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

CC: General Service Conference Members

From: Rainer L., GSO Staff Member, Literature Assignment
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Re: Literature Assignment Activity Update

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 in 2026 after our GSO staff rotation.

What's New?

Several new, revised, and retitled items are now available.

- The pamphlet "[Indigenous People in A.A.](#)" is available. The revised and retitled pamphlet contains nine new stories, retains 6 stories from the previous printing, and contains a new introduction.
- The pamphlet "[Twelve Steps Illustrated](#)" is available. The revised pamphlet features the Twelve Steps, new illustrations, and the familiar simple summary language.

- The [M-39 Advisory Actions](#) booklet has been updated to reflect the actions of the 75th General Service Conference.
- The [Book of Fellowship: 90 Years of Sharing Love and Service](#) is still available as a limited time item. Developed as a souvenir book for the 2025 International Convention, the book contains inspiring stories from A.A.'s beginnings, highlights and histories, and a treasure trove of archival and new materials.
- The A.A. Grapevine is now offering [Greeting cards | AA Grapevine](#). Each card is beautifully illustrated with a cartoon about humorous moments in sobriety. The cartoons were conceived and drawn by A.A. members and have previously been published in the A.A. Grapevine. These cards are perfect for giving to a sponsor, sponsee, or fellow member to celebrate a sober anniversary.
- There is a special printing of [The Language of the Heart](#) to commemorate A.A.'s 90th anniversary and the 2025 International Convention. The book is available with a new cover, a new introduction, and includes more than 150 articles that A.A. co-founder Bill W. contributed to the A.A. Grapevine.
- The [Grapevine and La Viña](#) has a YouTube channel with a variety of playlists and includes ASL videos where deaf A.A. members share their stories through a paid ASL interpreter.

The *Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous* has more than 200,000 copies in distribution, which is a wonderful testament in the first 9 months. The book is available for sale in printed and eBook formats. The *Plain Language Big Book* is also available at no cost to incarcerated members in facilities using tablets. This reach extends to nearly 1,300 facilities through the Edovo platform and reaches even further through several other national partners.

Current Projects

- Fifth Edition Big Book (*Alcoholics Anonymous*): The drafts of expanded content in Appendix III: "The Medical View on A.A." and Appendix V: "The Religious View on A.A." are under review. The subcommittee is discussing its recommendations for personal stories.
- Development of a Fourth Edition Big Book *Alcohólicos Anónimos* (Spanish): The working group developing a draft Fourth Edition *Alcohólicos Anónimos* continues to meet monthly for the selection of personal stories and the review of newly re-translated chapters.
- Update of the pamphlet "Do You Think You're Different": The subcommittee continues to update the pamphlet with reporting to be delivered to the General Service Conference.

- Update of the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship”: The trustees’ Literature Committee reviewed a proof of the updated draft pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.” The committee offered feedback and approved the editorial changes to the draft approved by the General Service Conference.
- Update on developing a pamphlet for the transgender alcoholic in A.A.: The selection of an Appointed Committee Member (ACM) to lead this project has been approved. The ACM will be engaged with the Advisory Action from the 74th General Service Conference that “a pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in A.A. be developed.”
- Update on developing a pamphlet for the Asian and Asian American alcoholic in A.A.: The selection of an ACM to lead this project has been approved. The ACM will be engaged with the Advisory Action from the 74th General Service Conference that “a pamphlet on the Asian and Asian American alcoholic in A.A. be developed.”
- Update of the Twelve Concepts video animation: The Publishing Department is engaged with vendors to apply the edits requested within the Conference Advisory Action approving the video.
- The trustees’ Literature Committee formed a subcommittee to address an Advisory Action from the 75th General Service Conference to “begin a study to explore the needs of Spanish-speaking members for tools to access the Big Book. This study will include identifying specific needs within the Spanish-speaking community to determine whether a plain language translation of the Big Book is an appropriate tool or if other accessible materials would be more effective to support Spanish-speaking members who face barriers related to literacy or comprehension.”

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 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.

The Literature Committee webpage has also been updated to reflect new tools and additional content.

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