

## Changing the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous One Conference At A Time

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous (United States and Canada), Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Inc., and Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine Inc. are not empowered to change or alter The Twelve Traditions without an affirmative vote of consent by 66.33% of Alcoholics Anonymous Groups. As a result these four entities have exercised in concert a self-established “right of decision” to alter our Fellowship’s interpretation of The Twelve Traditions through the publication of literature, pamphlets, books and the personal stories section of our “Big Book”. The vast majority of this publishing effort is never viewed by the Fellowship-at-Large until after it has been distributed and sold to our A.A. Central Offices. It is the policy of these four entities to restrict the dissemination of publication drafts thereby shunting review and critique from the Fellowship-at-Large of new and revised publications until such publications are a fait accompli. A 2003 GSC Advisory Action for a comprehensive review of the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” and the following 2004, 2005 actions by these four entities is a current example of this planned and progressive strategy to change our Fellowship’s interpretation of The Twelve Traditions without actually changing The Twelve Traditions. In fact our Third and Fifth Traditions clearly define what an A.A. Group is. The pamphlet “The A.A. Group” was a successful action to re-interpret Traditions Three and Five and thereby re-define The A.A. Group. In 2005 these four horsemen once again re-defined The A.A. Group for future generations of alcoholics.

I have included the following General Service Conference material for your review and meditation:

- 1) 2005 55<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Literature Committee Pre-Conf. Report - Agenda Item G.
- 2) Excerpt 2005 55<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Literature Delegate Area 36 Post-Conf. Report

2005 55<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Literature Committee Pre-Conf. Report  
Agenda Item G.

Conference Committee on Literature

**AGENDA ITEM G:** Review draft manuscript of the revised pamphlet "The A.A. Group."

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**Background notes:**

*From 2003 Conference Advisory Action:*

"It was recommended that the trustees' Literature Committee initiate a comprehensive review of "The A.A. Group" pamphlet, and that the trustees' Literature Committee bring a draft manuscript of the revised pamphlet to the 2004 Conference Literature Committee for their consideration. The committee requests that the secretary of the trustees' Literature Committee send a letter to all General Service Conference members requesting suggestions for updates or revisions to this pamphlet."

*From Trustees' Literature Committee Minutes for July 31, 2004:*

"Mike Perry gave a progress report on the subcommittee's review of "The A.A. Group" pamphlet per the 2003 Advisory Action that the trustees' Literature Committee initiate a comprehensive review of this pamphlet. Mike reported that the Publications Department is preparing a draft manuscript of the revised pamphlet based on the subcommittee's comprehensive review and suggestions received from the Fellowship by the January 2004 deadline. The draft pamphlet will be reviewed by the subcommittee prior to forwarding it to the committee for the October 2004 meeting."

*From Trustees' Literature Committee Minutes for October 30, 2004:*

"The committee discussed the revised draft pamphlet 'The A.A. Group' and **agreed to forward** both the draft with the subcommittee's notations and a draft with no notations to the 2005 Conference Literature Committee for their consideration."

*From Trustees' Literature Committee Minutes for January 29, 2005:*

\*"The committee agreed that the draft manuscript of 'The A.A. Group' pamphlet be forwarded **only** to the members of the Conference Literature Committee prior to the 2005 General Service Conference. The committee suggested that if the draft manuscript of "The A.A. Group" pamphlet that was forwarded to the 2005 Conference Literature Committee at the October 30, 2004 meeting of the trustees' Literature Committee is recommended by the 2005 Conference Literature Committee, that the General Service Office make available the updated draft manuscript to all Conference members prior to the report of the 2005 Conference Literature Committee to the 55<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference and that all copies of the final draft manuscripts be returned to the Conference workroom prior to the end of the Conference."

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**Excerpt 2005 55<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference  
Delegate Area 36 Post-Conf. Report**

**2005 55<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Recommendation:** The committee recommended that the manuscript of the revised pamphlet “The A.A. Group” that includes revisions suggested by the committee be approved.

*Delegate Note:* There was a floor amendment to include a subsection title “Is there a difference between a meeting and a group” above the paragraph about the difference. This amendment originally failed.

**There was minority opinion, vote to reconsider that passed and the amendment passed with ~3 opposed.**

There was also a friendly amendment that was accepted to insert language on the \$2000 limit on bequests or in-memoriam contributions.

**The recommendation was approved with substantial unanimity (~5 opposed)**