



## VI. Literature - EN

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

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## 2026 Conference Committee on Literature

**ITEM A:** Annual review of the Recovery Literature Matrix.

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### Background notes:

*Excerpt from the February 1, 2026, trustees' Literature Committee meeting report:*

The committee reviewed the annual Recovery Literature Matrix and **agreed to forward** the updated matrix to the 2026 Conference Committee on Literature.

*2025 Conference Committee on Literature Additional Committee Considerations:*

The committee reviewed the Recovery Literature Matrix and requested that year-to-year information be collected and presented for cover page views, downloads, audio content, and other points of digital access.

The committee suggested that a sortable and malleable format of future Recovery Literature Matrices be shared with the Conference Committee on Literature as a document for committee eyes only.

*2017 Conference Advisory Action:*

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

*Staff note:* The Communication Services Department is finalizing work on a new analytics dashboard project. Once this work is completed, we look forward to being able to update the Literature Matrix with the additional data points that have been requested.

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### Background:

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

CONFIDENTIAL: 76th General Service Conference Background

Title and Copyright Date	LANGUAGE	PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2020	PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2021	PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2022	PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2023	PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2024	PRINT DISTRIBUTION RATES 2025	E*2017 PAGE VIEWS AND DOWNLOADS	*2018 PAGE VIEWS AND DOWNLOADS	*2019 PAGE VIEWS AND DOWNLOADS	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Alcoholics Anonymous (all print editions)	English	635,818	771,612	808,855	860,449	777,095	808,674	33,955 PV 117,788 DL	1,026,528 PV 0 DL	1,033,786 PV 0 DL	
Les Alcoooliques Anonymes (all print editions)	French	3,435	3,232	6,497	7,410	6,225	6,401	4,820 PV 0 DL	15,546 PV 0 DL	15,805 PV 0 DL	
Alcohólicos Anónimos (all print editions)	Spanish	18,117	24,503	28,120	29,817	32,852	30,416	17,942 PV 1637 DL	65,876 PV 0 DL	15,805 PV 0 DL	
Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous	English					71,988	151,207				Revisions input into the First Edition. Second Printing in 2024.
Twelve and Twelve (all print editions)	English	215,198	307,009	293,394	330,202	259,779	265,961	180,532 PV 64,609 DL	585,242 PV 0 DL	638,360 PV 0 DL	
12 Étapes et 12 Traditions (all print editions)	French	1,347	1,680	2,048	2,805	2,834	2,393	49,330 PV 0 DL	153,786 PV 0 DL	159,117 PV 0 DL	
Doce Pasos y Doce Tradiciones (all print edit	Spanish	11,810	17,960	21,062	28,701	26,930	25,484	45,299 PV 22,877 DL	13,584 PV 0DL	834 PV 0 DL	
As Bills Sees It (all print editions)	English	35,187	32,635	58,757	50,577	35,001	35,879				
Réflexions de Bill (all print editions)	French	835	964	1,267	1,738	1,533	1,351				
Como Lo Ve Bill (all print editions)	Spanish	1,858	2,798	4,485	4,046	4,204	4,191				
Came To Believe (all print editions)	English	16,367	19,473	25,422	26,465	22,652	20,532				
Nous en Sommes Venus à Croire (all print ed	French	407	384	850	658	708	748				
Llegamos a Creer (all print editions)	Spanish	2,857	2,594	5,253	6,140	6,234	5,025				
Daily Reflections (all print editions)	English	78,689	108,931	95,965	110,186	93,506	81,628				
Réflexions Quotidiennes (all print editions)	French	1,299	1,781	2,896	2,843	2,915	2,258				
Reflexiones Diarias (all print editions)	Spanish	4,646	6,366	7,489	9,161	9,721	11,776				
Living Sober (all print editions)	English	71,614	83,452	94,699	108,386	84,665	82,447				
Vivre... Sans Alcool (all print editions)	French	5,184	1,753	2,699	3,152	3,560	3,649				
Viviendo Sobrio (all print editions)	Spanish	976	8,493	10,499	12,967	13,406	12,642				
Dr. Bob & The Good Oldtimers	English	4,751	3,368	7,926	5,969	5,007	6,012				
Dr. Bob et Les Pionniers	French	103	79	225	276	245	258				
El Dr. Bob Y Los Buenos Veteranos	Spanish	1,020	1,766	1,784	2,871	1,604	2,921				
A.A. Comes of Age	English	5,122	7,436	6,100	7,002	5,181	5,907				
Le Mouvement des AA Devient Adulte	French	26	88	214	170	196	159				
AA Llega a su Mayoría de Edad	Spanish	1,267	2,523	2,318	2,652	2,515	2,735				
Pass It On ©1984	English	3,231	3,990	4,243	5,020	3,545	3,717				
Transmits-le	French	96	72	347	340	241	310				
Transmitelo	Spanish	1,408	2,046	3,194	2,926	2,596	3,449				
Experience, Strength and Hope ©2003	English	5,131	5,610	6,863	8,056	6,477	6,760				
Expérience, Force & Espoir	French	60	85	195	179	121	297				SB-20 published in 2023
Experiencia, Fortaleza y Esperanza	Spanish				3,015	2,959	2,848				

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Note valuable review criteria within the "AAWS Policy on Publication: Keeping A.A. Literature Current."

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Twelve Traditions Illustrated ©1971	English	22,885	22,976	29,190	41,914	30,812	34,992	1,137 PV 0 DL	3,950 PV 1,184 DL	3,543 PV 1,093 DL	Updated illustrations in 2023.
Douze Traditions Illustrées	French	361	658	718	1,031	1,183	1,032	50 PV 0 DL	242 PV 74 DL	194 PV 82 DL	
Doce Tradiciones Ilustradas	Spanish	1,753	1,813	2,111	1,623	854	6,069	1,216 PV 0 DL	3,603 PV 1,189 DL	3,888 PV 945 DL	
Twelve Concepts Illustrated ©1986	English	10,712	13,914	16,281	20,466	18,292	17,721	3,172 PV 195 DL	11,600 PV 2,539 DL	6,767 PV 1,413 DL	
Douze Concepts de Service Mondial Illustrés	French	513	356	683	569	614	762	91 PV 0 DL	264 PV 83 DL	229 PV 66 DL	
Doce Conceptos Ilustrados	Spanish	1,133	1,181	1,773	1,985	1,115	1,691	1,325 PV 0 DL	3,496 PV 805 DL	2,062 PV 437 DL	
Is A.A. For Me? ©1989	English	30,832	37,451	47,031	59,365	50,397	44,982	1,695 PV 0 DL	5,469 PV 1,025 DL	5,512 PV 1,122 DL	Minor editorial updates in 2023 and 2024.
Les A.A. sont-ils Pour Moi?	French	326	307	2,207	1,205	806	527	101 PV 0 DL	275 PV 38 DL	361 PV 64 DL	
¿Es A.A. para Mí?	Spanish	6,032	3,975	9,376	9,953	13,264	9,807	101 PV 0 DL	351 PV 101 DL	513 PV 113 DL	
Twelve Steps Illustrated ©1971	English	21,495	18,892	26,425	31,286	32,810	31,969	1,020 PV 0 DL	3,564 PV 943 DL	3,713 PV 887 DL	Revised version with new illustrations approved and printed in 2025
Douze Étapes Illustrées	French	465	212	844	2,235	909	701	41 PV 0 DL	204 PV 69 DL	186 PV 61 DL	
Doce Pasos Ilustrados	Spanish	2,570	1,066	3,849	1,144	1,115	3,391	297 PV 0 DL	936 PV 220 DL	1,255 PV 204 DL	
A.A. for the Older Alcoholic ©2001	English	12,544	12,084	13,982	23,568	9,320	7,212	1,470 PV 0 DL	5,030 PV 725 DL	6,463 PV 872 DL	Revised and printed in new format in 2023.
Les A.A. pour l'alcoolique plus âgé	French	431	35	825	898	1,062	330	64 PV 0 DL	268 PV 72 DL	295 PV 56 DL	
A.A. para el Alcohólico de Edad Avanzada	Spanish	867	1,615	1,715	2,432	1,178	1,246	90 PV 0 DL	493 PV 99 DL	543 PV 117 DL	
Black in A.A.	English	6,542	7,355	9,591	15,850	16,028	17,063	837 PV 0 DL	2,678 PV 436 DL	2,992 PV 431 DL	Revised pamphlet in 2024.
Les Noirs chez les AA EXPERIENCE, FORCE ET ESPOIR	French					220	424				
Ser negro en AA EXPERIENCIA, FORTALEZA Y ESPERANZA	Spanish					163	472				
Your D.C.M. ©1988	English	4,258	5,155	5,716	7,106	7,303	4,929	533 PV 1 DL	1,830 PV 447 DL	1,768 PV 433 DL	Minor editorial updates in 2024.
What Happened To Joe? ©2003	English	5,755	5,969	6,767	10,082	7,670		71 PV 0 DL	607 PV 125 DL	647 PV 121 DL	Retired per 2024 GSC.
Jean... face à son problème d'alcool	French	100	54	416	104	470		6 PV 0 DL	52 PV 0 DL	37 PV 0 DL	
Lo que le Sucedió a José	Spanish	1,218	2,913	2,561	2,194	242		57 PV 0 DL	173 PV 39 DL	486 PV 46 DL	
The A.A. Group ©1965	English	28,428	36,363	28,214	81,763	43,835	40,476	5,559 PV 1,451 DL	17,719 PV 5,971 DL	19,270 PV 3,623	Editorial updates in 2023 and 2024.
Groupe des A.A.	French	828	568	1,308	1,377	1,092	1,256	242 PV 0 DL	542 PV 188 DL	313 PV 131 DL	
Grupo de A.A.	Spanish	3,213	4,677	2,695	9,277	3,609	9,572	990 PV 0 DL	3,037 PV 710 DL	2,293 PV 492 DL	
Too Young? ©1979	English	14006	13,118	19,550	13,471	0		508 PV 0 DL	1,487 PV 242 DL	1,729 PV 247 DL	Retired per 2023 GSC.
Trop jeune?	French	394	207	594	174	0		15 PV 0 DL	69 PV 0 DL	65 PV 0 DL	
¿Demasiado Joven?	Spanish	1639	2,079	2,727	1,232	0		107 PV 0 DL	313 PV 105 DL	364 PV 85 DL	
It Happened To Alice ©1985	English	6,070	7,365	7,061	10,218	7,668		131 PV 0 DL	625 PV 124 DL	586 PV 109 DL	Retired per 2024

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L'histoire de Nicole	French	74	323	416	164	263		5 PV 0 DL	25 PV 0 DL	25 PV 0 DL	Retired per 2024 GSC.
¡Le Sucedió a Alicia!	Spanish	712	2,209	1,929	1,889	175		32 PV 0 DL	84 PV 29 DL	225 PV 36 DL	
Young People & A.A. ©2007	English	22785	25,894	36,161	46,744	39,134	34,472	6,045 PV 0 DL	19,185 PV 1,459 DL	16,172 PV 1,364 DL	Revised in 2023.
Les jeunes et les A.A.	French	143	407	1,095	693	1,470	695	155 PV 0 DL	500 PV 60 DL	308 PV 52 DL	
Los Jóvenes y A.A.	Spanish	1736	3,476	3,589	5,851	5,584	6,622	724 PV 0 DL	2,295 PV 386 DL	2,377 PV 327 DL	
Is A.A. for You? ©1973, 2008	English	128,427	143,965	197,697	197,338	177,800	190,838	3,320 PV 553 DL	8,974 PV 2,602 DL	7,471 PV 1,818 DL	
Les A.A. sont-ils pour vous ?	French	3,292	2,879	6,726	6,575	7,904	10,039	298 PV 0 DL	1030 PV 213 DL	1,151 PV 235 DL	
¿Es A.A. para Usted?	Spanish	22,161	24,128	40,805	34,394	39,216	37,790	186 PV 0 DL	629 PV 201 DL	642 PV 201 DL	
Indigenous People in A.A	English	5,199	4,813	7,021	9,353	8,529	12,260	394 PV 0 DL	1,685 PV 254 DL	1,472 PV 225 DL	Revised pamphlet approved and printed in 2025.
Les peuples autochtones chez les AA	French	20	83	415	312	119	602	10 PV 0 DL	61 PV 0 DL	60 PV 0 DL	
Miembros de AA indígenas	Spanish	NA	235	216	462	127	239	21 PV 0 DL	92 PV 26 DL	109 PV 33 DL	
Questions & Answers on Sponsorship ©1976,1983	English	87,330	100,568	149,876	161,025	137,883	134,276	4,615 PV 869 DL	17,795 PV 4,401 DL	14,727 PV 3,115 DL	Revised pamphlet approved and printed in 2025.
Questions & Réponses sur le Parrainage	French	735	734	1,381	1,355	1,180	1,433	87 PV 0 DL	243 PV 90 DL	190 PV 56 DL	
Preguntas y Respuestas Sobre el Apadrinamiento	Spanish	3,912	4,610	7,694	7,622	6,212	6,721	1,400 PV 0 DL	3,537 PV 611 DL	2,362 PV 416 DL	
A.A. Member - Medication & Other Drugs ©1984, 2011	English	26,251	23,014	31,437	41,434	31,020	27,629	532 PV 0 DL	1,517 PV 1,863 DL	13,433 PV 1,354 DL	Minor editorial updates in 2024.
Les membre des AA face à la Médication et Autres Drogues	French	373	238	767	915	960	236	6 PV 0 DL	15 PV 55 DL	350 PV 31 DL	
Miembro de A.A.—Los Medicamentos y Otras Drogas	Spanish	999	1,395	1,663	2,612	1,785	2,053	58 PV 0 DL	171 PV 148 DL	2416 PV 115 DL	
A.A. And The Armed Service ©2002,2007	English	4,545	4,255	6,295	8,388	5,920	4,992	407 PV 0 DL	1,276 PV 216 DL	1,140 PV 163 DL	Minor editorial updates in 2025.
Circles of Love and Service ©2014	English	13,224	14,288	18,234	21,927	22,029	18,976	687 PV 0 DL	2,427 PV 590 DL	2,309 PV 517 DL	Minor editorial updates in 2023.
Cercles d'amour et de Service	French	357	341	547	597	465	681	32 PV 0 DL	111 PV 37 DL	80 PV 23 DL	
Círculos de Amor y Servicio	Spanish	831	1,299	1,014	1,926	1,557	2,066	373 PV 0 DL	1,501 PV 238 DL	1,489 PV 173 DL	
Many Paths to Spirituality ©2014	English	18,031	19,613	27,777	38,517	31,044	26,941	769 PV 0 DL	3,180 PV 2,069 DL	2,152 PV 557 DL	Minor editorial updates in 2023 and 2024.
Différentes Avenues vers la Spritualité	French	2,268	3,522	3,863	3,371	4,662	4,987	32 PV 0 DL	361 PV 429 DL	86 PV 35 DL	
Muchas Sendas Hacia la Espiritualidad	Spanish	1,127	1,521	1,607	1,332	1,469	1,122	68 PV 0 DL	93 PV 43 DL	340 PV 91 DL	
G.S.R. General Service Representative: "Your Group's Link to A.A. as a Whole" ©2018	English	12,582	14,195	23,911	29,991	24,099	20,129	2,383 PV 0 DL	7,641 PV 0 DL	6,156 PV 1,377 D	Minor editorial updates in 2023 and 2024.
Le RSG représentant auprès des Services généraux – le lien de votre groupe aux AA dans leur ensemble	French	760	351	897	734	684	672	44 PV 0 DL	157 PV 0 DL	207 PV 66 DL	

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RSG - Representante de servicios generales: El enlace de su grupo con la totalidad de A.A.	Spanish	1,189	1,283	1,669	2,571	1,838	2,030	449 PV 0 DL	1,830 PV 0 DL	2,054 PV 301 DL	
Women in A.A.	English	25,055	25,866	35,665	42,079	34,277	27,973	5976 PV 81 DL	Old: 18,992 PV 1,182 DL New: 860 PV 386 DL	5976 PV81 DL	Updated in 2018. Minor edit updates in 2023 and 2024.
AA por la femme	French	449	176	1,178	1,438	816	1,013	309 PV 0 DL	Old: 1,033 PV 131 DL New: 20 DL 0	309 PV0 DL	
Las Mujeres en A.A.	Spanish	2,553	4,293	6,085	5,687	835	6,042	680 PV 0 DL	Old: 2,261 PV 412 DL New: 0 PV 69 DL	680 PV0 DL	
Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A. ©2018	English	9,353	12,899	18,756	24,570	19,147	16,199	1,791 PV 1 DL	Old: 6,906 PV 826 DL New: 0 PV 4 DL	981 PV331 DL	Revised in 2018. Minor edit updates in 2024.
Expérience, Force Et Espoir - Les alcooliques LGBTQ des AA	French	147	335	638	566	729	245	38 PV 0 DL	Old: 164 PV 24 DL New: 0 PV 2 DL	117 PV48 DL	
Experiencia, Fortaleza Y Esperanza – Los alcohólicos LGBTQ en A.A.	Spanish	901	1,186	1,581	1,141	2,472	1,713	217 PV 0 DL	Old: 890 PV 160 DL New: 0 PV 2 DL	206 PV90 DL	
Inside A.A. .... ©2018	English	14,644	15,565	18,746	23,946	12,918	8,780	658 PV 0 DL	5,606 PV 729 DL	2,857 PV 678 DL	Updated in 2018. Minor edit updates in 2023 and 2024.
La structure des AA	French	371	355	400	709	480	258	69 PV 0 DL	142 PV 30 DL	235 PV 37 DL	
Dentro de A.A.	Spanish	1,087	986	1,633	1,714	1,130	402	96 PV 0 DL	328 PV 109 DL	395 PV 115 DL	
Experience, Strength and Hope: A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues — and their sponsors ©2018	English	11653	13,974	19,122	25,151	20,314	16,348		41 PV 410 DL	396 PV 1,130 DL	Minor edit updates in 2023 and 2025.
Expérience, Force Et Espoir - Les aa pour les alcooliques atteints de maladie mentale — et ceux qui les parrainent	French	54	306	675	857	792	81		15 PV 0 DL	41 PV 0 DL	
Experiencia, Fortaleza, Esperanza: A.A. para los alcohólicos con problemas de salud mental — y sus padrinos	Spanish	267	755	603	1,061	1,458	1,025		3 PV 54 DL	20 PV 108 DL	
Experience, Strength and Hope: The "God" Word	English	9353	12,899	22,823	31,076	29,288	20,976	1,791 PV 1 DL	52 PV 342 DL	629 PV 1,538 D	
Expérience, Force Et Espoir – Le mot « Dieu » Membres agnostiques et athées chez les AA	French	147	335	2,567	3,771	1,223	1,270	38 PV 0 DL	0 PV 47 DL	274 PV 186 DL	
Experiencia, Fortaleza Y Esperanza – La palabra "Dios" Los miembros de A.A. agnósticos y ateos	Spanish	901	1,186	1,270	1,910	1,384	1,122	217 PV 0 DL	8 PV 64 DL	427 PV 243 D	
The Jack Alexander Article About A.A. *Reprinted by Special Permission of Saturday Evening Post ©1941	English	4382	4,191	6,029	7,619	5,213	5,577	397 PV 0 DL	1,272 PV 347 DL	883 PV205 DL	Archival
Article de Jack Alexander sur les A.A.	French	14	133	197	118	287	273	17 PV 0 DL	83 PV 46 DL	59 PV 0 DL	
Artículo de Jack Alexander Acerca de A.A.	Spanish	554	900	1,408	474	1,224	1,210	187 PV 0 DL	577 PV 191 DL	505 PV 122 DL	
A.A. Tradition-How It Developed By Bill W. ©1955	English	9007	7,611	13,584	15,674	10,349	8,022	568 PV 0 DL	1,991 PV 648 DL	1,436 PV 448 DL	Historical
La Tradition des A.A. et son Développement par Bill W.	French	94	32	306	188	77	290	11 PV 0 DL	94 PV 40 DL	91 PV 25 DL	

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La Tradición de A.A.—Cómo se Desarrolló	Spanish	820	1,568	1,410	1,527	1,015	1,198	437 PV 0 DL	1,399 PV 419 DL	1,427 PV 251 DL	
A.A.'s Legacy of Service By Bill W. ©1969	English	3482	3,148	6,232	5,146	4,785	3,569	872 PV 0 DL	2,844 PV 685 DL	2,061 PV 427 DL	Historical
L'héritage des services des A.A.	French	257	3	231	172	198	90	21 PV 0 DL	93 PV 22 DL	67 PV 1 DL	
El Legado de Servicio de A.A.	Spanish	700	615	491	843	193	628	804 PV 0 DL	2,885 PV 614 DL	2,842 PV 444 DL	
The Co-founders of A.A. ©1973, 1975	English	5058	6,093	4,246	6,733	4,083	3,542	436 PV 0 DL	2,314 PV 332 DL	1,403 PV 181 DL	Archival/ Biographical
Les Deux Fondateurs des A.A.	French	335	366	121	267	147	155	8 PV 0 DL	60 PV 15 DL	40 PV 0 DL	
Los Cofundadores de Alcohólicos Anónimos	Spanish	313	558	559	558	593	312	46 PV 0 DL	194 PV 60 DL	154 PV 30 DL	
Anonymity Display Card ©1993	English	373	943	1129	1186	1114	3044				
Affichette Sur L'anonymat	French	0	32	29	14	52	38				
Tarjeta de Declaración de Anonimato	Spanish	13	67	473	162	175	92				
Suggestions for Leading Beginners Meeting	English	241	254	0	414	505	262	1,995 PV 0 DL	7,952 PV 915 DL	352 PV 556 DL	
Suggestions pour réunions de débutants	French	1	0	9	0	0	0	39 PV 0 DL	108 PV 15 DL	1 PV 0 DL	
Sugerencias para Coordinar Reuniones de Principiantes	Spanish	44	23	20	1	0	210	1,834 PV 0 DL	8,272 PV 794 DL	402 PV 751 DL	
Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions	English	80, 1	66, 0	36, 0	76	63	27		N/A		
Bill's Own Story	English	1, 85	0, 82	0, 205	0, 129	137	64		N/A		
Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure	English	31	43	94	312	4	1521				
Votre BSG	French	1	1	0	0	0	100		N/A		
Su Oficina de Servicios Generales de A.A., el Grapevine, y la Estructura de Servicios Generales	Spanish	5	17	0	0	0	20				

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Note valuable review criteria within the "AAWS Policy on Publication: Keeping A.A. Literature Current."

1/6/2020  
(rev. 7/28/22)

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

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

### **Definitions**

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

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

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

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

### **Submission of Literature to the General Service Conference**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Scope and Process for Editorial Updates of Conference-Approved Literature**

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

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

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

1. Regularly present to the Conference, through the Trustees' Literature Committee or other appropriate trustees' or Conference committee, a selection of pamphlets or other Conference-approved Literature items that have been edited or summarized for revision by the Publications Department. (This would either be part of or supplementary to the annual Recovery Literature Matrix provided to the Conference Literature Committee by the Trustees' Literature Committee - see note below.)

2. The appropriate trustees' or Conference committee, at its discretion, will consider the proposed revision and forward it on to either the appropriate Conference committee for their consideration or to the Conference as a whole for final approval.

3. If approved by the Conference, the Publishing Department will update each item without further change being made other than as may be specified by the Conference in granting its approval.

4. Once the item has been given Conference-approval, the items will be translated, and existing inventory of the prior version will be discontinued and replaced with the new material.\*

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

December 2019

\*For all Conference-approved pamphlets, implementation will take place as soon as possible after conclusion of the Conference at which the changes are approved. In most cases, current inventory (in English, French and Spanish) will be written off or destroyed and replaced with the new, revised materials. For Conference-approved books, the inventory is often greater and the investment is more costly than pamphlets, so implementation of revisions will take place in consultation with the general manager (GM), the chief financial officer (CFO), and with the AAWS Board, as deemed necessary by the GM. All efforts will be made to post revised digital versions on aa.org as final approved PDFs are completed.

**Acknowledged/Accepted by 2020 General Service Conference**

rev. 7/2022 and  
AAWS Adopted

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

1	<p>The AAWS Publishing Department reviews selected pamphlet, book, or other item for presentation to AAWS for revision according to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does the material use outdated language, jargon, or references?</li><li>• Does the material utilize the most current science about alcoholism?</li><li>• Does the material focus on inclusivity and represent A.A.'s broad diversity?</li><li>• Does the material draw on A.A. history in a way that is relevant and necessary?</li><li>• Does the material effectively address the audience to whom it is directed?</li></ul>	<b>AAWS Editorial Staff, AAWS Board</b>
2	<p>Proposed revisions are forwarded from AAWS to the relevant trustees' or Conference committee for review.</p>	<b>Relevant Trustees' or Conference Committee</b>
3	<p>The relevant Conference committee evaluates the proposed revision for presentation to the full Conference for final approval.</p>	<b>Conference Committee</b>
4	<p>The full Conference considers the proposed revisions. If approved, the revised item will be Conference-approved literature.</p>	<b>General Service Conference</b>
5	<p>Once approved, the Publishing Department will proceed with translation into French and Spanish and discontinue prior inventory.</p>	<b>AAWS Publishing Dept.</b>

## 2026 Conference Committee on Literature

**ITEM B:** Review content and format of Literature Kit and Workbook.

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### Background notes:

Workbooks (and applicable service kits) for Archives, CPC, Corrections, Literature, Public Information, and Treatment and Accessibilities are reviewed by the appropriate Conference committees during each General Service Conference.

Between Conferences, ideas for changes to a workbook may be received. These may be reviewed by the appropriate trustees' Committee and/or respective Staff assignment and implemented as directed.

The trustees' committee may also choose to forward an idea to the Conference committee for review. Members of the Conference committee then have an opportunity to review proposed changes to a workbook during the next General Service Conference.

**Note:** Workbooks and kits are service pieces. Any suggested changes to their content from the Conference committee are put forth as Committee Considerations rather than recommendations. The Literature Workbook (Item M-52i) is available on GSO's A.A. website ([www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)).

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### Background:

1. Literature Workbook and A.A. Literature Catalog are available to view at the links below:

Literature Workbook:

- [ENG](#)
- [FR](#)
- [SP](#)

A.A. Literature Catalog:

- [ENG](#)
- [FR](#)
- [SP](#)

## 2026 Conference Committee on Literature

**ITEM C:** Review progress report on the development of the Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos* (Spanish).

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### Background notes:

*Excerpt from the February 1, 2026, trustees' Literature Committee meeting:*

The committee reviewed a progress report on the development of a Fourth Edition of *Alcohólicos Anónimos* and **agreed to forward** the report to the 2026 Conference Committee on Literature.

*2025 Conference Committee on Literature Additional Committee Consideration:*

The committee had a robust discussion about the progress report and project timeline for the development of the Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos* (Spanish). The committee requested that a manuscript or progress report be brought back to the 2026 Conference Committee on Literature.

*2021 Conference Advisory Action:*

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

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

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### Background:

1. 2025 Progress Report: Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos* (Spanish)

2025-2026 trustees' Literature Committee

Working Group developing a Fourth Edition of *Alcohólicos Anónimos*

Progress Report February 2026

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For the 2025-2026 year, the working group members were: Cesar F., chair (ACM); Paola A., Julio E., Juan Carlos L., Fredy M., nontrustee director of Grapevine/La Viña; Eladio M., Paz P., Zoraida R. and MaRosa W.

The working group has met 15 times since the 2025 General Service Conference. During this period, the working group continued to review stories submitted for the Fourth Edition of *Alcohólicos Anónimos*. Of the original 180 stories, the working group selected nine stories, identified an additional two stories that need editing and selected 10 stories that might be included.

The working group also began to consider which stories from the Third Edition should be retained.

The working group reviewed drafts of revised chapters, including the Forewords, The Doctor's Opinion, Bill's Story, There Is a Solution, More About Alcoholism, We Agnostics, How It Works, Working with Others, To Wives, The Family Afterward, To Employers and A Vision for You.

The working group continues to meet approximately every other week via Zoom to review new translations and discuss story selection. We anticipate providing a draft manuscript to the trustees' Literature Committee later in 2026, with the hope that the draft will be forwarded to the 77<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference.

We appreciate the assistance of the Language Services Department and our Staff secretary.

We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to continue to work on this wonderful project.

Service is a Legacy of Love,  
Cesar F., Appointed Committee Member of the trustees' Literature Committee  
Fourth Edition Big Book in Spanish Working Group Chair

## 2026 Conference Committee on Literature

**ITEM D:** Review draft of the Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

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### Background notes:

*Excerpt from the February 1, 2026, trustees' Literature Committee meeting:*

The committee reviewed the final report of the Fifth Edition Big Book subcommittee along with a complete draft of the Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The committee **agreed to forward** the final report along with the draft manuscript of the Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* to the 2026 Conference Committee on Literature.

*2025 Conference Committee on Literature Additional Committee Consideration:*

The committee had a thoughtful discussion about the progress report and project timeline for the development of a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The committee requested that a manuscript or progress report be brought back to the 2026 Conference Committee on Literature.

*2021 Conference Advisory Actions:*

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

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

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

**CONFIDENTIAL: 76th General Service Conference Background**

**Background:**

1. Fifth Edition *Alcoholics Anonymous* Final Report
2. Draft of the Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* (*Confidential, "For Committee Eyes Only"*)
  - Front matter: Foreword to the Fifth Edition and revised Preface
  - New Personal Stories: Part II, Experience, Strength and Hope
  - Revised Appendices III, V and VI.
3. Memo to Committee regarding confidential background

**2025-2026 trustees' Literature Committee  
Fifth Edition Big Book Subcommittee Final Report**

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The subcommittee was charged with implementing the following Advisory Actions of the 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference:

- 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,”
- 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.

Members of the Fifth Edition subcommittees from 2021-2026, as well as those who have served on the trustees' Literature Committee in this time have expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the process of developing the draft Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

The subcommittee is especially grateful to the 2,393 members of the Fellowship who submitted their personal stories for consideration.

**Updated stories to better reflect the current membership:**

The Advisory Action stated that the new edition should include “an update of stories to better reflect current membership.”

To gather those stories, the trustees' Literature Committee created a subcommittee in 2021. They began their work by reviewing the processes that had led to the creation of the first four editions of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The subcommittee was careful to craft a process grounded in A.A. principles and history. Mindful of A.A. cofounder Bill W.'s observation that “the audience for the book is people who are coming to Alcoholics Anonymous now. Those who are here have already heard our stories.”

The “Call for Stories” was opened in April 2022 and closed October 31, 2022. Stories were accepted in English, Spanish and French. Members were able to submit stories electronically, as well as in hard copy through postal mail.

As the stories were coming in, the subcommittee began work on developing a process for evaluating stories.

Each story was first anonymized and given a number. Members were thanked for their submissions and the General Service Office (GSO) Staff followed up to make sure that each

member who submitted their story had also provided permission for their story to be edited and used (Assignment of Copyright).

Stories received in Spanish and French were translated into English so they could be read and reviewed by subcommittee members.

The subcommittee reviewed past practices and discussed the approach for the Fifth Edition. The subcommittee developed a grid where characteristics of each story and any comments could be noted, with emphasis on varied personal and A.A. experience.

For the Fourth Edition there were more than 1,200 stories submitted, and for the Fifth Edition there were 2,393 story submissions from grateful and enthusiastic A.A. members. It was awe inspiring and brought some challenges into the process regarding the ability of a subcommittee to effectively and carefully review every submission. In 2023-2024, members of the Fifth Edition Big Book subcommittee engaged additional volunteer readers who, along with the subcommittee, reviewed stories, noting unique elements of each story in the grid. This facilitated the subcommittee's selection of 159 stories for further consideration.

Additional volunteer readers proved to be an effective method to engage additional help to deal with a high volume of content. As a result, the subcommittee requested that the trustees' Literature Committee formalize a process for engagement of additional volunteers where needed for future projects.

By early 2025, the subcommittee was able to reduce the number of stories being considered down to 48. These were shared with the full trustees' Literature Committee and Conference Committee on Literature who were both provided the opportunity to provide input on which stories would be selected and express any concerns they had about any of the stories.

Throughout 2025, the subcommittee continued to meet and discuss the stories, frequently referring back to the Advisory Action. Emphasis was placed on selecting stories with depth and weight that would help a newcomer identify and find hope. In the end, a final set of 26 new stories were selected. These stories reflect A.A.'s geographic diversity and include stories of those who got sober as young people and those who got sober later in life. The stories also reflect different kinds of lived experiences, including those who identify as being part of remote communities, those who came to the U.S. or Canada as immigrants, members who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community and those who have served in the military. These new stories also include members who got sober during periods of incarceration and some who struggled with the notion of a Higher Power. All found sobriety, hope and a new way of life through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**Personal Stories from the Fourth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*:**

The subcommittee invited members of the trustees' Literature Committee and the Conference Committee on Literature to help determine which stories from the Fourth Edition Big Book should be retained.

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After reviewing that feedback, the subcommittee recommended that of the 42 personal stories in the Fourth Edition *Alcoholics Anonymous*, twelve should be included in the Fifth Edition, including:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Bob’s Nightmare</li> <li>• Alcoholics Anonymous Number Three</li> <li>• Gratitude in Action</li> <li>• Women Suffer Too</li> <li>• The Vicious Cycle</li> <li>• Jim's Story</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Keys of The Kingdom</li> <li>• Crossing the River of Denial</li> <li>• Winner Takes All</li> <li>• Acceptance Was The Answer</li> <li>• Listening To The Wind</li> <li>• Freedom From Bondage</li> </ul>
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Those that were not retained include the following 30 stories:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our Southern Friend</li> <li>• The Man Who Mastered Fear</li> <li>• He Sold Himself Short</li> <li>• The Missing Link</li> <li>• Fear of Fear</li> <li>• The Housewife Who Drank at Home</li> <li>• Physician, Heal Thyself!</li> <li>• My Chance to Live</li> <li>• Student of Life</li> <li>• Because I'm an Alcoholic</li> <li>• It Might Have Been Worse</li> <li>• Tighrope</li> <li>• Flooded with Feeling</li> <li>• Me an Alcoholic?</li> <li>• The Perpetual Quest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Drunk, Like You</li> <li>• Window of Opportunity</li> <li>• My Bottle, My Resentments, and Me</li> <li>• He Lived Only to Drink</li> <li>• Safe Haven</li> <li>• Twice Gifted</li> <li>• Building a New Life</li> <li>• On The Move</li> <li>• A Vision of Recovery</li> <li>• Gutter Bravado</li> <li>• Empty On the Inside</li> <li>• Grounded</li> <li>• Another Chance</li> <li>• A Late Start</li> <li>• A.A. Taught Him to Handle Sobriety</li> </ul>
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The subcommittee noted that there is no plan in place to continue to publish the 30 stories that have been removed, and that should the Conference wish for these to be published in a volume like *Experience, Strength, and Hope* or otherwise made available, an Advisory Action from the General Service Conference would be in order.

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

The subcommittee consulted with the trustees’ Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Committee in review of “The Medical View on A.A.” (III) and “The Religious View on A.A.” (V) appendices. Past and present Class A trustees were very helpful. The GSO Publishing Department incorporated the feedback and suggestions into drafts of each Appendix. Multiple drafts of each Appendix were reviewed by the subcommittee before they were finalized.

**Updates to Appendix VI: How to Get in Touch with A.A.:**

The subcommittee also requested that the Publishing Department review and make recommendations to Appendix VI, keeping in mind the diverse ways that people seek help and information, and to reflect current practices. In December 2025, a revised draft of Appendix VI was approved by the subcommittee.

**Updated Preface and Foreword to the Fifth Edition:**

The Foreword to the Fifth Edition and Preface are in the purview of the Publishing Department and were written after the stories had been selected and other content finalized. The Fifth Edition Subcommittee provided input and these were then shared with the trustees' Literature Committee.

**General Service Office (GSO):**

Both the GSO Staff on the literature assignment and the Publishing Department have gathered experience through this process that is being retained and applied to other projects where applicable. The subcommittee wishes to thank the Staff and employees for their tireless support throughout this process.

**Proposed Agenda Items (PAIs):**

The subcommittee received three PAIs from AAWS that pertained to the format and the cover of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The subcommittee noted that there have been also previous requests for a more anonymity conscience jacketless cover. The subcommittee requested that Publishing Department and AAWS consider this expressed need when formatting the Fifth Edition.

The subcommittee also received four PAIs from the trustees' Literature Committee, these were not forwarded to the Conference but pertained to the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and were provided to the subcommittee for review. These were carefully considered and the subcommittee took no further action.

**Conclusion:**

The development of this draft of the Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* has been a real labor of love, and could not have been completed without the incredible work of hundreds of A.A. members, including the area delegates (especially those serving on the Conference Committee on Literature), dozens of board members (trustees, nontrustee directors and appointed committee members), GSO Staff, Staff associates, the Publishing Department and the many, many members who submitted their stories.

####

April 2026

To: Members of the 2026 General Service Conference

From: Misha Q., Secretary, trustees' Literature Committee and Conference Committee on Literature

Subject: **Confidential** draft literature

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As a Conference committee reviews a new, or extensively revised literature item it is general practice that drafts are reviewed by **committee members only**. This means that the rest of the Conference members will not be getting copies of the pamphlet or book in their background materials for the Conference.

The Conference Committee on Literature will be reviewing the draft manuscript of the Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, primarily to determine whether or not the scope of changes presented meets the intended goals of the 2021 Advisory Action to develop a new edition.

Also, as with all Conference-approved A.A. literature, the Conference committee will be looking at the draft manuscript to see "that everything in such literature is in accord with A.A. principles" and that "Conference-approved material always deals with the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous or with information about the A.A. Fellowship." (Concerns about routine grammar, punctuation, editing, etc., will be addressed by the Publishing Department.)

Once the Conference committee reviews the draft manuscript, several things may happen. Among them:

- The committee might approve the manuscript and recommend that the manuscript be approved by the Conference as a whole.
- The committee might send the manuscript back to the trustees' Literature Committee with any significant concerns about the proposed draft.

Until a book or pamphlet is "Conference-approved," it is confidential and for committee eyes only. Prior to then, any number of changes might be made by the trustees' Literature Committee or the corresponding Conference committee. This confidential process ensures that the message that reaches the A.A. Fellowship is a reflection of A.A. as a whole, an assurance made by the Conference-approval process.

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**2026 Conference Committee on Literature**

**ITEM E:** Review progress report on the update to the book *Living Sober*.

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**Background notes:**

*Excerpt from the February 1, 2026, trustees' Literature Committee meeting:*

The committee reviewed the progress report and three revised sample chapters from the subcommittee charged with revising *Living Sober* and **agreed to forward** to the 2026 Conference Committee on Literature the progress report and sample chapter revisions with the request that the Conference Committee consider whether the revised chapters meet the goal of revising the language and content of the book *Living Sober*.

*Advisory Action of the 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference:*

It was recommended that:

The trustees' Literature Committee update the language and content of the book *Living Sober* with a progress report or draft manuscript to be delivered to the 2026 Conference Committee on Literature.

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

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**Background:**

1. Progress report, update to the book *Living Sober*
2. Draft chapters 10, 14, 16 for an update to the book *Living Sober*\*
3. Memo to Committee regarding confidential background

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

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**2025-2026 trustees' Literature Committee**

***Living Sober* Subcommittee**

**Progress Report February 2026**

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Following the 2025 General Service Conference, the trustees' Literature Committee appointed a subcommittee to begin work on revising the booklet *Living Sober*.

In consultation with the Publishing Department and GSO Staff, the subcommittee identified three *Living Sober* chapters on which to begin the revision process:

- Chapter 10: "Telephone Therapy"
- Chapter 14: "Fending off Loneliness"
- Chapter 16: "Being Good to Yourself"

Throughout the year, the subcommittee reviewed multiple drafts of each of the three chapters and made additional suggestions to the Publishing Department. The resulting three chapters are included here for review.

The subcommittee hopes to receive feedback about whether these updates meet the intended goal of the Advisory Action before proceeding with additional revisions and development of new content.

April 2026

To: Members of the 2026 General Service Conference

From: Misha Q., Secretary, trustees' and Conference Committees on Literature

Subject: **Confidential** draft literature

---

As a Conference committee reviews a new, or extensively revised literature item it is general practice that drafts are reviewed by **committee members only**. This means that the rest of the Conference members will not be getting copies of the pamphlet or book in their background materials for the Conference.

The Conference Committee on Literature will be reviewing the draft chapters of *Living Sober*, primarily to determine whether or not the scope of changes presented meets the intended goals of the 2025 Advisory Action recommending an update to the text.

Also, as with all Conference-approved A.A. literature, the Conference committee will be looking at the draft manuscript to see "that everything in such literature is in accord with A.A. principles. Conference-approved material always deals with the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous or with information about the A.A. Fellowship." (Concerns about routine grammar, punctuation, editing, etc., will be addressed by the Publishing Department.)

Once the Conference committee reviews the draft chapters of *Living Sober* several things may happen. Among them:

- The committee might approve the direction of the edits and suggest trustees' Committee on Literature continue work on updating the text and provide a revised draft or progress report to the 2027 Conference committee.
- The committee might also send the draft chapters of *Living Sober* back to the trustees' Committee on Literature with any significant concerns about the proposed editorial approach.

Until a book or pamphlet is "Conference-approved," it is confidential and for committee eyes only. Prior to then, any number of changes might be made by the trustees' Committee on Literature or the corresponding Conference committee. This confidential process ensures that the message that reaches the A.A. Fellowship is a reflection of A.A. as a whole, an assurance made by the Conference-approval process.

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**ITEM F:** Progress report on the development of a *Plain Language Big Book* amendment process.

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**Background notes:**

*Excerpt from the February 1, 2026, trustees' Literature Committee meeting report:*

The committee reviewed a progress report on the development of a *Plain Language Big Book* amendment process and **agreed to forward** the report to the 2026 Conference Committee on Literature.

Advisory Action of the 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference:

It was recommended that:

The proposals to rescind or revise the *Plain Language Big Book* be collected and deferred until the 77<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference to allow for a wider Fellowship experience.

The development of a process within the trustees' Literature Committee for receiving, assessing and forwarding proposed changes to the *Plain Language Big Book* to the Conference Committee on Literature.

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**Background:**

1. Progress report of the *Plain Language Big Book* review process subcommittee.
2. Graphic representation of a process for receiving and reviewing suggestions related to the *Plain Language Big Book*.

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**2025-2026 trustees' Literature Committee  
Plain Language Big Book Review Process Subcommittee  
Progress Report, January 2026**

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The subcommittee discussed and agreed upon expectations for how different types of requests and editorial suggestions related to the *Plain Language Big Book* (PLBB) might be routed.

Honoring A.A. spiritual principles and ensuring that perspectives from the A.A. membership are heard, particularly the minority opinion, are essential to the process.

The subcommittee identified six sets of key actors involved in the process of receiving, considering and responding to suggestions for changes to the *Plain Language Big Book*:

1. GSO Staff: Receive and route proposed agenda items (PAIs); respond to email and phone calls from A.A. members; assist with implementation of Advisory Actions and other directives.
2. Trustees' Literature Committee
3. *Plain Language Big Book* Review Process Subcommittee
4. Publishing Department
5. Consultant (external writer)
6. Conference Committee on Literature

In considering how each set of actors is engaged in the process, the subcommittee considered

- AAWS Policy on Publication: Keeping A.A. Literature Current
- Comp, Scope and Procedure of trustees' Literature Committee, the *Plain Language Big Book* Review Process Subcommittee and the Conference Committee on Literature
- The Twelve Concepts for World Service (with particular emphasis on Concept X.)

After considering these resources, the subcommittee agreed to draft a visual representation of the process for receiving, considering and routing suggestions related to the *Plain Language Big Book*.

The graphic representation of a workflow or “swim lanes” of responsibility and authority represent the subcommittee’s efforts to avoid confusion of “double-headed management.”

The focus of the work to date has been on the receipt, review, consideration, discussion and recommendations that arise from submitted PAIs. Future work of the subcommittee

may focus on a process for also receiving and considering other kinds of feedback related to the *Plain Language Big Book* from the Fellowship.

One principle underlying all of this work is that while responsibility for determining whether to forward a PAI to Conference does lie with the trustees' committee, there are other lines of collaboration and delegated authority. These include:

- The trustees' Literature Committee will continue to consult with the Conference Committee on Literature about PAIs each year, with the goal of ensuring a collaborative process.
- The trustees' Literature Committee may identify PAIs that suggest changes which are editorial in nature. These may be forwarded directly to the Publishing Department, which would have the responsibility of making editorial changes and forwarding them back to the trustees' Literature Committee.
- The trustees' Literature Committee may identify PAIs that suggest substantive changes to the PLBB. These would be forwarded to the *Plain Language Big Book* Review Process Subcommittee to evaluate whether to recommend that the proposed substantive change be forwarded to Conference. If the subcommittee agrees that that the proposed substantive change should be forwarded to Conference, it may also need to identify whether to route that suggestion to the consultant.
- If a substantive change with specific direction is forwarded to a consultant, that external writer will be tasked with drafting the proposed change and returning the draft to the PLBB Review Process Subcommittee.
- If the PLBB Review Process Subcommittee approves of the draft language, it may make a recommendation to the trustees' Literature Committee.
- The PLBB Review Process Subcommittee may also make a recommendation to "Take no action" to the trustees' Literature Committee.
- The trustees' Literature Committee will continue to have responsibility for reviewing recommendations and proposed changes. If the committee agrees with recommendations or accepts a draft revision, it may forward those to the Conference Committee on Literature.

### PLBB Review/Revision Process

	10/1/2025	11/1/2025	11/10/2025	11/30/2025	12/15/2025	2/1/2026	3/15/2026	3/26/26	4/1/2026	8/1/2026	1/1/2027	1/29/2027
Trustees' Literature Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Get feedback on PAIs from the Conference Committee on Literature</li> <li>❖ Review and discuss all PAIs related to PLBB in meeting of TLC                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Identify if any PLBB-related PAIs are "Take No Action" - if yes, Staff to communicate with submitter</li> <li>❖ Identify if any PLBB-related PAIs are Editorial Changes Only - If yes forward to Publishing</li> <li>❖ Identify PAIs with Substantive Changes - Forward to PLBB Subcommittee</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Review recommendations from PLBB Subcommittee on Items with Substantive Changes but not specific language. If Committee agrees with Recommendation, add to GSC Agenda. if Committee disagrees, staff will communicate with submitter.</li> <li>❖ Review Recommendations from PLBB Subcommittee for PAIs with Substantive and Specific suggestions. If committee agrees - Forward to Consultant</li> <li>❖ If TLC Disagrees with Recommendations from PLBB subcommittee; PAIs to be forwarded to other bodies as appropriate</li> <li>❖ Review additional Take No Action Recommendations from PLBB Subcommittee; If TLC agrees with Take No Action Items, Staff will communicate with Submitter                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Accept revised drafts from Consultant, forward to PLBB Subcommittee</li> <li>❖ Accept revised draft from Publishing Dept with Editorial Changes; Forward to PLBB Subcommittee</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Review draft with Editorial changes made by Publishing forwarded by PLBB Subcommittee and report to 2027 GSC</li> <li>❖ Review draft by Consultant forwarded by PLBB Subcommittee; if recommendation is accepted, forward draft to 2027 GSC</li> </ul>											
PLBB Review Process Subcommittee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Review PAIs with Substantive Changes</li> <li>❖ Review PLBB PAIs with substantive changes; as warranted, make recommendations to TLC that PAIs with specific suggestions be forwarded to Consultant</li> <li>❖ Review PLBB PAIs with substantive changes; as warranted, make recommendations to TLC that PAIs with substantive but non specific suggestions be forwarded to 2027 GSC as Agenda Items</li> <li>❖ Review editorial changes made by Publishing Department. As appropriate forward recommendation that draft be accepted to TLC</li> <li>❖ Review draft made by consultant with PAI suggested changes; if acceptable forward recommendation to TLC that draft be forwarded to GSC</li> </ul>											
GSC / CCL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Provide Feedback on PAIs to the Chair of TLC</li> <li>❖ 2026 GSC - Review reporting of Editorial Changes</li> <li>❖ 2027 GSC - Consider reports, suggestions and/or revised draft</li> </ul>											
Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Begin work on implementation of substantive change suggested by PAIs</li> <li>❖ Forward Revised Draft to TLC</li> </ul>											
Publishing Dept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Begin work on implementation of editorial changes from TLC submitted as PAIs</li> <li>❖ Forward revised draft with completed Editorial changes to TLC</li> </ul>											

**ITEM G:** Review progress report of subcommittee exploring the needs of Spanish-speaking members for tools to access the Big Book.

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**Background notes:**

*Excerpt from the February 1, 2026, trustees' Literature Committee meeting report:*

The committee reviewed a progress report from the subcommittee exploring the needs of Spanish-speaking members regarding tools to access the Big Book, as well as a draft survey. The committee agreed to provide feedback on the draft survey and moved that the revised survey be sent to members, as suggested by the subcommittee. The committee **agreed to forward** the progress report and draft survey to the 2026 Conference Committee on Literature.

*Advisory Action of the 75<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference:*

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.

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**Background:**

1. February 2026 progress report of the subcommittee exploring the needs of Spanish-speaking members for tools to access the Big Book
2. Draft survey of Spanish-speaking members (in English for committee review)

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**Trustees' Literature Committee  
Subcommittee exploring the needs of Spanish-speaking  
members for tools to access the Big Book  
Progress Report**

Since the November 2025 meeting of the trustees' Literature Committee, the subcommittee exploring the needs of Spanish-speaking members for tools to access the Big Book met twice.

In those meetings, the subcommittee reviewed its scope and began review of reports related to English-language tools to access the Big Book (TABB and RIPTAB).

The subcommittee agreed that some of the work to evaluate the need for Spanish-language tools would be best conducted after the publication of the Fourth Edition of *Alcohólicos Anónimos*.

The subcommittee also agreed to develop a draft survey of Spanish-speaking members to gauge interest in and need for tools for reading the Big Book (and other literature) in Spanish.

With approval from the trustees' Literature Committee, the subcommittee hopes to make the survey available to Spanish-speaking members in February 2026.

Service is a Legacy of Love  
Cesar F.

Appointed Committee Member of the trustees' Literature Committee  
Chair, subcommittee exploring the needs of Spanish speaking members for tools to access the Big Book (*Alcoholics Anonymous*).

###

**Trustees' Literature Committee**

**Draft Survey — Plain Language Tools for Spanish-Speaking A.A. Members**

1. Are you a member of Alcoholics Anonymous? (Check one)
  - Yes
  - No
  
2. Do you live in the United States, Canada (or one of the other countries that are part of the U.S./Canada Service Structure (the Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St Maarten & Cayman Islands). (Check one)
  - Yes
  - No
  
3. What is your primary language?
  - Spanish
  - English
  - Other
  
4. How do you interact with Spanish-speaking newcomers? (Check all that apply)
  - “Behind the walls” — in correctional facilities
  - As a sponsor
  - In A.A. meetings
  
5. What tools do you use when working with a Spanish-speaking newcomer (check all that apply)?
  - Books
    - Alcoholics Anonymous*
    - Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*
    - Living Sober*
    - Came to Believe*
    - Books from AA Grapevine / La Viña
  - Pamphlets
    - “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship”
    - “The Twelve Steps Illustrated”
    - “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated”
    - “Frequently Asked Questions about A.A.”
    - “Is A.A. for You?”

- “Is A.A. for Me?”
  - “A Newcomer Asks”
  - “Hispanic Women in A.A.”
  - Other (Explain)
6. Have you worked with members who have struggled with reading A.A. materials in Spanish?
- Yes
  - No
7. When working with a Spanish-speaking newcomer who has literacy or reading challenges, please rank the usefulness of the following: (use a five-point scale from not useful (1) at all to extremely useful (5))
- Conference-approved books
  - Conference-approved pamphlets
  - Conference-approved audio or video
  - AA Grapevine or La Viña magazines
  - AA Grapevine or La Viña app
  - Other AA or La Viña tools
8. When working with a Spanish-speaking newcomer who has literacy or reading challenges, have you directed them to resources outside of Conference-approved literature or AA Grapevine and La Viña resources?
- Yes
  - No
  - Explain

Note: The English language *Plain Language Big Book — A tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous* was produced after considerable research and consultation with the Fellowship. The result of that research and consultation was that there were many English-speaking A.A. members and problem drinkers who struggled with the old-fashioned language in the first 164 pages of *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

9. Do you think that something similar would be helpful for the Spanish-speaking community?
- Yes

- No
- Maybe
- Explain

10. Do you think a plain language tool would be more helpful for a different piece of Spanish language Conference-approved literature?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- Explain

11. Do you think a tool for reading *Alcohólicos Anónimos* should be a book? Or would a differently formatted tool be more helpful?

- Book would be best
- I would prefer
  - Pamphlet
  - Workbook/ Study guide
  - Videos
  - Audio guide
  - Other (explain)

12. Is there any other experience you would like to share?

**2026 Conference Committee on Literature**

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

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**Background notes:**

*Excerpt from the February 1, 2026, trustees' Literature Committee meeting report:*

The committee reviewed a progress report on the development of a pamphlet for the Asian and Asian-American Alcoholic and **agreed to forward** the report to the 2026 Conference Committee on Literature.

*2024 Advisory Action:*

It was recommended that:

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

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**Background:**

1. Progress Report on the development of a pamphlet for the Asian and Asian-American alcoholic

**2025-2026 trustees' Literature Committee**

**Working Group for the pamphlet "A.A. for the Asian and Asian-American Alcoholic"  
Progress Report, February 2026**

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In response to the 2024 Advisory Action requesting the development of a pamphlet, a working group was formed, chaired by Brian P., appointed committee member (ACM) serving on the trustees' Literature Committee.

Since we last reported in November 2025, the working group has been working very enthusiastically to support the open call for stories for the pamphlet "A.A. for the Asian and Asian-American Alcoholic" and has met twice — on December 15, 2025 and January 12, 2026.

Keeping in mind several factors of diversity for our working group, such as cultural heritage, gender, and geographical location within the Conference, we welcomed two new members to our working group: Eunice P. and Kerri K.

We were very excited to hear that several stories (representing a range of different cultures) have already been submitted.

At our last working group meeting, we began to develop a system for how we will review story submissions.

Writing workshops at various in-person A.A. events throughout the U.S/Canada service structure have been scheduled or are under way. Our group is incredibly grateful for the leadership and efforts made by the working group for the pamphlet "A.A. for the Transgender Alcoholic" to find many opportunities, and for their generosity in allowing us to share space with them in combined workshops to give attention to the call for stories for our pamphlet.

There was a general A.A. writing workshop that included writing for our pamphlet at the Southwest Regional Forum, and we held the first of four virtual writing workshops on January 4, 2026. There are workshops planned for WACY PAA, NERAASA, PRAASA and ACYPAA, as well as several other local events.

We are hoping to collaborate with the Transgender Working Group to create an informational video that groups and committees can play at self-hosted writing workshops, and our Staff secretary has offered to help us create French and Spanish versions of the video utilizing resources from the General Service Office.

As always, we cannot thank the trustees' Literature Committee chair and Staff secretary enough for their support and guidance, and we want to thank all other committee and board members for their help and support, as well.

Gratefully in Love and Service,

Brian P.

ACM and chair of the Working Group for the "A.A. for the Asian and Asian-American Alcoholic" Pamphlet

## 2026 Conference Committee on Literature

**ITEM I:** Consider publishing the personal stories from the Fourth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* not included in the draft Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

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### Background notes:

*Excerpt from the February 1, 2026, trustees' Literature Committee meeting:*

The trustees' Literature Committee **agreed to forward** a committee suggestion to the 2026 Conference Committee on Literature that consideration be given to the publication of the 30 stories not retained from the Fourth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

*2022 Conference Committee on Literature recommendation:*

The committee recommended that a second volume of the book *Experience, Strength and Hope* be developed with the stories dropped from the Fourth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and that a progress report be brought to the Conference Committee on Literature once development of the publication is in progress.

**Note: This item failed to receive the votes necessary to become an Advisory Action on the Conference Floor.**

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### Background:

1. *Experience, Strength & Hope* [EN](#), [SP](#), [FR](#)