

X.

**TREATMENT &
ACCESSIBILITIES**

AGENDA

Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities

Monday, April 25, 2022, 9 a.m. – Noon

Room: TBD

Chairperson: Jimmy A.

Secretary: Brenda B.

Conference Committee Members

Panel 71

Jimmy A.

Trudy D.

Thomas W.

Karla Y.

Panel 72

Grace F.

Darin H.

Tracy M.

Cheryl (Sherry) S.

- ◆ Discussion and acceptance of trustees' committee report.
- A. Review progress report on pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic."
- B. Review progress report on military audio interviews.
- C. Discuss draft version of A.A. Guidelines for remote communities.
- D. Review contents and format of Treatment Kit and Workbook.
- E. Review contents and format of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.
- F. Consider request to revise the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" to reflect the importance of the group as a "spiritual entity" as stated in the Long Form of Tradition Five.
- G. Consider request to revise text in the chapter "Getting plenty of rest" in the booklet *Living Sober*.

NOTE: 1989 Conference Advisory Action

Each Conference Committee carefully consider their agenda items and strive to make their recommendations for Advisory Actions to the Conference at the policy level. To be more financially responsible, when a Conference Committee recommendation involves a substantial expenditure of money, an estimate of cost and its impact on the budget be part of that recommendation.

2022 Conference Committee on Treatment/Accessibilities

ITEM A: Review progress report on pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic”

Background notes:

From the 2021 Committee Consideration of the Conference Committee on Treatment/Accessibilities:

The committee reviewed the progress report on the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic” and requested that a draft pamphlet or progress report be brought to the 2022 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.

From the August 1, 2021, trustees’ C.P.C./Treatment and Accessibilities Committee:

The committee chair assigned committee members to review the compiled stories and identify the top three and four submissions for the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic.” The committee asked the secretary to distribute the matrix and background. The committee agreed to discuss their selections at their October 2021 meeting.

From the October 31, 2021, trustees’ C.P.C./Treatment and Accessibilities Committee:

The committee discussed the update to the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic.” The committee discussed the subcommittee review of the 42 submitted stories and agreed to a first-round selection of seven of the stories to be considered for the updated version of the pamphlet.

The committee agreed to continue the review of stories for the pamphlet update. The committee requested that the staff secretary make a compilation of stories to include: the seven stories selected from the most recent submissions, the stories submitted for the update in 2019, stories from the September 2014/ August 2021 issue of the AA Grapevine magazine, and the stories that are in the existing version of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic.”

The committee requested that the staff secretary forward the compilation to committee members for their continuing review and discussions at the January 2022 meeting.

From the January 30, 2022 trustees’ C.P.C./Treatment and Accessibilities Committee:

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The committee reviewed and discussed the progress report from the subcommittee on the pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic -- Never Too Late." The committee performed the first-round review of 84 stories and selected 23 stories to be part of a second-round review. The goal of the second round is to select the top 12 stories. The committee agreed to forward to the 2022 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities the 12 stories to review and identify any gaps in the targeted categories of the older alcoholic experience. The committee looks forward to the Conference committee's feedback.

Background:

1. Compiled stories for the second-round review (not attached – provided under separate cover-Committee eyes only.)

[Back to Main Agenda](#)

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2022 Conference Committee on Treatment/Accessibilities

ITEM B: Review progress report on Military audio Interviews

Background notes:

From 2021 Committee Consideration of the Conference Committee on Treatment/Accessibilities:

The committee reviewed the progress report on audio interviews with A.A. members who are in the Armed Forces and made the following suggestions:

- Move forward with the production of audio files ensuring appropriate sound quality for distribution on digital platforms.
- Gather more audio military interviews from as broad a cross-section of A.A. members in active military duty as possible, including members of the Canadian Armed Forces and native Spanish- and French-speaking members.
- Develop a questionnaire to be used for future audio military interviews that include topics such as Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), injuries, and barriers that sober alcoholics on active military duty face in getting sober.
- Seek the help of the Fellowship in reaching out to possible candidates for the audio military interviews.
- Utilize higher quality equipment professional services to record and oversee the production of the audio military interviews to improve sound and visual design quality.
- Utilize graphics such as the “Blue People” banner, alternate backgrounds and soundtracks to enhance the audio and visual design of the audio files presentations.

Excepts from the August 1, 2021, trustees’ C.P.C./Treatment and Accessibilities Committee:

The chair appointed a subcommittee, Tom H. chair, Molly Anderson, and Cindy F. on creating audio interviews of A.A. members who are in the Armed Forces. The committee agreed to the following scope for the subcommittee:

- Identify a consultant to serve on the committee with a target date.
- Develop a questionnaire for audio-military interviews.
- Request to a broad cross-section of A.A. members.

In order to support this effort, the committee agreed to identify consultants from Canada and the U.S. with relevant military experience, who can continue the work

CONFIDENTIAL: 72nd General Service Conference Background

on the project. The committee consulted with the chair of Nominating Committee, regarding procedure (#13 Procedures for selecting consultants for General Service Board Committees) to be done prior meetings in September 2021.

From the October 31, 2021, trustees' C.P.C./Treatment and Accessibilities Committee:

The committee met in executive session to review an update on the consultant search to support efforts related to audio interviews with military professionals.

From the December 8, 2021, trustees' C.P.C./Treatment and Accessibilities Committee:

The committee discussed the candidates that were interviewed for the consultant position. The interview team selected two consultants, one from Canada and one from U.S. The selections were submitted to the Nominating committee for their review and will be forward to General Service Board for their approval at their December 16 2021 meeting.

From the January 30, 2022, trustees' C.P.C./Treatment and Accessibilities Committee:

The committee affirmed that the two consultants Tom P. (U.S. consultant) and Gerry C. (Canada consultant) brought on to participate in the Military audio interviews project are members of the CPC-Treatment/Accessibilities committee with a voice and no vote. The committee also noted that the consultants' term is for one year from January 2022-January 2023 with the option to renew for one additional year.

The subcommittee chair, Tom H. welcomed and acknowledged Tom P. and Gerry C. Both consultants and the subcommittee chair shared about their plans for the project.

The committee discussed the three audio interviews currently on A.A.org. In two of the audio clips, the interviewees identified their service rank. A request has been made by the third interviewees to add their rank to the audio clip. Publishing provided an estimated cost of \$600 to edit the clip. The staff secretary will work with the committee chair to facilitate this request. The committee looks forward to a progress report at the July 2022 meeting.

Secretary Note: The trustee chair noted that during the January committee meeting, the delay in the development of the audio interviews was acknowledged. Additionally, the committee stated that its consultants would be developing the framework and game plan on for future activities in concert with subcommittee efforts. The committee agreed that a verbal progress report on any developments might be shared with the Conference Committee on Treatment-Accessibilities under discussion of the trustee committee report during the joint meeting at Conference.

[Back to Main Agenda](#)

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Trustees' Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities Committee

Military Audio Interviews

Progress Report to the 2022 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities

January 30, 2022

Background

- The 2021 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities committee reviewed the progress report on audio interviews with A.A. members who are in the Armed Forces and made the following suggestions:
 - Move forward with the production of audio files ensuring appropriate sound quality for distribution on digital platforms.
 - Gather more audio military interviews from as broad a cross-section of A.A. members in active military duty as possible, including members of the Canadian Armed Forces and native Spanish- and French-speaking members.
 - Develop a questionnaire to be used for future audio military interviews that include topics such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), injuries, and barriers that sober alcoholics on active military duty face in getting sober.
 - Seek the help of the Fellowship in reaching out to possible candidates for the audio military interviews.
 - Utilize higher quality equipment professional services to record and oversee the production of the audio military interviews to improve sound and visual design quality.
 - Utilize graphics such as the “Blue People” banner, alternate backgrounds, and soundtracks to enhance the audio and visual design of the audio files presentations.

Progress report

At the August 2021 meeting, the trustees' committee chair announced that the Appointed Committee Member decided to step down from this service position. In the interest of providing continuity (and expediency), it was determined to fill the vacancy with a consultant (i.e., the search process for another ACM would take several months or more). The committee also recognized that this was an opportunity to fill the vacancy with a member from the U.S. and a member from Canada with relevant military experience to provide a diverse perspective to the subcommittee's work.

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Subsequently, after a robust search and interview process, two consultants were selected, one from U.S. and one from Canada. With the addition of the two consultants, the scope of the subcommittee's work includes:

- Develop a questionnaire for audio-military interviews.
- Request to a broad cross-section of A.A. members.
- Create a standard roadmap between U.S. and Canada having a unified plan.
- Seek interviews and to seek contacts from various military branches.
- Develop a project plan that will include reporting to the entire trustee committee.

The subcommittee on Military Audio Interviews will continue their work and provide a progress report to the trustees' committee at the July 2022 meeting.

[Back to Main Agenda](#)

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2022 Conference Committee on Treatment/Accessibilities

ITEM C: Discuss draft version of A.A. Guidelines on “A.A. for the Remote Community”

Background notes:

From the 2021 Committee Consideration of the 2021 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities:

The committee was provided an update on the Remote Communities guidelines and look forward to a draft version.

From the August 1, 2021, trustees’ C.P.C/ Treatment and Accessibilities Committee:

The committee reviewed a progress report from the executive editor on A.A. Guidelines on Remote Communities and looks forward to a draft or progress report at the October 2021 meeting.

From the December 8, 2021, trustees’ C.P.C./Treatment and Accessibilities:

The committee discussed the Remote Committee Guidelines and requested that the staff secretary continue to work with publishing to develop a draft for Remote Committee Guidelines. The committee looks forward to a progress report at their January 2022.

From the January 30, 2022, trustees’ C.P.C/Treatment and Accessibilities:

The committee reviewed and discussed “A.A. Guidelines for the Remote Community.” The committee suggested several edits and requested that the edits be captured in a memorandum to Publishing. The committee agreed to forward the memorandum and the draft “A.A. Guidelines for the Remote Community” to the 2022 Conference Committee on Treatment/Accessibilities for review because it is new service material.

Background:

- 1. Memorandum dated February 6, 2022, to Publishing**
- 2. Draft A.A. “Remote Community Guidelines”**

[Back to Main Agenda](#)

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MEMORANDUM

To: David R., Publishing and Ames S., Executive Editor
From: Brenda B., secretary trustee on treatment/Accessibilities
cc: Nancy McCarthy, C.P.C. – Treatment/Accessibilities
Re: Suggested edits to draft “A.A. for Remote Community”
Date: February 6, 2022

**Below is an excerpt from the January 30, 2022, meeting of the trustees’ C.P.C.-
Treatment/Accessibilities:**

The committee suggested several edits and requested that the edits be captured in a memorandum to Publishing. The committee agreed to forward the memo and the draft “A.A. Guidelines for the Remote Community” to the 2022 Conference Committee on Treatment/Accessibilities for review because it is new service material.

Suggested edits:

- Find appropriate language addressing Indigenous people from US and Canada
- Remove two quotes under section Spanish Speaking women in A.A. – Remote Community

Staff notes: Highlighted sections are to be edited.

[Back to Main Agenda](#)

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A.A. Guidelines Remote Communities Committees

From G.S.O., Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163
A.A. Guidelines are compiled from the shared experience of A.A. members in various service areas. They also reflect guidance given through the Twelve Traditions and the General Service Conference (U.S. and Canada). In keeping with our Tradition of autonomy, except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. most decisions are made by the group conscience of the members involved. The purpose of these Guidelines is to assist in reaching an informed group conscience.

What Do Remote Communities Committees Do?

Remote Communities Committees assist A.A. members who live in underserved or remote communities — communities that are difficult to reach because of geography, language, or culture. It could be a community that is remotely situated, or right around the corner. Members may be faced with travel or geographic challenges or may face barriers such as language, cultural considerations and/or anything else that could separate a person who needs A.A. from our lifesaving program of recovery.

The History of Remote Community Committees in the US and Canada

In keeping with A.A.'s Responsibility Declaration, the need for A.A.'s service structure to pay special attention to alcoholics living in remote communities was first articulated in the 1970s with reports from A.A. members dedicated to carrying the message to some of the most far-flung places across the U.S. and Canada.

In Toronto in July 1996, the first Remote Communities Conference was held with all 15 Delegates. Several areas reported on the history of remote communities' work. It was determined that a remote community was any community to which it was difficult to carry the message because of language, culture, or geography. It was also determined from that meeting that we needed to continue to meet, and the most effective time would be prior to the yearly General Service Conferences.

In the spring of 1997, the Remote Communities Committee met prior to the opening of the 47th General Service Conference. In attendance were the original 15 delegates, a few invited delegates from the US areas that experienced some of the same concerns, several trustees and GSO staff members. The "remote communities" definition was reviewed and recommitted to the definition of "remote communities" as "any community where it is difficult to carry the message because of language, culture and geography." The committee was expanded to include all Conference members who wished to participate, and the decision was made to publish a yearly newsletter, which has become the *Remote Communities Communicator*.

Today, this effort has morphed into what is known as the Pre-Conference Remote Communities Meeting that is held just prior to the annual General Service Conference and has two co-chairs who create the agenda and a G.S.O. staff member who supports them. The vision is that this meeting will serve to keep a focus on efforts to reach Remote Communities and solutions to overcome the barriers of culture, language, and geography during the only time each year all the areas meet.

In the 2021 Pre-Conference Remote Communities Meeting, 19 delegates from across the U.S. and Canada met on a virtual platform for the first time, demonstrating that "the use

of virtual technology is allowing us an unprecedented opportunity to share with our fellow members in a new and truly exciting way,” as one member said

Shared Experiences from A.A. Members on Working with Remote Communities.

“Recently some discussion has taken place as to the definition of a remote community. Do you need all three - culture, language, and geography - to be remote? We like the idea expressed in the overview to the 19th World Services Meeting: “In order for the message of AA to exist, without borders, languages, race or religion, it must not be perceived as a threat to an individual’s cultural identity and should focus on the alcoholic’s powerlessness over alcohol.” To that, some areas add the very real challenge of geographical remoteness. **Indigenous people who grew up in a remote village puts it this way:** It’s that I am an alcoholic.” Doesn’t it boil down to figuring out how to extend the hand of A.A. across those barriers and then finding ways to support those reaching out for help.

Three challenges

“Challenges in carrying the message to underserved populations can relate to culture and language. **A member shared his experience regarding these challenges with Indigenous populations.**

“First, sometimes newcomers think they must choose between A.A.’s program of recovery and their native cultural and spiritual practices.

“Second, because communities are small and everyone knows one another, maintaining privacy is, at times a problem. When confidentiality is broken, people are less likely to support the group and attend A.A. meetings on the reservation.

“Finally, A.A.’s newness on some reservations results in a shortage of experience sponsorship for newcomers. Alcoholics Anonymous. Meetings tend to become open discussion meetings because of a lack of knowledge of A.A.’s Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. Reservation groups and meetings need support from A.A.’s outside the reservation.”

--A.A. Grapevine, September 2006

The role of Accessibilities Committees

“In areas where these populations are not being reached, Accessibilities Committees may support such A.A. members in a number of ways:

- Organize regular telephone/teleconferencing/video conferencing meetings with members in remote communities for both recovery and service meetings.
- Identify community resources and leaders within specific ethnic and cultural communities, such as local media outlets; places of worship; medical providers, social clubs, and schools. Coordinate with C.P.C/P.I. committees to provide such culturally significant targets with P.S.A.s, A.A. literature and presentations, to help establish ongoing communication.

- Make sure there is an A.A. presence in underrepresented areas — consider starting meetings in communities where none exist.
- Work directly with existing members in underrepresented communities to take regular A.A. meetings onto Native American reservations, into inner-city communities, special language enclaves, remote areas, or help set up online meetings and mobile collaborations.
- Keep local members informed regarding Regional or Local Forums or other A.A. service events that may be occurring in their areas.
- Provide regular reports — in accessible formats — of service workshops, district meetings, and other service information that will help keep these communities connected to the whole of A.A.

--Shared Experience from A.A. Members on Working with Remote Communities
(Extracted from 2019 Remote Communities Communicator)

Spanish-Speaking Women in A.A. Remote Community

“Sponsorship is an issue. There is a lack of women who can sponsor. An Accessibilities committee can play a role connecting English-speaking and Spanish-speaking women.”

“The role of allies is key. “It’s important not to do it our way and respect that we are guests, yet also a part of. With that attitude, I have felt very welcome when visiting Spanish-speaking meetings.”

“Service sponsorship is helpful too. Spanish-speaking women are newer to service, but we must be careful not to direct an English -speaking way of doing things.”

“Authenticity, integrity, clarity of motive, love, compassion, and empathy are the hallmarks of an effective ally who grasps the cultural framework, but who understands their sister is first and foremost just another drunk and tries to make her feel at home.”

“At the heart of all this is unity and creating a safe place for anyone that needs us. This is just one aspect of that.”

1. What is your group or district’s specific definition of a remote community?
2. Has a Remote Communities Committee been established in your Group/District/Area?
3. Are Remote Communities the responsibility of an already established Group/District/Area committee?
4. What can your Group/District/Area do to increase Twelfth Step work in remote locations?
5. What challenges or opportunities has your Remote Communities Committee encountered regarding language, culture, or geography?

6. Is there any additional experience, information that can be shared regarding RC work?
7. How can GSO help to facilitate Twelfth Step work in Remote Communities?

Cultural Barriers working with the Indigenous American communities

“It helped to learn specific traditional ways of spirituality and then to demonstrate that A.A. is only going to support and strengthen those traditions. One way to introduce A.A.’s 12 step program to the culture is to incorporate the teachings of the culture. By applying cultural tools, language, and sacred traditions along with the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, the message can be brought to our Indigenous American communities.”

Area 26-Kentucky-Reaching Out to Dark District

“Workshops and quarterly event in Area 26 centered on our Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service planted the seeds to extend the hand of A.A. in the rural Appalachian Region of Kentucky. Members representing nine other districts travelled as far as five hours to participate. The long drive gave members a new appreciation and perspective on the willingness required to participate in General Service. It was a firsthand look at what we expect from any DCM or GSR from this region to be of service.

“Distance is a barrier and one that we can overcome together if we share experience and become willing to try different ideas. I have been thinking about how to serve remote communities. Can technology play a role in keeping AA groups connected? Can we all commit to such travel and go meet people where they are? What can we do to make service more inviting and maximize our time together?”

When connecting in person isn’t possible

Area 03/Arizona—Seizing the opportunity to connect

“Covid-19 has blocked our ability to access the Sovereign Nations and in turn has prevented their residents from leaving their reservations. How unfortunate for all of us. However, we belong to a fellowship that is most creative and persistent. With the closure to and from the reservations, we have seized the opportunity to update our records. We have used email blast, snail-mail, zoom rooms as our primary source of communication--to carry the message. It works!”

Remote Communities Coordinator/Arizona – Area 03, extracted from Remote Communities Communicator, 2021

The Loners-Internationalists Meeting (LIM)

Remote Communities Committees should try to ensure that A.A. members in remote areas are aware of *The Loners-Internationalists Meeting (LIM)*, which prints correspondence from A.A. members in isolated areas. The *LIM* is a confidential bimonthly bulletin sent to Loners, Homers, Internationalists, Port Contacts, and Loner Sponsors. The bulletin contains excerpts from LIM members’ letters that are sent to the General Service Office (G.S.O.) of Alcoholics Anonymous. The bulletin includes full names and addresses. LIM is distributed only to the members described below who appreciate the need for confidentiality of personal sharing with one another through correspondence.

To participate, an A.A. member needs to: 1) read and write English; 2) provide a stable email and/or mailing address; and 3) be willing to share experience, strength and hope via correspondence. Many LIM members communicate via email, while some utilize postal mail. A G.S.O. staff member coordinates the Loners, Homers, and Internationalist's correspondence service, which is open to A.A. members who fit one of the categories listed below:

Loner: An A.A. member who is unable to attend meetings regularly because there is no A.A. meeting in the vicinity where he or she lives.

Homer: An A.A. member who is unable to attend A.A. meetings because of physical incapacity.

Internationalist: An A.A. member working on a seagoing vessel for long periods.

Port Contact: An A.A. member serving as a contact for Internationalists when in port. Website: https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/contact-loners-internationalists-meeting-lim-desk

-Service Material from the General Service Office

The North/South Connection Forum: Bringing Remote Communities Together

Host virtual forum "to bring members of remote communities together for the sharing of their experience, strength and hope," and it was embraced by four countries—Argentina, Canada, Chile, which shares the Patagonia region with Argentina, and the United States. Thus, the first North/South Connections Forum, held via virtual technology on May 15, was born. It was truly the group effort of a "transcontinental village," as Trish calls it, hosted by the General Service Board of Argentina with the Zoom platform technology and translation services (English, Spanish and French) provided by the U.S./Canada General Service Board.

In six hours of seminars, people shared how they found the miracle of recovery in A.A., whether by videoconferencing, the phone line, WhatsApp texting groups, the old-fashioned mail, even making 12-hour boat trips to remote Canadian communities once a year, as does Della G. of Alert Bay, British Columbia.

Lawrie C., of Yukon, Canada, described living in an area with the land mass of California with only 14 communities. They had no phone service until 2004. "One town had continuity in terms of regular meetings," she related, "but others came and went." But when Canada's national health service brought videoconferencing into the towns' health centers in 2008, Lawrie and her fellow A.A.s used what she thinks of as a "combination of tech and collective wisdom. We thought, why not use the service to broadcast a simultaneous A.A. meeting out into the community? The point was to have this reliable regular place where people had access to A.A. at a given time each day." People have been attending these virtual meetings (or calling into them on landlines) for 13 years, Lawrie pointed out.

--Box 4-5-9, Summer, 2021

Online Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous (OIAA)

The Online Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous (OIAA) provides over 4,000 meetings and is essentially a world-wide online intergroup/central office, with the crucial distinction that it does not sell literature, has no brick-and-mortar presence and its staff is

all-volunteer. It's recent the rapid expansion of OIAA is in large part due to the A.A. world turning to virtual communication and meetings during the COVID-19 crisis. Their 12th Step Committee (the "Steppers Committee") responds directly via email to those suffering alcoholics needing help in 16 languages. A feature allows A.A.'s and those seeking A.A. to find the "next available" meeting, listing the platform upon which it takes place (Zoom, Skype, phone, email, chat room, etc.). There are numerous options meetings, which indicate the broad base of members served by OIAA—meetings for Blind/Visually impaired. Deaf/Hard of hearing, LGBTQ meeting, to name only a few of the myriad choices available.

Website: www.aa-intergroup.org

Resources for Remote Communities Committee Work

The following suggestions are meant as possible tools for Area 15, but for other committees to consider implementing, as well. We would love to hear about any information you feel could be added here, or anything you may feel is lacking.

1. Prepare a **Contact List** of remote people and location. This can be accomplished by asking those in your committees and in your district committee or by any means possible, who and where these people may be.
2. Prepare a **Quick Reference Guide** for A.A. services in your community, e.g., meeting lists of surrounding groups or all A.A. meetings in your district. This would also have the location (and possibly name and/or contact information) of those in remote communities. This list would also include the day, time, and place of your district meetings, including a district contact list with people's names and contact information.
3. Suggest where the nearest **Literature Depot(s)** may be found.
4. The **Remote Communities Chairperson reports monthly to the district** by contacting each remote member (or community) once a month to see how things are going. This is very encouraging for those living in a remote situation and provides for more unity within the whole district.
5. Consider using **Public Service Announcements (PSAs)** in local media, including newspapers, radio, and television. For more information on PSA's contact: Area 15 - South Florida, the Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St Maarten & Cayman Islands Public Information Committee Chair: picpc@area15aa.org.
6. Prepare a list of **virtual meetings** for your area. Check with Central Offices/Intergroups for this.
7. Supply a list of **Remote Community Committee tools**, which may include temporary Sponsors, phone and/or email buddies and A.A. speaker tapes.
8. Organize **Roaming A.A. Meetings**. This is where a group of members travel to a remote community for a meeting. Experience suggests that this could be done every one to three months. Travelers can chip in to cover costs.

--the Area 15 Remote Communities Workbook

[Back to Main Agenda](#)

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Remote Communities Kit

Information on A.A. (F-2)
If You Are a Professional. (P-46)
AA as a Resource for the Health Care Professional (P-23)
A.A. for the Native North American (P-21)
A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic (P-51)
A.A. and the Armed Services (P-50)
A.A. for the Older Alcoholic (P-22)
Do You Think You're Different (P-13)
Many Paths to Spirituality(P-84)
Experience, Strength and Hope: A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues (P-84)

Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A. Experience, Strength and Hope: Women in A.A. (P-5)

Experience, Strength and Hope: The "God" Word Agnostics and Atheist Members of A.A. (P-86)

Understanding Anonymity (P-47)

Young People and A.A. (P-4)

PUBLICATIONS:

Box 4-5-9 Remote Communities articles
Fall 2018, Remote Communities in A.A.: Notes from the Field
Spring 2016, Alkali Lake
Holiday 2013, 250,000 Square Miles of Opportunity
Spring 2011, Reaching Remote Communities in Manitoba
Oct/Nov 2004, A.A.'s in Canada Carry Message of Hope To the Inuit and Their Communities
Feb/March 2000, Trudging the 'Road of Happy Destiny' In the Alaska Bush Feb/Mar 1999, The A.A. Message Is Breaking the Ice In Remote Villages

CATALOG/ORDER FORMS:

Literature Catalog (includes A.A.W.S. and AA Grapevine material) (F-10)

AA GRAPEVINE RESOURCES (English and Spanish):

Other resources on the AA Grapevine website at <https://www.aagrapevine.org/>

[Back to Main Agenda](#)

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2022 Conference Committee on Treatment/Accessibilities

ITEM D: Review contents and format of Treatment Kit and Workbook

Background notes:

Kits and Workbooks for C.P.C., Corrections, Public Information, Treatment and Accessibilities are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference.

Workbooks and Kits are service pieces. Any suggested changes to their content from the Conference committee are put forth as Committee Considerations rather than recommendations.

Between Conferences, ideas for changes to a Workbook or to the contents of a Kit may be received. These may be reviewed by the appropriate trustees' Committee and implemented, or the trustees' committee may choose to forward an idea to the Conference Committee for review.

Excerpts from the January 29, 2022, report of the trustees' Committee on Corrections

Because of the current supply chain challenges, including paper shortages, it is anticipated that the revised kit contents and workbook will be available in digital format prior to the print versions..

Typically, service kits are updated annually each fall. Due to competing projects the updates have been delayed in 2021

Background:

1. Treatment Committee Workbook (revisions pending) is available to view on:

- ENG - [Treatment Committees | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](#)
- FR - [Comités du traitement | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](#)
- SP - [Comités de Tratamiento | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](#)

[Back to Main Agenda](#)

2022 Conference Committee on Treatment/Accessibilities

ITEM E: Review contents and format of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook

Background notes:

Kits and Workbooks for C.P.C., Corrections, Public Information, Treatment and Accessibilities are reviewed by the appropriate Conference Committees during each General Service Conference.

Workbooks and Kits are service pieces. Any suggested changes to their content from the Conference committee are put forth as Committee Considerations rather than recommendations.

Between Conferences, ideas for changes to a Workbook or to the contents of a Kit may be received. These may be reviewed by the appropriate trustees' Committee and implemented, or the trustees' committee may choose to forward an idea to the Conference Committee for review.

Typically, service kits are updated annually each fall. Due to competing projects the updates have been delayed in 2021.

Excerpts from the January 29, 2022, report of the trustees' Committee on Corrections

Because of the current supply chain challenges, including paper shortages, it is anticipated that the revised kit contents and workbook will be available in digital format prior to the print versions..

Background:

1. Accessibilities Committee Kit (revisions pending) available to view on:
 - EN - [Accessibilities Committees | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](#)
 - FR - [Comités de l'Accessibilité | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](#)
 - SP [Comités de Accesibilidades | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](#)

[Back to Main Agenda](#)

**2022 Conference Committee on Treatment and
Accessibilities**

ITEM F: PAI #21 - Consider request to revise the pamphlet, “The A.A. Group” to reflect the importance of the group as a “spiritual entity” as stated in the Long Form of Tradition Five.

Note: As a result of the EDW plan, this item is on the agenda of the Conference Treatment/Accessibilities /Remote Communities Committee

Background Notes:

Excerpt from October 30, 2021, TLC Meeting Report:

The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2022 General Service Conference a request to revise the pamphlet, “The A.A. Group” to reflect the importance of the group as a “spiritual entity” as stated in the Long Form of Tradition Five.

The committee forwarded the proposed agenda item, its background, and the Scoring Tool to the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference for review by its Subcommittee on Equitable Distribution of Workload.

Background:

1. Submission Form- PAI #21 Revise_The A.A. Grp_Spiritual_Entity

[Back to Main Agenda](#)

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PAI #21 Submission Form

(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.

Consider rewriting portions of "The A.A. Group" pamphlet to better express the importance of the Group as a "spiritual entity" as stated in the Long Form of Tradition Five.

Note: This proposed agenda item (PAI) was submitted prior to the creation of this new standard PAI submission form yet is still under consideration. In support of the new Equitable Distribution of Workload process, the GSO Conference Coordinator has included sharing from the originally submitted PAI to complete this form and accompanying Scoring Tool.

(2) What problem does this proposed item address?

The Group as a spiritual entity is not mentioned until page 31 and only in reference to safety. Perhaps the inclusion of the Long Form of Tradition Five in this section will provide a clearer picture that an A.A. Group is, as suggested by our Traditions, a spiritual entity.

(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).

Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.

We are members of Alcoholics Anonymous who belong to various Home Groups across the United States. We have been meeting on a weekly conference call for over ten years to share our experience, strength and hope in the study of applying our A.A. Traditions and Concepts in our daily lives and service work. We serve and have served our A.A. Fellowship in various service positions from the Group to the corporate board levels of our A.A. service structure. Through our in-depth discussions about our principles, the following has come to our attention as a result of the rapid and widespread changes brought on by the global pandemic.

We unanimously agree and humbly request the inclusion of the following item on the 71st General Service Conference agenda in order to allow for full Fellowship discussion and an informed Conference to offer spiritual guidance and direction to the Trustees and staff to lead us through these worldly times.

(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:

On pg. 12 of the pamphlet, The AA Group... where it all begins, the section titled "What Is an AA Group?" expresses the Group in terms of Tradition Three and Warranty Six. The Group as a spiritual entity is not mentioned until page 31 and only in reference to safety. The long form of Tradition Five states, "Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose - that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers" (Alcoholics Anonymous pg. 562).

Perhaps the inclusion of the Long Form of Tradition Five in this section will provide a clearer picture that an A.A. Group is, as suggested by our Traditions, a spiritual entity. Due to the pandemic, many Groups have moved from traditional face to face gatherings to alternative platforms for meetings and twelfth step work. The Traditions can be used as a guide for these uncharted waters. Spiritual entities, or Groups, do not need mechanization, physical locations, or a government. Their primary purpose can be carried autonomously however a loving God expresses Himself in their group conscience. It is important that our Fellowship clings to our Traditions during these challenges and the trials that are yet to come. In the contemplation of rewording some of this pamphlet, there may be additional changes needed across our literature to reflect some of the changes that have been taking place in our Fellowship. This would better inform our members and the public about the importance and the nature of our Groups. It should also include taking into consideration the Groups that have meetings accessed through teleconferencing and various virtual platforms.

Our experience indicates that this item would be best discussed in the Conference Committee on Literature so we will attempt to include that chair in our correspondence.

(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

This would better inform our members and the public about the importance and the nature of our Groups.

(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.

Alex M.

(7) Final comments:

N/A

Updated 5114121

[Back to Main Agenda](#)

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**2022 Conference Committee on Treatment
and Accessibilities**

ITEM G: PAI #59 - Consider request to remove language in *Living Sober*.

Note: As a result of the EDW plan, this item is on the agenda of the Conference Treatment/Accessibilities/Remote Communities Committee

Background Notes:

Excerpt from October 30, 2021, TLC Meeting Report:

The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2022 General Service Conference a request to remove language in *Living Sober*.

The committee forwarded the proposed agenda item, its background, and the Scoring Tool to the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference for review by its Subcommittee on Equitable Distribution of Workload.

Background:

1. Submission Form- PAI #59_Remove language Living Sober.

[Back to Main Agenda](#)

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(1) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion.
The Group (#) of Alcoholics Anonymous proposes that the language in Living Sober, Essay #12 (Getting Plenty of Rest) "Nobody has ever died of lack of sleep" be removed. Not only is that a misleading statement, it is not true.
(2) What problem does this proposed item address?
That statement in Living Sober is false. It suggests to alcoholics that sleep is not important, and that there are no consequences to being deprived of sleep. That is misleading, since medical institutions everywhere tell us otherwise. In fact, lack of sleep can kill us. At a minimum, lack of sleep reduces our immunity, it increases our stress responsivity, impacts our ability to think properly, increases the risk of hypertension, dyslipidemia, cardiovascular disease, weight-related issues, metabolic syndrome, type 2 diabetes mellitus, and colorectal cancer. Lack of sleep affects our memory, our mood, and our ability to make rational decisions. We become more prone to accidents around the house and when behind the wheel of a vehicle. Plus, for alcoholics we must be extra careful. As AA reminds us, we should avoid getting too hungry, angry, lonely, or tired, because we tend to misconstrue signals and think being tired means being thirsty. Sleep is a healthy part of well-being, and we should not discount its importance.
(3) What level of group conscience, if any, discussed the proposed agenda item? Make it clear who is submitting the item (an individual, group, district, area, etc.).
<i>Note: While all items are received equally, experience has shown that ideas greatly benefit from the value of a broader group conscience. Consider if and with whom you would like to have a group conscience discussion on the proposed agenda item prior to submitting.</i>
The Group (#)
(4) Provide background information that describes and supports the reasoning for the proposal. List background material(s) included with the proposal:
Below are a number of articles and other resources: https://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/noras-blog/2020/03/connections-between-sleep-substance-use-disorders National Institute of Health (https://search.nih.gov/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&affiliate=nih&query=sleep+deprivation?) National Center for Biotechnology Information (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2850945/) National Center for Biotechnology Information (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4331208/) National Center for Biotechnology Information (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/?term=sleep+deprivation) National Center for Biotechnology Information (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2656292/)
(5) What are the intended/expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?
Delete "Nobody has ever died of lack of sleep" from Essay #12 in Living Sober.
(6) Provide a primary contact for the submission.
Francine W.
(7) Final comments:
We hope you will forward this item to the Trustees Literature Committee for consideration and ultimately hope they forward it to the 2022 General Service Conference.

[Back to Main Agenda](#)

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