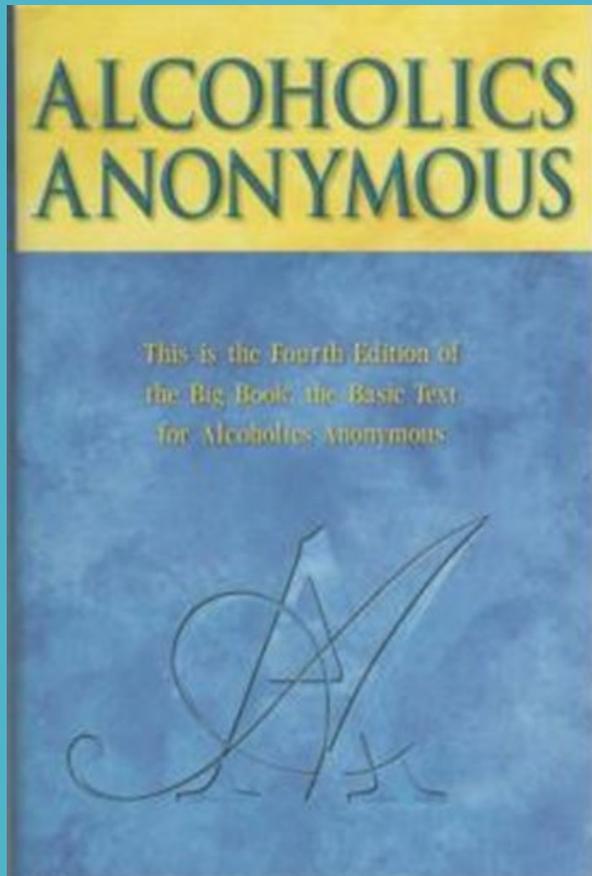


Delegate Conference Report
June 7, 2020
Why Do We Need a Conference?



We realize we know only a little. God will constantly disclose more to you and to us. (Big Book, page 164)

**AA has three legacies:
12 Steps for Recovery
12 Traditions for Unity
12 Concepts for
World Service**

Traditions Vital to Our Survival

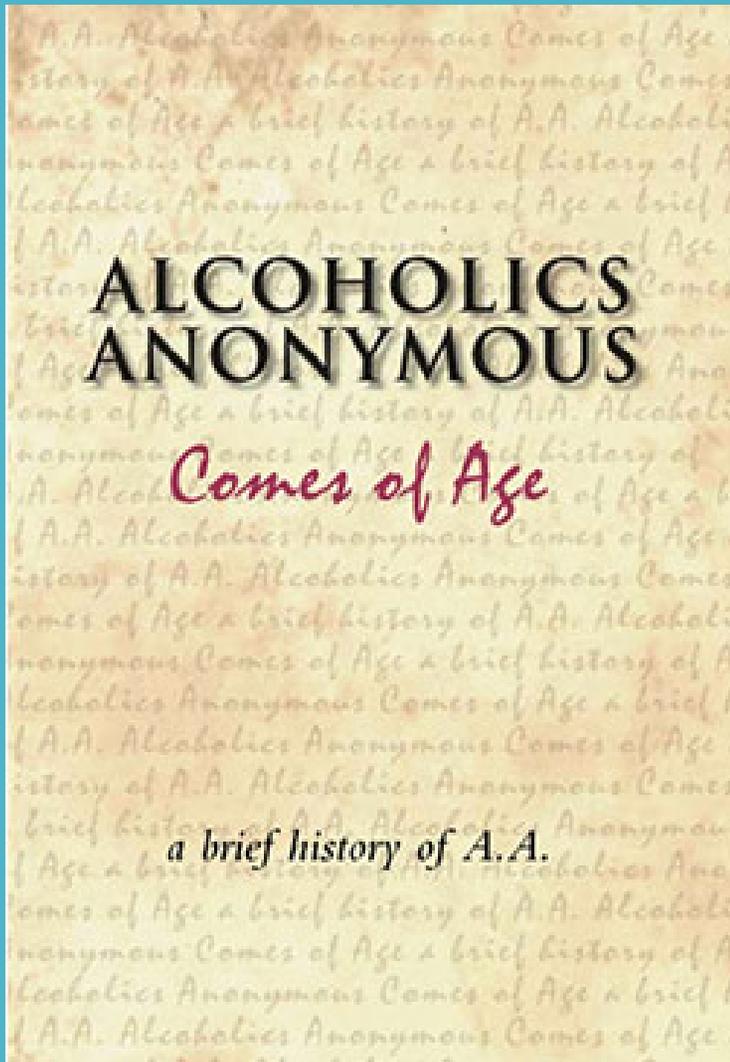
A co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous tells how members recover and how the society functions.

TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS

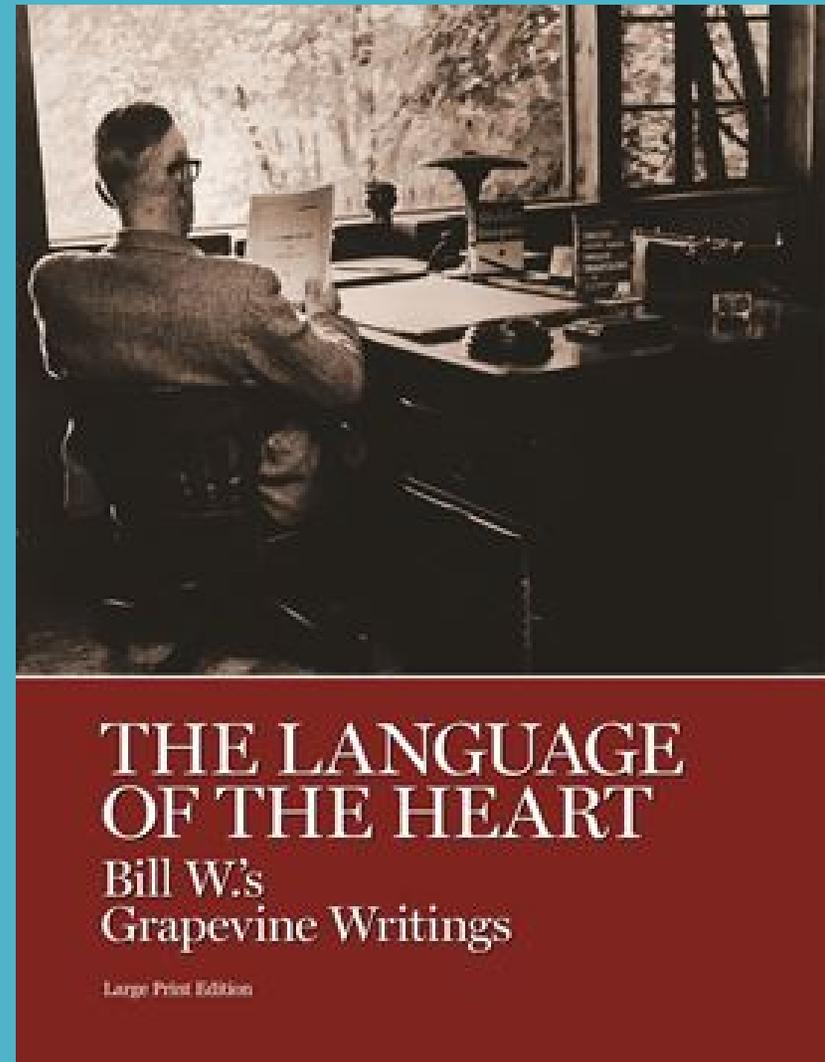
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
WORLD SERVICES, INC.

We obey our Traditions willingly because of the need for AA survival. (Bill W, July 1960 AA Grapevine – The Language of the Heart)

Traditions Are Described in Other Literature

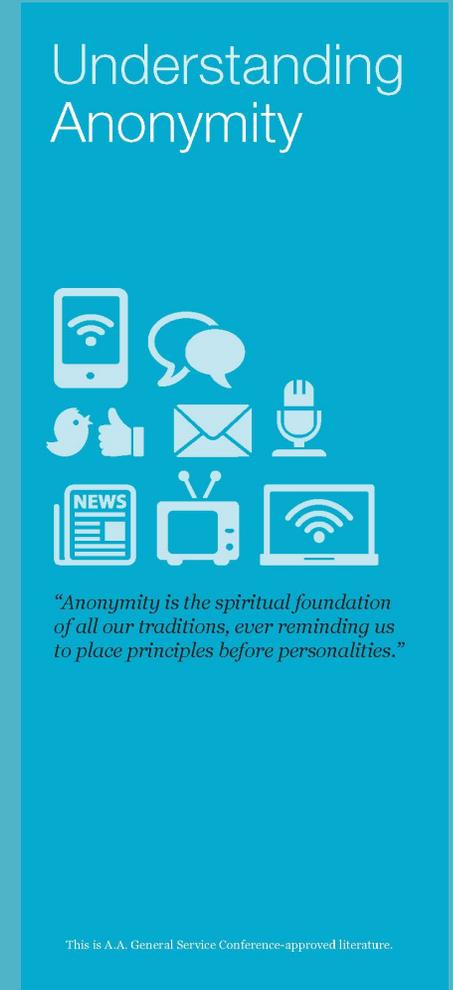
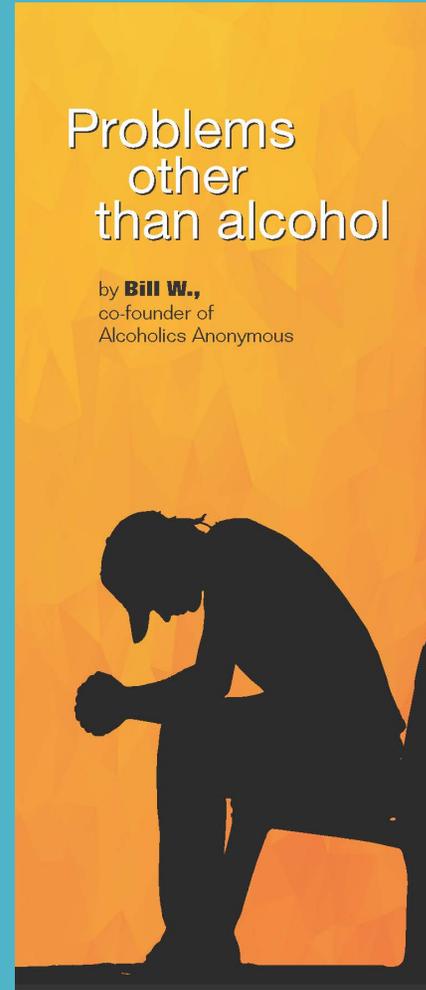
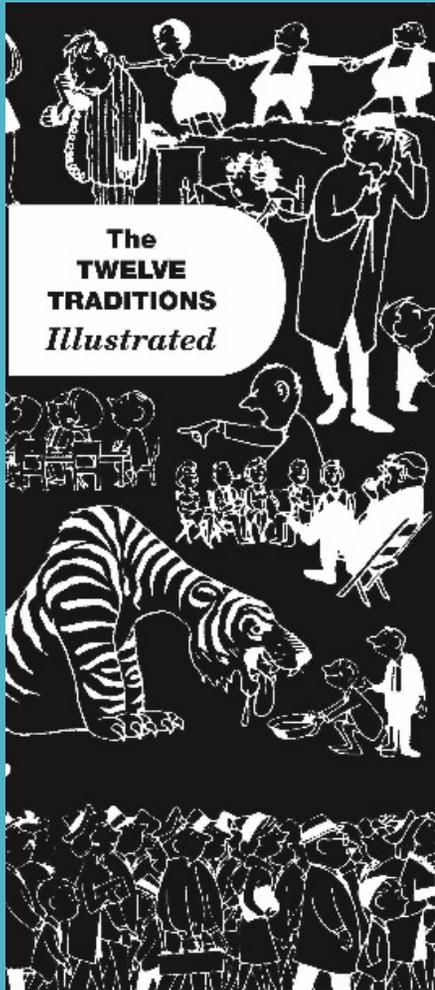


A Brief History of AA



Bill W.'s Grapevine Writings

Traditions Are in Pamphlets



AA Service Material

Service Material from the General Service Office

CONFERENCE-APPROVED LITERATURE

"Conference-approved" — What It Means to You

The term "Conference-approved" describes written or audiovisual material approved by the Conference for publication by G.S.O. This process assures that everything in such literature is in accord with A.A. principles. Conference-approved material always deals with the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous or with information about the A.A. Fellowship.

The term has no relation to material not published by G.S.O. It does *not* imply Conference disapproval of other material about A.A. A great deal of literature helpful to alcoholics is published by others, and A.A. does not try to tell any individual member what he or she may or may not read.

Conference approval assures us that a piece of literature represents solid A.A. experience. Any Conference-approved booklet or pamphlet goes through a lengthy and painstaking process, during which a variety of A.A.s from all over the United States and Canada read and express opinions at every stage of production.

How To Tell What Is and What Is Not Conference-Approved

Look for the statement on books, pamphlets and audiovisual materials:

"This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature"

Not All "A.A. Literature" Is Conference-Approved

Central offices and intergroups do write and distribute pamphlets or booklets that are not Conference-approved. If such pieces meet the needs of the local membership, they may be legitimately classified as "A.A. literature." There is no conflict between A.A. World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S. — publishers of Conference-approved literature), and central offices or intergroups — rather they complement each other. The Conference does not *disapprove* of such material.

G.S.O. does develop some literature that does not have to be approved by the Conference, such as Service Material, Guidelines and bulletins.

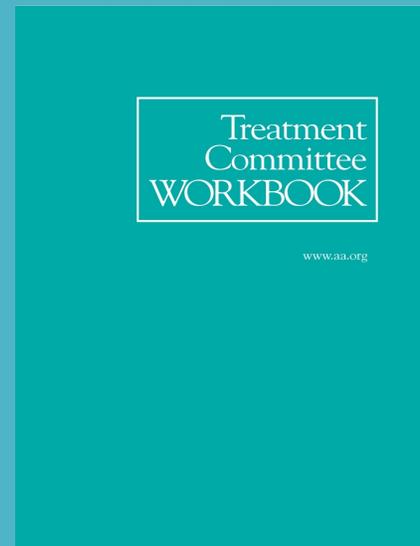
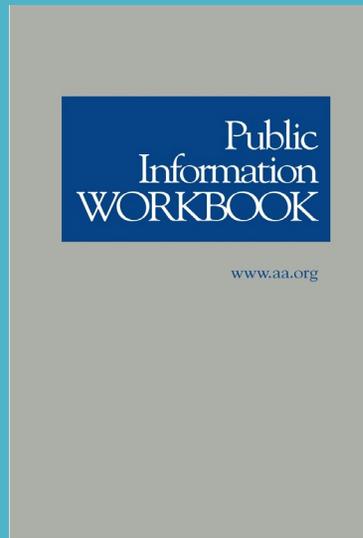
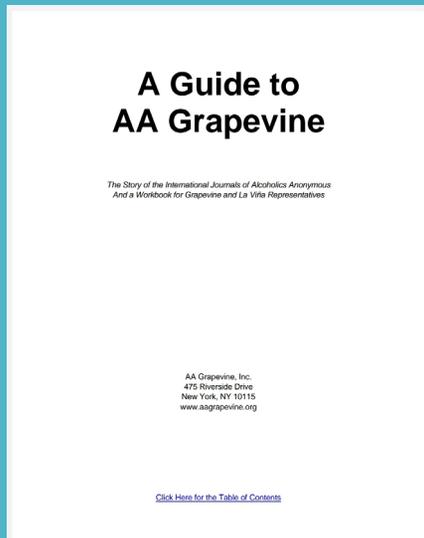
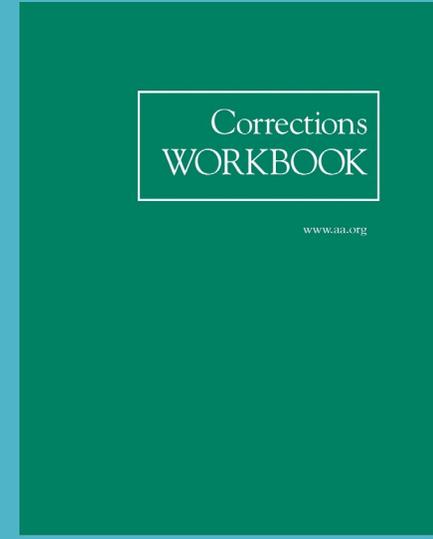
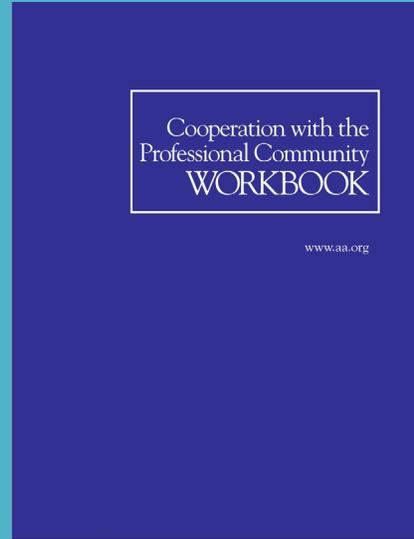
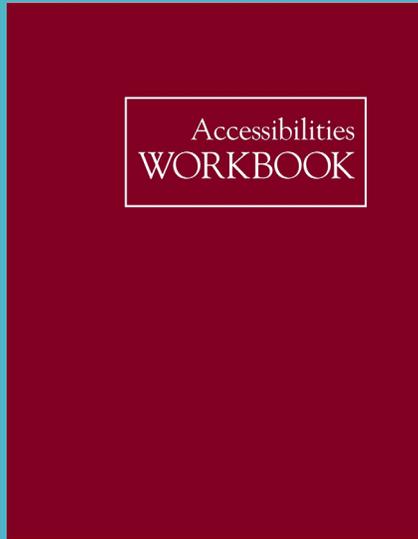
Available at Most A.A. Groups

Most local A.A. groups purchase and display a representative sampling of Conference-approved pamphlets, and usually carry a supply of hardcover books. Conference-approved literature may be available at central offices and intergroups, or it may be ordered directly from G.S.O. Groups normally offer pamphlets free of charge, and the books at cost.

Not All "A.A. Literature" Is Conference-Approved.

[Service Material from GSO](#)

Workbooks



The Conference typically reviews each of these workbooks every year.

AA Guidelines

A.A.® Guidelines

Finance

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 the various 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. as a whole, 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.

"A.A.'s far-flung Twelfth Step activities, carrying the message to the next sufferer, are the very lifeblood of our A.A. adventure. Without this vital activity, we would soon become anemic; we would literally wither and die.

"Now where do A.A.'s services — worldwide, area, local — fit into our scheme of things? Why should we provide these functions with money? The answer is simple enough. Every single A.A. service is designed to make more and better Twelfth Step work possible, whether it be a group meeting place, a central or intergroup office to arrange hospitalization and sponsorship, or the world service Headquarters [now the General Service Office] to maintain unity and effectiveness all over the globe.

"Though not costly, these service agencies are absolutely essential to our continued expansion — to our survival as a Fellowship. Their costs are a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all of us. Our support of services actually amounts to recognition on our part that A.A. must everywhere function in full strength — and that, under our Tradition of self-support, we are all going to foot the bill."

Bill W., October 1967 Grapevine

One of G.S.O.'s responsibilities is to share A.A. experiences with groups and members who request it. In these Guidelines, we are glad to provide sharing from a variety of sources, though we are aware that actual A.A. practices often vary. So, if your group has found solutions other than those cited in this Guideline, please let us know, so that we may share your experiences with others.

Often-asked questions about finances directed at G.S.O. cover such topics as group rent, bank accounts and insurance; reimbursement for service workers' expenses; I.R.S. deductions and tax I.D. numbers, and the role of the General Service Board.

WHERE MONEY AND SPIRITUALITY MIX

Members celebrate sobriety by giving time, energy and money in support of our Twelfth Step—carrying the message—the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship offers. Members assure that group expenses are paid by putting money into the basket passed at each meeting. It is each member's responsibility to support the services that have been requested by the A.A. Fellowship, to help facilitate A.A.'s vital Twelfth Step. Contributions are made in a spirit of sacrifice, and they honor A.A.'s code of "love and service." Contributions also underscore the spiritual nature of our Fellowship and our mutual love and trust. We have found that these contributions are as important to each member as they are to the service centers supported.

SUPPORTING A.A.'s STRUCTURE

Question: Why do A.A. groups support A.A.'s essential services?

Answer: Because the services benefit all A.A. groups. Our Seventh Tradition states that "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

A.A.s want our Fellowship to endure, and to be readily available for the still-suffering alcoholic to come. An A.A. group makes this possible by taking care of its basic group expenses: rent, refreshments,

A.A. literature, etc. After meeting these basic group expenses and providing a meeting place, many groups participate by supporting the central or intergroup office in their locale, the area and district general service committees, and the General Service Office (G.S.O.).

Question: How can groups participate?

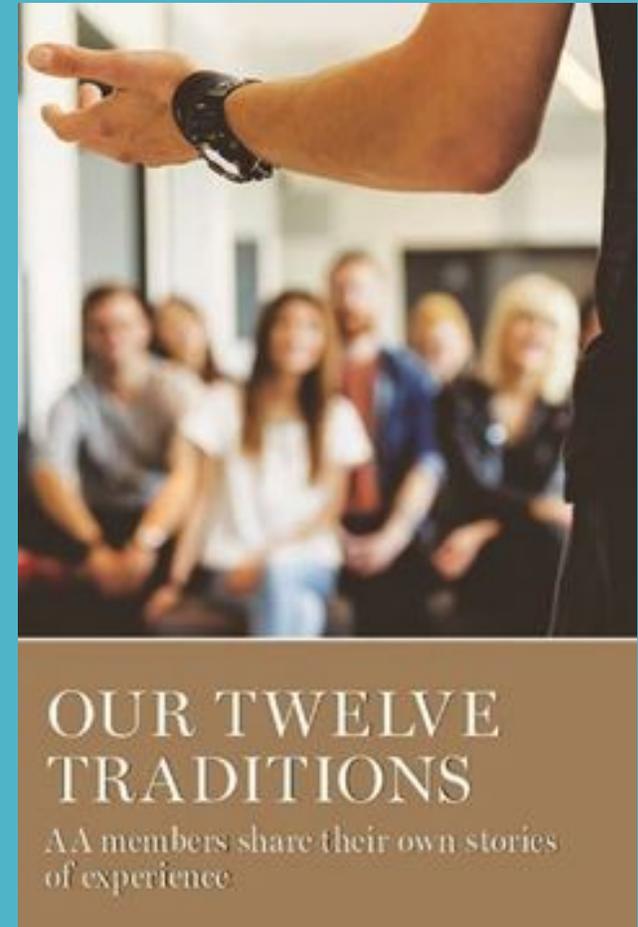
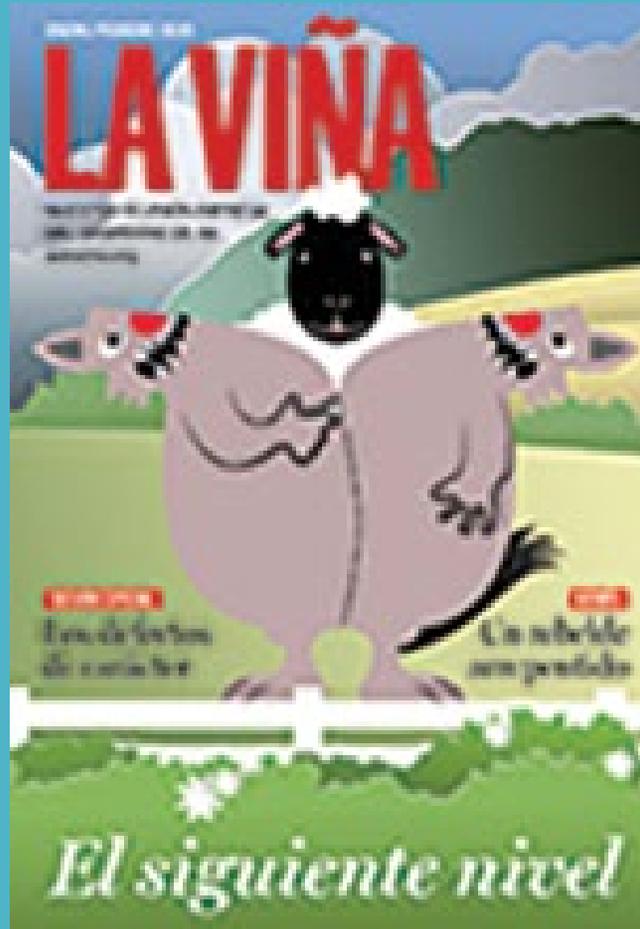
Answer: To help support A.A.'s essential services, the General Service Conference suggests that individual groups, through an informed group conscience, adopt a specific contribution plan tailored to meet the group's financial situation. Once the basic group expenses have been taken care of (rent, refreshments, A.A. literature, local meetings lists), and a "prudent reserve" has been set aside to cover unexpected expenses, the group may decide to further carry the message by sending money to the following A.A. service entities:

- The local district, which communicates directly with the groups, providing the district group conscience for the area assemblies, and serving as a link between the area delegates and the G.S.R.s.
- The area committee, which coordinates vital A.A. activities over a broad geographic area; sends a delegate to the annual General Service Conference; holds area assemblies to deter-

There are 16 sets of Guidelines with AA experience on various topics.

AA Guidelines

Grapevine



GRAPEVINE AND LA VIÑA
ARE HERE TO HELP!

AAWS and Grapevine YouTube Channels

AAWS YouTube Channel

A.A. Video for Healthcare Professionals

**A.A. Video for Employment/Human
Resources Professionals**

**A.A. Video for Legal and Corrections
Professionals**

Grapevine YouTube Channel

**“Anonymity in Alcoholics Anonymous”
song**

Literature

The
A.A. SERVICE MANUAL
Combined With
TWELVE CONCEPTS
for **WORLD SERVICE**
by Bill W.

2018-2020 Edition
REFLECTING ACTIONS OF THE
2018 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

Our literature is a principal means by which A.A. recovery, unity and service are facilitated. (Bill W Essay on Concept XI, [AA Service Manual](#), page 49)

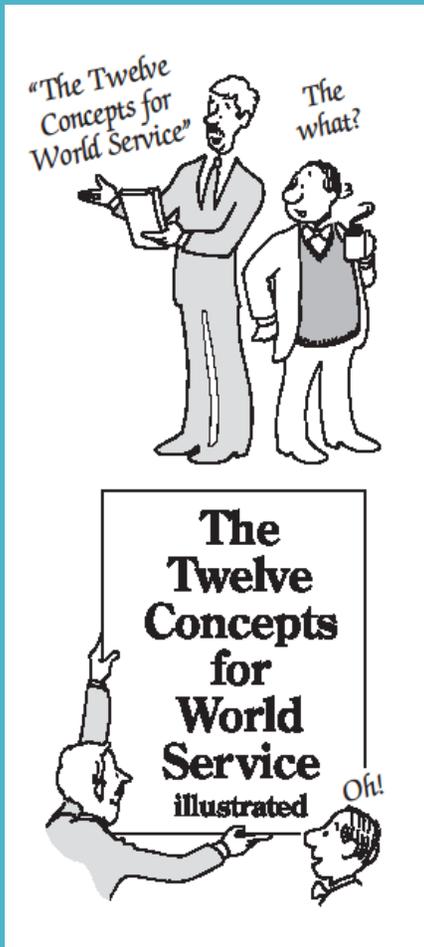
Our General Service Office



The General Service Office is a repository for A.A.'s shared experience. It fulfills our primary purpose by: (1) providing service, information and experience to groups worldwide; (2) **publishing literature; (3) supporting the activities of the General Service Board of A.A.; and (4) carrying forward recommendations of the General Service Conference.**

The A.A. Group... Where It All Begins

AA Groups Are In Charge



Concept I - Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

Concept II - The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society in its world affairs.

[Twelve Concepts Illustrated](#)

Why Do We Need a Conference?

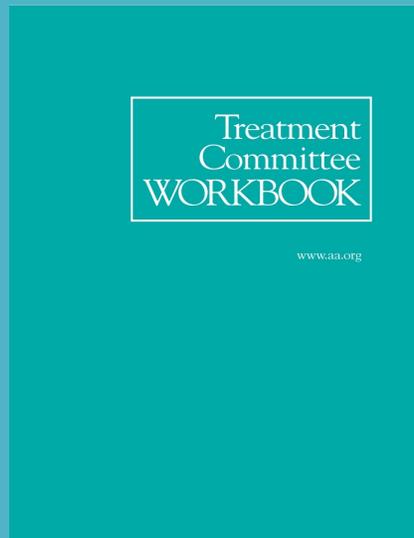
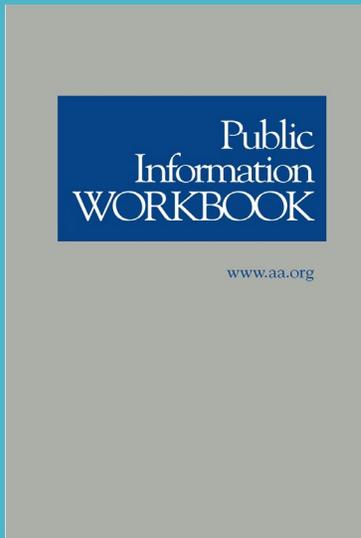
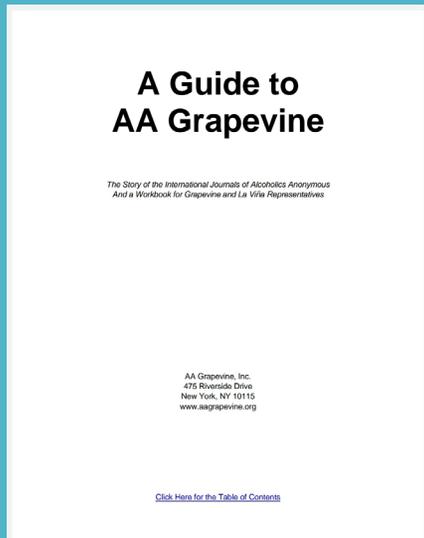
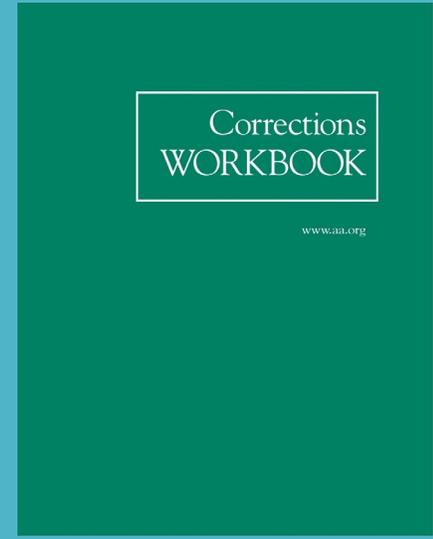
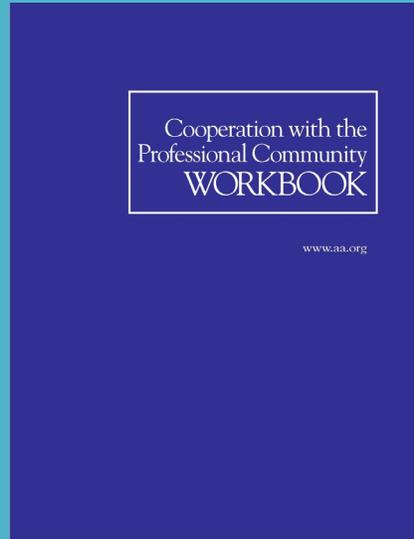
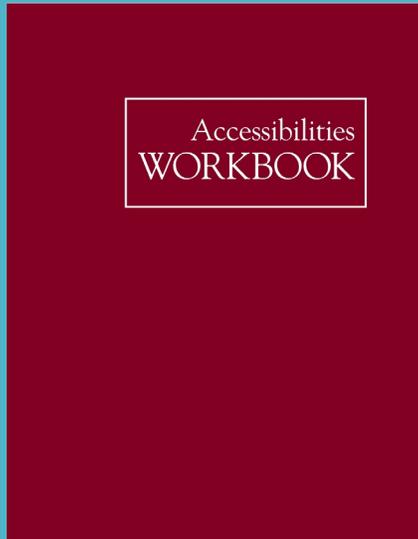
The late Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting: “We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life.

Why Do We Need a Conference?

“We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing overintegration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.

“We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is.” ([AA Service Manual](#), page S20)

Workbooks



Accessibilities
Archives
CPC
Corrections
Grapevine
PI
Treatment

What is the General Service Conference?

While the General Service Conference operates all year round, the annual meeting, held in New York City, usually in April, is the culmination of the year's activities, the time when the collective group conscience of U.S./Canada A.A. comes together to take actions that will guide the groups in the years to come.

([AA Service Manual](#), page S56)

Why Do We Need a Conference?

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