

# 2018 Pre-Conference Agenda Items

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## A few remarks

1. You can download complete background information for all agenda items from the Area Website in English.
2. DCMs and Alt DCMs have email from Mary, our Area Webmaster, with information about how to login.
3. The email is titled **Website Login** and was sent on Wednesday, Feb 21.
4. Mary also sent an email saying where to access the background information after login. The email is titled Pre-Conference Materials on Website and was sent on Feb 18 at 8:45 am.
5. Spanish translations of the background information will be available on or soon after, March 1<sup>st</sup>.
6. Forms with group questionnaires about Pre-Conference Agenda Items will be available in an email to Area Committee Members before Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup>.
7. Please ask GSRs, District Committee Chairs, and Area Standing Committee Members to ensure that their completed forms reach me no later than Wednesday April 18 so that I can assemble a sense of the area before departure for the Conference.

## VI. SELECTED LITERATURE COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS

### **A. Consider proposed revisions to *Alcoholics Anonymous***

- 1. Request to add an appendix reflecting recognition received from the Library of Congress.**
- 2. Request to add the A.A. Preamble and Responsibility Statement.**
- 3. Request to add an endnote to Bill W.'s story acknowledging co-founder, Bob S.**

### **B. Consider request that A.A. (U.S./Canada) publish "The God Word" (a pamphlet currently published by the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Great Britain).**

### **C. Consider request for the development of a pamphlet for atheist and agnostic members.**

D. Consider request for the development of a pamphlet based upon A.A.'s Three Legacies.

E. Review report and suggestions on the inclusion of language related to safety in A.A. literature.

F. Review revised draft pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman." (Confidential Draft)

G. Review revised draft pamphlet "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic." (Confidential Draft)

H. Review draft pamphlet "A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues." (Confidential Draft)

I. Review revised draft pamphlet "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and its Services." (Confidential Draft)

J. Review progress report and draft revised text for the pamphlet "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated." (Confidential Draft)

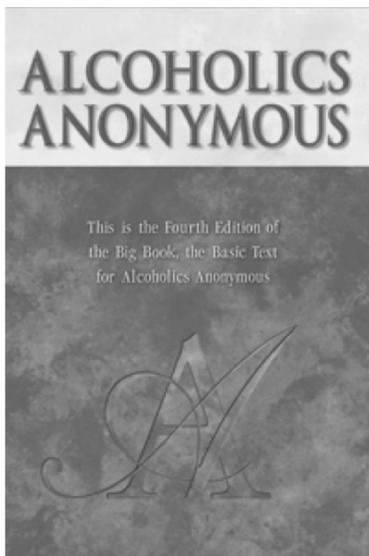
## VI. LITERATURE COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS

- K. Review progress report on the update to the pamphlet “Too Young?”
- L. Review progress report on the update to the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”
- M. Consider request for revision to Living Sober.**
- N. Consider request for the development of a new book combining *12 Steps and 12 Traditions* with *12 Concepts for World Service*.
- O. Consider request to update the video “Your A.A. General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure.”
- P. Consider request to change subtitle of the pamphlet “G.S.R. General Service Representative: May Be the Most Important Job in A.A.” to “G.S.R. General Service Representative: The Link Between Your Group and A.A. as a Whole.”**
- Q. Consider request for the development of a new pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women alcoholics.**
- R. Consider request to add a section on anonymity to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”
- S. Review matrix of A.A. recovery literature.

## VI. Agenda Item A

### Consider proposed revisions to *Alcoholics Anonymous*

#### **A1. Add Appendix 8 reflecting Library of Congress recognition**



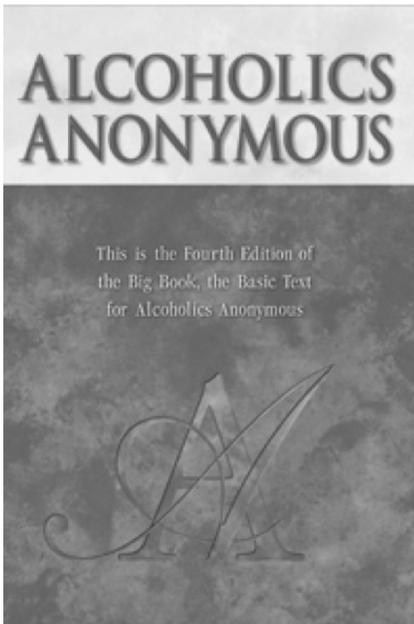
#### *“Appendix VIII --- 2012 Library of Congress Recognition*

*When this book was published in 1939, the authors hoped to cast it like a chip upon the world wide tide of alcoholism in the hopes it would make a difference. The authors scarcely could have hoped it would prove as influential as it did. The United States' Library of Congress, the world's largest repository of knowledge and information, published a list in June 2012 of the 88 most influential books in America. The list, entitled "Books that Shaped America," included the book Alcoholics Anonymous.*

*Founded in 1800, the Library of Congress is the United States oldest cultural institution. Curators and experts from throughout the Library of Congress contributed their choices for "Books that shaped America." The Librarian of Congress hoped the list would prompt people to choose to read and discuss the books on the list. The list was also intended to recognize significant works that had influenced American society.”*

## VI. Agenda Item A

### Consider proposed revisions to *Alcoholics Anonymous*



#### **A2. Add the AA Preamble and Responsibility Statement**

- Thereby embracing the concept that our basic text, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, has all the necessary documents, text, et cetera, to initiate and conduct a meeting or found a new group.
- To have these widely-used documents added and readily available in the Big Book is an asset for meetings large or small.

**CONFERENCE ACTIONS REGARDING PROPOSALS TO ADD THE A.A. PREAMBLE AND RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT TO *ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS***  
**1993** The committee considered a suggestion to add the *Preamble* to the Big Book and suggested that since most of the Preamble was taken from the foreword to the first edition of the Big Book, no action be taken.

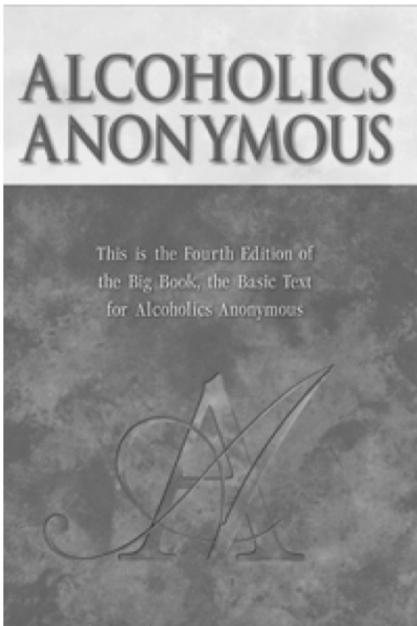
**2012** The committee considered a request to add the “*A.A. Preamble*” to the front inside pages of the ‘Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and took no action.

Note: There have been no previous requests to add the *Responsibility Declaration* to the Big Book.

# VI. Agenda Item A

## Consider proposed revisions to *Alcoholics Anonymous*

### A3. Add endnote to Bill W's story acknowledging co-founder Bob S.



PROPOSED

16 ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
 they seek. At these informal gatherings one may often see from 50 to 200 persons. We are growing in numbers and power.\*  
 An alcoholic in his cups is an unlovely creature. Our struggles with them are variously strenuous, comic, and tragic. One poor chap committed suicide in my home. He could not, or would not, see our way of life.  
 There is, however, a vast amount of fun about it all. I suppose some would be shocked at our seeming worldliness and levity. But just underneath there is deadly earnestness. Faith has to work twenty-four hours a day in and through us, or we perish.  
 Most of us feel we need look no further for Utopia. We have it with us right here and now. Each day my friend's simple talk in our kitchen multiplies itself in a widening circle of peace on earth and good will to men.

*Bill W., co-founder of A.A., died January 24, 1971.*

*The story of A.A.'s other co-founder, Dr. Bob S., is found on page 171; "Dr. Bob's Nightmare."*

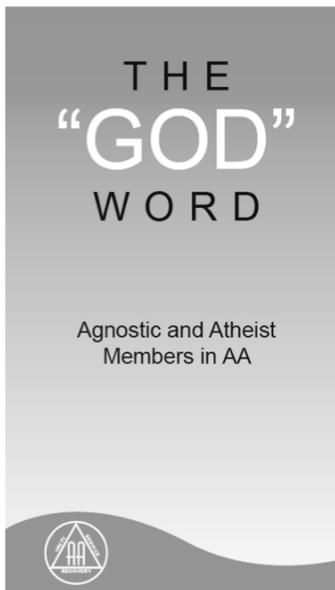
\*In 2006, A.A. is composed of over 100,000 groups.

THE WAY IT IS NOW

Chapter	Page
PREFACE	xi
FOREWORD TO FIRST EDITION	101
FOREWORD TO SECOND EDITION	xi
FOREWORD TO THIRD EDITION	101
FOREWORD TO FOURTH EDITION	101
THE DOCTOR'S OPINION	101
1. BILLY'S STORY	1
2. THERE IS A SOLUTION	17
3. MORE ABOUT ALCOHOLISM	30
4. WE AGNOSTICS	44
5. HOW IT WORKS	55
6. INTO ACTION	78
7. WORKING WITH OTHERS	89
8. TO WIVES	104
9. THE FAMILY AFTERWARD	122
10. TO EMPLOYERS	136
11. A VISION FOR YOU	151
PERSONAL STORIES	
PART I	
Pioneers of A.A.	
DOCTOR BOB'S NIGHTMARE	171
A co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous. The birth of our Society dates from his first day of permanent sobriety, June 10, 1935.	
v	

## VI. Agenda Item B

Consider Kansas City request to publish *The “God” Word*



Consider proposal that AAWS adapt and/or adopt a pamphlet produced by the GSO of Great Britain titled *The “God” Word*.

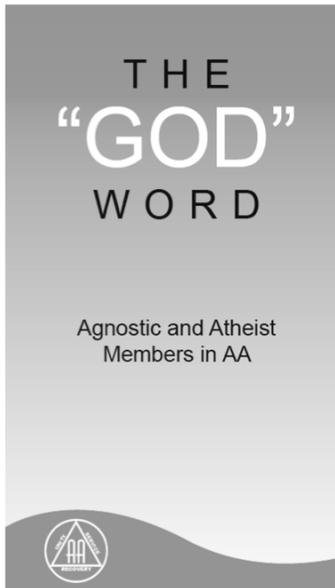
The pamphlet is popular among our members, and we would like to include it in our newcomer’s packets, but it is difficult and expensive to order from the UK.

We believe this pamphlet will fill a need among the general membership of Alcoholics Anonymous in North America.

NOTE: *The “God” Word* is available on line for download.

## VI. Agenda Item B

Consider North FL Area 14 request to publish *The "God" Word*



### MOVE:

That A.A.W.S. Adapt and/or adopt a pamphlet produced by the G.S.O. of Great Britain titled: The "God" Word.

### BACKGROUND:

There is a pamphlet that was approved by the General Service Conference of Great Britain titled, The "God" Word, which consists of stories by A.A. members who identify as atheist or agnostic. We would like to have the General Service Conference in North America consider publishing this pamphlet to be made available for A.A. members in the United States and Canada. It is not possible to purchase the pamphlet from Great Britain for use in the U.S.

## VI. Agenda Item C

### Consider development of a pamphlet for atheist & agnostic members

Consider request for a new AA pamphlet specifically for Atheist and Agnostic members. This would not be a rewrite of the Spirituality Many Paths pamphlet but a brand new pamphlet.

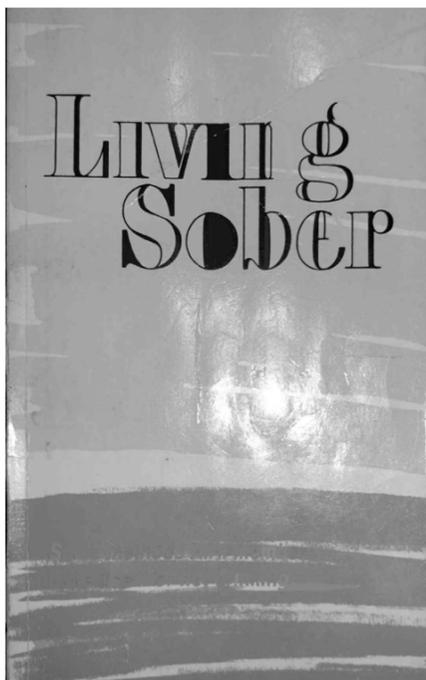
Reasons for requesting this new piece of AA literature:

- The ***Many Paths to Spirituality*** pamphlet detoured from the original intent - a pamphlet for the Atheist/Agnostic members and newcomers who had a big problem with “the God Thing”.
- A pamphlet like this would go a long way to
  - affirm that we are in fact spiritual and not religious
  - let newcomers who come to AA know that their belief or lack of belief is OK and they are welcome.
  - get them to stay in AA
  - let the membership know that these members are ***full*** members of AA and ***not*** members to be marginalized or criticized because of their belief or lack of belief.

Meanwhile, the UK General Service Office published such a pamphlet this year. It’s called ***The “God” Word***. I know of members who got copies shipped to them by members in the UK.

## VI. Agenda Item M

Consider CNCA proposal to reintroduce text from ***Medications and other Drugs to Living Sober***



'Some alcoholics require medication.

We recognize that alcoholics are not immune to other diseases. Some of us have had to cope with depressions that can be suicidal; schizophrenia that sometimes requires hospitalization; bipolar disorder, and other mental and biological illnesses. Also among us are diabetics, epileptics, members with heart trouble, cancer, allergies, hypertension, and many other serious physical conditions.

Because of the difficulties that many alcoholics have with drugs, some members have taken the position that no one in A.A. should take any medication. While this position has undoubtedly prevented relapses for some it has meant disaster for others.

A.A. members and many of their physicians have described situations in which depressed patients have been told by A.A.s to throw away the pills, only to have depression return with all its difficulties, sometimes resulting in suicide. We have heard, too, from members with other conditions, including schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, epilepsy and others requiring medication, that well-meaning A.A. friends discourage them from taking any prescribed medication. Unfortunately, by following a layperson's advice, the sufferers find that their conditions can return with all their previous intensity. On top of that, they feel guilty because they are convinced that 'A.A. is against pills.'

It becomes clear that just as it is wrong to enable or support any alcoholic to become re-addicted to any drug, it's equally wrong to deprive any alcoholic of medication, which can alleviate or control other disabling physical and/or emotional problems.'"

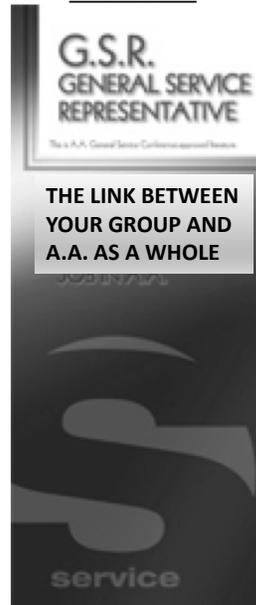
VI. Agenda Item P  
Consider proposal to change the title of THE GSR PAMPHLET

THE WAY IT IS NOW



**MAY BE  
THE MOST  
IMPORTANT  
JOB IN A.A.**

PROPOSED



**THE LINK BETWEEN  
YOUR GROUP AND  
A.A. AS A WHOLE**

## VI. Agenda Item Q

### Consider Area 5 request for a new pamphlet for Spanish-Speaking women alcoholics

**Background:** The Spanish-speaking woman alcoholic has been identified as an underrepresented group in our fellowship. There are many Spanish-speaking groups without alcoholic women members for newcomers to identify with. The pamphlet's purpose would be to extend the hand of A.A. to the Spanish-speaking woman alcoholic by letting her know she belongs in A.A. and that she is not alone.

While the pamphlet *A.A. for the Woman* addresses women alcoholics, there are issues specific to Spanish speaking women that the pamphlet does not address. A few of those examples are listed below.

- There is often a deep rooted cultural shame associated with being a female alcoholic in the Spanish community.
- Because there are so few women in Spanish-speaking A.A. groups, these women often times find themselves alone in the rooms.
- Many Spanish-speaking women alcoholics are first generation immigrants and do not have access to the same resources available to others. As a result, they may not have anyone outside of the fellowship to help them realize the gravity of their disease.
- There are many Spanish-speaking women alcoholics with little or no family here in the US and Canada, having had to leave most or all of their families in their countries of origin.

Often, alcoholics that such pamphlets were written for do not readily find people like themselves when they first walk into our rooms, which is why these pamphlets can help them to see that they belong, and that we do not have to be exactly alike to share in our common problem and common solution. A pamphlet specifically for the Spanish-speaking female newcomer would help us greatly in carrying the message to them, especially when no other women are present to welcome them, and hopefully help them to stay.