain language guidelines” and that “sensitivity to A.A.-specific language will be key”. Further it was stated that “a considerable level of collaboration and frequent communication throughout the process will be expected”. The goal of the project was described to the prospective vendors as being that “the final work product must be accessible to readers at a fifth-grade reading level. The translation as a whole must capture the welcoming and inclusive spirit of Alcoholics Anonymous and inspire a sense of belonging and hope in the alcoholic seeking help”.

It is hoped that sharing this information will address some of the concerns expressed by the submitters of these 8 PAIs. There were additional comments within some of these 8 PAIs suggesting workbooks, dictionaries, and study guides instead. Please refer to the “workbooks and study guides” portion of this report (page 4) for information regarding the TABB Subcommittee’s work on those topics.

The TABB Subcommittee also wishes to acknowledge that some of these submitters expressed serious concern for the future of Alcoholics Anonymous, and the disunity that they believe having a plain and simple language Big Book will cause.

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Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) Subcommittee Report Submitted to Trustees Literature Committee January 2022

➤ Project approach/methods

- **Use a side-by-side format.** While this format is not under consideration, the suggestions and rationale of the submitter have been reviewed and noted.
- **Should be written by AA members.** To ensure that plain language standards are met for accessibility for those with 5th grade reading level a professional translator method has been chosen. AA members through the Subcommittee, GSO, the Trustees Literature Committee and ultimately the General Service Conference will guide the process. Note: additionally, this PAI included several concerns similar to those expressed by those requesting that we do not proceed with this project.

➤ Clarity/Communication

It is the hope of the TABB Subcommittee that this progress report, including the attached Roadmap provide the desired clarity that the intended use/audience/scope of the translation is to meet accessibility needs defined as a 5th grade reading level. Please refer to #1 above for further details.

Additionally, the touchpoints with the General Service Conference (GSC) are noted on the Roadmap.

Further details regarding the timeline and milestones from May 2022 onward will be made available after the Q1 2022 General Service Board (GSB) meeting, and after the 72nd GSC and will reflect the input of the GSC and the GSB, including the Trustees Literature Committee (TLC). Further input is needed from the vendor, once the vendor is selected, regarding their timelines to complete the work to provide the requested clarity. The updated Roadmap will be completed in collaboration with the GSO Publishing Department and submitted from the TABB Subcommittee to the TLC for their Q3 2022 meeting.

SUMMARY OF PAIs

Agenda Item 36, PAI #26 Consider request that work on the plain language book, Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition), be discontinued: *The committee discussed the proposed agenda item regarding a request that work on the plain language book, Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition), be discontinued and took no action. The committee noted that oversight of the development of the plain language book is within the scope of the Tools for Access the Big Book (TABB) subcommittee.*

The TLC requested that these observations inform a future progress report from the TABB subcommittee.

Agenda Item 38, PAI #36 Consider request that the plain language Big Book approved for development at the 71st GSC be produced as a "side-by-side": *The committee discussed the proposed agenda item and took no action. The committee noted that oversight of the development of the plain language of the book is within the scope of the Tools for Access the Big Book (TABB) subcommittee.*

The TLC requested that these observations inform a future progress report from the TABB subcommittee.

**Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) Subcommittee
Report Submitted to Trustees Literature Committee
January 2022**

Agenda Item 41, PAI #41 Consider request to cancel the publication of an English-to-English Plain Language translation of our basic text Alcoholics Anonymous: The committee discussed the proposed request and took no action. The committee noted that oversight of the development of the plain language book is within the scope of the Tools for Access the Big Book (TABB) subcommittee.

The TLC requested that these observations inform a future progress report from the TABB subcommittee.

Agenda Item 50, PAI #73 Consider request to cancel the plain language translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition): The committee discussed the request and took no action. The committee noted that oversight of the development of the plain language book is within the scope of the Tools for Access the Big Book (TABB) subcommittee.

The TLC requested that these observations inform a future progress report from the TABB subcommittee.

Agenda Item 51, PAI #74 Consider request to provide clarification on the plans to create a plain language version of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition): The committee discussed the request and took no action. The committee noted that oversight of the development of the plain language book is within the scope of the Tools for Access the Big Book (TABB) subcommittee.

The TLC requested that these observations inform a future progress report from the TABB subcommittee.

Agenda Item 63, PAIs #166-167-168-169-170

Consider requests to stop the development of a draft version of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition), being translated into plain and simple language: The committee discussed the requests and took no action. The committee noted that oversight of the development of the plain language book is within the scope of the Tools for Access the Big Book (TABB) subcommittee.

The TLC requested that these observations inform a future progress report from the TABB subcommittee.

Agenda Item 65, PAI #176

Consider a request that the proposed plain language Big Book should be written by a member or members of A.A.: The committee discussed the request and took no action. The committee noted that oversight of the development of the plain language book is within the scope of the Tools for Access the Big Book (TABB) subcommittee.

The TLC requested that these observations inform a future progress report from the Tools for Access the Big Book (TABB) subcommittee.

Plain and simple language Big Book project:

Publishing Department Update – January 2022

The Publishing department has worked closely with the TABB (Tools for Access to the Big Book) Subcommittee to establish process and roles in this process, and continues to follow through on what is jointly decided.

From the Publishing department: Publishing Director David R., Executive Editor Ames S., and Managing Editor Julia D. (serving as point person with the TABB Subcommittee of Trustees' Literature)

Using five (5) publishing-industry plain-language translator / writer talent search vendors, the Publishing department obtained eighteen (18) candidates, whose credentials and previous work could be reviewed. These professionals demonstrated experience across a wide range of subject matters, including self-help, spirituality, health/wellness, recovery, education, government and public policy, and more.

After review and discussion, from this original candidate pool of eighteen (18), the TABB Subcommittee and David R., Ames S., and Julia D. selected six (6) candidates. These candidates were contracted to submit writing samples comprised of plain-language translations of Chapter 5 "How It Works" and other Big Book excerpts chosen by the TABB Subcommittee. Candidates were hired on a freelance, work-for-hire basis to complete this work by January 10, 2022. All met the assigned deadlines, and samples were shared with TABB members.

David R., Ames S., and Julia D. reviewed all sample submissions and met with TABB Subcommittee members and Trustees' Literature Chair Deborah K. on January 18.

Results

At the January 18 meeting referenced above, participants selected one writer candidate to be moved forward. Publishing has initiated discussions regarding an interview with the writer via Zoom in early February, in efforts to contract the writer and establish a timeline for deliverables.

A Note on Anonymity and Confidentiality

Throughout this sensitive process, maintaining confidentiality has been an overarching focus. Our specific and customary Assignment of Copyright (AOC) and confidentiality clauses in work-for-hire agreements have been signed by all vendors and writers.

Professional Fees

Expenses: Total expenses for the vendor talent search and for six (6) work-for-hire agreements with writers totaled \$16,800 and were invoiced against the 2021 Budget. The approved 2021 budgeted expense for this project was \$15,000. Approval for the \$1,800 project fees overage was obtained from the General Manager.

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2023 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM I: Review progress report regarding development of a Fifth edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

Background Notes:

Excerpt from the January 28, 2023, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed and **agreed to forward** to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report regarding the development of a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

The committee requested that the subcommittee on developing the Fifth edition *Big Book* review the original evaluation /rating forms used in the development of the Fourth edition as guidance in the process of evaluating stories from the Fourth edition of the book for possible inclusion in the Fifth edition.

The committee also requested that while in the process of selecting stories for the Fifth edition, the subcommittee identify stories written by members of the indigenous North American community that will not be used in the Fifth edition, for possible consideration in the update of the "A.A. for the Native North American" pamphlet.

Excerpt from the October 29, 2022, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed a progress report regarding development of a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* that provided updates on the story selection process including the consideration of Fourth Edition existing stories. The committee appreciated the ongoing work and looks forward to a progress report at the January 2023 meeting.

Excerpt from the July 30, 2022, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed a progress report regarding development of a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* that included information about the continuation of past subcommittee work and timeline determination for the next quarter, as well as of story-gathering efforts and coordination of similar outreach plans with other subcommittees.

The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report at the October 2022

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meeting.

2022 Conference Committee on Literature Consideration:

The committee reviewed a progress report regarding development of a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The committee requested that a progress report or draft manuscript be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.

Excerpt from the January 29, 2022, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee **agreed to forward** a progress report to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature regarding development of a draft Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

The committee received a verbal update from the subcommittee chair regarding the call for stories and the discussions underway to include a website submission process. The committee agreed to the following:

- 1- The report entitled "The Big Book and the General Service Conference" be included as background material with all future work on the Fifth Edition of the Big Book.
- 2- The Subcommittee for the Fifth Edition Big Book *Historical Background Notes* be included as background material with all future work on the Fifth Edition of the Big Book.
- 3- The talk "On AA Principles by David E." be included as background material with all future work on the fifth Edition of the Big Book.

The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature a recommendation that stories from the Fourth Edition book *Alcoholics Anonymous* which are not included in the Fifth Edition book *Alcoholics Anonymous* be added to the book *Experience, Strength and Hope* at its next printing following the publication of the Fifth Edition book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

Excerpt from the October 30, 2021, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee discussed the work of the subcommittee, including the preliminary timeline that is being developed by the subcommittee.

In anticipation of the call out for stories, the committee requested that the secretary seek input from the Grapevine editor on ways to use online and audio story submissions forms.

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Excerpt from the July 1, 2021, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee discussed the 2021 advisory action to develop a draft Fifth Edition of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

The chair appointed a subcommittee on development of a draft Fifth Edition Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous* to include Beau B., chair; Katie H., Cindy F., and Marita R. with the following scope:

1. Assure adherence to previous advisory actions limiting changes to specific content.
2. Foster widespread discussion and solicit input as needed to define themes for sections of stories to create balanced and relatable set of stories.
3. Review editorial elements of the draft version of the Fifth Edition are under the purview of the Publishing department, including a new foreword and an updated preface.
4. Develop a plan to understand and execute updates to expand on existing ideas in Appendices III and V as requested by the 71st CCL.
5. Develop a plan to oversee a broad process of solicitation of stories.
6. Other work as needed related to optimizing the development of the draft version of the Fifth Edition Big Book.

The committee requested that the subcommittee provide a progress report at the October 2021 meeting.

2021 General Service Conference Advisory Actions

It was recommended that 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.

It was recommended that 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.

Background:

1. January 2023 Fifth Edition Subcommittee Progress Report
2. 2022 Fifth Edition Subcommittee Progress Report
3. History and actions for the development of the Fourth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, in English - ***Dashboard Files***

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**Subcommittee on the development of a draft Fifth Edition
of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous***

November 9, 2022

The subcommittee's work over the past year included overseeing and participating in a variety of story-gathering efforts, developing an evaluation tool that allows for effective and efficient assessment of a large volume of story submissions, and reading and evaluating stories. Additionally, the subcommittee had preliminary discussion of possible approaches to the updating of Appendices III and V.

Over 2500 A.A. members submitted their personal stories of experience, strength, and hope for possible inclusion in the Fifth Edition. The subcommittee is grateful for such an overwhelming response to story solicitation efforts and has enjoyed the opportunity to read so many inspiring stories of recovery.

From the overwhelming number of submissions, a broad selection of 100-150 stories will go through the second round of evaluation. The subcommittee looks forward to continuing the story-reading process and other aspects of the development of a draft Fifth Edition *Alcoholics Anonymous* and looks forward to presenting a progress report or draft in 2024.

**Subcommittee on the development of a draft Fifth Edition
of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous***

October 2022

The subcommittee, consisting of Cathi C., Cindy F., Clint M., and Vera F., along with Literature Coordinator Irene D., has met three times since the July Board Weekend.

To date, over 750 A.A. members have submitted their personal stories, both through the online story submission at aa.org and via postal mail. Subcommittee members have participated in several story-writing workshops at local A.A. events, Regional Forums, and the recent ICYPAA Convention. Groups, districts, and areas have conducted writing workshops on their own. Calls for stories have appeared on the Meeting Guide app, in the “What’s New” section of our A.A. website, in BOX 4-5-9, and elsewhere.

Since the subcommittee’s last report, we have continued fine-tuning a story evaluation spreadsheet tool and tested it recently with a sample of fifty story submissions. The finalized spreadsheet tool, patterned after similar rating guides used in developing other Conference-Approved literature, allows for a meaningful and efficient initial assessment of every story submitted.

The workflow process we have adopted is like that of other literature projects: The Literature Coordinator receives story submissions from members, enters them into a log and distributes them, along with a spreadsheet tool, to subcommittee members. Subcommittee members read and evaluate stories and complete the spreadsheet tool, which they return to the Literature Coordinator, who compiles data, comments, and scores from all spreadsheets into a master file. From the master file, the subcommittee will gather a broad selection of stories that will be given further consideration for inclusion in the Fifth Edition.

At each monthly meeting, we discuss the qualities and characteristics desirable of potential Fifth Edition stories, keeping in mind Bill’s words from a 1954 letter to Bernard Smith: “The story section of the Big Book is far more important than most of us think. It is our principal means of identifying with the reader outside of AA; it is the written equivalent of hearing speakers at an AA meeting; it is our show window of results. To increase the power and variety of this display to the utmost should be, therefore, no routine or hurried job. The best will be none too good. The difference between good and excellent can be the difference between prolonged misery and recovery, between life and death, for the reader outside of AA.”

The subcommittee has received requests that specific stories be included or disincluded from the Fifth Edition *Alcoholics Anonymous* and is grateful for members’ expressions of fondness – or dislike - for a particular story. All stories will be reviewed similarly – evaluation and committee discussion. As noted in the subcommittee’s 2022 Progress Report to the 72nd General Service Conference, we have deep respect for the pioneer stories and the sentimental value they hold. Again, citing Bill’s 1954 letter to Bernard Smith, “The main purpose of the revision is to bring the

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story section up to date, to portray more adequately a cross-section of those who have found help. The audience for the book is people who are coming to Alcoholics Anonymous now. Those who are here have already heard our stories. Since the audience for the book is likely to be newcomers, anything from the point of view of content or style that might offend or alienate those who are not familiar with the program should be carefully eliminated.”

The next steps for the subcommittee include:

- Continue reading story submissions in groups of twenty per member each/100 per round (pace to be determined.)
- Meet monthly for a discussion of stories, evaluation process, and other subcommittee tasks, including a review of the proposed project timeline, updates to Appendices III and V, and editorial/publishing considerations.

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2023 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM J: Review revised draft of the existing version of the pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”

Background Notes:

Excerpt from the January 28, 2023, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed and **agreed to forward** to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature a draft of the updates to the existing pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated” that includes suggestions made by the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature. The committee agreed that the draft fulfilled the goal of replacing outdated illustrations while maintaining artwork that is near and dear to A.A. members.

Excerpt from the October 29, 2022, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee received a report from the Publishing Department about the update of the pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated” that included the selection of an illustrator who understands the specific style of the pamphlet. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the January 2023 meeting.

2022 General Service Conference Advisory Action, that:

The pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated” be updated with non-offensive, contemporary text and illustrations and that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature.

Excerpt from the January 29, 2022, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee discussed the existing version of the pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated” and requested that the Publishing department seek professional input on approaches to revise language and offensive visuals, and that samples be brought back to the trustees' Literature Committee.

Synopsis of committee excerpts July 2019 through January 2021:

From July 27, 2019, through January 2021 the trustees' Literature Committee noted that updating the pamphlet, “Twelve Steps Illustrated” was pending the outcome of updates to the pamphlet, “Twelve Traditions Illustrated,” since the work was interrelated.

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2016 General Service Conference Advisory Action

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

Background:

1. 2023-01 email from Publishing department - **Confidential-Committee Only-Dashboard**
 - 1a. A-Tradition Three Image- **Confidential-Committee Only-Dashboard**
 - 1b. B-Tradition Nine Image- **Confidential-Committee Only-Dashboard**
2. P-91 - Experience Has Taught Us: An Introduction to our Twelve Traditions available on G.S.O.'s A.A. website at: <https://www.aa.org/experience-has-taught-us-introduction-our-twelve-traditions>
3. Existing pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" available on G.S.O.'s A.A. website at: http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/search/p-43-the-twelve-traditions-illustrated

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2023 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM K: Review revised draft of the Literature Committee workbook.

Background Notes:

Excerpt from the January 28, 2023, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed and **agreed to forward** to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature a draft of the Literature Committee Workbook revised to include suggestions from the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature. The committee made additional suggestions to the Publishing department and requested that A.A. Grapevine literature be mentioned in the list of available A.A. literature in the workbook.

Excerpt from the October 29, 2022, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed a progress report from the Publishing Department on the draft of the Literature Committee Workbook, that included an update on the revision's completion process. The committee appreciated the ongoing work and looks forward to a progress report at the January 2023 meeting.

Excerpt from the July 30, 2022, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee tabled discussion to the October 2022 meeting.

2022 Conference Committee on Literature consideration:

The committee reviewed a draft of the Literature Committee workbook and noted that the development of the workbook is moving in the right direction. The committee provided several suggestions regarding the length and content of the workbook and requested that a revised draft be brought back to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature for review.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

2019 Committee Consideration:

The Conference Literature committee suggested that the trustees' Committee on Literature develop a Literature Committee Workbook and provide a progress report to the 2020 General Service Conference.

Background:

1. 2023-01 Email from Publishing Department- ***Committee Only-Dashboard***
 - 1.a.2023 Literature Committee Workbook Draft - ***Committee Only-Dashboard***
2. 2021 Literature Committee Workbook Draft ***Committee Only-Dashboard***
 - 2.a. 2021 LCW Draft Outline- ***Committee Only-Dashboard***

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2023 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM L: Review request to update the pamphlet “Do You Think You're Different?”.

Background Notes:

Excerpt from the January 28, 2023, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed and **agreed to forward** to the 2023 Conference Committee on Literature a request to update the pamphlet “Do You Think You're Different?” The committee noted that the pamphlet was last updated in 2018.

Note from the secretary: The subcommittee chair noted that the pamphlet had been updated as recent as 2018 and suggested that work on an update be postponed until further consultation with the Conference Committee on Literature.

Excerpt from the October 29, 2022, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed a request to update the pamphlet “Do You Think You're Different?” with stories that represent greater diversity. To move the project forward, the chair appointed Cindy F. as chair of the subcommittee and Clint M. and Gerry R. as members. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the January 2023 meeting.

Excerpt from the 2022 Conference Advisory Actions:

The trustees' Literature Committee revise the pamphlet “Do You Think You're Different?” to update the stories to represent greater diversity and bring back a draft pamphlet or progress report to the 2023 General Service Conference. (Note: As a result of the 2021-22 Equitable Distribution of Workload plan, this item was on the agenda of the Conference Committee on Trustees.)

Background:

1. PAI#89 Submission Form
2. “Do You Think You're Different?” (P-13): <https://www.aa.org/do-you-think-youre-different>

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(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Motion:

I would like to propose to AA World Service Inc. to revise the pamphlet "Do You Think You're Different?" (p-13) add new stories.

This pamphlet was published in 2018, seeks to be inclusive of the population in the Canada/US structure. The stories reflect different backgrounds such as nationality, culture, religion, age and gender. However, this pamphlet does not cover all aspects of the different populations in our Canada/US structure. Our countries have a unique multicultural population with immigrants from Asia, the Middle East among many others. In addition, Canada has many different indigenous peoples as well.

I would like AA World Service Inc. to consider moving forward by adding new stories to be more inclusive of our diverse populations to demonstrate respect for all who come to AA meetings and carry the message for people who are missing.

I believe adding additional new stories to this pamphlet will help our Canada/US multicultural population. To show our AA support and make a sense of belonging to them.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

Lack of stories in this pamphlet representing our multicultural populations.
Revising language to be more current and respectful.

(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.

An individual

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

The background material is the pamphlet itself, clearly the stories do not represent the different multi cultural populations in the Canada/US service structure.
My home group has an adverse membership (Jewish, Japanese,UK,Iranian, and Chile) with group members complaining that the current stories do not include them, causing them to feel excluded.

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

That the pamphlet will be more inclusive and that multicultural members will identify and feel more part of our AA program. Please see

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Archives Chair for BC Yukon, Area 79, Panel 71

(7) Final comments:

Please see attached letter.

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2023 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM M: Discuss new proposed agenda items (PAI's) related to the Plain Language Big Book Translation.

Background Notes:

Excerpt from the October 29, 2022 trustees' Literature Committee report:

The trustee's' Literature Committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Literature committee all new proposed agenda items related to the Plain Language Big Book as one grouped item. The committee also discussed requests from some members regarding access to the draft of the Plain Language Big Book. After legal consultation, the committee agreed to provide a monitored closed reading room for Conference members only during the 2023 General Service Conference, where Conference Literature Committee members will be given first viewing of draft chapters in a controlled environment.

Background:

1. List of Proposed Agenda Items (PAI) related to 2021 General Service Conference Plain Language Big Book translation - ***Dashboard***

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2023 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM N: Review update on video animation for the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated.”

Background Notes:

Excerpt from the July 30, 2022, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed the video animation of the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" published by the General Service Board of A.A. Great Britain, noting that the development of a U.S./Canada version, with revised voiceover talent, is pending for budgetary reasons.

2022 General Service Conference 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

Excerpt from the October 30, 2021, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed and **agreed to forward** to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report regarding the pamphlet “Twelve Concepts Illustrated.”

Excerpt from the July 1, 2021, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The committee discussed the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature’s committee consideration regarding the pamphlet “Twelve Concepts Illustrated.” The committee received a verbal update from the Publishing department including a favorable review for a video available through the A.A. structure of Great Britain on the Twelve Concepts.

The committee requested that the Publishing department provide a link to the video from the Great Britain service structure on the Twelve Concepts along with a written progress report for review at the October 2021 meeting.

2021 Conference Committee on Literature consideration:

The committee reviewed the progress report regarding the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated” and requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

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CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

Synopsis of committee excerpts July 2019 through January 2021:

From July 27, 2019, through January 2021 the trustees' Literature Committee noted that updating the pamphlet, "Twelve Steps Illustrated" was pending the outcome of updates to the pamphlet, "Twelve Traditions Illustrated," since the work was interrelated.

2019 Conference Advisory Action

Update the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2020 General Service Conference. The committee noted in the review of the matrix of A.A. recovery literature that the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" has not been updated since 1986.

Background:

1. 2021-10-08 Publishing Department Progress Report to Literature desk on "The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated" pamphlet.
2. 2019-12 Progress report from Publishing Department to Literature desk on "The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated" pamphlet.
3. Current pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated" available on G.S.O.'s A.A. website at: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/aa-literature/p-8-the-twelve-concepts-illustrated

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MEMORANDUM

To: Literature Desk
From: Publishing Department
Re: Progress Report for Trustees' Literature Committee
Date: October 8, 2021

Agenda Item E:

Review progress report regarding the pamphlet "Twelve Concepts Illustrated."

Publishing Director has been in contact with the General Service Office in Great Britain regarding their video animation of the "Twelve Concepts Illustrated" pamphlet and the possibility of adapting their version for approval, use, sale and distribution by A.A.W.S. The video can be viewed on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qN6t4jAXJd0>

This collaboration would follow a similar pattern to the recent publication of the pamphlet "The 'God' Word," which originated in the U.K. and was adapted for a U.S./Canada audience.

Adaptations would involve new narration and some minor language and spelling tweaks to bring it into conformity with U.S./Canada English usage. Additionally, if requested, a print version could be developed from the animated version.

Action requested: Move forward a request to the 2022 General Service Conference that the video animation of the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" (currently published by the General Service Board of A.A., Great Britain) be adopted by A.A.W.S. with minor editorial changes (pending approval from GSB Great Britain).

*Executive Editor
General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous*

www.aa.org

Interoffice Memorandum

December 20, 2019

To: Literature Assignment

From: Executive Editor

Re: Progress Report on “Twelve Concepts Illustrated” and “Twelve Steps Illustrated” pamphlets

While updates to the three illustrated pamphlets covering A.A.’s Steps, Traditions and Concepts have come through the Conference process separately and at different times, as an overall strategy, the Publishing Department feels it would be most effective to develop them with some interactivity and coordination.

The “Twelve Traditions Illustrated” pamphlet was the first to be presented for updating, and the Publishing Department has been working on this project for a number of years. It seems that a final version of the revision is ready to be presented to the Conference for approval. Nevertheless, some questions that came up during the process of revising this pamphlet may well apply to the pamphlets on the Steps and Traditions also (questions relative to the critical interplay between text and graphics, how much should the original text be altered or revised, what illustration style would be best suited to carry the message most effectively, etc.). For this reason, the Publishing Department would like to hold off on further exploration of the more recent two requests for revision of the pamphlets on the Steps and Concepts until the revision to the Twelve Traditions pamphlet has been approved.

This will help to provide Publishing with a general “template” with which to work and will allow us to more appropriately direct the design and text revisions requested. Of course, each pamphlet (Step, Traditions, Concepts) has different needs and approaches that will have to be applied, but having a clear sense from the Conference regarding the work we undertaken so far with the Traditions Illustrated pamphlet will help move the remaining two pamphlets forward more readily.

So, at this point, we are holding off with any firm creative decisions about the “Twelve Steps Illustrated” and “Twelve Concepts Illustrated” pamphlets pending further discussion by the trustees’ and Conference Literature Committees in 2020 regarding the “Twelve Traditions Illustrated” pamphlet.

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2023 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM O: Discuss request to revise the pamphlet “Too Young.”

Background Notes:

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

The committee discussed the 2017 Conference Floor action that “The pamphlet “Too Young?” be revised to reflect more current collective experiences of young alcoholics and their welcome to A.A.” The committee discussed the new formats proposed and the high estimated costs. In view of the high-cost estimates, the committee suggested exploring other options, such as utilizing existing young people’s videos developed by the International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (ICYPAA) or other possible alternatives to carry the message to young newcomers in A.A.

The trustees’ Literature committee requested that the Conference Committee on Literature provide additional direction regarding the 2017 Conference floor action.

Excerpt from the July 1, 2021, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The committee discussed the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature’s committee consideration regarding the pamphlet “Too Young?” The committee received a verbal update from the Publishing department that referenced a print to video project which is budgeted for 2022 for this item.

The committee requested the Publishing department provide a written progress report with an update on a script for the video format of the pamphlet for review at the October 2021 meeting.

2021 Conference Committee on Literature consideration:

The committee reviewed a progress report on the revision of the pamphlet “Too Young?” The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet and/or samples of other potential formats of the pamphlet at the meeting of the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background

The committee reviewed a progress report on the revision of the pamphlet “Too Young?” The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet and/or samples of other potential formats of the pamphlet at the meeting of the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

Excerpt from the October 31, 2020, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The committee discussed the Publishing department’s progress report regarding the pamphlet “Too Young?” The committee reviewed Publishing’s workflow plan with estimated costs, projected resource requirements and project priorities.

The committee agreed with the Publishing department’s suggestion for the project to be deferred to 2021. The committee noted overall budget constraints and the potential video production expenses as part of the updating to this item. The committee also noted the difficulties of working with third-party video production firms during the current environment presented by the pandemic. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the January 2021 meeting.

Excerpt from the August 1, 2020, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The trustees’ Literature Committee discussed the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature’s committee consideration regarding the pamphlet “Too Young?” and requested that the Publishing Department provide a progress report which includes estimated costs, projected resource requirements and project priorities at the October 2020 meeting.

2020 Additional Committee Consideration:

The committee reviewed a progress report on the revision of the pamphlet “Too Young?” The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet and/or samples of other potential formats of the pamphlet at the meeting of the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature.

Excerpt from November 2, 2019, trustees’ Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed with appreciation the reports from committee members related to gathering shared experience from A.A. members at Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous Conferences. The committee expressed support for the Publishing Department to explore options for integrating art for the pamphlet as well as podcast versions of the pamphlets. The committee requested that the Publishing Department continue work to revise each pamphlet and bring back updated progress reports or draft pamphlets and/or samples of other potential formats of the pamphlet to the February 2020 meeting.

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Excerpt from July 27, 2019, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee discussed the 2019 Conference Literature Committee's additional committee consideration that the Conference committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet of "Too Young?" and/or samples of other potential formats of the pamphlet at the 2020 General Service Conference.

The committee discussed shared experience being gathered from Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous Conferences including locally produced literature items. Committee members, chair, Beau B. and appointed committee member, Katie H., will attend the upcoming International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous to continue gathering shared experience related to the pamphlet development and provide a report to the committee at the November 2019 meeting.

2019 Committee Consideration from the Conference Committee on Literature:

The Conference Literature committee reviewed a progress report on the revision of the pamphlet "Too Young?" The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet and/or samples of other potential formats of the pamphlet at the 2020 General Service Conference.

Excerpt from January 26, 2019, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee agreed to forward a written version of a verbal report provided by the General Service Office's Publishing Department regarding the pamphlet "Too Young" to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature.

Excerpt from October 27, 2018, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee reviewed the progress report on the revision to the pamphlet "Too Young?" and requested that Appointed Committee Member Katie H. forward sharing to the Publishing Department as it continues its work to provide an update at the committee's January 2019 meeting.

Excerpt from July 28, 2018, trustees' Literature Committee report:

The Publishing Department advised that they are in the process of identifying an appropriate graphic designer as well as exploring the possibilities for producing an

animated video format component to the pamphlet. The committee agreed that it would be beneficial to the project to involve Katie H. at this stage of the project. The committee requested that Publishing continue work on this project and bring back a progress report to the October 2018 meeting.

2018 Committee Consideration from the Conference Committee on Literature:

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The committee reviewed a progress report on the revision of the pamphlet “Too Young?” The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report or revised draft pamphlet at the 2019 General Service Conference.

Floor Action of the 2017 General Service Conference, that:

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

Background:

1. 2023-01-19 “Too Young” pamphlet video production budget.
2. 2021- 10-08 Publishing department progress report to Literature desk on “Too Young” pamphlet.
3. 2019-12-20 Publishing department progress report Literature desk on “Too Young” pamphlet.
4. 2019-11-02 Young People in A.A. (YPAA) progress report related activity from the trustees’ Literature committee chair and the trustees’ Literature committee Appointed Committee Member (ACM) (Doc.4_ YPAA Progress Report ACM)
5. 2018-11-13 Local sharing submitted by trustees’ Literature Committee Appointed Committee Member
6. Current pamphlet “Too Young?” available on G.S.O.’s A.A. website at: http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/search/p-37-too-young

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From: [Senior Production Manager- Digital](#)
To: CFO; Publishing Director; [Literature desk](#)
Cc: [Managing Editor](#); [Editorial Production Manager](#)
Subject: Re: Budget related question -- "Too Young" revised video project -- resurrected
Date: Thursday, January 19, 2023 12:59:47 PM

Thanks, Paul, for the recap.

Hi David,

Too Young is to be produced as an animation video. The Whiteboard animation is a different project on its own that will be budgeted separately.

Thanks,

Julisa

Julisa S.

Senior Production Manager- Digital

From: CFO

Date: Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 12:43 PM

To: Publishing Director, Senior Production Manager- Digital, Literature desk

Cc: Managing Editor, Editorial Production Manager

Subject: RE: Budget related question -- "Too Young" revised video project -- resurrected

The animation of "Too Young" was on the deferred project list in 2022 with an estimated cost of \$100,000. When we updated the deferred project list for 2023, it was dropped from the list, meaning that we no longer planned to produce it.

Paul K.

Chief Financial Officer

General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

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From: Publishing Director
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 12:37 PM
To: CFO; Senior Production Manager- Digital, Literature Desk
Cc: Managing Editor; Editorial Production Manager
Subject: Budget related question -- "Too Young" revised video project -- resurrected

Hi Julisa, Paul, Brittnae, and team,

If memory serves

Did we once have the remake / rewrite / re-animate of "Too Young" estimated for whiteboarding or other animation as a video-first project –
etc. video project – then on a deferred list. Early 2021?

Trustees Literature would like to possibly resurrect / discuss this further at January board weekend.

What did we have budgeted and for which piece of this possible video project?

Thankie,

David R.
Publishing Director
Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

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MEMORANDUM

To: Literature Desk
From: Publishing Department
Re: Progress Report for Trustees' Literature Committee
Date: October 8, 2021

Agenda Item F:

Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “Too Young?”

Progress Report:

With the understanding presented in previous progress reports to both the trustees' and Conference Literature Committees that this pamphlet is a candidate for adaptation from print to video format, Julisa Soriano, our Senior Production Manager/Digital is researching companies that produce 2D and 3D video animation to provide work samples and project briefs for this project. We have had a number of internal meetings regarding creative direction and have set aside funds in the 2021 budget for initial development of storyboards and other preliminary elements, with additional funds to be incorporated into the 2022 budget for ongoing implementation.

Next steps: We will continue researching appropriate vendors for the development of video or animation materials for possible presentation in January 2022.

*Ames S. Executive Editor
General Service Office of Alcoholics
Anonymous 475 Riverside Drive, 8th Floor
New York, New York 10115
www.aa.org*

Interoffice Memorandum

December 20, 2019

To: Steve S., Literature Assignment

From: Ames S., Executive Editor

Re: Progress Report on “Young People and A.A.” and “Too Young?”

At the November 2019 meeting of the trustees' Literature Committee an update was provided by ACM Katie H. and General Service Trustee Beau B. on gathering shared experience from A.A. members at Young People in A.A. Conferences regarding these two pamphlets. The update provided a number of options to explore for ongoing development of text and integration of artwork, as well as suggestions for development of podcast versions of the pamphlets.

Since the meeting, the Publishing Department has continued work on revision of the pamphlets, reaching out to some graphic designers who have done work within the YPAA service community, and look toward providing updated progress reports, draft pamphlets and/or samples of other potential formats of the pamphlet to the trustees' Literature Committee at subsequent meetings in 2020.

November 2, 2019 progress report on Y.P.A.A. related activity from the TLC chair and TLC A.C.M.

(Excerpt from September 30, 2019 email from Beau B., TLC Chair)

Dear Literature Committee,

We attended the 61st International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (ICYPAA) on August 23-25. Our Appointed Committee member Katie H. was invited to run two round table style sessions for capturing feedback on recent thinking and revision concepts for the pamphlet Young People and A.A. In total we met with 25-30 people and received helpful input on title, artwork, the new concept, ideas for avatars, formats (audio, video and printed). We were grateful to the Publishing department for providing printed copies of the new concept for review and discussion. Providing these physical examples were instrumental in soliciting constructive and actionable feedback.

The actual feedback from these sessions will be provided in an overall summary from Katie however it should be noted that this type of interaction was very well received by the participants and promoted a level of engagement and understanding from all participants that would be difficult to replicate in other ways.

I would like to thank the committee for their trust and open mindedness in supporting this activity. Our pamphlet will not only be better as a result we successfully engaged and opened more minds to the conference process as well.

(Excerpt from September 16 email from Katie H., TLC A.C.M.)

I appreciated the opportunity to travel to Boston for the International Conference of Young People in AA (ICYPAA) and was equally fortunate to have been given two sessions on the agenda to have an open dialogue with two groups about literature. Thanks for sharing advance copies of the new Young People in AA pamphlet. The format change was well received.

Attaching all of my notes from these focus groups as well as sessions with Virginia State Conference of Young People in AA (VSCYPAA), All California Young People in AA (ACYPAA) and a YPAA breakout room at Pacific Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA).

Discussion Summary:

- There were several interesting conversations around quizzes. Debate started with the location and placement of the quizzes – at the beginning instead of the end and vice versa as well as having both. The thought process was around identifying before and/or after reading the stories and how that would affect the “truthfulness” of the participants answers. We also talked about having multiple quizzes. Everyone seemed to like the idea of the questions throughout the pamphlet to help break it up as well. The popularity of BuzzFeed quizzes sparked this conversation – ideas went around like “what type of alcoholic are you?” Everyone agreed that quizzes keep their interest and would make the pamphlet more engaging.

- Overall, the design and graphics were not well received. We discussed a more modern look, even something like utilizing one single, bold color. No graphics. Overall, wanted a more modern, simplistic/minimalist look. As I had felt, the pamphlets appear too “sciencey” and like something found in a classroom. Minimalism would help usher the pamphlets into modern design. Also talked about a different size of a pamphlet or glossy to make it stand out and stand apart.
- Discussion around a contest for design and suggestions around various designers in the YPAA community who are talented at event flyers. I had been thinking of a YPAA designer from the west coast and someone from Florida in attendance had actually mentioned her by name and her talented work and said he also gravitated toward her design style and encouraged us to reach out to her for ideas. This led to a spirited discussion around letting the YPAA community create its own design.
- QR codes seem to be of continued interest. The ability to easily find a pamphlet online was well received as well as the recognition that paper pamphlets on literature tables was still vital.

Summary of Recommendations:

- Strongly recommend a modern design. The use of a single, bold color. No graphics. Modern, minimalist font.
- Recommend developing a design contest to create cover design and/or avatar from the YPAA community.
- Format change was well received. The caution here is that the pamphlet maintains a logical flow from each part of the story. Suggestion is to have clear instructions of “follow the story” as well as graphics/symbols that are eye catching and modern that help guide the reader through the stories.
- Consider adding quiz questions throughout pamphlet, especially if the current proposed format change is not adopted. Adding questions throughout would break up the stories and provide a visually appealing pamphlet.
- Consider a new name for pamphlet or a provocative subtitle (see notes)

We can discuss these findings further at the next board weekend or I would be happy to have a conference call in order to share a little more of the spirit of discussion with Ames and publishing. Please let me know if you think that would be helpful!

In love and service,

Katie H.

Appointed Committee Member
Trustee’s Literature Committee

ICYPAA Literature Session 8/23 - 8/24/2019

Thursday, August 22, 2019

7:22 AM

Young People in AA Pamphlet

Format Change:

Like = 18

Dislike = 1

Commentary/Recommendations:

- Shocking title - something that almost challenges the reader
- "But try to Get to them to see it!"
- References to YPAA conferences
- What is YPAA?
- Love the concept/format change
- Videos for accessibilities
- Most of the participants utilize a mix of reading and listening to podcasts
- Felt too much like Text book
- Bible Study
- Geometry class
- Needs modernize
- Quiz in the back
- What kind of alcoholic are you?
- Pamphlet of quizzes
- Not appealing
- Title revisions
- "You're right you are too young"
- More quotes from the Big Book sprinkled throughout
- App based literature device makes the most
- Search bar
- The format works - not sure about using the "what it was like, what happened, what it is like now"
- Snapchat bitmoji or image?
- One participant thinks that this could replace the too young pamphlet and he used the too young pamphlet
- Quizzes as you go - almost like an activity book
- Needs explanation into the what the format is
- "Pick one and go" instruction
- Title something more provocative
- Picture or image of the person works oversymbol

ACYPAA Literature Session 7/7/2019

Thursday, August 22, 2019

7:38 AM

Too Young Pamphlet

Needs Updating?

Yes = 12

No = 1

Notes

- Too Young Pamphlet felt "too different" - young people want to feel included in AA, not always set apart
- More YPAA information included in all pamphlets directed to young people
- Everyone liked the checklist and quizzes
- New title might be nice
- Design needs to be minimalist and more modern - single bold color

VSCYPAA Literature Session 6/16/2019

Thursday, August 22, 2019

7:22 AM

Sharing notes:

- "Member's Eye View" was first pamphlet picked up. Was directed to it from an old timer and was incredibly useful to member for understanding the fellowship. Refers to it often
- Participant explained that she did an online search for help with alcoholism and found an AA Questionnaire checklist that was useful and it led her to a meeting
- Participant remembered seeing the Too Young Pamphlet when she was 15-16, before she came into AA, but didn't understand the message
- Participant referred to the literature rack looking "too sciencey" or something that was related to the church. Also thought it felt like a doctor's office
- Another participant said he never picked up a pamphlet nor was directed to the pamphlets
- Many people brought up the idea of young people's videos on YouTube or utilizing podcasts
- Available links to ICYPAA or YPAA home pages
- Orientation video or information about AA in general
- Conscience of the group was positive toward digital content links and QR codes for literature for their phones
- More images than words
- One-page flyer would be beneficial

PRAASA YPAA Session 3/3/2019

Thursday, August 22, 2019

7:30 AM

Sharing notes:

- One participant said she had never seen YP literature pamphlets
- Participant brought up the idea of 30 second animated videos online
- "More current, more often" - discussion around how we are constantly out of date because of the process. Is there a quicker way to adopt and adapt to change?
- PDFs may not work for 16-year-olds
- The message needs to be easily digestible
- QR codes felt like a good idea overall
- Discussion moved toward google and SEO and the desire from the group for more online presence
- Many people called out that the local YPAA groups should be making videos
- Discussion around "What is YPAA" brochure - many people within the fellowship do not understand what a Young People's Committee is - discussion broadened to internal vs external messaging
- Overall, group agreed that paper pamphlets were still valuable
- Participant said she read every pamphlet but didn't relate to the images of the Too Young Pamphlet
- One person mentioned that their district is using targeted ads on Facebook
- Desire for audiobooks
- Age is not the barrier - alcoholism is the barrier
- Additions to the AA Group pamphlet regarding YP meetings

11.13.18 Email with local sharing submitted by Katie H., trustees' Literature Committee Appointed Committee Member

Hi Ames,

Hope you are doing well on this Tuesday morning. I spent time with three regional Young People's Committees (EBYPAA, SACYPAA and YOLYPAA) from Northern California and had 45 minute discussions about the "Too Young?" Pamphlet as well as their recommendations and experiences with AA Literature. Below are a couple of the notes that I captured from these discussions.

- QR Codes on pamphlets linking to AA.org in order to view the pamphlets online and/or links to YouTube content. In my opinion, this should be high priority. Interesting to note that even though I brought copies of the pamphlet, everyone went to their phones to look up the pamphlet. It is my personal experience as well that I utilize my iPhone for looking up most information. Having this data in a user friendly format online would be great as well. The PDF of the pamphlet is not as friendly. Developing this content in an online format would be useful.
- Shorter format – the "Young People in AA" pamphlet has all the stories and it is long. The suggestions was that a "visual" pamphlet would be more effective if it wasn't as long.
- "Keep it simple" – some of the stories felt TOO specific to the majority. Although there were three people within these groups that actually said "This character. This is me." The rest did not identify.
- More focus on the Questionnaire piece. Everyone felt that was helpful.
- More emphasis that there are Young People's meetings and conferences – local meetings to state, regional and international conferences
- Characters less stereotypical and more generic
- Pamphlet is very dark and gloomy – add more hope and more color at the end
- Overall needs to be more modern
- Development of YouTube videos would be the primary way to move forward in order to have young people find answers to questions about alcoholism

Something interesting to note: I met very few people who had any experience with reading AA Pamphlets in early recovery. However, I did meet 1 girl who told me a story that I would like to share. She explained that she walked into her first meeting at 15. She had a typical experience of a young person in AA in that she was surrounded by people she didn't think she could relate to. She sat down in the meeting and saw on the wall a pamphlet that was graphic and looked like a cartoon. She grabbed it and saw the title "Too Young?" and knew it was for her. She said she didn't hear a thing in the meeting and read the pamphlet cover to cover. She is now 17 years old and 2 years sober.

Thanks,

Katie H.

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2023 Conference Committee on Literature

ITEM P: Review update on the proposal for Big Book or *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* study guides.

Background Notes:

Excerpt from the October 29 trustees' Literature Committee report:

The committee discussed a request to develop *Big Book* or *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* study guides and took no action. The committee noted that there is not a widely expressed need at this time. The committee also noted that consideration of future projects in plain and simple language will be discussed after the Conference members have reviewed the draft of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition)*, translated into plain and simple language and expressed their opinion on the project.

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