

## *2017 PRE-CONFERENCE QUESTIONS FOR THE GROUPS*

### **II. COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY**

#### **E. Discuss ways of improving communication about AA with professionals who come in contact with Armed Services veterans and men and women in the Armed Services.**

##### BACKGROUND

- Military personnel suffering from alcoholism are limited in their ability to access help from AA while overseas, while on military bases in the United State and abroad, as well as within the military "subculture" even after discharge.
- Some of our committee had the opportunity to listen to the talks given at the last International AA Convention on "AA in the Armed Forces" and were moved. Listening to those talks showed the great lengths our service men and women go through Just to FIND AA.
- Over the past few months (Since the International Convention in Atlanta) members of our Ad Hoc Committee, which included military service veterans have attempted to investigate, by networking within the fellowship in Area 57, how veterans with alcohol problems are being served by AA. We used our pamphlet "AA and the Armed Forces" as an information and bonding item as we approached veterans and VA personnel in order to determine some of the needs, the shortcomings and the questions veterans have. We found:
  - That many local AA groups are taking meetings into VA Hospitals;
  - That many of those meetings are not included in meeting directories;
  - That if there are any "specialty" meetings for AA members with post-traumatic stress, they are very difficult to find;
  - That some veterans do not want to be seen as different or special, but some would very much like to see more groups focused on their needs;
  - That many veterans are VERY open to AA. and appreciative of any help provided by AA brothers and sisters connected to them by our Armed Forces.

##### QUESTION FOR THE GROUP

1. Is there a way to better share our experience, strength and hope with each other so we are more aware of what other Areas, Districts and Groups are doing?
  - a. If so what can be done?
  - b. If not, why not?

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### III. CORRECTIONS

#### **B. Discuss carrying the AA message to incarcerated Native American/First Nations/Inuit People.**

#### BACKGROUND

#### NOTES

This topic began as a discussion about the challenges of carrying the message to correctional facilities within what the U.S. government terms "Indian country." This includes all lands within an Indian reservation, dependent Indian communities, and Indian trust allotments. U.S. Tribal law enforcement agencies act as first responders to both felony and misdemeanor crimes. Tribal authority to imprison American Indian offenders was expanded in 2010 to up to 3 years in Indian country correctional facilities.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics 2014 Survey of Jails in Indian Country, at midyear 2014, a total of 2,380 inmates were confined in Indian country jails. For the 79 facilities, the average length of stay was about 6 days. While males made up 75% of Indian country jail inmates, the percentage of female inmates increased from 20% to 25% between 2000 and 2014. During that same period, the juvenile population declined – down from 16% to 8%. About 20% of inmates were held for public intoxication and 9% were held for driving while intoxicated (DWI).

States with the largest number of these facilities are: Arizona (19), New Mexico (10), South Dakota (10), Montana (10), **Washington (7)**, North Dakota (5), and Colorado (3). States with 1-2 facilities are: Alaska, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

At the Eastern Canada Regional Forum in July 2016 there was also a discussion about the disproportionately large number of First Nations People in Federal and Provincial Facilities in Canada and the need to establish more trust between the AA community and incarcerated First Nations People.

#### JANUARY 2017 MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES' COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS

The committee discussed improving access to meetings in facilities run by Tribal Authorities as well as the more general question of how to more effectively carry the AA message of recovery to incarcerated Native Americans/First Nations/Inuit People. The committee agreed to forward to the 2017 Conference Committee on Corrections the discussion topic listed above.

#### QUESTIONS FOR THE GROUPS

1. Are we willing and able to carry the message to incarcerated Native American/First Nations/Inuit People at correctional facilities in Western Washington?
2. If not, why not?

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### **VI. LITERATURE**

#### **B. Consider request to retire the pamphlet "Too Young."**

##### BACKGROUND

Reasons given to support retiring the pamphlet:

1. It no longer speaks to the intended demographic.
2. Young people want to be treated like adults.
3. It is pushing young alcoholics away from AA.
4. 2014 production (45,000 pamphlets) expends valuable resources.
5. It delivers little to no returns.

Reasons given to produce for "cartoon/illustrated" pamphlets:

1. "... the comic-book pamphlet is a first step in trying to reach those
2. who for some reason read little or not at all - that this might be
3. a way of reaching those who with few of the advantages of life
4. have been relatively unsuccessful in AA." (17<sup>th</sup> FCR 1967, page 8)
5. Distribution over the years has fallen between 40 and 90 thousand copies per year.
6. The Literature Committee recommended preparation of an illustrated pamphlet (such as "It Happened to Alice" and "What Happened to Joe") to reach teen-age and pre-teenage alcoholics. (25<sup>th</sup> FCR 1975)
7. The Literature Committee recommended that the Publications Dept. rewrite the pamphlet "Too Young?" targeting ages 11-17. (54<sup>th</sup> FCR 2004)

##### QUESTIONS FOR THE GROUPS

1. Should we retire the "Pamphlet Too Young?"
  - a. Why?
  - b. Why not?

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### **VI. LITERATURE**

#### **J. Consider requests for literature and/or language regarding safety.**

##### BACKGROUND

##### Highlights of a Cover Memo from the trustees Literature Committee

At its October 2016 meeting, the trustees' Committee on Literature appointed a subcommittee to develop the framework for forwarding an agenda item regarding safety to the Conference Literature Committee.

The subcommittee reviewed all information that had been received from 2014 to date.

As part of the review, they noticed potential agenda items can be looked at either as 1) requests for new literature regarding safety or 2) suggestions for revisions of existing literature to include information about safety. Therefore, we have organized the background material into these two categories for your review.

Trustees reviewed with appreciation the service material<sup>1</sup> created by AA World Services. and our General Service Office.

Service material consists of our experience, strength and hope gathered from A.A. groups—over a period of years, in many cases.

it truly represents the voice of all of us.

The trustees feel that this may be the strongest approach to answering the need that has been identified by so many areas and groups.

Meanwhile, the idea of revising existing literature to better communicate these concepts could be very effective.

The trustees' that we consider these reflections in your discussion and decisions.

##### QUESTIONS FOR THE GROUPS

1. Does the service piece "Safety and AA: Our Common Welfare" satisfy the need for suggestions which ensure a safe meeting place?
2. If not, what else needs to be done?

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### **VII. POLICY/ADMISSIONS**

#### **J. Consider a request to add a "YPAA Subcommittee" to the service structure.**

##### BACKGROUND

YPAA service assembly would help us begin an experiment to determine how can AA's general service structure (designed by our founders to preserve AA's future, as it has into the 21st century) integrate with 21st century YPAA conference structure, (which is AA of the future). With the objective of better informing the General Service Conference with solutions from the YPAA perspective, while activating more YPAA GSRs at the group level.

Consider adding a Young People in AA (YPAA) subcommittee to one of the General Service Conference committees to:

1. Create mutual understanding and cooperation between the Fellowship and AAs future.
2. Coordinate with YPAA conference structure and activate YPAA General Service Representatives to gather actions and/or feedback for the General Service Conference to consider.

##### QUESTIONS FOR THE GROUPS

1. Should we create a YPAA subcommittee for one of the Conference Committees?
  - a. Why?
  - b. Why not?
2. As an alternative, should we create a service desk at GSO to handle matters of importance to YPAA members?
  - a. Why?
  - b.** Why not?

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### **VIII. PUBLIC INFORMATION**

#### **B.3 Discuss suggestion to update the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity.”**

##### BACKGROUND

At the January 28, 2017 meeting of the trustees’ Committee on Public Information the committee agreed to forward to the 2017 Conference Committee on Public Information a suggestion to update the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity” to consolidate the items covering Tradition Eleven and to more thoroughly include the Tradition Twelve principles of humility as they relate to anonymity.

If the Conference Committee on Public Information agrees to update the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity,” it would be forwarded to the Publishing Department, along with any suggestions from the Conference Committee, for updating.

After review by the trustees’ Committee on Public Information, a progress report or draft pamphlet would be forwarded to the 2018 Conference Committee on Public Information for review.

##### QUESTIONS FOR THE GROUPS

1. Is there a need to revise the pamphlet by consolidating coverage of Tradition Eleven and more thoroughly including the Tradition Twelve principles of humility as they relate to anonymity?
  - a. Why?
  - b. Why not?

## 2017 PRE-CONFERENCE QUESTIONS FOR THE GROUPS

### **XII. ARCHIVES**

#### **A. Consider proposal for a new publication, *Unity in Action: Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970* (working title).**

##### BACKGROUND

From A.A.W.S. Publishing Committee report, June 17, 2016:

##### SUMMARY

"The never-before-collected General Service Conference talks of Bill W. provide a fresh perspective on the history of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement and allow interested readers to read and appreciate more of his writing. The talks include important details of A.A.'s early history and the development of the General Service structure. Most of his talks (those that can be recovered and that are not wholly repetitive), as well as some key talks by important Class A trustees for historical context and perspective, are to be included in this unique collection – the first time ever in printed form."

##### NOTE

"Discussion at the General Service Board and G.S.O. levels have led the G.S.O. Archives and Publishing Department to explore ideas for new book publications based on making archival materials available to the Fellowship. A proposed agenda item sent in for the 2016 General Service Conference suggested the possibility of selecting some past Conference presentations for publication. The General Service Conference recording project (indexing tapes of past Conferences) uncovered the fact that Bill W. had given numerous presentations to Conferences from 1951-1970. The general manager requested that a book proposal be developed."

##### QUESTIONS FOR THE GROUPS:

1. Is it likely that your group would buy one or more books, if reasonably priced?
  - a. If so, approximately how many?
  - b. If not, why not?
2. Is it likely that members of the group would buy such a book?
  - a. If so, approximately how many altogether?
  - b. If not, why not?