



2022 CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE
ON TREATMENT AND
ACCESSIBILITIES

ITEM F: PAI #21 (Proposed Agenda Item)

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 (Equitable Distribution of Workload) plan, this item is on the agenda of the Conference Treatment/Accessibilities /Remote Communities Committee

Background Notes

The Trustees' Literature Committee considered this request and agreed to forward the item to the 2021 Conference Committee on Literature.

The Conference Committee on Literature considered the request and noted its extensive agenda load resulting in part from the pandemic-affected 2020 General Service Conference. Rather than rush through agenda items, the committee agreed to request that discussion on this item continue with the trustees' Literature Committee and that consideration be made to forward the item to the 2022 Conference Committee on Literature.

Background Notes

Excerpt from October 30, 2021, Trustees' Literature Committee 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) Submit a clear and concisely worded motion

Consider rewriting portions of 'The A.A. Group' pamphlet (<https://www.aa.org/aa-groupwhere-it-all-begins>) 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.

Background (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.

Long Form Tradition Five:

"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).

Background (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)

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.

Background (3) continued:

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.

Background (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).

Background (4) continued:

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.

Background (4) continued:

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.

Background (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.

Background (6) provide a primary contact for the submission.

Alex M.

Questions

