

District 31 Minutes of March 19, 2023 - approved

March 19 at 2:00 pm, Karon M. opened the district meeting at the 494-meeting hall with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

In attendance: Karon M, Marty W., Fran C, Donna F, Eddie M, Mike G, Leslie S, Leta, Leann P, Amy C, Don M, Luis A, Greg M, Hope T, Cristina C, Linda T, Jennifer C, Steffanie J, Patty H, Doug C

Presentations: Leta D. **Tradition #3** – The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking. Mike G. **Concept # 3** As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of the world service with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

Volunteers for April: Tradition #4 Concept #4

NEW GSRs / First TIME VISITORS / GUESTS

- Roland R and Bahiyah W – CFC Committee Representatives
- Wayne (1502 group secretary) – visitor and first time attendee to D31 meeting

SETA CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE **Representative Presentation**

CFC committee representatives, **Roland R** and **Bahiyah W** attended the D31 March meeting to educate and remind us about the rewarding and uplifting service opportunities available carrying the message to inmates in Texas correctional facilities.

What we do:

- Take AA meetings into correctional facilities.
- Distribute AA literature purchased with your generous BLUE CAN donations.
- Answer letters from incarcerated inmates through the Correspondence Program.
- Set up contacts for pre-release inmates to assist in getting them to their first AA meeting upon release.
- Carry the message through setting up information tables at workshops and conventions.

What YOU can do:

- Participate in the CFC Committee, help facilitate and support CFC activities
- Volunteer (see below)
- Host a BLUE CAN at your group.
- Correspond with an inmate to share the message of AA through your experience, Strength & Hope
- Be a Pre-Release Contact. You will meet an inmate upon release & take to first meeting
- Host a CFC Information table at workshops and conventions
- Promote CFC in your group. Download and distribute the CFC Flyer:
 - http://aa-seta.org/committees/cfc/cfcflyers/How_Can_I_Help.pdf

Volunteer Approval Process on line at <http://aa-seta.org/committees/cfc/cfcflyers>

- Participate in the CFC Committee, help facilitate and support CFC activities
- Volunteer (go to website for details)
- Must be 18 years or older; no pending criminal charges
- Must have been released from an adult correctional facility for at least 18 months.
 - More details online
 - APPLICATIONS on line to download

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SECRETARY REPORT (Fran C)

- Please review newsletter for accuracy, especially items for your group or committee
- Send all district reports to: D31secretary@gmail.com

TREASURER's REPORT (Kristi N) via email

- Total receipts were \$54.72, leaving a positive cash flow for the month of \$294.73. The ending checking account balance is \$6,543.93 less our prudent reserve of \$1,875.00.
- We have a balance of \$4,668.93

DCM REPORT (Karon M)

- Hosting CFC Area Committee members today for a presentation about CFC.
- GSR reports should be sent to district secretary.
- If you would like discuss something at a D31 meeting, please reach out to me directly.

ALT DCM REPORT (OPEN POSITION)

GSR REPORTS

GSR reports via email only this month.

1502 Group - Amy C

- **49th Group Anniversary on March 25** – 1:00p-6:00p – Conroe, TX (flyers available)
 - Live band, 50/50 raffle, speakers and more

190 Group - Mike G

494 Lunch Bunch Karacinda

- ***“Boston Bob” celebrates 50 years of sobriety*** and the group will celebrate Saturday, March 25th with a potluck/meeting celebration.

Atascocita Group - Don M via email

- Group conscience met March 3
- Group voted to not read the minutes, just post them to the website and allow those interested to read them and note any changes necessary
- Group had intergroup phones.
- Group voted to have a group inventory
- Group vote to have a ballot box for all semi-annual elections so all members of the group can vote on candidates.

Cleveland Camel Group - Greg M

Conroe-Willis Group – James H

Early Bird Group - Hope T

Good News Group – Fran C

H.O.W. Group – Daryl R

Into Action Group – Matthew B

Kingwood Group – Cristina C / ALT Julia G

- March 26 will hold a Group Inventory 12-3pm

Livingston Unity Group - Linda

Serenity Group of the Woodlands – Kristi

Spring Group – Jennifer C / ALT Steffanie J

TRIVIA BREAK (Karon)

No trivia this month

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES (Donna F) via email

- Founders Day confirmed for **Saturday, Nov. 4** *Mark your calendars!*

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CFC (Eddie M) via Email

- Thank you to the CFC Representatives for today's presentation and updated information.

CPC (Michael G) via Email

- Topics of discussion related to CPC Literature
 - Pamphlets – most discussion about “Members Eye View of AA”
 - Said to be too long, too wordy, concerns it is too religious instead of spiritual
- Committee Workbook
 - Committee to meet Saturday afternoon at Area Assembly for discussion

GRAPEVINE (Leslie S) via email

- STORY submissions wanted
 - Mid-Sobriety Challenges stories due April 15
 - **SHARE YOUR AUDIO STORY – Two ways to record your experience, strength, hope**

TELL STORY THROUGH VOICEMAIL SYSTEM

- . Call VM system at 559-726-1216
- . Press 1 to hear tips and begin recording your story after tone
- . When finished recording Press # and you will be prompted to save your story by pressing 1
- . Press 2 to give AA GV permission to use your story

DO IT YOURSELF

- . Use your own digital recorder, smartphone or other mobile device (WAVE and MP3 files accepted)
- . Send your recording to email: webcoord@agrapevine.org

LISTEN to GV stories online: <https://www.agrapevine.org/magazine>

- AREA Grapevine updates
 - Writing workshops planned for other Districts:
 - May 5 in League City area. Details to come (D70)

PUBLIC INFORMATION (Byron T)

TFC (Taylor C) via email

- Area 67 Committee met March 15. Meeting was poorly attended and could be due to the monthly area CFC committee meeting held at same time
- 2024 budget reviewed and submitted to Area for presentation at assembly.
- Committee discussed mission, vision, goals and subcommittee projects.
- Open positions in Literature, IT, Alt-Chair, Alt-secretary, Alt-Treasurer. Literature position filled.
- Next zoom meeting April 15 7:00 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

a. GSO Agenda Item Discussion

Section VI: Literature M – Eddie M opened discussion

ITEM M: Discuss new proposed agenda items (PAI's) related to the Plain Language Big Book Translation. Background Notes: Excerpt from the October 29, 2022 trustees' Literature Committee report:

The trustee's' Literature Committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Literature committee all new proposed agenda items related to the Plain Language Big Book as one grouped item. The committee also discussed requests from some members regarding access to the draft of the Plain Language Big Book. After legal consultation, the committee agreed to provide a monitored closed reading room for Conference members only during the 2023 General Service Conference, where Conference Literature Committee members will be given first viewing of draft chapters in a controlled environment.

Background: 1. List of Proposed Agenda Items (PAI) related to 2021 General Service Conference Plain Language Big Book translation

Discussion from Group:

1. The PLAIN LANGUAGE BB – changes words Bill wrote to simplify for today's audience and education levels. (11th grade to 4th grade level)

Concerns and comments discussed: "Breaking it down for those not as educated is a good thing." Christina S. "I am of the opinion; BB is already in plain language." Byron. "It might be uncomfortable to learn the words as written but it takes time and effort." Caroline. "My experience is with the original Bill written text, what if I am asked to sponsor someone with this new text?" Bahiyyah. "Does this plain language BB stay within the confines of our primary purpose which is to carry the message. Will this make it more readily available to those still suffering." Don. "Bill used specific words for specific reasons." Kristi. "I used the BB dictionary." "Relevant vernacular can help us understand." Leslie "We are biased so should have outside reviewer." Sergio.

Who is the author? Eddie: The writers of the Plain Language BB is not an alcoholic or in recovery. Outside writing firm.

2. 5th Edition – New Preface only. NO 164 page text change. Stories to be updated. Currently reviewing 2800 stories submitted.

Section IV: Finance F –Kristi N opened discussion

Background Notes: Excerpt from the October 29, 2022 trustees' Literature Committee report: The trustees' Literature Committee reviewed proposed agenda items related to the changes approved by the 2021 General Service Conference to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and noted the importance and interest of the Advisory Action to the Fellowship. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions PAIs.

The trustees' Literature committee agreed to forward to the 2023 Conference Literature Committee all proposed agenda items related to the changes in the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions as one grouped item with the suggestion that the Conference Literature Committee consider forwarding the item to the general service areas for wider discussion looking toward setting a policy on how and whether to edit A.A. founder's words in our current literature. The agenda item would be discussed by the Fellowship during the 2023-2024 Conference year and considered by the Conference Committee on Literature at the 2024 General Service Conference. 2021 General Service Conference Advisory Actions <https://www.aa.org/m-39-advisoryactions pp101>

1. A revision be made to page 117 in the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, replacing the phrase "opposite sex" with the word "partner" as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context to the change as it relates to inclusivity: The text on page 117 which currently reads: "Nearly every sound human being, experiences at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way. ..." Be revised to read: "Nearly every sound human being, experiences at some time in life, a compelling desire CONFIDENTIAL: 73rd General Service Conference Background to find a partner with whom the fullest possible union can be made – spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way. ..."

2. The sentence which includes the phrase "lustful enough to rape" in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter "Step Six" of the book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, be revised to refer to the Seven Deadly Sins without specific mention of examples that are severe in nature as follows, and that a footnote be added to provide context as to the basis for the change: The text on page 66 which currently reads: "No one wants to be angry enough to murder, lustful enough to rape, gluttonous enough to ruin his health." Be revised to read: "No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust or gluttony."

Discussion from Group and consensus votes taken: “The term Partner does not bother me.” “Inclusive.” “Regarding the list want it to go back to the original writings as I prefer the directions given be exact/specific.” “Why change the way it was written.” Rescind back to original text.

- Page 117 rephrase proposed: Opposite Sex to Partner
 - Vote to rescind the use of “Partner”
- Page 66 Step 6 Paragraph 1: List Anger, Lust, Gluttony (go back to original text)
 - Vote to rescind and go back to original verbiage – Consensus YES to go back to original verbiage

Section X: Treatment and Accessibilities E – Taylor C

Taylor – Not present / Leta presented on his behalf Section X: Treatment and Accessibilities E

Proposed Agenda Item # 29 Section X, Item E: Consider request to do an Accessibilities Inventory of Alcoholics Anonymous throughout its services and structure.

The presentation of this item for the 73rd GSC, comes out of the October 30, 2022 meeting of the Trustees’ C.P.C./Treatment and Accessibilities Committee based on the proposed agenda item from Kurt. W of Area 29 in Maryland to “Consider request to do an organization-wide ‘Accessibilities Inventory’ of Alcoholics Anonymous throughout its services and structure evaluate what is found to communicate and improve how we function. The committee also called for an action plan for improvements be made from the information gathered.

Background information from the original submittal:

What problem does this proposed item address?

While many items and services such as large print literature, audio format literature and accessibility committees and accessibility guidelines exist, an inventory would empower the very members who have and live with accessibility issues, the platform to communicate their needs.

What level of group conscience discussed the proposed agenda item?

This idea has been spoken of at the monthly All Access accessibility meeting as well as the Area 29 Accessibility Committee and received positive feedback. It was brought to the Area 29 Assembly on August 13, 2022 and approved unanimously.

What are the expected outcomes if this proposed item is approved?

This process would ideally include members with a disability or accommodation need and also professional’s familiar with how to optimize and organize these services. Information obtained and suggestions for change would be shared with the fellowship.

Discussion from Group and consensus votes taken:

- Keep Spanish Literature
- Groups should take accessibility Inventory
- Exploring how we meet needs of all attendees at conventions, assembly, etc... (sign language?)

b. Storage of D31 Supplies

- Ad-Hoc committee provided pricing for two locations.
 - Group asked for additional options
- Leadership will add to “budget” agenda to revise and include for next year

NEW BUSINESS – next month

- Alternate DCM – open

CLOSING

Meeting closed by Karon M. at 3:50 p.m. with the Responsibility Pledge