

Committee E

Consider a request that stand-alone audio/visual clips be created when developing any new/revised videos for professionals. (CPC – 2e)

Consider a request to review locally produced safety-related video service material and provide input on the potential for this video service material to be adapted for use by GSO. (Treatment – 10e)

Discuss offering 10 minutes of presentation time during the General Service Conference to La Vigne. (PAI 91) (Agenda – 1f)

Review progress report from Subcommittee on Inclusion of Sovereign State Flags in the IC Flag Ceremony. (ICRF – 13a)

***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 Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community

ITEM E: Consider a request that standalone audio/visual clips be created when developing any new/revised videos for professionals. (PAI 82).

Background notes:

Excerpts from the November 2025 trustees' CPC-Treatment and Accessibilities committee meeting:

The committee reviewed a request that the trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee in the development of any new videos for professionals also create short, professional-specific, standalone audio/visual soundbites of professionals recommending A.A. to coincide with the new/revised video and **agreed to forward** to the 2026 Conference Committee on CPC.

Background:

1. PAI #82 submission form

<p>(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.</p> <p>That the Trustees Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee/Treatment & Accessibilities Committee in the development of any new videos for professionals also create short, professional specific, stand-alone audio/visual soundbites of professionals recommending A.A. to coincide with the new/ revised video.</p>
<p>(2) What problem does this proposed item address?</p> <p>"There are three existing videos for professionals, each more than six minutes in length. This is the only audio/visual material specifically available for professionals at aa.org. The videos feature professionals recommending Alcoholics Anonymous to other professionals in their field. There aren't any shorter videos that reflect the current shortform video content practices that engage viewers.</p> <p>New videos will be created which allow more "bite size" segments that can attract professionals to other content. A.A. Service Committees will have access to professionally produced soundbites (15 to 60 seconds in length) pulled from new video(s) to catch professionals' attention. These stand-alone clips could be included in welcome letters, providing a "hook" encouraging the busy professional to explore the "If You Are a Professional" page on aa.org, watch the video in its entirety, and/or the AAWS LinkedIn page."</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>This motion was passed by the Panel 75 Area 79 CPC committee. It was then brought forward to the full assembly body and carried unanimously at our September Voting Assembly by the BC/Yukon Area 79 voting body.</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>Today's media landscape provides information rapidly and effectively, in shortform content. Busy professionals are unlikely to sit and watch a full-length video without first having their interest piqued. Providing stand-alone soundbites preserves the shelf life of new video(s), with the ability to have new/fresh soundbites pulled and added to the collection periodically.</p>
<p>(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?</p>

The intended outcome is to create short, engaging soundbites that capture the attention of busy professionals. These 'hooks' would highlight the benefits of Alcoholics Anonymous for their clients or patients, helping us carry the message more effectively and in a way that aligns with today's changing media landscape.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Drew W.
Panel 75 Delegate
BC/Yukon Area 79

(7) Final comments:

Thank you

2026 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities

ITEM E: Consider a request to review locally produced safety-related video service material and provide input on the potential for this video service material to be adapted for use by GSO.

Background note:

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

The committee reviewed the proposed agenda item (PAI-84), "Consider adapting video animations of the flyer (F-228) "Safety and A.A." and "The Safety Card for A.A. Groups" developed by District 22 in Area 93, for approval, use, sale, and distribution by AAWS. Preview links are available for review prior to consideration:

English:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFohozwCPc6BjqHFoCGwtNc9SSs30D1Dp&si=OpfJIB11uBseN2jm>

Spanish:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFohozwCPc6AfHV1OBebFNauk1epmUHgj&si=v3JV9g1orTKAY-Pc>

The committee **agreed to forward** PAI-84 to the 76th General Service Conference (Note: It is suggested that PAIs 84, 90 and 107 be grouped together into one agenda item.)

The committee reviewed the proposed agenda item (PAI-90), "Consider adapting three videos produced by Area 93, District 22 ('Safety in Alcoholics Anonymous Chapter One: A.A.'s Safety Story,' 'Safety in Alcoholics Anonymous Chapter Two: The Safety Solution,' and 'Safety in Alcoholics Anonymous Chapter Three: More About Safety') for use on A.A. media platforms in the U.S. and Canada." The committee **agreed to forward** PAI-90 to the 76th General Service Conference (Note: It is suggested that PAIs 84, 90 and 107 be grouped together into one agenda item.)

The committee reviewed the proposed agenda item (PAI-107), "Mid-Southern California Area 09 Assembly moves to support Area 93's Proposed Agenda Item, requesting that the Alcoholics Anonymous Safety Training Video created by District 22 area 93 be made available in both English and Spanish, with a French version to be developed if not already completed by the submission date, for

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consideration by the General Service Board.” The committee **agreed to forward** PAI-107 to the 76th General Service Conference (Note: It is suggested that PAIs 84, 90 and 107 be grouped together into one agenda item.)

Background:

1. PAI-84
 - a. Additional background PAI-84 – Background story
2. PAI-90
3. PAI-107
4. [Safety and A.A. Flyer \(Item F-228\)](#)
5. [Safety Card for A.A. Groups \(Item F-211\)](#)
6. [A.A. Guidelines on Safety and A.A. Groups \(Item MG-25\)](#)
7. [Conference-Approved Literature \(Item SMF-29\)](#)

<p>(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.</p> <p>"Consider adapting video animations of the flyer (F-228) "Safety and A.A. Flyer" and "The Safety Card for A.A. Groups" developed by District 22 in Area 93, for approval, use, sale, and distribution by AAWS. Preview links are available for review prior to consideration:</p> <p>English: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFohozwCPc6BjqHFoCGwtNc9SSs30D1Dp&si=OpfJlB11uBseN2jm</p> <p>Spanish: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFohozwCPc6AfHV1OBebFNauk1epmUHgj&si=v3JV9g1orTKAY-Pc"</p>
<p>(2) What problem does this proposed item address?</p> <p>"Although the 'A.A. Safety Card' and 'Safety and A.A. Flyer' offer clear written guidance, many groups remain unsure how to apply this material when safety challenges arise. Verbal aggression, disruptive conduct, and predatory behavior still occur, leaving trusted servants uncertain about their rights and responsibilities.</p> <p>There is both a spiritual and practical need for digestible, literature-based tools that show how groups can preserve unity during difficult moments. Short-form video resources—modeled in the spirit of "laying out the kit of spiritual tools for inspection" (<i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>, p. 95)—can provide examples, not directives, to support the conscience of each group."</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>This proposed agenda item was approved by substantial unanimity on the floor of the Area 93 Assembly on August 17, 2025, in Santa Maria California. It originated at the group level in District 22, where General Service Representatives and trusted servants collaborated with the District Committee Member to create a workshop format and video resources rooted in A.A. principles. These were adopted at the district level and then shared with our area delegate who assisted with and encouraged wider distribution to benefit the Fellowship.</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>"Between 2023–2024, several groups in District 22 experienced ongoing threats to safety—including racial slurs, intimidation, and targeted harassment. These incidents disrupted meetings, our group conscience and group safety, and endangered unity.</p>

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In response, District 22 formed a subcommittee that turned to the Twelve Traditions, the A.A. Safety Card, the Twelve and Twelve, and The A.A. Service Manual. Guided by the principle that “anonymity is not a cloak for unsafe behavior,” the subcommittee developed a format for in-person workshops on safety, and video resources to demonstrate how to uphold Tradition One while remaining grounded in love and tolerance, and with responsibility to our primary purpose.

The video animations provided are intended to require only minor editorial adjustments to conform with U.S./Canada English usage (e.g., narration or spelling). This allows AAWS to review and, if approved, adapt the resources efficiently without the need for major redevelopment, supporting both fiscal responsibility and timely availability to the Fellowship."

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

"A.A. World Services may consider making short video-based safety resources available as optional service tools, alongside existing materials such as the A.A. Safety Card.

Trusted servants and members across all levels of experience will have access to spiritually informed examples—not policies—on how to respond when group safety is threatened.

Because these resources have already been developed and tested at the group, district, and area levels, they can be adapted with minimal editorial effort. This supports fiscal responsibility and timely availability while ensuring consistency with U.S./Canada usage.

This may encourage other districts and groups to share their own experience, strengthening our Fellowship-wide response to safety challenges.

Most importantly, it will help activate Concept I—that final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. World Services resides in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship. By elevating these tools to broader awareness, we engage the entire Fellowship in a shared conversation rooted in recovery, unity, and service."

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

"Primary Contact for Submission
Sean G.

Additional Contact (Spanish & English Fluent)
Rudy M.
Panel 75 Delegate, Area 93

(7) Final comments:

"This effort is not about governance—it is about service. As Bill W. wrote in Concept I, “The A.A. groups are to be the final authority; their leaders are to be entrusted with delegated responsibilities only.” Our aim is to offer tools that reflect this model of trusted, principled leadership—resources that support each group in fulfilling its primary purpose.

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Concept IX reminds us that “Our leaders do not drive by mandate; they lead by example.” Our hope is that these examples may be of service to the Fellowship. Already, these resources have reached members in their moment of need—and spiritual tools gained through experience are best shared, not reserved.

We remain mindful of the balance within our Responsibility Statement: “When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there.” At the same time, we do not wish to mandate solutions or appear as safety crusaders.

As the Big Book reminds us in Working With Others, “Never talk down to an alcoholic from any moral or spiritual hilltop; simply lay out the kit of spiritual tools for their inspection.”

That is our aim—to lay out the kit of tools, clearly and with love.”

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DISTRICT 22

Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Avila Beach, Cambria,
Cayucos, Carrisa Plains, Creston, Grover Beach,
Los Osos, Morro Bay, Nipomo, Paso Robles, Pismo
Beach, San Luis Obispo, San Miguel, Templeton



District 22 meets the 2nd Sunday of the month @ 10:15am

In-Person:
Alano Club of SLO County
3075 Broad St
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Online:
ZOOM ID: 893 0392 6186
Passcode: 121212



Background Story: Safety in A.A. (Area 93, District 22)

When One Group Suffers, We All Feel It: Safety in District 22

In early 2024, our district members began receiving repeated concerns from several groups about an individual who was consistently disrupting meetings. His behavior included aggressive verbal tirades, racial slurs, threatening behavior and posture, and deliberate targeting of marginalized members. The presence of this individual created an atmosphere of fear and members were unsure how to proceed.

Group secretaries and trusted servants reached out for support, not out of a desire to control or expel, but out of a genuine need to protect the primary purpose of the group: to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Challenges with Safety: Tradition, Tension, and the Need for Discernment

As the disturbances escalated, many members found themselves torn between adherence to **Tradition Three** ("The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking") and **Tradition One** ("Our common welfare should come first"). The dilemma was not theoretical—it was real, emotional, and happening in multiple meeting rooms in District 22. There was uncertainty about how far the group could go to protect itself while practicing the principles of the Steps and Traditions.

As one group member reflected, "I kept thinking 'we don't throw people out,' but I also knew that if this continues, we're going to lose people who are trying to stay sober."

General Service: There Is a Solution

District 22 took action by creating a subcommittee of members, General Service Representatives, and the District 22 District Committee Member, to discuss our existing service literature, including the **A.A. Safety Card**, the flyer *Safety and A.A.*, and any information we could find in the Twelve and Twelve and *The A.A. Service Manual* on safety. We rallied on the original title of the Twelve Traditions: "Twelve Points to Assure Our Future" and Bill's primary purpose in bringing them to the fellowship based on all the original challenges he helped solve among early groups: *The Traditions are not in conflict with protecting the group—they call us to it.*

We realized that while many groups had added safety language to their meeting formats, there was still uncertainty about what actions to take in the face of real disruption.

So, in service to the groups, District 22 developed:

- A **Safety Workshop Training Format**, rooted in A.A.'s spiritual principles and designed to help members navigate real-world disturbances.
- A **Video Training Resource** created using accessible visual tools to carry the message in a digestible, non-authoritative tone. "Never talk down to an alcoholic from any moral or spiritual hilltop; simply lay out the kit of spiritual tools for their inspection." —*Working With Others*, p.95
- An open offer of **district support** for group inventories, safety format additions, and presentations tailored to group needs.

These materials center on the idea that:

"Anonymity in A.A. is not a cloak for unsafe or illegal behavior. Addressing such behavior and/or contacting the proper authorities, when appropriate, does not go against any A.A. Traditions and is meant to ensure the safety of all in attendance."

We are guided not by control or exclusion, but by **compassion, clarity, and the courage to uphold the Traditions** that allow A.A. to function safely and with purpose.

Principles in Practice: Some Anchoring Quotes

Tradition One:

"Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity."

Tradition Five:

"Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

Bill W., 1969 Letter:

"This amount of charity does not mean that we cannot exclude those who disturb meetings or seriously interfere with the functioning of the group."

Carrying the Message Forward

In District 22, we remember: *“We know only a little.”*

We’re sharing our experience, strength, and hope in a general way—to pass on what was so freely given to us. Our fellows in service, especially our Area 93 Delegate, have all been valued collaborators in this effort.

Our Delegate, in particular, has been a steady and supportive presence. When we reached out, he answered. He took our call, offered guidance, and helped us recognize that this wasn’t just a District 22 concern—this was a need beyond our district. He shared our efforts with others in the Area, and his encouragement gave us hope. **His support ensured this work could reach groups like ours—some we may meet one day—walking the Broad Highway, hand in hand with the Spirit of the Universe.**

What we’ve found—and why we feel this service work is vital—is that when our groups do not feel safe, that lack of safety interferes with their ability to carry the message. It interferes with the work of their *primary purpose*.

We invite you, our fellow trusted servants, to join us in this conversation—whether your groups, district, or area are facing similar challenges, or simply wish to be prepared for when they arise.

Our hope is simply to make sure that safety, like recovery, is something we practice one day at a time—together.

Together, we can uphold our great responsibility:

“We are responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, we want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that, we are responsible.”

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<p>(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.</p> <p>Consider adapting three videos produced by Area 93, District 22 ('Safety in Alcoholics Anonymous Chapter One: A.A.'s Safety Story,' 'Safety in Alcoholics Anonymous Chapter Two: The Safety Solution,' and 'Safety in Alcoholics Anonymous Chapter Three: More About Safety') for use on A.A. media platforms in the U.S. and Canada.</p>
<p>(2) What problem does this proposed item address?</p> <p>Safety in Alcoholics Anonymous</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>This item is being submitted by Area 49, Southeastern New York. Members of Area 49, District 618, reviewed the videos together, discussed their potential benefits, and expressed their support for adapting the videos for broader use. Through its group conscience, District 618 submitted the item for consideration by the Area. At the September 2025 Hybrid Southeastern New York Area 49 Assembly, the Area body reviewed the videos, considered the item, and the item passed with substantial unanimity.</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>District 618 in Area 49 has been addressing the topic of Safety in A.A. The District held discussions during its meetings and invited a speaker with experience to share on this subject. While considering whether to submit their own Proposed Agenda Item regarding Safety, they became aware of the motion from Area 93. After reviewing the videos related to that motion and discussing them at the District level, District 618 chose to support the Area 93 proposal and present the videos for consideration by Area 49.</p>
<p>(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?</p> <p>Increased awareness and availability of safety resources for groups across Alcoholics Anonymous</p>

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(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Nisaa A., Delegate, Area 49, Panel 75

(7) Final comments:

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<p>(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.</p> <p>Mid-Southern California Area 09 Assembly moves to support Area 93's Proposed Agenda Item, requesting that the Alcoholics Anonymous Safety Training Video created by District 22 area 93 be made available in both English and Spanish, with a French version to be developed if not already completed by the submission date, for consideration by the General Service Board.</p>
<p>(2) What problem does this proposed item address?</p> <p>This item addresses the desire among A.A. members to better understand their responsibility in helping ensure that anyone who attends an A.A.-related function and does not feel safe is supported in a spirit of service.</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>This item is being submitted by the Mid-Southern California Area 09 Assembly, where it was unanimously approved to move forward.</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>Please refer to the video submission by District 22 Area 93.</p>
<p>(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?</p> <p>Our area's hope is that the full General Service Conference body, alongside the entire Fellowship through the PAI (Proposed Agenda Item) process; will have the opportunity to review, edit, and ensure that the video content aligns with the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. If finalized and made available by Advisory Action, we envision it being widely distributed to all A.A. members who may benefit from this tool. In addition, we hope it could serve as a valuable resource for Public Information, CPC, and Treatment committees working with non-members, and or professionals who seek to understand what A.A. does—and does not do—and to provide their clients or patients with a potential solution or understanding to the challenges they may or may not face.</p>
<p>(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.</p> <p>CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as Web sites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.</p>

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Alex W.
Panel 74 Area 09 delegate

(7) Final comments:

Thank you all for your service and consideration.
God speed.

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2026 Conference Committee on Agenda

ITEM F: Discuss offering 10 minutes of presentation time during the General Service Conference to *La Vigne*. (PAI 91)

Background notes:

Excerpts from the trustees' General Service Conference Committee meeting report:

The committee considered a proposal that “the Board of Editions *La Vigne* obtain a maximum of 10 minutes at each Conference to present the magazine” and **agreed to forward** to the 2026 Conference Committee on Agenda. The committee recognized the appreciation of *La Vigne* expressed at the 61st General Service Conference. The committee suggested that additional time could be appended to the presentation of Eastern Canada’s Area Highlights, ideally on Sunday or Monday, to allow for a presentation prior to the conclusion of committee work.

Secretary’s note: An Advisory Action in 2011 stated that “The 61st General Service Conference expressed its appreciation and gratitude for the French-language magazine La Vigne, the value it has for French-speaking members of Alcoholics Anonymous and the respect La Vigne has shown for the Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Background:

1. PAI 91 submission form

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

"Proposition à l'ordre du jour en vue de la 76e Conférence des Services généraux des Alcooliques Anonymes :

Le Conseil d'administration des Éditions La Vigne, qui inclu les délégué.e.s des quatre régions de la province de Québec (Canada) et l'appui unanime de tous les membres des quatre régions du Québec (Région 87, Région 88, Région 89, Région 90), souhaite soumettre une demande à la Conférence des Services généraux des Alcooliques Anonymes d'obtenir une fenêtre d'un maximum de 10 minutes à chaque Conférence des Services généraux des Alcooliques Anonymes afin de présenter le magazine « La Vigne 2.0 ».

Proposed Agenda Item for the 76th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous:

The Board of Éditions La Vigne, which includes delegates from the four areas of the province of Quebec (Canada) and the unanimous support of all members of the four areas of Quebec (Area 87, Area 88, Area 89, Area 90), wishes to submit a request to the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous to obtain a maximum of 10 minutes at each General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous to present the magazine "La Vigne 2.0."

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

"L'absence de reconnaissance de la contribution essentielle à la transmission du message des AA par les travailleurs bénévoles des Éditions de La Vigne AA envers les membres actuels et futurs de la communauté AA francophone à travers l'Amérique de Nord et de partout dans le monde.

The lack of recognition of the essential contribution made by the volunteers at Éditions de La Vigne AA to carry the AA message to current and future members of the French-speaking AA community throughout North America and around the world."

(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.

"Le Conseil d'administration des Éditions La Vigne, qui inclu les délégué.e.s des quatre régions de la province de Québec (Canada) et l'appui unanime de tous les membres des quatre régions du Québec, souhaite soumettre une demande à la Conférence des Services généraux des Alcooliques Anonymes d'obtenir une fenêtre d'un maximum de 10 minutes à chaque Conférence des Services généraux des Alcooliques Anonymes afin de présenter le magazine « La Vigne 2.0 ».

The Board of Éditions La Vigne, which includes delegates from the four areas of the province of Quebec (Canada) and the unanimous support of all members of the four areas of Quebec, wishes to submit a request to the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous to obtain a

maximum of 10 minutes at each General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous to present the magazine "La Vigne 2.0."

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

"Reconnu lors de la 64e Conférence des Services généraux des Alcooliques Anonymes comme le magazine des AA francophones de la structure de la Conférence des États-Unis et du Canada, La Vigne 2.0 est le magazine des AA francophones de la structure de la Conférence des États-Unis et du Canada, et sert les membres des AA de langue française aux États-Unis et au Canada.

Une présentation d'un maximum de 10 minutes serait faite par l'un des quatre délégués du Québec présents à chaque Conférence des Services généraux des Alcooliques Anonymes dans la langue de son choix. Cette présentation aurait pour but de souligner le travail de l'équipe entièrement bénévole des Éditions La Vigne qui produit à tous les deux mois le magazine La Vigne 2.0 qui est tiré à 5 250 exemplaires à chaque publication.

Recognized at the 64th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous as the magazine of French-speaking AA members in the United States and Canada Conference structure, La Vigne 2.0 is the magazine of French-speaking AA members in the United States and Canada Conference structure and serves French-speaking AA members in the United States and Canada.

A presentation of no more than 10 minutes would be given by one of the four Quebec delegates attending each General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in the language of their choice. The purpose of this presentation would be to highlight the work of the entirely volunteer team at Éditions La Vigne, which produces the bimonthly magazine La Vigne 2.0, with a print run of 5,250 copies per issue."

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

"Nous croyons que cette présentation permettrait de mieux faire connaître le magazine La Vigne 2.0 auprès des membres de la Conférence des Services généraux des Alcooliques Anonymes, de souligner sa contribution essentielle à la transmission du message des AA en français en Amérique du Nord, et de renforcer le lien d'appartenance des membres francophones à la structure de la Conférence des Services généraux des États-Unis et du Canada.

We believe that this presentation would raise awareness of the magazine La Vigne 2.0 among members of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous, highlight its essential contribution to carrying the AA message in French in North America, and strengthen the sense of belonging among French-speaking members to the General Service Conference structure in the United States and Canada."

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

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Item F
Doc. 1

"André D.
Delegate A87P74

(7) Final comments:

"Merci de votre attention. Amour & Service. Les membres AA des quatre Régions du Québec.

Thanks for your consideration. Love & Service. All Members of Quebec Four Areas."

2026 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums

ITEM A: Review a progress report on the flags of sovereign states being a part of the Flag Ceremony at the International Convention.

Background note:

Committee Consideration from 2025 ICRF Conference Committee:

The committee considered the request that all sovereign states' flags be a part of the Flag Ceremony at the International Convention. The consensus of the committee members is that it is important to explore this option to understand any impacts (e.g., cultural, timing) such inclusion may create. The committee requested that the trustees' IC/RF Committee begin exploration regarding the inclusion of sovereign states to the Flag Ceremony at the International Convention, including reaching out to gather sharing from Indigenous populations. The committee also suggested including a question in any post-Convention surveying of attendees that would help obtain information on how many members in attendance at the 2025 International Convention were from First Nations sovereign states, helping to gain an understanding of the total numbers we might be considering adding to the Flag Ceremony. The committee looks forward to a plan or progress report being brought back to the 2026 Conference Committee on IC/RF.

Background:

1. Update Report
2. Historical Summary of the International Convention Flag Ceremony

Sovereign Flag Subcommittee
January 2026 Progress Report

At the 75th General Service Conference, the Conference Committee on IC/RF considered the request that all sovereign states' flags be a part of the Flag Ceremony at the International Convention. The consensus of the committee members is that it is important to explore this option to understand any impact such inclusion may create (e.g., cultural, timing).

The committee requested that the trustees' IC/RF Committee begin exploration regarding the inclusion of sovereign states to the Flag Ceremony at the International Convention, including reaching out to gather sharing from Indigenous populations. The committee also suggested including a question in any post-Convention survey of attendees that would help obtain information on how many members in attendance at the 2025 International Convention were from First Nations sovereign states, helping to gain an understanding of the total number we might be considering adding to a Flag Ceremony. The committee requested that a plan or progress report be brought back to the 2026 Conference Committee on IC/RF.

At the 2025 Q3 trustees' International Convention/Regional Forums Committee, the chair appointed a subcommittee to begin exploration regarding the inclusion of sovereign states in the Flag Ceremony at the International Convention.

The Subcommittee on the Inclusion of Sovereign State Flags in the Flag Ceremony at International Conventions met twice, on September 25, 2025, and December 3, 2025.

At the first meeting, the subcommittee reviewed its initial scope of including sovereign state flags in the Flag Ceremony at the 2030 IC. After some initial discussion, the subcommittee decided to expand its scope to include discussing the format of the Flag Ceremony to determine whether there is interest in potential changes.

The rationale to expand the scope is that there have been repeated concerns across past International Conventions that the Flag Ceremony is more about nationalism instead of A.A. unity throughout the world. Over the years, attendees have expressed that it would be more appropriate to have a native from each country carry their respective flag instead of a member of the A.A. community. Another problem is that there is a production cut-off time on that has led to countries being left out of the ceremony which has led to hurt feelings. Another issue is that the criteria for being considered to carry a country's flag is based on the member's physical address. This

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has often led to a member carrying a flag of a country they do not consider to be their home country.

To determine if this was something that the trustees on the General Service Board and the GSO Staff were interested in discussing, the subcommittee asked the Staff secretary to send out a survey.

The survey was sent to the trustees on the GSB, nontrustee directors, current ACMs and GSO Staff to ask if there was a desire to discuss changing the Flag Ceremony's format.

Here are the results of the survey, which was distributed to 53 recipients:

- 44 recipients opened the email (83% open rate)
- 28 individuals completed the survey (64% of recipients who opened the email)
- 25 of the 28 respondents indicated they would like to see changes to the International Convention Flag Ceremony (89%)

The subcommittee noted that the feedback provided strongly suggests a desire to discuss the following:

- Clearer vision of unity
- Focusing on showcasing the A.A. presence throughout the world and getting away from nationalism
- A more uniform approach to attire and/or the possibility of incorporating traditional attire reflective of each participating country

The subcommittee agreed that the charge from the Conference committee — to consider the inclusion of sovereign state flags in the Flag Ceremony at the International Convention — cannot be meaningfully addressed without considering the broader structure and purpose of the entire Flag Ceremony. Based on survey feedback and internal discussion, the subcommittee recognized:

- The ceremony requires comprehensive re-evaluation, not incremental adjustments.
- Any future proposal should include tight, consistent guidelines to ensure clarity and unity in presentation.
- A clear understanding of the intention and historical purpose of the Flag Ceremony is essential before developing recommendations.

Next Steps

To move forward responsibly, the group identified several areas of necessary inquiry.

1. Gaining clarity on the trustee's perspectives
2. Reviewing the historical background on the creation, evolution, and intended purpose of the Flag Ceremony. This context will help determine what elements may be preserved, revised, or reimagined.
3. Analyzing the poll responses to extract themes, concerns, and actionable insights to inform future options.
4. Given the scope of the charge and the early stage of analysis, the subcommittee agreed that it would be in the best interest of the agenda item for the subcommittee to be reconstituted at the 2026 Q3 trustees' International Conventions/Regional Forums Committee meeting.

The subcommittee reaffirmed that the questions surrounding inclusion of sovereign state flags are inseparable from broader discussion of the Flag Ceremony. The subcommittee will continue to gather information including clarifying the ceremony's intention and building the necessary support for a potential redesign.

Additional research, analysis, and stakeholder engagement will guide the next phase of this work.

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Historical Summary of the International Convention Flag Ceremony

The origins of the A.A. International Convention Flag Ceremony are not clearly documented.

[A 1980 Box 4-5-9 article](#) describes the ceremony as a colorful procession in which representatives carry their national flags to the speaker platform, highlighting the global reach of A.A. and showing where attendees have traveled from. The first Flag Ceremony took place in 1975 at A.A.'s 40th anniversary celebration in Denver, Colorado. It was not a Conference-approved event, and no subsequent Conference approval has occurred.

Country participation is determined by the home locations of registered attendees. There is no formal written policy, request process, or selection form used. Consistent with A.A.'s principle of having no opinion on outside issues, all countries represented by attendees are included without political exceptions. There is no additional cost to participate; the only requirement is that the individual be a registered Convention attendee. The ceremony is coordinated by the Alternate International Convention Coordinator in consultation with staff and attendees, and no formal approval process involving the board, a committee, or the Conference exists.

Documentation of how the ceremony has changed over time is limited. However, since 1990, local Native or Indigenous people have typically opened the ceremony as lead flag bearers.

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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.

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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