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MEMORANDUM

June 30, 2017

To: Area, District, and Central Office/Intergroup Literature Chairpersons
From: Sandra Wilson, Literature Coordinator
(212) 870-3019; E-mail: literature@aa.org
Re: Literature Activity Update

Warmest greetings from your friends at G.S.O. in New York!

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

For those of you who are new, we try to communicate with you during the year to provide current literature information from the A.A. World Services Board, the General Service Office Publishing Department and the trustees' and Conference Committees on Literature.

67th General Service Conference

The annual General Service Conference convened April 22-29, 2017. Recommendations from the 2017 Conference Committee on Literature resulted in the following Advisory Actions:

1. The following two bullet points in the section "What procedures can a group set up to sponsor new members?" in the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be removed:
 - A file of names, addresses, and phone numbers of newcomers (who wish to volunteer the information), with notations showing sponsor or sponsors for each one.
 - Review of newcomers list by steering committee (or Twelfth Step or sponsorship committee) – with follow-up activity where it seems needed.

The revised plan for the annual review of recovery literature be implemented, with the first report to be delivered to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature.

1. The following text about young people's conferences be added to the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." in the section "Where do I find A.A.?":

Young people's conferences are held in the United States and Canada and around the world. For information, consult your local A.A. area, intergroup office, or search online for YPAA.

2. Question 10 in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" in the section "A.A. Group Inventory" that currently reads, "Are we doing all we can to provide an attractive and accessible meeting place?" be revised to read:

Are we doing all we can to provide a safe, attractive and accessible meeting place?

3. The pamphlet "The A.A. Group" be revised to add the following text from "Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare" to the section "Principles Before Personalities":

Safety and A.A.: Suggestions to Consider

"Safety is an important issue within A.A. – one that all groups and members can address to develop workable solutions and help keep our meetings safe based on the fundamental principles of the Fellowship.

"Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward. (Tradition One, Long Form)"

"A.A. groups are spiritual entities made up of alcoholics who gather for the sole purpose of staying sober and helping other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. Yet, we are not immune to the difficulties that affect the rest of humanity.

"Alcoholics Anonymous is a microcosm of the larger society within which we exist. Problems found in the outside world can also make their way into the rooms of A.A. As we strive to share in a spirit of trust, both at meetings and individually with sponsors and friends, it is reasonable for each member to expect a meaningful level of safety. Those attending A.A. meetings derive a benefit by providing a safe environment in which alcoholics can focus on gaining and maintaining sobriety. The group can then fulfill its primary purpose – to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. For this reason, groups and members discuss the topic of safety."

For more information see "Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare" (SMF-209) www.aa.org.

4. The trustees' Literature Committee develop language regarding safety to be incorporated in current and new recovery literature, where appropriate, along with a plan for implementation. The committee requested that the draft language and proposed plan or progress report be brought back to the 2018 General Service Conference.

In addition the following Floor Action was approved:

1. The pamphlet “Too Young?” be revised to reflect more current collective experiences of young alcoholics and their welcome to A.A.

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

- The committee considered a request to retire the pamphlet “Too Young?” and took no action. The committee noted that there was not a widely expressed desire within the Fellowship to retire the pamphlet.
- The committee reviewed a progress report from the trustees’ Literature Committee on the revision of the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet or progress report at the 2018 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed the draft pamphlet of “A.A. for the Woman” and offered additional suggestions for the trustees’ Literature Committee to consider. The committee looks forward to reviewing a revised draft pamphlet that includes their considerations at the 2018 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed the draft pamphlet of “Finding Acceptance: A.A. for the LGBTQ Alcoholic” (formerly “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic”) and offered additional suggestions for the trustees’ Literature Committee to consider. The committee looks forward to reviewing a revised draft pamphlet that includes their considerations at the 2018 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed a progress report from the trustees’ Literature Committee on the development of literature for alcoholics with mental health issues and those who sponsor them. The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft copy or progress report at the 2018 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed draft sample illustrations and corresponding revised text for the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.” The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet or progress report at the 2018 General Service Conference.
- The committee reviewed a progress report from the trustees’ Literature Committee on the revision of the pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services.” The committee looks forward to reviewing a draft revised pamphlet or progress report at the 2018 General Service Conference.
- The committee requested that the trustees’ Public Information Committee consider adding information related to safety to the pamphlets “A Brief Guide to A.A.” and “Understanding Anonymity.”

- The committee considered requests for the development of new literature regarding safety in A.A. and took no action. The committee agreed that shared experience regarding safety and A.A. would be best conveyed by revising existing literature, where appropriate. The committee also agreed that the new service piece, “Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare,” has been found helpful in providing experience from groups and members on challenges, resources and possible solutions in situations that may involve the safety of groups or individual members.
- The committee considered a request to add a section “Why A.A. groups and members should respect the rental requirements of their landlords” to the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” and took no action. The committee agreed that an A.A. group’s relationship with their landlord falls within the autonomy of the group.

What’s New?

- The Punjabi Big Book, Punjabi *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and the Hindi *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* are now available for distribution in the U.S./Canada. And coming soon, the Hindi Big Book will be available as well.
- A new “safety card” has been approved by the A.A.W.S. board, and will be available for distribution (English, French and Spanish) by early July.

International Translations

As you know, A.A.W.S., Inc. prints and distributes all Conference-approved literature and service material – carrying the message in the three principle languages of our U.S./Canada structure. But beyond our structure there is a world of an ever-growing A.A. that seeks to see or hear the same message of recovery in their language. As noted on the attached chart, the Big Book is currently translated in 69 languages, with 21 additional translations in various stages of completion, including the Navajo Big Book, and revisions to the Croatian and Slovakian Big Books.

In addition, the translations of various other Conference-approved pamphlets are moving forward in these languages / countries: Albanian, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech, Ireland, Latvia, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Sweden, Telugu (India), and Twi (Ghana).

For your part in helping literature carry A.A.’s life-saving message, all here at the General Service Office send our sincerest gratitude.



A.A. World Services, Inc.
“Alcoholics Anonymous” (Big Book)
Languages Available as of December 31, 2016

Printed by A.A.W.S.: 33

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

Printed by Local Service Structures: 37

| Language | Country |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Afrikaans* | South Africa |
| Bengali | India |
| Danish* | Denmark |
| Czech* | Czech Republic |
| Dutch/Flemish* | Netherlands |
| Estonian | Estonia |
| Finnish* | Finland |
| German* | Germany |
| Gujarati | India |
| Hindi | India |
| Hungarian* | Hungary |
| Icelandic* | Iceland |

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Italian* | Italy |
| Japanese* | Japan |
| Kannada | India |
| Korean* | South Korea |
| Latvian* | Latvia |
| Lithuanian* | Lithuania |
| Luganda | Uganda |
| Malayalam | India |
| Marathi | India |
| Mizo* | India |
| Mongolian* | Mongolia |
| Norwegian* | Norway |
| Polish | Poland |
| Portuguese – Brazilian* | Brazil |
| Portuguese – European* | Portugal |
| Punjabi | India |
| Russian* | Russia |
| Slovene* | Slovenia |
| Swedish* | Sweden |
| Tamil | India |
| Telugu | India |
| Twi | Ghana |
| Ukrainian* | Ukraine |
| Welsh | United Kingdom |
| Xhosa | South Africa |

Total Big Book Languages: 70 *Items sold by A.A.W.S. and local structures.

A.A.W.S. Big Book Languages Pending: 21

| Language | Country |
|--|--|
| Albanian | Kosovo |
| Aasamee | India |
| Bambara | Mali |
| Haitian Creole | Haiti |
| Hebrew (newly revised translation) | Israel |
| Indonesian (newly revised translation) | Indonesia |
| Konkani | Goa - India |
| K'iche' (Mayan) | Guatemala |
| Macedonian | Macedonia |
| Laotian | Lao |
| Navajo | USA |
| Polish (newly revised translation) | Poland |
| Purepecha | Mexico |
| Q'eqchi' (Mayan) | Guatemala/ Belize |
| Quechua (Inca) | Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú |
| Slovak (newly revised translation) | Slovakia |
| Serbian | Serbia |
| Swedish (newly revised translation) | Sweden |
| Tatar | Russia |
| Thai (newly revised translation) | Thailand |
| Vietnamese (newly revised translation) | USA |

Explanation of A.A. World Services, Inc. Licensing Procedure - from U.S./Canada Conference Charter:

"In countries where a General Service Structure exists, the United States/Canada Conference will delegate sole right to publish our Conference-approved literature to the General Service Board of that structure."