

**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
AREA 93**

**2021 AA General Service Conference
Personal / Group Opinion Poll**

Dear Area 93 Group Member:

March 1, 2021

One of my duties as your delegate is to present the Area 93's collective group opinions during this year's GSC from April 18-24 via zoom. The following questionnaire contains subjects that will be voted on by all the Conference members.

Please help me to know your personal views by answering the questions you may have an opinion on and return to me by one of the following methods before April 16th.

- 1) Give it to your GSR.
- 2) Bring it to Our Virtual Pre-Conference Workshop on March 20th and 21st of 2021.
- 3) E-mail it to delegate@area93.org

Thank you for your help in preparing me for the 71st General Service Conference (GSC).

Karla Y., Panel 71 Delegate C.C.A.A. Area 93

**Treatment and Accessibilities
International Conventions/Regional Forums**

Literature — Item U

Agenda Topic: Consider if proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, can be addressed with a common solution.

Historical Context: Why is it on the Agenda?

Since at least the 1970s, the Fellowship has been discussing "Big Book Study Guides" and other interpretations of the book Alcoholics Anonymous. By 1977, numerous requests (from treatment centers and from AA members) to reprint portions of the Steps or the Big Book to create study guides to supplement the program led the AAWS Board to determine that permission should not be granted. The Board also decided to not publish any study guides because "there are no authorities in AA, and even a self-appointed 'teacher' has feet of clay. Hence, it is preferable that the individual member or prospect interpret the literature according to his own point of view."

In the past few years, however, a number of proposals to simplify the language of the book, modernize the language into contemporary English, or create workbooks supplementing the AA program have been made. Included in the background are multiple proposals: one (from the San Diego/Interior Area) requests a translation of the book into a fifth-grade level; a second (originating in the North Florida Area) requests an individualized workbook to accompany the Big Book; and a third (from a group in New Jersey) requests that the chapters 'To Wives,' 'The Family Afterwards,' and 'To Employers' be removed from the Big Book. Other requests include removing the words 'He' and 'Him' from Steps 3, 7, and 10, and replacing them with 'Higher Power' or 'God,' asking Jewish Rabbis, Muslim leaders, Indian Ancient Vedas scholars to edit the book to encourage diverse spiritual language, creating a Big Book dictionary, and creating a workbook to study the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts.

Because so many of these proposals have been sent to the Board, an exploration into what underlying need was driving these requests was launched. The subcommittee tasked with that project reported that most of the need was driven by concerns about accessibility (because of literacy levels) and relate ability (because of changes in culture and language). A video of the PowerPoint presentation from the 70th General Service Conference has been made available.

2021 AA General Service Conference (GSC) Personal / Group Opinion Poll

Please click on the link to view the video for the background, share with your committees, districts and especially with your group conscience.

<https://aaworldservicesinc.cmail20.com/t/y-l-olduyyk-ijtkkykjiy-h/>

Should we continue exploring possible solutions that could help make our message more available?

Yes _____

No _____

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?

Yes _____

No _____

What tools would help others understand our program of recovery?

Workbooks?

Yes _____

No _____

Dictionaries?

Yes _____

No _____

Please, note any other ideas or suggestions?

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**Treatment and Accessibilities
International Conventions/Regional Forums**

Literature — Item I1

Agenda Topic: Consider revising the pamphlet “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship”: Change the suggestion that sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex.

Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?

This proposal, made by an AA member requests that the following paragraph, found on page 12 under the heading “Can any member be a sponsor?”: In most instances, AA custom does suggest one limitation, already noted on page 10: If the group is large enough to allow a choice, sponsor and newcomer be of the same sex.

The reasons are the same from both viewpoints; we AA members, no matter how long we have been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from “our primary purpose.” be updated to read: “AA custom does suggest one limitation: sponsorship should be avoided wherever a romantic entanglement might arise between sponsor and newcomer. We AA members, no matter how long we have been sober, remain thoroughly human, subject to emotions that might divert us from “our primary purpose.”

The suggested change is designed to be sensitive to and accommodate transgender and non-binary members because a segregation of men and women leaves these members at risk of misunderstanding, ostracism, rejection, and even violence.

Have you read the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship"?

Yes _____
No _____

Does your group think this change to the pamphlet is needed? Why, or why not?

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**Treatment and Accessibilities
International Conventions/Regional Forums**

Int’l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item A

Agenda Topic: Discuss methods of closing the Big Meetings at the International Convention.

Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?

At the 2020 Conference, the Conference Committee on International Conventions/ Regional Forums felt further discussion on the use of the Lord’s Prayer as a closing at the Big Meetings at the International Convention would be beneficial and suggested the 2021 Conference continue the discussion.

At the International Convention, there are three “big meetings.” On Friday night, the meeting has traditionally (for the last four conventions) ended with the Lord’s Prayer. On Saturday night, the meeting has ended with the Serenity Prayer. And on Sunday morning, the meeting has ended with the Responsibility Statement. The scripts for meetings during the day on Friday and Saturday have allowed meeting coordinators to close with any of these choices (or the option of a moment of silence).

Does your group have any suggestions on how to close the Big Meetings at the International Convention?

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**Treatment and Accessibilities
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Int’l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item B

Agenda Topic Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees. Historical Context; Why is it on the Agenda?

Regional Forums are held several times a year and are a service provided by GSO staff and the General Service Board with the intent of allowing the general AA membership (not just people involved in General Service) meet and interact with GSO staff and General Service Board members.

This helps members put a face to their trusted servants. In order to encourage interest and attract first-time attendees, this committee discusses several ideas each year. In 2020 some ideas discussed were continuing to provide options for remote attendance, providing digital access to Forum materials and presentations (including use of the Meeting Guide App or mobile app) and having a “video invitation” from the GSB Chair.

Recent discussion has focused on compiling notes from first-time sharing at a Forum, developing a Regional Forum app, developing a micro-site (in addition to postal mailing of Forum flyers), increasing outreach to different populations (like young people and Spanish-speaking communities), encouraging local welcome committees to create Save the Date flyers, inviting AAWS/AA Grapevine directors to “non-service” AA events to increase awareness of the Forum, and placing information about Regional Forums in the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña.

Do you or members of your group know about Regional Forums?

Si _____

No _____

If not, what are some of the things that could attract members of your group to attend a Regional Forum?
