**AREA 50 2021 DELEGATE’S PRE-CONFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE – PART II**

The Delegate’s Questionnaire – Part I dealt with issues before the Conference Agenda Committee, on which I sit. These are the issues on which Area 50 can be most sure to have an influence.

Part II of the Questionnaire deals with issues before the other twelve Committees of the Conference. I will have a vote on these items only if they come to the floor of the Conference as a whole. Please note that the background materials have been linked within this document for your use (see underlined text).

There are more than 100 items and sub-items before the other twelve Committees. It is not realistic to ask Area 50 to develop an informed group conscience on all these items. I have spoken with many members in the Area, and all prefer a small number of items that can be addressed in greater depth.

Many of the topics raised here will also be discussed at the Area 50 Pre-Conference Assembly on April 10th. Groups may wish to prepare for the Assembly by preparing draft answers before the Assembly.

Since the Conference begins on April 18th, I will need your completed Questionnaires **by no later than Tuesday, April 13th.** Please return your completed Questionnaires to me by email at [p70delegate@area50wny.org](mailto:p70delegate@area50wny.org).

Please provide the following information and fill out the questions below for three topics and final questions:

**Name:**

**Service Position:**

**Home Group or Other Entity Represented:**

**Do you have a vote at the Area 50 Assembly?:**

Thank you for your service to Area 50 and our beloved Fellowship!

Hank K / Delegate/ Area 50 / Panel 70

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| **Topic I – Thinking About the Big Book** |

1. **A Fifth Edition? Possible Changes? What Changes Are Being Considered? (Literature B, C and W.)**
2. **Should We Have a Plain or Simplified Language Version of the Big Book? Should We Have Workbooks for the Program? Is There a “Common Solution” for Questions Like These? (Literature U.)**

Proposals regarding the Big Book have come before the Conference on a regular basis for the past several years. The proposals have been submitted by Areas, Districts, Home Groups and individual members across the country. These proposals are addressed in Literature items B, C and W.

[A link to the Literature background material is **here;** Literature B is at pages 12-22; Literature C is at pages 23-51; and Literature W is at pages 337-342.](http://area50wny.org/wp-content/uploads/71stGSC_VI._LiteratureBackgroundEnglish.pdf)

AA’s General Service Board created a Subcommittee to study proposals like these to see if there is an underlying common theme. Reviewing the work of this Subcommittee is on this year’s Conference agenda as Literature item U. There is a link to the Literature Background Material in the previous paragraph; Literature U is at pages 207-334.

The Trustees’ Subcommittee has created a 20-minute video presenting its findings. [A link to this video is **here.**](https://vimeo.com/500617913)

Here are some questions to consider:

1. **Proposals for a Fifth Edition, or revisions to the current text, include:**

* **Revisions of the text to move in the direction of more modern language, gender neutrality or “simplified” or “plain” language;**
* **Updated stories to better reflect our current membership;**
* **Updates to the Appendices concerning the views of AA in the fields of religion and medicine;**
* **Addition of the bulk of the pamphlet, “The AA Group” as an Appendix.**

**Do you and your group favor a Fifth Edition of the Big Book? If so, what changes do you think should be included? Please provide a brief description of your thinking.**

1. **In their Report on a possible “common solution,” the Trustees’ Subcommittee has posed the following questions to the Fellowship:**

* **Should the Trustees’ Literature Committee explore possible solutions that could help make our literature more accessible and relatable?**
* **If so, what additional information would be helpful to determine if additional items are needed to increase accessibility and relatability to the AA program?**
* **Would a translation into modern or simple language help?**
* **What tools would help others understand our program of recovery? Workbooks? Dictionaries?**

**Please provide your group’s conscience on these questions here:**

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| **Topic II – Other Possible Literature Changes** |

1. **The AA Preamble and the 12x12 (Grapevine E and Literature E)**
2. **Proposed Changes to the AA Preamble (Grapevine E)**

Proposals regarding possible changes to the AA Preamble have also been before the Conference for some time. These proposals concern replacing the reference to AA as a Fellowship of “men and women.” [A link to the Grapevine Background Material is **here;** the material on this proposal is at pages 36-66.](http://area50wny.org/wp-content/uploads/71stGSC_V._AAGV.-LV_Background.pdf)

The Grapevine Board has offered the following proposals:

* Alcoholics Anonymous is a Fellowship of people who share . . .
* Alcoholics Anonymous is a community of people who share . . .
* Alcoholics Anonymous is a Fellowship for sharing experience, strength and hope to solve a common problem and to help others to recover from alcoholism.
* Alcoholics Anonymous is a community for sharing experience, strength and hope to solve a common problem and to help others recover from alcoholism.

Questions to consider:

1. **Do you and your group favor any of the proposed changes to the Preamble suggested by the Trustees’ Committee? Which ones, if any? Please share a brief description of your group conscience:**
2. **Does your group think gender-neutral language is important in our Fellowship, and/or to our outreach to the sick and suffering alcoholic? Please share your group’s thinking on this question:**
3. **Possible Changes to the 12x12 (Literature E)**

* **A Mate “Of the Opposite Sex”**

The discussion of Step 12 in the 12x12 contains the following sentence on page 117: “Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex . . .”

A group in Area 15 (Northern FL) has proposed eliminating the reference to a mate “of the opposite sex” from this passage. This proposal received majority support at the District level, but not substantial unanimity. Accordingly, this proposal is made on behalf of the group originating it. A link to the Literature Background Material appears in Topic I, at the top of page 2; the Background Material for Item E is at pages [62-69](http://area50wny.org/wp-content/uploads/71stGSC_VI._LiteratureBackgroundEnglish.pdf) of that Material.

* **“lustful enough to rape”**

Area 7 (CA Northern Interior) has passed with substantial unanimity, and referred to the Conference, a proposal to eliminate the phrase, “lustful enough to rape” from the 12x12’s discussion of Step 6. The background material states that lust is no longer considered the cause of rape, and that use of this phrase may cause trauma to affected readers. Again, a link to the Literature Background Material appears in Topic I; the Background Material for Item E is at pages [62-69](http://area50wny.org/wp-content/uploads/71stGSC_VI._LiteratureBackgroundEnglish.pdf) of that Material.

Questions to consider:

1. **Do you and your group favor either of the proposed changes to the 12x12? Please share a brief description of your group conscience:**
2. **Reviewing and Updating Our Pamphlets**

Fifteen pamphlets are under review or proposed for revision. Four new pamphlets are proposed or already in draft. Here are some examples:

* Create a pamphlet for mental health professionals (CPC B) [(The CPC background is **here;** this item is at pages 47-55)](http://area50wny.org/wp-content/uploads/71stGSC_II._CPC_BackgroundEnglish.pdf)
* Create a pamphlet on how the Grapevine can be used to carry the message (Grapevine C) [(the Grapevine background is at the top of page 3; this item is at pages 9-20)](http://area50wny.org/wp-content/uploads/71stGSC_V._AAGV.-LV_Background.pdf)
* Review progress report on the pamphlet “Too Young?” (Literature T) [(the Literature background is at the top of page 2; this item is at pages 200-206)](http://area50wny.org/wp-content/uploads/71stGSC_VI._LiteratureBackgroundEnglish.pdf)
* Consider updating the pamphlet “AA for the Native North American” [(Literature Z) (the Literature background is at the top of page 2; this item is at pages 349-51)](http://area50wny.org/wp-content/uploads/71stGSC_VI._LiteratureBackgroundEnglish.pdf)
* Review GSO Publishing updates per the AAWS print policy (“Is AA For You?”; “Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?”; “Frequently Asked Questions About AA”; “This Is AA”.) (Literature AA.) [(The Literature background is at the top of page 2; this item is at pages 352-424)](http://area50wny.org/wp-content/uploads/71stGSC_VI._LiteratureBackgroundEnglish.pdf)

These are examples only! Other proposed updates or new pamphlets are listed in the Conference Agenda.

Questions to consider:

1. **Do you and your group favor the proposed updates and new pamphlets?**
2. **Do you and your group have any comments on the other proposed pamphlets or updates listed in the Conference agenda?**
3. **Do you and your group use the AA pamphlets? Which ones, and for what purpose?**
4. **Do you and your group feel that our pamphlets are effective in carrying the AA message? Are there other ways to do it better? Are there other pamphlets you would like to see?**

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| **Topic III – New Technology: Innovative Ways to Carry the Message** |

1. **Converting Conference-approved Literature into Video Format (Literature A)**

AA World Services, Inc., our publishing arm, has proposed a policy concerning the conversion of Conference-approved literature into video format.

The proposed policy is designed “to meet the ever-increasing demand for audio and video content,” while “maintaining fidelity to the content of our message” and “acting within the scope of our Traditions.” (The Literature background is at the top of page 2; this item is at pages 6-11.)

Questions to consider:

1. **Do you and your home group support this proposal? Please provide a summary of your thoughts.**
2. **What additional thoughts does your group have on these issues?**
3. **Public Service Announcements (PI D)**

AA has a program of audio and video public service announcements available to broadcasters in the US and Canada at no charge. The Conference Public Information Committee supervises this program. [The Public Information Background Material is **here**](http://area50wny.org/wp-content/uploads/71stGSC_VIII._-PublicInformationBackgroundEnglish.pdf)**;** information on the PSAs, including links to the PSAs in English, French and Spanish, appears at pages 37-41. This Background Material also includes a report on PSAs under development.

Questions to consider:

1. **What Is Your Group’s view of the PSAs currently offered by AA?**
2. **Does your group have suggestions for new PSAs, or how AA’s PSA program could be improved?**
3. **How can your group and Area 50 improve the circulation of our PSAs in Western New York?**
4. **AA Podcasts**

AA is in the early stages of formulating a plan to develop AA podcasts. The Conference PI Committee provides oversight for this effort. A link to the PI Background Material appears in the discussion of the previous topic (page 5, item B); discussion of the podcast plan, including the current draft of the plan, appears at pages [42-44.](http://area50wny.org/wp-content/uploads/71stGSC_VIII._-PublicInformationBackgroundEnglish.pdf)

After reviewing this Background Material, we would appreciate your group’s views on the following questions:

1. **Does your group approve of the plan to develop AA podcasts?**
2. **Do members of your group have experience as podcast consumers? Do members of your group use recovery podcasts from other providers? Do you have suggestions for improving the AA podcast plan?**

**Topic IV – AA World Service, GSO and Conference**

1. ***Should online groups be part of the General Service structure? (Policy/Admissions J****.)*

The Conference Policy and Admissions Committee will be considering six proposals from Areas, Districts, groups and members across the US, seeking to allow online groups to participate in AA’s General Service structure. The Background Material concerning these proposals also includes input on the experience, strength and hope on this topic from General Service structures around the world.

[The Background Material for the Policy and Admissions Committee is **here.** These proposals are discussed at pages 123-191.](http://area50wny.org/wp-content/uploads/71stGSC_VII._PolicyAndAdmissionsBackgroundEnglish.pdf)

All these proposals strongly support consideration of allowing online groups to participate in the General Service structure. Several proposals refer to Concept IV, which states that we should maintain a traditional “right of participation” throughout all levels of our Conference structure. Proposals range from including online groups in our existing District and Area structure to creation of a new Area for online groups only. Concerns include the possible lack of linkage of an online group to a specific geographic Area and the possibility of votes from outside the geographic limits of a particular World Service structure.

Questions to consider:

1. **Does your group support including online groups in our General Service structure? What concerns do you see? Please provide a brief explanation of your thinking on this topic.**
2. ***Motion to Censure the Board of Trustees (Trustees F.)***

Following the 2020 General Service Conference, a group of Delegates and past Delegates submitted a “Statement of Concern and Motion to Censure for Submission to the 71st General Service Conference.” The Statement and Motion raised concerns about historical actions of the Board, as well as concerns regarding the conduct of the 2020 Conference itself.

The original Background Material for the Trustees Committee did not contain substantive material concerning the Statement and Motion, since all relevant background was not yet available.

Earlier this month, revised Background Material for the Trustees’ Committee was released to the Delegates. [That material is **here.** Material concerning the Statement is found at pages 60-176](http://area50wny.org/wp-content/uploads/71stGSC_XI._TrusteesBackgroundEnglishRevised-3-3-21.pdf).

The Statement itself is not contained in the Background Material. [However, the Statement was circulated to all Delegates via email on March 15th. A copy of the Statement and the cover email is **here.**](http://area50wny.org/wp-content/uploads/71stGSC_Statement-of-Concern-for-Submission-to-the-71st-General-Service-Conference-ANON-PROTECTED.pdf)

Questions to consider:

1. **Does your group favor the passage of the motion to censure? Please provide a brief explanation.**

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| **Final Questions** |

1. **Are there any other Conference Agenda Items your group would like to discuss?**
2. **Do you and your group feel you have had an adequate opportunity to develop an informed group conscience on the issues presented? Do you have any suggestions for improving our process?**

**Thank you again for your service to Area 50 and our Fellowship**! **Remember to return this Questionnaire to me by April 13th – and to return Part I by April 5th!**

Yours in service,

Hank K / Delegate, Area 50 / Panel 70 – Call with comments or questions!