



International Convention Alcoholics Anonymous

July 2–5, 2020 | Detroit, Michigan

Love and Tolerance Is Our Code • Amour et tolérance, voilà notre code • El amor y la tolerancia son nuestro Código

MEMORANDUM

August 2019

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

From: Steve Smith, G.S.O. staff, Literature Assignment
(212) 870-3019; E-mail: literature@aa.org

Re: Literature Assignment Activity Update

Warmest greetings from G.S.O. in New York!

Welcome to all new Literature Chairpersons and best regards to all chairpersons who continue to help carry our message of hope and recovery through service on Literature Committees. If you have rotated on, please forward this report to your new Literature Chairperson along with the New Literature Chairperson Form and ask them to return it to us so that we can update our mailing list.

[English](#)
[Spanish](#)
[French](#)

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.

69th General Service Conference

The annual General Service Conference convened May 19-25, 2019.

Floor Actions

It was recommended that:

1. The proposed floor action that "A draft Fourth Edition of the Spanish Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, be developed and a progress report be brought to the 2020 General Service Conference" be committed to the trustees' Literature Committee.

2. 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.
3. The “A.A.W.S. Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials” be recommitted to the trustees’ Literature Committee with an updated proposed policy to be brought back to the 70th General Service Conference.
4. The “A.A.W.S. Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials” be recommitted to the trustees’ Literature Committee with an updated proposed policy to be brought back to the 70th General Service Conference.

Recommendations from the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature resulted in the following Advisory Actions:

Literature

It was recommended that:

1. The pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” be revised to add the following text regarding anonymity:

Under the section, “What does a sponsor do and not do?” (p. 13), after the current bullet “Impresses upon the newcomer the importance of all our Traditions,” add a new bullet with the following language:

Emphasizes the relevance and spiritual value of anonymity, both on a person to person basis, as well as at the public level including social media. (For more information see the pamphlet, “Understanding Anonymity”).

Under the section, “How can a sponsor explain the A.A. program?” (p. 15), add a 6th paragraph:

Many sponsors discuss the significance of anonymity at a personal level and public level early on. Anonymity at a personal level provides protection for all members from the identification as alcoholics, a safeguard often of special importance to newcomers. At the public level of press, radio, films, and other media technologies, such as the internet, anonymity stresses the equality in the Fellowship of all members by putting the brake on those who might otherwise exploit their A.A. affiliation to achieve recognition, power, or personal gain. The sponsor is quick to point out the benefit of anonymity at this public level. Sponsors may provide examples from their own experience of maintaining public anonymity.

2. 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.
3. The trustees' Literature Committee update the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2020 General Service Conference.

The following *Committee Considerations* were presented to the Conference:

- The committee reviewed the request for the development of a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* which would include a section of stories comprised of individuals who got sober under the age of 25, and took no action noting that A.A. is inclusive, never exclusive. If a Fifth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* is to be developed the committee suggested that stories be gathered from as broad a cross-section of the Fellowship as possible, including from those who got sober under 25.
- The committee reviewed the progress report on the development of a pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women and looks forward to reviewing a progress report or draft pamphlet at the 2020 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed the progress report on the development of a pamphlet based upon A.A.'s Three Legacies and looks forward to reviewing a progress report or draft pamphlet at the 2020 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed the progress report on the comprehensive update to the video "Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure." The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report or draft revised video at the 2020 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed a progress report for the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" and suggested an emphasis on the importance of anonymity on social media perhaps by adding an image of the Anonymity in the Digital Age poster as well as the following text:

To quote Bill W.'s writing on page 15 from *The Language of the Heart*, "...it should be the privilege, even the right, of each individual or group to handle anonymity as they wish." However, when dealing with social media, personal anonymity as well as the group's anonymity may be easily compromised. We must be careful when using social media to not use full names and/or photos of A.A. members in a way that would identify them or others as A.A. members.

- The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report or revised draft pamphlet at the 2020 General Service Conference.
- 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 2020 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed a progress report on the revision of the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” The committee looks forward to reviewing a revised draft pamphlet at the 2020 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed a progress report for language on safety and A.A. for inclusion in the booklet *Living Sober* and the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” and clarified that the language is meant to focus on safety at the group level.
- The committee suggested that the trustees’ Committee on Literature develop a Literature Committee Workbook and provide a progress report to the 2020 General Service Conference.
- The committee considered a request to add information regarding safety to the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” and took no action. The committee noted that the pamphlet already addresses safety.
- The committee discussed the draft of the proposed revision to A.A. World Services’ “Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials” and supports the proposed policy and its intended impact to support more effectively carrying the A.A. message.

In keeping with Concept Eight which states in part, “The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) with respect to the larger matters of overall policy and finance, they are the principle planners and administrators...” the committee expressed support for G.S.O.’s publishing professionals and their efforts working on behalf of A.A.

In keeping with Concept One which states in part, “The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship,” the committee recognized the importance and the sensitivity of maintaining the integrity of the Conference process for developing and updating literature to best reflect A.A.’s collective experience, strength and hope.

- The committee requested that the final version of the complete text of A.A. World Services’ “Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials” be included as background for future General Service Conference committees.

- The committee reviewed the matrix of A.A. recovery literature and suggested that the trustees' Literature Committee consider an update to the pamphlet "Is A.A. for Me?" The committee noted that the pamphlet has not been updated since 1989.

What's New?

The A.A. book, *Our Great Responsibility: Rediscovered Wisdom from A.A.'s Co-Founder*. This book is available via our aa.org online store at a list price of \$10.00.

http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/aaws-online-store-portals

Current Projects

Pursuant to Conference Advisory Actions prior to 2019, the trustees' Literature Committee and G.S.O. Publishing Department continue to work on revisions to the pamphlets "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated," "Young People and A.A.," "Too Young?" and "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship as well as an update of the video, "Your General Service Office, Grapevine and the General Service Structure."

International Translations

Alcoholics Anonymous is available in 70 approved translations (71 languages total, including the original English.) Thirty-four (34) languages are printed and distributed by A.A.W.S., Inc., and 37 languages are licensed to be printed and distributed by local entities abroad (with 21 printed by both A.A.W.S., Inc. and international A.A. entities). There are 23 Big Book translations pending, at various stages of completion, which includes 16 new translations and 5 revisions.

As you can see, the life-saving A.A. message continues to be carried by our Conference-approved materials. How exciting it is to be in the middle of such valuable A.A. service. Attached is a copy of a *Box 4-5-9* article (originally published in the April/May 2008 issue) entitled "Conference-Approved Literature: A Powerful Expression of A.A. Unity." I believe its message is as timely now as when it was first printed.

For your part in helping literature carry the message, all here at the General Service Office send our sincerest gratitude.

Semi-Annual Licensing and Translations Activity Report

For the period January through June 2019, a surge in activity continued in our international licensing and translations activity. Here are summaries, followed by reports with detail.

A) 70 Big Book translations

The Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous is available in 71 languages total, which includes the original English and the newly undertaken American Sign Language revision and a newly produced Unified English Braille Big Book translation. Thirty-four (34) of these languages are printed and distributed by A.A.W.S., Inc. and thirty-seven (37) languages are licensed to be printed and distributed by local entities abroad (with 21 printed by both A.A.W.S., Inc. and international entities).

There are 23 Big Book languages pending, at various stages of completion, which includes 16 new translations in progress (including Russia Braille) and 5 revisions/re-translations.

B) 47 Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions translations

There are 48 total approved languages available of the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, which includes the original English. Notable is the pending translation in Arabic, being finalized by a workgroup of Middle East Regional Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous (MERCAA) and a revised Czech translation.

C) 33 Daily Reflections translations

In response to frequent requests for this tally, after intensive research through our in-house records, we are able to share in this report detail on what our files indicate regarding translations of the book Daily Reflections. There are 34 total languages available, including the original English.

D) Reviews

For the period January through June 2019 the total number of translation reviews completed by our independent translation-evaluation services stand at 9 reviews across 7 languages. Notable were reviews for translations from Iran, Lesotho and Russia.

E) Licenses to reproduce and distribute

Licenses to reproduce and distribute A.A.W.S., Inc.-copyrighted works rose from 73 in during January through June 2018 to a total of 138 licenses granted across 6 countries (Chile, Denmark, Finland, Great Britain, Lithuania and Turkey) during this same period in 2019, an 89% increase.

F) Languages

As of June 2019, A.A. items of literature (books, booklets, pamphlets, the Twelve Steps, and so forth) are available in 106 languages worldwide.

***A.A.W.S. Publishing Committee – July 25, 2019**

A.A. World Services, Inc.
"Alcoholics Anonymous" (Big Book)
Languages Available as of June 30, 2019

Printed/Carried by A.A.W.S.: 34

Language	Country
English	U.S./Canada
French	U.S./Canada
Spanish	U.S./Canada
American Sign Language	U.S./Canada
Amharic	Ethiopia
Arabic	Bahrain
Armenian	Armenia
Bulgarian (Recently Retranslated)	Bulgaria
Chinese - Simplified	Mainland China
Chinese - Traditional	Taiwan
Croatian (Recently Retranslated)	Croatia
Farsi - Persian	Iran
Greek	Greece
Hebrew	Israel
Indonesian	Indonesia
Khmer	Cambodia
Low German	United States
Maltese	Malta
Navajo	U.S. / Canada
Nepali	Nepal
Ojibway	U.S./Canada
Rarotongan	Cook Islands
Romanian	Romania
Saami	Lapland
Sinhala	Sri Lanka
Slovak	Slovakia
Swahili	South Africa
Tagalog	Philippines
Thai (Recently Retranslated)	Thailand
Tibetan	Tibet
Turkish	Turkey
Urdu	Pakistan
Vietnamese	Vietnam
Zulu	South Africa

Printed by Local Service Structures: 37

Language	Country
Afrikaans*	South Africa
Bengali	India
Czech*	Czech Republic
Danish*	Denmark
Dutch/Flemish*	Netherlands
Estonian	Estonia
Finnish*	Finland
German*	Germany
Gujarati	India
Hindi	India
Hungarian*	Hungary
Icelandic*	Iceland
Italian*	Italy
Japanese*	Japan
Kannada	India
Korean*	South Korea
Latvian*	Latvia
Lithuanian*	Lithuania
Luganda	Uganda
Malayalam	India
Marathi	India
Mizo	India
Mongolian*	Mongolia
Norwegian*	Norway
Polish* (Recently Retranslated)	Poland
Portuguese - Brazilian*	Brazil
Portuguese - European	Portugal
Punjabi*	India
Russian*	Russia
Slovene*	Slovenia
Swedish*	Sweden
Tamil	India
Telugu	India
Twi	Ghana
Ukrainian*	Ukraine
Welsh	United Kingdom
Xhosa	South Africa

Total Big Book Languages: 71 * *Items sold by A.A.W.S. and local structures.*

A.A.W.S. Big Book Languages Pending: 23

Language	Country
Aasamee	India
Albanian	Kosovo
Bambara	Mali
Haitian Creole	Haiti
Hebrew (newly revised translation)	Israel
Indonesian (newly revised translation)	Indonesia
Kazakh	Kazakhstan
K'iche' (Mavan)	Guatemala
Konkani	India
Laotian	Lao
Lesotho	South Africa
Macedonian	Macedonia
Purepecha	Mexico
Q'eachi' (Mavan)	Guatemala/ Belize
Quechua	Ecuador
Quechua (Inca)	Peru
Russian	Russia
Russian Braille	Russia
Serbian	Serbia
Slovak (newly revised translation)	Slovakia
Swedish (newly revised translation)	Sweden
Tatar	Russia
Vietnamese (newly revised translation)	USA

Explanation of A.A. World Services, Inc. Licensing Procedure - from U.S./Canada Conference Charter: "In countries where a General Service Structure exists, the United States/Canada Conference will delegate sole right to publish our Conference-approved literature to the General Service Board of that structure."

A.A. World Services, Inc.
“Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions: (12x12)
Languages Available as of June 30, 2019

Printed/Carried by A.A.W.S.: 15

Language	Country
English*	U.S. / Canada
French*	U.S. / Canada
Spanish*	U.S. / Canada
American Sian Language	U.S. / Canada
Armenian	Armenia
Bulgarian	Bulgaria
Chinese - Traditional	Taiwan
Croatian	Croatia
Czech	Czech Republic
Greek	Greece
Greenlandic	U.S. / Canada
Romanian	Romania
Sinhalese	Sri Lanka
Swahili	South Africa
Turkish	Turkey

Printed by Local Service Structures: 33

Language	Country
Chinese - Simplified*	Mainland China
Danish	Denmark
Dutch/Flemish	Netherland/Belgium
Farsi - Persian	Iran
Finnish	Finland
Georgian	Georgia
German	Germany
Gujarati	India
Hebrew	Israel
Hindi*	India
Hungarian*	Hungary
Icelandic	Iceland
Italian	Italy
Japanese	Japan
Kannada	India
Latvian*	Latvia
Lithuanian*	Lithuania
Malayalam	India
Maltese	Malta
Marathi	India
Mongolian*	Mongolia
Norwegian	Norway
Polish*	Poland
Portuguese (Brazilian)*	Brazil

Portuguese (European)	Portugal
Punjabi*	India
Russian•	Russia
Slovene•	Slovenia
Swedish	Sweden
Tamil	India
Telugu	India
Thai	Thailand
Ukrainian•	Ukraine

Total 12x12 Languages: 48

**Items sold by A.A.W.S. and local structures.*

A.A.W.S. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions Languages Pending: 2

Language	Country
Czech	Czech Republic
Arabic	U.S. / Canada

Explanation of A.A. World Services, Inc. Licensing Procedure - from U.S./Canada Conference Charter: "In countries where a General Service Structure exists, the United States/Canada Conference will delegate sole right to publish our Conference-approved literature to the General Service Board of that structure."

A.A. World Services, Inc.
“Daily Reflections” (DR)
Languages Available as of June 30

Printed/Carried by A.A.W.S.: 6

Language	Country
English*	U.S. / Canada
French*	U.S. / Canada
Spanish*	U.S. / Canada
Chinese Simplified	U.S. / Canada
Latvian	Latvia
Sinhalese	U.S. / Canada

Printed by Local Service Structures: 28

Language	Country
Czech	Czech Republic
Danish	Denmark
Dutch/ Flemish	Belgium
Estonian	Estonia
Finnish	Finland
German	Germany
Hebrew	Israel
Hindi	India
Hungarian	Hungary
Icelandic	Iceland
Italian	Italy
Japanese	Japan
Korean	South Korea
Lithuanian	Lithuania
Malayalam	India
Maltese	Malta
Marathi	India
Norwegian	Norway
Polish	Poland
Portuguese	Portugal
Portuguese (Brazilian)	Brazil
Punjabi	India
Romanian	Romania
Russia	Russia/Belarus/Ukraine
Slovak	Slovakia
Slovene	Slovenia
Swedish	Sweden
Tamil	India

Total DR Languages: 34.

****Items sold by A.A.W.S. and local structures.***

A.A.W.S. Daily Reflections Languages Pending: 4

Language	Country
Greek	Greece
Gujarati	India
Kannada	India
Telugu	India

Explanation of A.A. World Services, Inc. Licensing Procedure - from U.S./Canada Conference Charter: "In countries where a General Service Structure exists, the United States/Canada Conference will delegate sole right to publish our Conference-approved literature to the General Service Board of that structure."

DRAFT
A.A. World Services, Inc. -Reviews
January 1- June 30, 2019

Country	Language	Publication Name
Czech Republic	Czech	Living Sober
Iceland	Icelandic	Self:Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix
Iran	Farsi	Twelve Concepts Checklist
Italy	Italian	Many Paths to Spirituality
Russia	Russian	The "God" Word
		Hope video script
		LGBTQ Alcoholics <i>in</i> A.A.
South Africa	Lesotho	Alcoholics Anonymous
Thailand	Thai	Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions
<hr/>		
Total	17 Languages	19 Reviews

A.A. World Services, Inc. -Licenses Completed
January 1 – June 30, 2019
DRAFT

Country	# of Licenses
Chile	6
Denmark	1
Finland	42
Lithuania	16
Turkey	18
United Kingdom	55

Total = 16 Countries 138 Licenses

A.A. Languages –Worldwide as of 6-30-2019

1. American Sign Language	47. India-Tamil
2. English	48. India-Telugu
3. English Braille	49. India-Urdu
4. French	50. Indonesian
5. French Braille	51. Inuit
6. Spanish	52. Inuktitut
7. Albanian	53. Italian
8. Algonquin - Quebec	54. Japanese
9. American Indian	55. Karen - Burma
10. Amharic-Ethiopia	56. Kazakh- Kazakhstan
11. Arabic	57. Khmer- Cambodian
12. Armenian	58. Korean
13. Bosnian	59. Kyrgyz-Kyrgyzstan
14. Bulgarian	60. Latvian
15. Burmese	61. Lithuanian
16. Chinese (Simplified)	62. Low German
17. Chinese (Traditional)	63. Luganda- Uganda
18. Cree	64. Maltese
19. Croatian	65. Marshallese- Solomon Islands
20. Czech	66. Micmac - Native American Dialect
21. Danish	67. Mohawk
22. Dene	68. Mongolian
23. Dutch	69. Montagnais - Naskapi
24. Estonian	70. Navajo
25. Farsi (Persian)	71. Nepali
26. Finnish	72. North Slavey (Sahtu Dene)
27. Flemish	73. Norwegian
28. Georgian	74. Nuer- Sudan/Ethiopia
29. German	75. Ojibway- Native American Dialect
30. Greek	76. Oji-Cree
31. Greenlandic	77. Philippines - Tagalog
32. Haitian Creole	78. Philippines - Visaya
33. Hebrew-Israel	79. Pijin - Solomon Islands
34. Hmong- Cambodia/ U.S.A	80. Polish
35. Hungarian	81. Portuguese- Brazilian
36. Icelandic	82. Portuguese- European
37. India-Aasamee	83. Rarotongan - Cook Islands
38. India-Bengali	84. Romanian
39. India-Gujarati	85. Russian
40. India-Hindi	86. Saami- Lapland
41. India-Kannada	87. Samoan
42. India-Konkani	88. Serbian
43. India-Malayalam	89. Shan- Burma
44. India-Marathi	90. Sinhala- Sri Lanka
45. India - Mizo	91. Slovak
46. India-Punjabi	92. Slovene/Slovenian

93. South Africa-Afrikaans
94. South Africa-South Sotho/ Setswana
95. South Africa-Swahili
96. South Africa-Xhosa
97. South Africa-Zulu
98. Swedish
99. Tahitian
100.Thai
101.Tibetan
102.Turkish
103.Twi - Ghana
104.Ukrainian
105.Vietnamese
106.Welsh

Note: *Many languages have translations of several books, pamphlets and even videos.

*BUT other languages that have been included may, for now, only have a list of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions in that language with translations of books, pamphlets, etc. a tenuous dream for the future.

*All translations are created upon request and having A.A. material available in a language does not necessarily mean that there are A.A. meetings in that country.