

Delegate’s Questionnaire – 70th General Service Conference, April 2020

Due to the unfortunate cancellation of this year’s Pre-Conference Assembly Weekend March 20 & 21 and Pre-Conference Assembly March 22 to practice responsibility in minimizing the transmission of the Coronavirus, it has necessitated an alternate method of gathering the group conscience of Area 60.

Additionally, the General Service Conference will go on. The delegates of each Area will participate via video conference.

What follows is a selection of agenda items that we ask you discuss within your groups and districts in whatever form you deem most effective and responsible and provide feedback so that the group conscience of Area 60 emerges. You may answer in the following format or download the form and email it to me at delegate@wpaarea60.org. If you opt to send it via postal mail, I would ask you do that as soon as possible.

Background material will be provided upon request and will require the ability to download sometimes large digital files. Any information we are able to disseminate and any feedback we are able to gather is better than none, and we do realize that any form we choose will be imperfect and open to criticism. We are doing the best we can during this most challenging time.

You may direct any questions you have to me, sending to delegate@wpaarea60.org or to my alternate, Jody K., at altdelegate@wpaarea60.org

Thank you all in advance for your help and guidance.

Margie S., Panel 69 Delegate

Name: _____

District: _____

Home Group: _____

Position: _____

Finance

Agenda Item A:

Review the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.”

https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/contributions-and-self-support/f-3-self-support-where-money-and-spirituality-mix

- 1. Consider a request to revise the pie chart percentages on page 12.**
- 2. Consider a request regarding contribution percentages to service entities.**

Background: Specifically, the center and bottom pie charts illustrated on page 13 of the pamphlet depict the seemingly sanctioned division of contribution funds between service entities. As the delivery of services varies, sometimes greatly, from Area to Area, and between districts, and among central offices/intergroups, we believe that GSO should not make any suggestions about contributions to these entities. Instead, we propose that the one pie chart without filled-in percentages (top illustration) be retained and the *following text* be added to p. 7 and p. 13: “Duties of the entities notated above are described on page 7 of this pamphlet.

Performance of these service duties vary from area to area. Please be sure to inquire which services these entities provide in YOUR area and contribute accordingly.”

Question: Should we revise the pamphlet to change the pie charts and add the text? Please give pros and cons as applicable.

Grapevine and La Vina

Agenda Item:

D: Consider revising the A.A. Preamble to use gender neutral pronouns. For example, "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other..."

E: Consider a request to change the language of the first sentence of the A.A. Preamble as follows: "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share..."

Background: There are numerous letters in the background material about gender recognition and equality citing the Third Tradition and inclusivity.

The following was also included from one of the Areas in the Northeast Region: “First, group members report welcoming members as young as 12 years old. In some cases, these members hardly consider themselves to be men or women, but simply an alcoholic. In its current form, our Preamble could be misconstrued as being age specific to those 18 and older.

Secondly, as our groups have multiplied, we have grown to be a welcoming place to all persons and our only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. We feel that we would be better served with an inclusive introductory meeting statement that serves all suffering alcoholics.”

Question: Should we revise the A.A. Preamble to use more inclusive language? Please give pros and cons as applicable.

Agenda Item F:

Consider a request to develop a pamphlet on how the AA Grapevine can be utilized to carry the A.A. message

Background: There is much discussion in the background how the current stories, fresh content monthly and a subscription help keep people, whether newcomers or long timers and those in between, close to the program of AA.

Question: Should we develop a pamphlet for the Grapevine? Please give pros and cons as applicable.

Literature

Agenda Item K:

Consider if proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, can be addressed with a common solution.

Background:

Accessibility – due to the literacy level or lack of ability to adequately comprehend the message of recovery by the individual as written in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

Relatability – changes in current language and culture (including views on modern language, gender and religion) which hinder the individual’s ability to relate and embrace the program as set forth in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

Question: What common solution to the request for plain/simplified language, accessible & large print versions, and workbooks to study the program of *Alcoholics Anonymous* do you propose?

Agenda Item L:

Consider requests to revise the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*

- Consider an audit of the first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*
- Consider adding pages 3 through 41 of the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” to the appendix of the next printing of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*

Background:

As to the first part, the proposal includes consideration of pronoun usage – where possible, gender-neutral form should be incorporated and revision or removal of passages or sections that are no longer consistent with or relevant when taken in context of society in general or the A.A. membership composition. Examples of the latter would be to revise the chapter, *To Wives*, and to retitle it *To the Partners of Alcoholics*.

As to the second part, *excerpts from a letter from Area 13*: “As many groups read from the text, ‘Alcoholics Anonymous,’ it would be helpful to include *The A.A. Group* pamphlet in its appendix. It is believed that having the pamphlet inserted would encourage best practices and participation in general service. Ultimately, this could help improve our service culture to the benefit of the groups, the still suffering alcoholic, and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

Question: Should we revise the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, to remove gendered language and retitle and revise sections that are not consistent with or relevant to society in general?

Agenda Item M:

- Consider proposals related to a possible Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.
- Consider a proposed addendum to a Fifth Edition foreword of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* at the time it is published.
- Consider developing a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* with updated stories and revisions to Appendices III and V.

Background:

Excerpts from February 1, 2020 Trustee’s Literature Committee Meeting Report:

The trustees’ Literature Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Literature requests to develop a Fifth Edition of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*:

- Consider a proposed addendum to a Fifth Edition foreword of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* at the time it is published.
- Consider developing a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* with updated stories and revisions to Appendices III and V.
- Consider development of a Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

Excerpts from November 2, 2019 Trustee’s Literature Committee Meeting Report:

The committee reviewed requests for proposed Conference agenda items related to the possible development of a Fifth Edition of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The committee recognized the priority of addressing whether or not a Fifth Edition of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, might be developed before addressing items related to content and format changes.

Question: Should we develop a fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*? What parts should be updated? Please give pros and cons as applicable.

Agenda Item P:

Consider requests to revise the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*

Background:

This proposal is to remove the phrase “opposite sex” from paragraph two on page 117 in the chapter, “Step Twelve” and to reconsider use of the phrase, “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter, “Step Six.”

Excerpts from a letter from Area 15, District 1 regarding page 66: “Clearly the paragraph is in conflict with Tradition 10. It states that ‘every sound human’ desires to find a mate ‘of the opposite sex’ with whom the fullest union can be made, and it says that ‘God fashioned us that way.’ This reflects religious ideals. A.A. has no opinion on outside affiliations, let alone stating god’s will toward sexual preferences.”

Excerpts from a letter from Area 07 regarding page 117: “Lust is not the cause of rape. The cause of rape is complex and multifaceted....The cause of sexual assault were not studied, well-known, or understood when Bill W. wrote that sentence....Use of the words ‘rape’ and ‘sexual assault’ in one of our main pieces of literature...are unnecessary....[and] belong in literature that’s more narrowly focused, like pamphlets.”

Question: Should we revise the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Tradition*, to remove the phrase “of the opposite sex” and “lustful enough to rape?”

Public Information

Agenda Item I: Discuss a request “to create a new form of communication” to address anonymity on social media.

Background:

From the February 1, 2020 report of the Trustees’ Committee on Public Information:

The committee discussed a request to create a new form of communication specifically addressing the use of social media and anonymity. The committee agreed to forward to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information a request to create a new form of communication specifically addressing the use of anonymity on social media.

1. Area request to develop new anonymity on social media communication
2. Anonymity a Vital Spiritual Principle page anonymity resources (www.aa.org)
https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/anonymity-a-vital-spiritual-principle

Question: Do we need to create a new form to address anonymity on social media? Please give pros and cons as applicable.
