



**Language of the Heart**  
**Lenguaje del corazón**  
**Le langage du cœur**

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

July 3–6, 2025 | Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Memorandum

August 2024

To: Area, District, and Central Office/Intergroup Literature Chairpersons

Cc: General Service Conference Members

From: Rainer LeFebvre, GSO Staff Member, Literature Assignment  
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Re: Literature Assignment Activity Update

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Warmest greetings from GSO in New York!

Welcome to all Literature Committee Chairpersons. We look forward to providing any support we can to facilitate your effective service. For those of you approaching the end of your rotation, we hope your service has been a joyous and fulfilling experience. We have immense gratitude for your efforts to carry the A.A. message through service on a Literature Committee. If you have rotated on, please forward this report to your new Literature Chairperson.

For those of you who are new, we communicate with you periodically during the year to provide current information related to AAWS literature.

As you may know, the 74th General Service Conference took place from April 14-20, 2024. Please speak with your Area Delegate to obtain a copy of the final Conference Report. In the meantime, here is a snapshot of some actions related to Conference-approved literature.

**Advisory Actions:**

- That a pamphlet on the Asian and Asian-American alcoholic in A.A. be developed.
- That a pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in A.A. be developed. The committee requested that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Corrections. (EDW item, Conference Committee on Corrections)

- That the pamphlets “It Happened to Alice” (P-39) and “What Happened to Joe” (P-38) be retired.
- That the draft of the revised pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic” (retitled “Black in A.A.: Experience, Strength and Hope”) be approved with minor editorial changes.
- That the draft manuscript Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading Alcoholics Anonymous be approved with minor editorial changes to include:
  - Relocation of the “A.A. Steps Table” to constitute an Appendix (on the Twelve Steps) at the back of the new publication.
  - Replace the references to “addiction” and “addicted” with language related to alcoholism.
- That the “Too Young?” video adaptation project be permanently suspended.
- That the word “donation” be utilized to state that A.A. does not accept donations from outside entities; and that the word “contributions” be utilized when referring to Seventh Tradition contributions from A.A. members, in AAWS literature as it comes up for reprint.

### **Committee Considerations:**

- The committee reviewed a progress report on revisions to the pamphlet, “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.” The committee requested that a new draft, partial draft, or progress report be brought back to the 2025 Conference Committee on Literature.
- The committee discussed *Reflexiones Diarias*, the Spanish translation of the *Daily Reflections* book. The committee suggested that AAWS consider providing *Reflexiones Diarias* in a large-print format.
- The committee reviewed a progress report on the video animation of the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated.” The committee requested that the project proceed with Phase II Option I to include translation of narration voiceover and visual text into French and Spanish.

### **Items Coming Soon:**

(Please note that dates of availability for new items will be forthcoming, with communications through the What’s New section on the aa.org website and *Box 4-5-9*.)

*Reflexiones Diarias* will be printed in a large-print format at a list price of \$12.50.

The first-ever “Literature Committee Workbook” will soon be available at a list price of \$6.00.

The 2025 Literature Catalog is expected to be printed soon and will be posted to aa.org.

## **A Few Updates On Current Projects:**

- [Fifth Edition Big Book \(\*Alcoholics Anonymous\*\) FAQ:](#)

### **Was my story selected?**

Story review is ongoing and final selections have yet to be recommended. Over 2,500 A.A. members submitted their personal stories for possible inclusion in the Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. 150 stories are currently receiving additional evaluation. The process for expanding Appendix III: “The Medical View on A.A.” and Appendix V: “The Religious View on A.A.” has begun, through initial consultations with Class A trustees (current and past) from medical and religious fields.

### **When is the release date for the Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous- Big Book*?**

We appreciate and share the excitement of the Fellowship about the publication of the Fifth Edition Big Book. There is no current release date scheduled. It might be helpful to note that the development of the Fourth Edition Big Book involved four years and that 1,222 stories were submitted for that project.

Prior to printing, a completed manuscript needs to be presented to the General Service Conference. As such, April 2025 would be the earliest possibility for Conference-approval.

### **How can I keep informed on the status of the project for the Fifth Edition?**

Updates on the process to develop the Fifth Edition will be posted on the What’s New section of the A.A. website: [What’s New | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](#), and *Box 459*: [Box 459 | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](#), the quarterly news bulletin about A.A. service, literature, events and sharing.

Your area delegate is also a great source of information on this process.

- [Development of a Fourth Edition Big Book \*Alcohólicos Anónimos\* \(Spanish\):](#)

### **What entity in AA is responsible for the development of the draft of the Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos* and the revision of the translation of the first 168 pages?**

The creation of the draft Fourth Edition *Alcohólicos Anónimos* is being guided by an Appointed Committee Member (ACM) of the trustees’ Literature Committee and a working group of Hispanic A.A. members. The working group is looking to add a member from Puerto Rico and a Spanish-speaking Canadian. Updated chapter translations are being provided from the Language Services department on a bi-monthly basis. The working group is also continuing the selection process for personal stories.

The intent of the review of the existing translation is not to change the wording in the first 168 pages but to ensure that the translation accurately reflects the content from the source language (English), selecting the most appropriate vocabulary in the target language (Spanish).

Update of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American”:

Outreach efforts for the April 30, 2024, story submission deadline resulted in an increased number of story submissions. A new introduction has been written and story selection for the revised pamphlet has moved into its final stages.

Update of the pamphlet “Do You Think You’re Different”:

The story submission deadline was April 30, 2024. A subcommittee has been formed by the trustees’ Literature Committee for story review and selection.

Update of the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship”:

A subcommittee has been formed by the trustees’ Literature Committee to continue the work on this project. The subcommittee has been asked to add language on working with alcoholics with intellectual or information processing challenges, communication challenges and diverse neurological abilities. A separate request was made by the Conference Committee on Corrections to add language about sponsoring a person in custody.

Update of the pamphlet “Twelve Steps Illustrated”:

Sample illustrations were provided by the Publishing Department during the July General Service Board weekend. The illustrations were received with excitement and a few suggestions for improvement.

Update of the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated” video animation:

Wording is being completed with new narration in American English. Narration voiceover and visual text will be presented in French and Spanish.

Thank you for your service to the current and future members of Alcoholics Anonymous in extending A.A.’s hand through our Conference-approved literature.

Rainer LeFebvre  
GSO Staff Member  
Literature Assignment