

SEPTEMBER 2021 DISTRICT 5 LITERATURE COMMITTEE REPORT

My name is Jeanette C. and I am an alcoholic grateful to serve District 5 as the (Panel 71) Literature Committee Chair.

71st General Service Conference Advisory Actions for Literature:

It was recommended that:

15 The “A.A.W.S. Policy on Conversion of Written Conference-approved Literature and Service Material into Video Format” approved by the A.A. World Services, Inc. Board of Directors in January 2020, be acknowledged and accepted by the General Service Conference.

16 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. **Passed 123 to 5**

17 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.

18 A revision be made to page 117 in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, replacing the phrase “opposite sex” with the word “partner” as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context to the change as it relates to inclusivity:

The text on page 117 which currently reads:

“Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made - spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way. ...”

Be revised to read:

“Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a partner with whom the fullest possible union can be made - spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way. ...”

Passed 112 to 19

19 The sentence which includes the phrase “lustful enough to rape” in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter “Step Six” of the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, be revised to refer to the Seven Deadly Sins without specific mention of examples that are severe in nature as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context as to the basis for the change:

The text on page 66 which currently reads:

“No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health.”

Be revised to read:

“No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony.”

Passed 118 to 41

20 The pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic” be updated to include fresh stories and a new title that is respectful and inclusive and that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

21 The existing version of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” not be retired.

22 The draft update of the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” be approved with the working title, “Experience Has Taught Us: Our Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”

23 The Long Form of each Tradition be included at the end of each essay for that Tradition in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and that the complete set of Traditions at the back of the book be retained as is.

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

25 The pamphlet, “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.” be revised by omitting the text on page 17 “... including coffee, sandwiches, cakes or whatever else may be served,” as follows:

The line on page 17 currently reads:

“...to defray the cost of renting a meeting place and other meeting expenses, including coffee, sandwiches, cakes or whatever else may be served.”

Be revised to read:

“...to defray the cost of renting a meeting place and other meeting expenses.”

26 The paragraph containing the suggestion that sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex on page 12 in the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” be revised as follows:

The paragraph on page 12 currently reads:

In most instances, A.A. custom does suggest one limitation, already noted on page 10: If the group is large enough to allow a choice, sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex. The reasons are the same from both viewpoints; we A.A. members, no matter how long we have been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from “our primary purpose.”

Be revised to read:

A.A. custom does suggest one limitation: sponsorship should be avoided whenever a romantic entanglement might arise between sponsor and sponsee. We A.A. members, no matter how long we have been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from “our primary purpose.”

Passed 112 to 19

27 The draft pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women in A.A. be approved.

28 A draft version of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition)*, be translated into plain and simple language and be developed in a way that is accessible and relatable to as wide of an audience as possible and that a progress report or draft be brought back to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

Additional Item: Did not pass after minority opinion: Vote was 60 in favor and 71 against:

Recommendation that the pamphlet, “The A.A. Group... Where it All Begins,” be revised to omit the line on page 13, “Nonalcoholics may attend open Begins,” be revised to omit the line on page 13, “Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers,” as follows:

The paragraphs on page 13 currently read:

Closed meetings are for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and “have a desire to stop drinking.”

Open meetings are available to anyone interested in Alcoholics Anonymous’ program of recovery from alcoholism. Nonalcoholics may attend open meetings as observers.

Be revised to read:

Closed meetings are for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and “have a desire to stop drinking.”

Open meetings are available to anyone interested in Alcoholics Anonymous’ program of recovery from alcoholism.

Did not pass after minority opinion: Vote was 60 in favor and 71 against.

Literature Committee has furnished the following Conference-approved book into the catalog of the Charlotte County Library System, making A.A. books available to every member in the District and to anyone still suffering. List of books in the library:

Alcoholics Anonymous (Big Book)	Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions
The Language of the Heart	Experience, Strength & Hope
Our Great Responsibility	Daily Reflections
Living Sober	A.A. In Prison
Came to Believe	Dr. Bob and The Good Oldtimers
Pass It On	A.A. Comes of Age
As Bill Sees It	

Along with the other reports already posted, this report is posted on the Literature Committee page in the District 5 website aadistrict5.org.

Literature Committee meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:45p on Zoom for the convenience of members who are interested. Literature Committee Monthly Meeting Zoom log-in information: Meeting ID: 969 9595 9390 // Passcode: 603387

Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

With gratitude and love,

Your friend,

Jeanette C,

Literature Committee Chair

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