

MEMORANDUM

June 2021

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

From: Steve Smith, G.S.O. staff, Literature Assignment
(212) 870-3019; E-mail: literature@aa.org

Cc: Board Trustees and Directors; Bob Wilcox, G.S.O. General Manager; Sandra
Wilson, G.S.O. Director of Staff Services; and G.S.O. Staff Members

Re: Literature Assignment Activity Update

Warmest greetings from G.S.O. in New York! My name is Steve Smith, G.S.O. staff member on the Literature assignment as of October 2018 and enjoying my final year on the assignment with rotation scheduled for July 2021. Always a delight to serve as a special worker at G.S.O., and working on the Literature assignment has been a great experience.

Welcome to all new Literature Chairpersons and best regards to all chairpersons who continue to help carry our message of hope and recovery through service on Literature Committees. If you have rotated on, please forward this report to your new Literature Chairperson and let us know of the changes so that we can update our listings.

We try to communicate with you during the year to provide current information to support your service efforts on Literature committees. Unfortunately, the hoped for Activity Update after the 70th General Service Conference was not sent. While I strove to be in touch more often, this is the first Activity Update from the Literature Desk in 2021. Hopefully you find the sharing helpful.

Literature Items and the 2021 General Service Conference

As you may know the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature had many items on its agenda. Many items forwarded as recommendations became Advisory Actions while the committee also had over 20 considerations! All of the committee's activity is too numerous to list in this update. And while a summary review overlooks so many details, please note that policy matters, text changes and pamphlet updates were addressed. Additionally, as you may know, Advisory Actions were passed to: develop a Fifth Edition of the book, Alcoholics

Anonymous; a Fourth Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, in Spanish, and to develop a draft version of the Fourth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous, translated into plain and simple language. The next step in these and other actions stemming from Conference will be at the end of July when the trustees' Literature Committee meets.

Please note and share locally there are no current calls for submissions of personal stories for any of the literature committee items. Calls for stories will come later in the development process.

Please reach out to your Area Delegate for a compilation of Advisory Actions and Committee considerations, which are available in English, Spanish and French. Along with actions stemming from the Conference Committee on Literature report, the compilation includes all committee activity which might relate to literature items and your committee service. The Conference Final Report, in English, Spanish and French, is scheduled to be available in electronic format in early August while print copies are scheduled to be postal mailed to Area Delegates by late August.

A.A. Literature Carrying the Message in Virtual Settings

On the topic of AA literature carrying the message in virtual settings, both in terms of electronic and print formats, so far, some shared experience has been received at GSO about how groups are going about these efforts. Because you reference your's and other groups' efforts along these lines, I thought to share some ideas on the subject overall. Please note, we appreciate it if you and others forward any and all approaches that are found to be effective and ineffective so we might pass along the shared experience.

An approach shared rather early in the pandemic, and adopted in various parts of the service structure, is from Area 08. GSO's Publishing Department reviewed and has supported the use of glideapps for access to A.A. literature in virtual meeting settings.

To explore this local resource, I am providing you with links to a couple of posts from the Technology in AA online community. A description of a glideapp in order to utilize AA literature in online settings is available. As you may know, a 'glideapp' functions like a 'URL' and can provide a direct way to access literature:

THE LINK FOR ENGLISH: <https://area8aalinks2aalit.glideapp.io/>

THE LINK FOR SPANISH: <https://area8aafolletos.glideapp.io/>

In general, the TIAA online community might be a good place to explore ideas for carrying A.A.'s message using literature items: <https://ttaa-forum.org/>

Some of the efforts groups have shared with G.S.O. related to taking to carry the message with AA literature in virtual settings include:

- Literature announcements that include websites for accessing literature online including aa.org and local AA service offices
- Including in literature announcements that PDF files are viewable and downloadable at aa.org
- Posting of literature in PDF files in chat boxes, as you mention
- Offering newcomers to have literature postal mailed if they care to provide mailing address in the chat or offline after by phone
- Groups have trusted servants, for example, 'newcomer liaisons', who note during introductions who the newcomers are and then announce that they will provide make contact in the chat and then follow up with anyone who responds to answer questions, provide information about sponsorship as well as literature resources one-to-one in chat, after the meeting or by phone

Update on the Development of a Literature Committee Workbook

The trustees' Literature Committee agreed to develop a Literature Committee Workbook. As service material, committee workbooks produced by G.S.O. are not Conference approved but are Conference reviewed. The purpose of committee workbooks is to provide shared experience for committee service. Shared experience from a wide geographic and committee perspective has been provided to G.S.O. Currently, the development of the workbook is a project under the purview of the G.S.O. Publishing Department with support of the G.S.O. Staff on the Literature assignment. Development is in the conceptual phase in terms of how to go forward with organizing and presenting the shared experience available.

Box 4-5-9

Finally, G.S.O.'s newsletter *Box 4-5-9* is a great resource and hopefully all Literature Committee Chairs who are listed with G.S.O. are receiving quarterly copies emailed to you. In response to a budget squeeze during 2020, only paid subscribers are receiving print versions of the newsletter. As you may know, every *Box 4-5-9* issue published is available at aa.org where you can search the issues by topic. Related links are included on the resource listing page that follows.

Below are links to *Box 4-5-9* at G.S.O.'s website aa.org:

English: https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/box-4-5-9-news-and-notes-from-gso
 Spanish: https://www.aa.org/pages/es_ES/box-4-5-9-news-and-notes-from-gso
 French: https://www.aa.org/pages/fr_FR/box-4-5-9-news-and-notes-from-gso

Fond 'Farewell'

As mentioned, G.S.O. Staff Member rotation is in July. I will rotate off the Literature Desk with great fondness for all of the interaction—on the road, phone, by email, and in the virtual squares—with so many amazing trusted servants and members who demonstrate

enthusiasm and commitment to supporting A.A.'s message reaching the still suffering alcoholic through literature! Thank you for making my job a true joy.

Staying in Touch, Providing Shared Experience

Feel free to reach G.S.O.'s Literature Desk at any time, whether it's to request shared experience, or, to pass local shared experience along to us so we can pass it along as well!

212.870.3019 / Literature@aa.org