

CONFIDENTIAL: 74th General Service Conference Background

LIT
Item F
Doc. 2

April 2024

To: Members of the 2024 General Service Conference

From: Sandra [REDACTED] Secretary, trustees' and Conference Committees on Literature

Subject: Confidential Draft Manuscript – Plain Language Big Book

As a Conference Committee reviews a new, or extensively revised literature item it is general practice that drafts are reviewed by committee members only. This means that the rest of the Conference members would not receive copies of the draft manuscript of the plain language Big Book (the "Manuscript"). However, in a departure from general practice and procedures pertaining to Conference-approved literature, *Reading Rooms* will be made available during Conference Week to provide Conference members the opportunity to review the Manuscript whether or not a Recommendation is submitted to the Conference for approval.

The 74th General Service Conference Committee on Literature (the "Committee") will be given additional conference committee time to carefully read and review the Manuscript. Primarily the Committee will seek to determine whether or not it meets the intended goals of the development of a plain and simple language Big Book.

Also, as with all Conference-approved A.A. literature, the Committee will be looking at the Manuscript to assure "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." Concerns about routine grammar, punctuation, editing, etc., will be addressed by the Publishing Department.

After the Conference Committee reviews the Manuscript, several things may happen. Among them:

- The Committee might approve the Manuscript and recommend the Manuscript be approved by the Conference as a whole.
- The Committee might send the Manuscript back to the Trustees' Literature Committee with any significant concerns / changes about the proposed draft.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.

CONFIDENTIAL: 74th General Service Conference Background

Until the Manuscript is "Conference-approved," (i.e., approved by a 2/3rds vote of the Conference) and published, it is considered confidential. Prior to then, any number of changes might be suggested by the Conference to be made by the Trustees' Literature Committee.

To ensure A.A.'s legal rights in the registration of an approved final draft with the U.S. Copyright Office, to maintain the integrity of AA literature and ultimately our most valued asset which is A.A. unity, it is critical that all Conference members adhere to the confidentiality guidelines expressed here.

Like all Conference business, review and discussion of the Manuscript should be limited to Conference members only during Conference week. Conference Delegates may discuss the Manuscript with anyone before or after Conference week.

However, it is important to understand that copying and/or distributing unpublished literature (in whole or in part) at any time prior to publication is a breach of trust which carries negative consequences to the consistency and value of A.A. literature. Therefore, it is suggested that, until published, Delegates share about the Manuscript without providing direct quotations from the book.

CONFIDENTIAL: This is background for the General Service Conference, and as such may be a confidential A.A. document. Distribution is limited to A.A. members. Placement of this material in a location accessible to the public, including aspects of the Internet, such as websites available to the public, may breach the confidentiality of the material and the anonymity of members, since it may contain members' full names and addresses.