

Literature Round Table – Friday, March 2, 2018

TOPIC ONE – Pamphlets

- Pamphlet Study Meetings consistent with the literature, easy reads on pertinent points, good beginner information to help people understand what AA is and is not. Integrity of the AA message is preserved in our literature.
- **How can we present literature in new ways?**
Conference approved literature based meetings
Newcomer packets to distribute literature, welcome home group members
Contribute old literature to jails and institutions
- **Specialized pamphlets – are they useful or do they contribute to the disintegrating singleness of purpose?**
Specialty pamphlets are designed to address potential members, helping them feel welcome.
Order pamphlets on-line through GSO.

TOPIC TWO – Non-AA approved Literature

- What is appropriate for non-AA literature?
GSO is supported through the sale of our literature. Any literature not AA approved that is purchased by an AA group is supporting an outside entity.
- All AA approved literature can be found on the GSO website. AA.org
- Reading and supplying outside literature at meetings implies affiliation.
- Tradition 4 does not allow meetings to use non-AA approved literature

TOPIC THREE – The “God” word pamphlet

- Produced by UK GSO, designed for atheist and agnostics. There is a chapter to the Agnostics
- Pamphlet could be useful, could be redundant.
- We need more information about this pamphlet.
- The point is- should we print it here in USA or not, not whether we like it or not.
- Specialized pamphlet/group shift singleness of purpose to the specialization rather than to alcoholism.

TOPIC FOUR – Women’s Spanish Speaking Meeting w/ pamphlet

- Attendance at meetings, even if you do not speak Spanish, helps to show all are welcome, including women.
- Spanish Speaking districts realize that there is an issue – the pamphlet to address first impression of first time meeting attendees.

- Cultural outcasts/ stigmatism so it is hard for women to attend and participate in meetings.

TOPIC FIVE – Creating a new 12 & 12 & 12 book

- Adding the 12 Concepts for world service to the 12 & 12, if we are going to add should we revise / look at all the Twelve Concept Essays?
- Maybe the material is too advanced
- What exactly are we going to print?
- If we refrained from printing infor because people might not understand it, we'd never print anything, just print it.
- Help to differentiate between 12th step work and service work.
- People got sober, people die sober, why not teach how to serve sober?
- Should we even look into developing this? Why or Why not?

TOPIC SIX – How to Get Literature into Schools

- PI and CPC work with public and committees to make that happen.
- Went to school with literature rack to present information and offer panel for the school

TOPIC SEVEN – Pamphlet about Long Term Inmates Getting Out

- Is it necessary?
- Should we teach inmates how AA works while they are incarcerated so that they know what AA is before they get out?
- Educate people about long term incarceration? For inmates? For members of AA?
- Collect experience, thoughts from inmate regarding AA inside.
- Reach out to H & I and Corrections about the inmate experience.

TOPIC EIGHT – Strategy for Literature

- Over a period of time, GSO will implement a strategy to revise, update and add to the literature base. Will be presented at the 2018 Conference.

ROUND TABLE SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2018

TOPIC ONE – GARY, AREA 92 – Communicate with the Spanish Speaking Community through Literature

TOPIC TWO – SCOTT – The “God” word Pamphlet

TOPIC THREE – KRISTY – Adding AA Preamble & Responsibility Statement

TOPIC FOUR – How the Literature Rep and Literature Committees better Carry the Message

1. Communicate with the Spanish Speakers

- Find an interpreter
- Talk with the Spanish Speakers attending PRAASA to see how they have been able to communicate with us.
- Has a ton of pamphlets that he wants to distribute
- Find a way to distribute to remote communities
- Contact Spanish groups in your Area
- H & I Contact

2. The “God” Word pamphlet

- UK General Service Office has received multiple requests to provide the pamphlet – they have refused to publish due to cost.
- British AA currently unavailable to order
- Stories from Atheist and Agnostic Members in Great Britain
- There is another idea on the agenda to create our own.
- The thought is to use the “God word while working to create our own pamphlet
- Recognize that pamphlet is not just for Atheist and Agnostics
- Is there a way to articulate what the pamphlet to support (to groups with certain religious beliefs?) yes – God of our understanding, 3ed tradition and all inclusive
- Our spiritual path sometimes evolve as we grow
- Personal experience is powerful in the stories, not having an atheist/agnostic pamphlet may have hindered the recovery of some.
- The current pamphlet all lead to “God” in the end
- Autonomous Service Structures in other countries
- Openmindedness is the key along with honesty.
- If it is being requested, we are responsible
- Pamphlet could create a sense of unity for our Atheist and Agnostic members.
- Will the title deter Atheist and Agnostic – not really
- Ask why wouldn't we rather than why shouldn't we?

3. Add the Preamble and Responsibility Statement to the Big Book

- We use it in meetings, but it is not in the Big Book
- Already conference approved literature
- Is in the next printing or next edition?
- Is it cost effective?
- There is a minimum number of pages to adding text to a book

- Maybe it could be added on one of the blank pages
- It is available in the Grapevine and other sources – in pamphlets
- If it was in the Big Book, it would be easily accessible to all.
- Background – 4th time on the agenda
- 1993 – no action
- 2011 - no action
- 2012 – no action
- Just a request to add it to the Big Book
- It speaks to the Primary purpose
- It won't change the fact that older editions keep us sober without the preamble and statement

4. How can Literature Reps and Committees better carry the message?

- Advise Groups on Literature available
- Encourage the literature Rep to be enthusiastic
- Make sure the group has a rack
- Guidelines available were outdated and only geared towards literature committee
- Poster was made by listing the websites available
- Mention literature at meetings, a different pamphlet at a different meeting
- Literature is separated in 3rds Service , Unity and Recovery
- Literature Workshop / pamphlet is created for the literature rep by a member – it will be submitted to the conference next year.
- Literature is a valuable tool for our non-alcoholic community, also for individuals new to the program – taken into jails and institutions
- All the pamphlets fit into 4 racks
- “AA meeting in a Pocket” – non-conference approved but found at www.chicagoaa.org. San Diego also has the pamphlet
- Survey created for group to assess a need for a literature rep
- Young & Sober, Grapevine books when high young people in attendance
- Poster made with current Grapevines available
- Akron Intergroup has list on-line Conference approved literature that speaks to early sobriety
- Group donates pamphlets and books to libraries
- GSO runs out of Spanish literature, cheaper to buy it by the case.
- Newcomer packets made and distributed
- Check the thrift stores for used literature to donate
- Make sure we have current pamphlets
- There are too many topics on the agenda this year, suggestion to space out the review of literature
- Engage people to discuss what literature they are passionate about

- Digital Age has affected literature
- Publications – one copy available on-line at no cost
- Grapevine kit is being distributed in San Diego with a copy of each book available, table cloth, order forms, donated to Literature Reps in the area that can't afford them.
- For a copy of Area 08's proposed pamphlet "A Guide for the Group Literature Representative" – you can email Bill S. www.area08DCM2@gmail.com with the request. The pamphlet is awaiting the SDI policy committee approval.