

Literature Report to Conference 2019

The Literature Committee has pleasure in presenting to the Fellowship, the following pieces of literature for consideration by Conference 2019. Some background information has been provided to give an indication how the new and revised literature came about.

New Literature

1. Now that I'm a GSR (Group Service Representative) What do I do?

Background Information – GSR Pamphlet for Submission to Conference 2019

The proposed pamphlet "Now that I am a GSR – What do I do" originated in the Cornwall IG, which passed it on to the Literature Sub Committee for further consideration and review. Members of the Cornwall IG created this pamphlet with the intention of supporting members who were considering taking up the role as GSR with precise and practical information about the various responsibilities of this role. It was felt that the current "Rewards of being a GSR" was good but needed a supplementary publication. Overwhelming positive response from both the groups within the Cornwall IG and the South West Region resulted in the decision to send it to the Literature Sub Committee for consideration at Conference.

A thorough review and edits by the Literature Sub Committee produced the proposed pamphlet, entitled "Now that I am a GSR – What do I do", which contains the original content of the Cornwall IG pamphlet with some additions from the current GSR pamphlet, minor edits in writing style, and some adjustments in design.

Additionally, the Literature Sub Committee proposes that this new pamphlet replaces the current GSR pamphlet for the following reasons:

- ❖ The proposed pamphlet is a good reflection of the role and responsibilities of the GSR, offers much practical advice, and also contains some of the information presented in the "Rewards of being a GSR" pamphlet.
- ❖ The "Rewards of being a GSR" pamphlet contains information, e.g. in the sections "a unique opportunity", "willingness", and "principles before personalities", that is not only unique to the position of the GSR.
- ❖ While the original pamphlet offers well-intended, and inspiring general information about the "rewards" of service, it lacks practical guidance.

We feel that the new proposed piece of literature could more effectively encourage members to take on the role of GSR, assist them with practical advice, and offer inspiration, thus making the current pamphlet redundant.

2. 12th Step Starter Pack

AA STARTER PACK: background to proposed revision

The AA Starter Pack is an important part of our literature, playing a crucial role in introducing the newcomer to the Fellowship.

In 2017, the Literature Sub-Committee (LSC) was asked by the General Service Board to review the contents of the Starter Pack. A member of the fellowship brought a particular source of concern which was the fact that it contained two separate questionnaires, in different leaflets, which would deliver separate and possibly conflicting messages to the newcomer reading the pack.

The LSC undertook a review of the contents of the pack and concluded that it should be revised. That revision needed to ensure that there was only one questionnaire. It should also aim to include fewer pieces of paper and avoid repetition. The theme of the revision should be to "Keep it simple".

After discussion, it was decided to propose that there should be a single questionnaire, which would focus on the obsession from which the alcoholic suffers, the effects upon their mental processes, and upon those around them. The aim was not really to diagnose the alcoholic, but to provoke the newcomer to think, to get through denial, and to assist identification. Passages in the Big Book, and particularly in the Doctor's Opinion were of value in formulating the questions.

More generally, it was concluded that the text of the leaflets entitled "Who Me?" and "A newcomer asks" should be amended so that they incorporated the crucial points from the cards "What does Anonymity mean to AA?" and "Hints and Suggestions on Internet Safety", together with points from the leaflet "Is AA for You?" Those three items need then no longer be included in the pack.

As a result of this process, it is proposed that the Starter Pack should consist of the following pieces of literature:

"Who Me?" as amended and incorporating the questionnaire*

"A newcomer asks" as amended*

"Now that you've stopped - 15 Points"

"Just for Today" card

Card containing the Preamble, 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and the Serenity Prayer

The cards "What Does Anonymity Mean to AA?" and "Hints and Suggestions on Internet Safety" will continue to be available separately

* The amended texts of these leaflets are contained in a separate document and included with this literature report.

Item from Conference 2018

1. Your AA Group – and its place in the AA Structure

After receiving feedback from the fellowship, it was decided to withdraw this pamphlet from Conference 2018, to give time to consider all the comments. The Literature Sub Committees intention was to re-submit it to a future Conference after addressing the feedback raised. It has been decided to put this pamphlet on hold until a way forward has been sought. Our reason for this decision is that on considering all the background to this 'revised' pamphlet it was agreed that further work and consideration is needed as to its purpose. Some considerations discussed were how great the current need for this pamphlet is and whether we should be focusing more on outward-facing literature. An idea was to produce a much shorter version as introduction that would not replace *The AA Group* pamphlet but rather summarize the most important points. The consensus was that if we devise an overall strategy for the Literature Sub Committee, we can make a better decision about what we want to do with this project and others going forward.

The following items will be going to Committee to approve the proposed revisions to:

- ❖ AA Structure Handbook - Page 79 – (Conference 2018 Committee 3 Question 2)

Summary:

Any member of the Fellowship who has comments, questions or suggestions about these pieces of literature should contact the Literature Committee before the 31st March 2019.

This will give us time to make a considered and appropriate response to ensure the best possible outcome for the Fellowship. The Literature Committee can be contacted through GSO.

The Literature is being distributed electronically. However, hard copies will be sent to those without email addresses, and to those Delegates who request printed versions.

With very best wishes

Denise H
Trustee for Literature