



**Language of the Heart**  
**Lenguaje del corazón**  
**Le langage du cœur**

## INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

July 3–6, 2025 | Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Memorandum

April 2025

To: Area, District, and Central Office/Intergroup Literature Chairpersons

CC: General Service Conference Members

From: Rainer LeFebvre, GSO Staff Member, Literature Assignment  
(212) 870-3019; E-mail: [literature@aa.org](mailto:literature@aa.org)

Re: Literature Assignment Activity Update

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Warmest greetings from GSO in New York!

Welcome to all Literature Committee Chairpersons. We look forward to providing any support we can to facilitate your effective service. For those of you approaching the end of your rotation, we hope your service has been a joyous and fulfilling experience. We have immense gratitude for your efforts to carry the A.A. message through service on a Literature Committee.

If you have rotated on, please forward this report to your new Literature Chairperson.

For those of you who are new, we communicate with you periodically during the year to provide current literature information from the A.A. World Services Board, the General Service Office Publishing Department and the trustees' and Conference Committees on Literature. The next Activity Update will be written after the 2025 International Convention, which is being held from July 3-6 in Vancouver, British Columbia. We hope to have the next update available to you by mid-August 2025.

### **What's New?**

The [Literature Committee Workbook](#) was released mid-September 2024 and has been very well received. The initial printing sold out in 2 months with solid engagement through the aa.org website as well. The workbook is back in stock and available for Literature Committee chairs and interested members.

The [2024-2026 A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services](#) went on sale in early December. Between December 6, 2024, and January 2, 2025, more than 6,200 copies were sold. The *A.A. Service Manual* is another resource which some members find particularly useful in electronic format.

The *Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous* went on sale on November 1, 2024. 71,749 copies were sold between November 1 and November 18. A second printing was placed on November 24, 2024; more information can be found within this letter from the General Service Board Chair: [PLBB Second Printing](#).

The *Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous* is also available as an e-book and is accessible on Corrections tablets throughout the United States.

One of the primary functions of the General Service Office is to serve as a repository of A.A.'s shared experience in Canada and the United States. Sharing local experiences with us is a valuable contribution towards the fulfillment of G.S.O.s ongoing purpose.

We continue to receive feedback from local committees and members on how they are using new materials, including the *Plain Language Big Book*, to carry A.A.'s message. If you have experiences which you would like to share, about the use of literature in carrying A.A.'s message, we would love to hear from you.

The visionary words from the "Foreword to the First Edition (*Alcoholics Anonymous*)" are alive and well:

"We shall be interested to hear from those who are getting results from this book, particularly from those who have commenced work with other alcoholics."

## **Current Projects**

- Fifth Edition Big Book (*Alcoholics Anonymous*):  
The drafting of expanding content in Appendix III: "The Medical View on A.A." and Appendix V: "The Religious View on A.A." has begun. The subcommittee is finalizing its selections of personal stories for review by the trustees' Literature Committee and the Conference Committee on Literature.
- Development of a Fourth Edition Big Book *Alcohólicos Anónimos* (Spanish):  
The creation of the draft Fourth Edition *Alcohólicos Anónimos* is being guided by an Appointed Committee Member (ACM) of the trustees' Literature Committee and a working group of Hispanic A.A. members. The working group recently added a new member from Quebec and is looking to add an additional member from Puerto Rico. The working group is proceeding to the next stage in selecting personal stories and continues to receive newly re-translated chapters.
- Update of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American": The working group, comprised entirely of indigenous A.A. members, has completed a selection of 15 personal stories, provided a new introduction, and selected new cover art developed by an indigenous artist.

- Update of the pamphlet “Do You Think You’re Different”: The subcommittee has completed the review of personal stories. Work will continue on the project with a progress report being delivered to the General Service Conference.
- Update of the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship”: The subcommittee completed a working draft of the requested updates.
- Update of the pamphlet “Twelve Steps Illustrated”: Revised illustrations were completed, supported by the trustees’ Literature Committee, and forwarded as draft material to the General Service Conference.
- Update of the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated” video animation: The translation of narration voiceover and visual text into French and Spanish has been completed. The English video is currently under review by members of the trustees’ Literature Committee.

### **New Appointed Committee Member service opportunity**

The trustees’ Literature Committee has openings for two (2) Appointed Committee Members (ACMs). We are searching for appropriate individuals to fill these positions and would appreciate any recommendations.

In keeping with the recommendations of the 2024 General Service Conference that:

- 1) “a pamphlet on the Asian and Asian-American alcoholic in A.A. be developed,” and
- 2) “a pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in A.A. be developed,”

the trustees’ Literature Committee saw the need to initiate the search for two Appointed Committee Members (ACMs). Each ACM will serve as the leader of a working group for pamphlet development.

To obtain a resume form, please email the Literature Desk at [literature@aa.org](mailto:literature@aa.org). Resumes need to be completed by an April 15, 2025 deadline.

### **Literature access through aa.org**

There has been recent confusion regarding free access to A.A. literature through the aa.org website. The purpose of the aa.org website is:

- To serve the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- To serve as a resource for A.A. members, those seeking help from A.A., professionals working with alcoholics, the media, and the public at large.
- To provide accurate and consistent information about Alcoholics Anonymous.
- To provide information about services coordinated by the General Service Office.
- To encourage participation of A.A. members, groups and committees in A.A. services and activities.

Several key books have free access to .pdf chapters. Books that are accessible directly through the website have been made available to fulfill this purpose. Please note that this is not universal practice, and most conference-approved books cannot be read for free online.

It may be worth noting that A.A. still relies on literature sales to help fund Twelfth Step service around the world, and purchasing locally supports A.A.'s international and local service entities. A.A.'s Conference-approved literature is intentionally priced to balance the need for literature sales with the desire to keep literature inexpensive so that anyone who needs a book can purchase the materials they need.

Most, if not all, A.A. literature can be found on the [aa.org](http://aa.org) website. In some cases, these listings will provide a brief description of the literature and a link to purchase through the online bookstore. Many pieces of literature can be viewed and read online. These can be found through the search function, or by navigating through "Resources" to "Literature." Results can be filtered by Subject, service committee, or format.

Thank you for your service to the current and future members of Alcoholics Anonymous in extending A.A.'s hand through our Conference-approved literature.

Rainer L.  
GSO Staff Member  
Literature Assignment