

Committee D

Consider request to remove a quote from Dr. Bob in The AA Service Manual. (Report and Charter – 9aii)

Consider a request to create a Twelve Step study guide or workbook. (Finance – 4c)

Discuss motion to add wording to Item F-3, “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.” (Finance – 4b)

Review the AAWS Social Media Policy. (Public Information – 8h)

***Note this item will not be talked about during committee discussion, but all together on Panel 4 ***

Review draft of the Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous. (Literature – 6d)

2026 Conference Committee on Report and Charter

ITEM A.2: Consider a request to remove a quote from Dr. Bob in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

Background note:

Excerpt from the trustees' General Service Conference Committee November 2, 2025, meeting report:

The committee reviewed a request to remove the quote by Dr. Bob in “The Service Sponsor” section of the GSR chapter on page 10 of *The A.A. Service Manual* and **agreed to forward** to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter for consideration during the General Service Conference.

Background:

1. PAI 9

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

"I motion that an Advisory Action be passed to remove the quote by Dr. Bob in The Service Sponsor section of the GSR chapter on page 10 of the AA Service Manual.

The quote:

Co-founder Dr. Bob said, "I spend a great deal of time passing on what I learned to others who want and need it badly. I do it for four reasons:

1. Sense of duty. 2. It is a pleasure. 3. Because in doing so I am paying my debt to the man who took time to pass it on to me. 4. Because every time I do it I take out a little more insurance for myself against a possible slip."

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

This motion addresses the problem that this quote from co-founder, Dr. Bob is completely out of context in the Service Manual and was not written to address service sponsorship. It paints a faulty picture of Dr. Bob's role as it relates to service sponsorship and General Service since he died before General Service and Conference were established. It's dishonest to present co-founder Dr. Bob in this way.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

"While I agree in the value of a group conscience, there is no level of group conscience attached to this proposed agenda item. I do not read the Service Manual with my group. Therefore, this proposed agenda item is submitted by an individual, Cindy B. Jaywalkers Group, District 11, Area 14 in Central Florida.

I read the Service Manual with my sponsees and come across this out-of-context quote on a regular basis. It causes confusion as to Dr. Bob's role in service sponsorship and General Service. I discuss with my sponsees how Dr. Bob's quote is out of context and how this portion of Dr. Bob's story was written well before General Service and the Service Manual were established and should not be in the AA Service Manual.

I have discussed this issue with my service sponsor and have shared with her this PAI before submitting."

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

"The date of Dr. Bob's story in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous is 1939.

Dr. Bob died in 1950.

The first General Service Conference was April 1951, one year after Dr. Bob's death. There is no way that quote relates to service sponsorship and General Service and the timeline supports it."

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

"If this proposed item is approved it will be removed from the Service Manual and clear up any confusion alcoholics may have as to why it is in there since it is completely out of context. It will also clear up the faulty picture of Dr. Bob as it relates to service sponsorship and General Service.

Removing the quote will not change the information presented to GSRs on page 10 of the AA Service Manual. It is not needed."

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Cindy B.
Jaywalker's Group, District 11, Area 14

(7) Final comments:

Thank you for your consideration.

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2026 Conference Committee on Finance

ITEM C: Consider a request to create a Twelve Steps study guide or workbook.

Background notes:

Excerpts from the December 10, 2025, interim meeting of the trustees' Literature Committee meeting report:

The committee reviewed the proposed agenda item (PAI-70), "For the General Service Office to create a service piece or workbook study guide to the Twelve Steps." The committee **agreed to forward** PAI-70 to 76th General Service Conference.

Advisory Action of the 35th General Service Conference:

It was recommended that:

The previous Conference actions regarding the Fourth and Fifth Step study guides be reaffirmed — i.e., there is no need for Fourth and Fifth Step study guides, as existing literature adequately covers these matters.

Advisory Action of the 24th General Service Conference:

It was recommended that:

The trustees' Literature Committee explore the need for a pamphlet guide to taking the Fourth and Fifth Steps.

Advisory Action of the 13th General Service Conference:

It was recommended that:

The need for a study guide to the Steps and Traditions or a condensed Twelve Steps book be explored and a report brought back to the 1964 Conference.

Staff note:

GSO's Legal, Licensing and Intellectual Property Department reports that from January 2024 to December 2025, the office received 24 requests from individuals seeking permission to create a workbook or study guide for *Alcoholics Anonymous*. All requests were denied, in keeping with the Advisory Actions noted above.

Background:

1. PAI-70

<p>(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.</p> <p>For the General Service Office to create a service piece or workbook study guide to the 12-steps.</p>
<p>(2) What problem does this proposed item address?</p> <p>"Currently, there is no Conference-approved 12-step guide specifically designed to work the steps. While there are many helpful books available that address the steps, none focus solely on them. A Conference-approved guide dedicated to the 12 steps would be a valuable resource for members seeking structured support in working the steps.</p> <p>Literature that is NOT A.A.-Conference approved, is not permitted behind the walls."</p>
<p>(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).</p> <p><u>Note:</u> While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.</p> <p>Following a pre-conference delegate report back, many incarcerated women expressed a desire for a 12-step guide from New York to help them work the steps. As a result, it was decided that Cari Z., Proxy GSR, would submit a motion to the Oregon Area 58 Assembly in May 2025. The motion was tabled, taken back to groups for discussion, and ultimately passed at the September 2025 Assembly.</p>
<p>(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:</p> <p>Our Delegate brought us a Pre-Conference presentation, and the women were thrilled to be included in the process. During the discussion, they shared how challenging it is to find sponsorship, as many women lack someone to guide them through the steps in a detailed and easy-to-understand way. This inspired the idea of submitting a motion to Oregon Area 58, encouraging all groups in Oregon to discuss the proposal and bring it back to the Assembly for a vote. The motion passed!</p>
<p>(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?</p> <p>The intended outcome of this proposal is to create a 12-step Guide or service piece that provides a structured learning tool to help individuals, particularly those in challenging circumstances such as incarceration, work through the 12 steps effectively. This guide would address the expressed need for an outline to follow, as sponsorship is often difficult to access in such environments. By offering a practical and accessible resource, the guide aims to enhance the</p>

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ability of AA members to engage with the 12steps, fostering personal recovery and growth. Additionally, it would align with AAs mission to support alcoholics who still suffer, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all members.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

"Cari Z.

(7) Final comments:

"We recognize the value of the PLBB in reading and learning the program; however, many members still need additional support in actively working the steps. A Conference-approved study guide would be especially beneficial for individuals in remote communities and for sponsors seeking additional tools to guide others through the steps. This resource would provide structured assistance and enhance the ability of members to engage deeply with the program.

In 2023 the Literature Committee reviewed a proposal for a study guide focused on the BB or the 12x12 Steps and Traditions. The committee recommended prioritizing the completion of the currently approved projects before taking on new materials. We hope this proposal will be considered as the future project."

2026 Conference Committee on Finance

ITEM B: Discuss motion to add wording to Item F-3, “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” (PAI 99).

Background notes:

Excerpt from the November 2025 trustees’ Finance and Budgetary committee meeting report:

*The committee considered a revision to “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” and **agreed to forward** to the 76th General Service Conference the proposed agenda item (PAI 99), which states: “Motion to add this wording to the pamphlet ‘Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix’ on page 13 immediately following the Samples of Group Contributions to A.A. Service Entities pie charts:*

A.A. Grapevine and La Vina do not accept contributions. They are supported by sales of subscriptions, books and other specialty items. When your group is discussing how to distribute contributions to A.A. service entities, please consider how you may support Grapevine/La Vina. Purchasing subscriptions for your group, gift subscriptions, books or specialty items is a great way to support Grapevine/La Vina.”

Background:

1. PAI #99 submission form

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Motion to add this wording to the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" on page 13 immediately following the Samples of Group Contributions to A.A. Service Entities pie charts.

A.A. Grapevine and La Vina do not accept contributions. They are supported by sales of subscriptions, books and other specialty items. When your group is discussing how to distribute contributions to A.A. service entities, please consider how you may support Grapevine/La Vina. Purchasing subscriptions for your group, gift subscriptions, books or specialty items is a great way to support Grapevine/La Vina.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

While the Q & A on page 12 states that AA Grapevine, Inc. is not set up to take contributions, there is no suggestion to consider supporting Grapevine/La Vina when supporting other service entities.

AA Grapevine and La Vina have not been fully self supporting. Print subscriptions have consistently declined for Grapevine.

When making contributions to service entities, many AA Groups have never considered the spiritual nature of including Grapevine/La Vina.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

This idea is an answer to a question Albin Z. posed during a Grapevine presentation at the 69th GSC. I'm paraphrasing but it seems to me the question was "what does the seventh tradition look like regarding A.A. Grapevine"? It came to me sometime later, but for several years now, at Grapevine events I have been making the suggestion that when your home group is deciding how much to contribute to service entities, please consider how to include Grapevine. Our Delegate heard me make this suggestion recently and said that I should submit the idea as a PAI for the next GSC.

A motion was composed and presented to the Not So Secret Service Manual Study Group of whom I am a member. After support, discussion and a vote it passed unanimously. The motion was then made at the following District 7 Business meeting. After support, discussion and a vote it passed unanimously. The motion was then made at the August 2025 Area 34 Assembly. It was supported and after discussion and an amendment the motion as currently written was voted on and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Richard P.
Supported by the Not So Secret Service Manual Study Group

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

F-3 Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix
A.A. Grapevine Inc. has been operating in the red for several years.
La Vina has never been self-supporting.
At the 2025 East Central Regional Forum, our GSB Chair stated that Grapevine received \$350,000 from the Reserve Fund this year. The Grapevine Publisher stated that if subscriptions could return to pre-pandemic levels, Grapevine would be self-supporting.

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

A greater awareness of how A.A. Grapevine and La Vina are supported.
A suggestion to include support for A.A. Grapevine and La Vina when seventh tradition contributions exceed expenses.
The intention of increasing A.A. Grapevine/La Vina subscriptions and sales of items produced.
The intention to move A.A. Grapevine and La Vina toward being fully self-supporting.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Richard P.

(7) Final comments:

2026 Conference Committee on Public Information

ITEM H: Review the AAWS Social Media Policy.

Background notes:

Excerpt from the November 2025 trustees' Public Information Committee meeting:

The committee discussed the AAWS Social Media Policy and noted that, though informative, this document is under the purview of the A.A. World Services Board.

Secretary's note: Although the 2025 Conference Committee on Public Information recommended that the A.A. World Services Social Media Policy currently under review be brought back to the 2026 Conference Committee on Public Information for approval prior to implementation, this recommendation **did not receive the two-thirds vote necessary to become a Conference Advisory Action.**

The AAWS Social Media Policy is included here for reference and for information purposes only.

Background:

1. AAWS Social Media Policy

AAWS Social Media Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear and comprehensive guidelines for the AAWS Board to maintain effective oversight of the organization's social media presence. This will ensure that social media activities align with the mission, goals, and the Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.), while fostering increased visibility, engagement, and outreach to members, suffering alcoholics, and other key audiences, including professional, media, and anyone looking for more information on A.A. The policy is designed to ensure accountability and strategic alignment in the management of AAWS social media channels.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all official social media accounts created or managed by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (AAWS) and provides a framework for both current platforms and future social media initiatives. It establishes clear guidelines regarding who has the authority to create or manage an official AAWS social media account, as well as the process for making significant changes to the overall social media strategy.

- Authority and oversight: The board has the authority to oversee the creation, modification, and overall strategy of social media accounts. Social media strategy and significant changes must be approved by the appropriate AAWS leadership, ensuring consistent lines of authority and oversight across all channels. This policy and the actions of the board regarding social media will be guided by and adhere to the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous and be consistent with Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference related to social media.

3. Responsibilities

- Oversight role: The board will provide oversight of social media strategy and content, which will be developed by the appropriate departments at GSO and following actions and recommendations of relevant board committees. The board will also review performance metrics to ensure alignment with organizational goals and the A.A. Traditions.

- Approval process: The board will establish and follow a formal approval process for launching a new AAWS social media account. The board will review and approve any major change to an account before implementation.

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- Monitoring: The board will periodically review social media performance, including audience engagement metrics, to assess the effectiveness of social media efforts, based on key performance indicators (KPIs). This includes tracking engagement levels (e.g., “likes” and “shares”) and reach (e.g., number of unique users who have seen an account’s content), and other KPIs. The board will receive updates on major social media campaigns and initiatives.

4. Guidelines for content oversight

- Brand consistency: All social media content must consistently reflect the A.A. brand identity. “Brand” refers the overall image, identity, and perception of Alcoholics Anonymous and includes name and logo, graphic standards, voice, core mission and values, and the Traditions. Content should be appropriate, respectful, and inclusive, upholding A.A.’s commitment to anonymity and AAWS privacy policies.

- Legal compliance: AAWS social media activities must comply with relevant legal and regulatory standards, including copyright, privacy, and intellectual property laws. It is critical that all content shared does not infringe upon third-party rights and that personal information is protected.

- Crisis management: The AAWS office will develop and maintain protocols to address any misuse of the platform or AAWS content, or if social media crises arise. A clear procedure will be in place in collaboration with the Office to handle situations where there is potential harm to the organization’s reputation or the anonymity of A.A. members.

5. Evaluation

- Annual review: The effectiveness of the AAWS social media strategy will be evaluated annually. This will include an assessment of audience engagement, content effectiveness, alignment with organizational goals, and overall strategic impact. The findings will be presented to the board for consideration and decision-making.

6. Reporting

- Periodic reporting: The AAWS Communications and Language Services Committee recommends to the AAWS Board that section 6 of the Social Media Policy be updated to read: “The Communications Services Department will provide periodic updates to the AAWS Board regarding social media performance, challenges, opportunities, and any significant developments. Any new social media initiatives will be communicated to the respective trustees’ committees and, when appropriate, to the corresponding General Service Conference committees for awareness and alignment with Advisory Actions.”

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7. Policy Review

- Annual policy review: This policy will be reviewed annually by the board to ensure it remains up-to-date, effective, and aligned with the evolving needs of AAWS and its social media presence. Any necessary revisions or updates will be made to ensure continued strategic alignment and compliance with best practices.

By adhering to these guidelines, AAWS will strengthen its digital presence, ensuring responsible, effective, and consistent communication across its social media platforms, furthering the mission of Alcoholics Anonymous and providing valuable resources to members and the wider public.

Approved by AAWS Dec 2025

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2026 Conference Committee on Literature

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

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**

The subcommittee was charged with implementing the following Advisory Actions of the 71st 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"> • Dr Bob’s Nightmare • Alcoholics Anonymous Number Three • Gratitude in Action • Women Suffer Too • The Vicious Cycle • Jim's Story 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Keys of The Kingdom • Crossing the River of Denial • Winner Takes All • Acceptance Was The Answer • Listening To The Wind • Freedom From Bondage
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Those that were not retained include the following 30 stories:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Southern Friend • The Man Who Mastered Fear • He Sold Himself Short • The Missing Link • Fear of Fear • The Housewife Who Drank at Home • Physician, Heal Thyself! • My Chance to Live • Student of Life • Because I'm an Alcoholic • It Might Have Been Worse • Tighrope • Flooded with Feeling • Me an Alcoholic? • The Perpetual Quest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Drunk, Like You • Window of Opportunity • My Bottle, My Resentments, and Me • He Lived Only to Drink • Safe Haven • Twice Gifted • Building a New Life • On The Move • A Vision of Recovery • Gutter Bravado • Empty On the Inside • Grounded • Another Chance • A Late Start • A.A. Taught Him to Handle Sobriety
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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

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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