

Area 31 Mini Conference

1. Treatment & Accessibility

Agenda Item A: Discuss report on the review & Materials for Bridging the Gap Activities.

* 1 individual shared what her group discussed: All of this material is good and relevant to 12th step work. 1 individual in this group was against it stating concerns regarding Professionalism of AA.

Agenda Item B: Consider a request of a bridging the gap workbook.

- good tool. 1 group agreed to everything in the bridging the gap agenda.
- Helpful, provide guidance to individual trying to help.
- Grp disagreed with next agenda item: changing the word from alcoholic to incarcerated. Opposed also in utilizing the word client, making the individual feel than or that there is a hierarchy in AA. KEEP all material state alcoholic and not client or incarcerated.

POLL: Bridging the Gap Workbook: Yes: 44 (100%) No: 0 (0%)

- Treatment & accessibility committee Kit: People felt this is beneficial to the committees. Address different demographics. Suggestion was made regarding having a Liaison to assist. Every committee has these kits and are available from GSO. Kits are available in French and Spanish.

2. Archives

- Agenda Item A: Consider a request to develop book on AA history from 1955 to present.

Some questions asked?? What happened to the book in 1999? Couldn't use this book for information. A lot of new books are being requested will that be too much for GSO to complete. How do we decide what history to use? Some individuals are dead who have started these previous books, etc. Each individual area has their own archives committee and has maintained them. Do we really need a book. Coming of Age stopped in 1980, an updated book keeps getting tabled and is fear going to have a gap or lost of history in AA because of this. In 15 years from now, it will be 100 years in AA, do we wait to write a history book until then. This current situation (zoom AA mtgs) needs to be put in our history books. In our Area history it is reported there is a wide gap missing some history not in favor of book. Not too sure how many people read the original coming of age book unless working with a sponsor on AA traditions.

POLL: Consider request to develop book on AA history from 1955 to present: Yes: 15 (36%) No: 27 (64%)

- Agenda Item B: Review Archives Workbook: No one shared.

3. CPC

- Agenda Item A: Discontinue pamphlet "AA in your community" Discussion had:

How AA is address- wording and the way pamphlet talks about AA. Not directed to AA members but the general public. Used by CPC & providing info on AA. This pamphlet has information on what is an AA group and what is GSO as well as provides a listing of all AA publications (not found in any other pamphlets). CPC members feels this pamphlet is still pertinent.

POLL: Discontinue pamphlet "AA in your community" Yes: 9 (23%) No: 30 (77%)

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• Agenda Item B: Consider a request to create a pamphlet for the Mental Health Professionals CPC members felt this pamphlet was not necessary. These professional could utilize the already established Healthcare Professionals pamphlet. Committee feels if start to make a pamphlet for individual professions it will get out of control.

POLL: Create pamphlet for MH Professionals: Yes: 14 (31%) No: 31 (69%)

- Agenda Item C: discuss progress report on linkedin page implementation. CPC members looked up the page and noticed no new information on it. Beneficial to have updated info on it for the professionals. Can this page be linked to previous articles due to nothing going on right now (Coronavirus Pandemic). Reported GSO runs the LinkedIn page.
 - Agenda item D: CPC Kit & Workbook: membership survey is from 2014, every CPC rep talks about this survey, should be up to date. Our area CPC members had to purchase this kit the last 2 years. CPC district 3 would like a kit to have assistance with the establishment of this committee in their district. Important for our Intergroup office to have updated kits yearly.
4. Corrections.
- Agenda Item A: Corrections Workbook & Kits: No one shared any information.
5. Finance.
- Agenda Item A: Review pamphlet “self support where money & spirituality mix”

Percentage area/group conscience - GSO is not endorsing what % to be to the pie chart. Discussion had at NERAASA: get rid of the example of the pie chart and the %. Make it clearly written on pamphlet the example is only a suggestion, each group is autonomous, visual chart is very suggestive list the places groups can donate to and leave it to the individual groups to donate the amounts.

POLLS:

1. Revise pie chart percentages on pg. 12: Yes: 16 (31%) No: 28 (55%) Abstain 7 (14%)
2. Contributions percentages to service entities. Yes: 15 (31%) No: 23 (48%) Abstain: 10 (21%)
3. Draft language for virtual basket. Yes: 30 (63%) No: 8 (17%) Abstain 10 (21%)

- Agenda Item B: Review self supported packet: No one shared. No poll

5. Literature.

- Agenda Item H: Review draft language regarding “Safety in AA” to be included in Living Sober and pamphlet “Q&A in Sponsorship”.

Good idea to start talking about including this safety in our literature- appropriate in both places. Living Sober would be an addition at the next publication- not new. Minimal changes taking language from the yellow safety card and adding to our literature.

- Agenda Item L: Consider request to revise AA Big Book:
 1. Add Pgs 3 to 41 – AA group pamphlet as an appendix at the next printing
 2. Revise 1st 164 pages.

AA big Book is about individual recovery not the group. Revise the pronouns in the Big Book, especially towards women. Changing pronouns more friendly towards the newcomers, not excluding anyone. It is time for these changes to be inclusive to all the sick and suffering alcoholic. Don't change Dr's opinion or Dr. Bob's Nightmare, because it is their individual stories and period pieces. If changing the Big Book what about the Preamble and the 12 & 12. Attraction vs. Promotion these changes need to occur. Example of changes: To the wives, Family Afterwards and Pronouns. Principles over Personality. Acceptance Passage. And these changes won't happen overnight. AA isn't going to be around in 100 years if it continues to be exclusive to 50% of its population. AA group pamphlet included in Big Book is not necessary because have pamphlets available. Opposition to this: Stories change with the times. Where will it stop?

POLL: Add pgs 3-41 of Pamphlet 'the AA group' as an appendix in the next printing
Yes: 5 (11%) No: 38 (83%) Abstain 3 (7%)

Revise 1st 164 pages: Yes: 18 (39%) No: 26 (57%) Abstain 2 (4%)

- Agenda Item M:
 1. Proposal to develop a 5th Edition of the Big Book.
 2. Develop 5th edition with updated stories & Appendixes, 3 & 5.
 3. Add a proposed addendum to a 5th edition forward to AA about time it is published.

1st 164 pages other than changing pronouns, add updated stories don't touch chapters. Don't touch chapters just add stories. Grapevine books have updated stories don't need an updated edition. Review policies in making updates to big book. Changing Big Book is not going to get newcomers. Internet, You tube would be the way to get this newcomers. Young people involved feel like they wont be heard. "why waste our time." Just like the old timers say why change the Big Book it's a waste of time.

POLLS: Develop 5th Edition Yes: 24 (53%) No: 16 (36%) Abstain 5 (11%)

Develop 5th edition with updated stories & revisions to appendices III & V
Yes: 24 (51%) No: 20 (43%) Abstain 3 (6%)

Add proposed addendum to the 5th edition foreword of the big book at the time of publish
Yes: 32 (65%) No: 14 (29%) Abstain 3 (6%)

- Agenda Item P: Request to revise the 12 & 12
 1. Remove phrase "opposite sex" in step 12 on pg 117.
 2. Remove 'Lustful enough to rape'

In the 1st item: this statement can be removed and have the same point.

2nd item: this statement is offensive towards many people. Rape is cruel why would write this in our material.

POLLS: Remove "Opposite Sex" on page 117 in Step 12.
Yes: 21 (46%) No: 23 (50%)

Remove 'lustful enough to rape'
Yes: 23 (48%) No: 23 (43%) Abstain: 2 (4%)

- Agenda Item U: Request include GSR preamble in pamphlet GSR groups link to AA as a whole. ALL years of service work in district level- never heard of this GSR preamble. Who wrote GSR preamble? Is it conference approved. 1974 published some areas have utilized- been in box 459.

POLLS: Consider request to include GSR Preamble in pamphlet "GSR Your groups link to AA as a whole". Yes 22% No 73% Abstain 4%

6. PI

- Agenda Item A: Review 2019 Annual Report trustees. You tube: no issues to review, useful to look at- same conclusion moving in the right direction. Internet new way of reaching out to the newcomers. You tube has tutorials about how to effectively conduct zoom mtgs also on our website a link to this. No polls.
- Agenda Item G: Draft plan to create video shorts based on AA pamphlets.

For You tube channel/website. Do more. PSA. Who Australia AA used to make these videos, did a great job.

- Agenda item I: Discuss a request to create new form of communication to address anonymity on social media.

Any form of communication re anonymity in social media would be beneficial. GSO already has internet guidelines. An illustrated pamphlet or You tube video on anonymity. Need to go to the places members go to get their info. Some people are only on internet so need to set up something on how to reach them- not accessing reading material- pamphlets.