



Any- Lengths Online Group

Ad Hoc Business meeting

04/06/2024

Members Present.

1	David	2	Susan	3	Brent	4	Caroline
5	Jack	6	Cate	7	Sherri	8	Kim
9	Dee	10	Patrick	11	April	12	
13		14		15		16	
17		18		19		20	

Meeting opened at 13:15 PST. with the Serenity Prayer

New Business

	<p>2)Conference Committee: Literature — Item F: Review progress report regarding the translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language.</p>
Historic Background	<p>In 2021, the Conference approved a recommendation that 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. In our google drive is a folder entitled 3 of 9 Sherri Committee mtg. Historic Background The 2nd week in March is looking into suggestions for how to address 7th tradition contributions and welcomes input for that. Sherri will bring information back to Any-length's next business meetings so we can discuss how to adequately inform and streamline the importance of this tradition. Discussion/Motion Sherri: as member of finance committee in district, in an attempt to make things easier to get away from the notion of a physical address for a bank account, they are inviting suggestions. Patrick provided some ideas in transferring accounts. Jack makes a motion, Paula 2nd. to approve Patrick going forward in establishing account as described earlier, including \$16/zelle fee. Approved. Paula: invite discussion for how to bring up 7th tradition contributions in meetings. Vote History of Plain Language Big Book Project. (The 70 th GSC video, recent presentation from chair of PLBB, and a FQA sheet.)</p>

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_kYjQC-Itvy7knH9BF2e7fuUvSTgY1q?usp=drive_link

Following the 2023 General Service Conference, the Conference Committee on Literature agreed with the general direction of the project and requested that it continue to move forward. Conference members were also permitted to review the draft of the book privately and securely in a reading room. This year I will be starting my conference a day early. The Conference Committee on Literature will have from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday to review the draft, discuss, and form a conscience. During the week, all other conference members will be given two hours in the “reading room” to read the draft in anticipation of discussion once we meet as a full conference.

Once my committee reviews the draft manuscript, several things may happen.

Among them:

- o The literature committee may make a recommendation to publish the book (perhaps with minor editorial changes), then the full Conference discusses and votes. (2/3 substantial unanimity to become advisory action.)

- o The Committee might send the manuscript back to the Trustees’ Committee on Literature with any significant concerns about the proposed draft.

- o The Committee could make a recommendation not to proceed with the project.

The subcommittee in 2022 affirmed:

“That the objective is to achieve a translation into plain language that meets the accessibility needs of those with a 5th-grade reading level. The request to prospective translators noted specifically that, ‘we are seeking simplification of vocabulary, syntax, and style to bring it into alignment with current plain language guidelines’ and that, ‘sensitivity to A.A.-specific language will be key.’ The committee further discussed potential gender changes at the February 2022 meeting, emphasizing that there is no intent or desire to remove gender from the text.” We know from last year that Jaywalker is now female, and we know that it’s now “To the Partners”, and it’s my understanding that they looked for opportunities to not use gender neutral language so much as look at incorporation more varied (feminine) gender terms. Lastly, there is a Letter of Understanding that all Conference Members must sign before they can view the draft (including Conference Literature). This is a deviation from all prior conferences as we have always had a “spiritual handshake” when reviewing confidential information.

My Interpretation: Plain language: is this relatable and accessible to our Group? Balance of 70% between male and female. Attempt to make “companion” book more gender neutral. Are we flexible today in our thinking to have another translation of our Beloved Big Book? Have we gone so far that the use of a sponsor and a dictionary not enough for people to get sober? For 4 of 9

example, when meetings are ASL interpreted ASL is a language within itself. Another example the 12 Steps & 12 Traditions has an explanation after each of the Steps.

	<p>Crystal spoke about not worrying about #3 as it will not be enforced.</p> <p>Our Delegate needs to know:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is concern that an “explanation of the steps, traditions, and concepts” might be in this book. Do you feel this would be in direct contrast with Article 3 of the Conference Charter and Bylaws? 2. How do you view “Relatability” when it comes to this book? 3. How do you feel about the letter of understanding all conference members must sign before reading draft?
Discussion/Motion	<p>Do we want this to happen?</p> <p>Already there is a draft. 5th grade reading level</p> <p>Jack motion: Approve this motion to review draft</p> <p>2nd: Brent</p> <p>Dissent: Dee “I don’t think it should change in any way shape or form It worked for 70 years”. Cate: if it’s additive I am all for it. Simplifying could make it harder to understand, as condensing text and maintaining meaning is challenging. David: I think change for change’s sake should be avoided.</p>
Vote	<p>Passed by majority approval.</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We do not feel the Big Book should be changed. 2. The Plain Language should be closely reviewed before publication. 3. Making changes for changes sake should be avoided. 4. “Cliffs Notes” version or watered down version(s) are not necessarily desirable. Simplifying linguistics could actually make the version harder to understand for its full meaning and is a difficult prospect.

	<p>5. Conference Committee: Literature — Item J At the 2023 General Service Conference, the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities requested that the trustees’ Literature Committee consider updating the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” to add language on working with alcoholics with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges, and diverse neurological abilities.</p>
Historic Background	<p>At the July trustees’ Literature Committee meeting, the committee discussed this request, and asked several members to begin developing appropriate draft language that addresses the challenges of alcoholics with experiences of racism and trauma. At the October trustees’ Literature Committee meeting, the committee reviewed a progress report and a draft mock-up of the revisions to date. The Trustees’ Literature Committee has submitted a full progress report to the Conference Committee on Literature; they will review this progress report at the Conference this year. The full progress report is available in the background materials.</p> <p>My Interpretation: The Ad-Hoc Committee delved into areas they</p>

	<p>were not asked for. Why did the committee go in the direction they went? Was it to sell videos? Is there a hidden agenda? Crystal believes there should be an accounting of the Ad-Hoc Committee's actions. Our Delegate needs to know: Are you concerned with the direction the Ad Hoc committee went with the initial request from Treatment & Accessibilities to the topics discussed in its report?"</p>
Discussion/Motion	<p>Brent explains his understanding is review is to consider people with mental health challenges. Susan Motion, Brent 2nd: : to review the changes for the pamphlet on sponsorship.</p>
Vote	<p>Unanimous (14)</p>
	<p>Our Group conscience decided to approve unanimously. We fully support adding mental health issues to the pamphlet.</p>

	<p>17. Conference Committee: Policy/Admissions — Item D: Review report of the GSB Ad-Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the U.S./Canada Service Structure</p>
Historic Background	<p>In 2021, two advisory actions passed at the Conference. The first recognized online groups and encouraged their participation, listing those groups who asked to be listed within the group's preferred district and area, with the default option being the location of the group's primary contact. This supersedes the 1997 Advisory Action that designated online groups as "international Correspondence Meetings," The second advisory action in 2021 was that the Board form a committee to explore future possibilities for the participation of online groups in the U.S./Canada General Service structure. In 2023, the committee requested delegates find out more about the online groups in their areas and requested that the ad-hoc committee provide them with sample questions they may use in that inquiry. The background has the history and current reporting, current database information, the survey of area delegates, regional forums and workshop presentations, and the international perspectives from the World Service Meeting. My Interpretation: I could write a novel on this topic. I will not. In the spirit of AA, I will say that Crystal our Delegate did not spend much time on this topic. She did note however that this topic will be discussed further within the Area 72 Quarterlies. Crystal also stated we may be able to find a solution within our Area first. And that while the process of AA's progress is slow, we have a better chance of accomplishing our goal with patience and the support of an Area. Our Delegate needs to know: How does your group feel about the participation of online groups in the General Service Structure? What have been the challenges and solutions as participation has increased? What more can be done to increase awareness to online groups about their ability to</p>

	<p>participate? How should online groups participate? Should there be an online-only area or areas? Online-only districts? Or is the current situation working well right now?"</p>
Discussion/Motion	<p>Motion: Review report of the GSB Ad-Hoc Committee on Participation of Online Groups in the U.S./Canada Service Structure. 2nd Caroline and Susan</p> <p>(Sherri, in role as registrar, notes that many on-line groups contribute to GSO even though they are not registered. This has sent an erroneous message that on-line meetings do not contribute.</p> <p>Susan relays some history in early days of on-line meetings who were NOT recognized and notes it is a big deal that on-line meetings are currently are. "AA is like bars. I would go to some I liked and some I didn't. You pick the one you feel comfortable with".</p> <p>David sites the "modem-to-modem" reference in the big book; should this then be edited out?</p> <p>Caroline: testimonial: self-describing her sobriety founded on-line</p> <p>Kris: We have to remember why we are here, referencing in-person aga meetings whereby mantra of "any 2 people with a big book and a pot of coffee can hold an AA mtg."</p> <p>Further shares personal experience with people who have gotten sober on-line. April concurs, as does John. John testifies to having first been exposed to AA online, and currently attends both in-person and on-line groups.</p> <p>David: Having gone to in-person and on-line, would rather have on-line because some in-person is uninviting". Brent concurs.</p>
Vote	Unanimous (14)
	Our Group conscience decided to approve unanimously. We fully support adding mental health issues to the pamphlet.

Next Business Meeting date 05/25/2024

Closed at Pacific Time

- Motion to close:

Business to carry forward/Announcements

- Meeting Scripts Health Check June 2024