

Area 67 Literature Committee Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2025
7:30 pm

The March meeting of the Area 67 Literature Committee was called to order with the Serenity Prayer at 7:30 pm. Present : Jim M., Carol F., Shea L., Dallas D., Stephanie, John, Paul M.

The February 2025 meeting minutes were approved as presented. Motion to accept minutes as written by Stephanie; Second by Carol F. Vote- 5 yes

Chair report- Jim tells the committee that he was at intergroup last week and he purchased some service manuals. He also got to talk to Patty about the Literature Committee's concerns about selling literature. She told him that they are trying to work through some of the same things. Jim said that he told her about the plan to sell some service manuals at the assembly and that we would go from there. The other concern is about the Seta Convention. He emailed the Convention chair about it. He's asking the other committee's to review their procedures to see where our committee can be of service. He did pick up three copies of the Literature Workbook to bring to the assembly for those that want them, 6 service manuals, and a bunch of literature catalogs. He thinks that the literature catalog will be useful to our committee. Jim thanks Carol, Caitlin, and Shea for their participation at the Unity Day Conference. He says it's nice to have a committee that is committed.

Alt. Chair report - Carol tells the committee that Unity Day went great. She also shared an update on Dan.

Unfinished Business

District 33 Unity Day Conference. Shea shares with the committee the difference between the presentation that we presented at Unity Day vs. Rose Rich. At Unity Day we focused more on the importance of the GSR and the communication between the groups, districts, areas, and the general service conference concerning the PAI process. Caitlin had updated the slides to match the new approach. Shea tells the committee that this approach showed how to keep the triangle upright. Caitlin and I also created a literature presentation that we did not have to present. Jim shares at the sponsorship workshop that the GSR came up as well. A Lot of people did not even understand the position. Shea tells the committee about her experience with the GSR boot camp online. Jim says that the GSR workshop is great when Paul hosts it. Paul says that it is critical that GSR focus on the 12 traditions, the 12 concepts, and communication. Paul says that some groups really know about the Service Literature that is free. It is not in the literature catalog, it is a separate piece of information that you have to request from the General Service office. It's one thing that can be shared more often. Jim says he will get it and share it with the committee.

New Business

Jim tells the committee that the Round Tables are coming up in a couple weeks. Stephanie says that the GSC is at the end of April. She said that the Delegate and Alt Delegate presented the Top 10 agenda items at the District 31 workshop where they thought most of the groups would be focused on. They also talked about GSR and communication and lack of knowledge with the new ones. Carol announces the GSC is April 28- May 3, 2025. Jim tells the committee that we are going to discuss the three PAI's that he was given for his roundtable at the assembly.

- **Modernizing or updating Living Sober.** Carol tells the committee the background of the agenda item. It reads that the trustees literature committee considered the request to explore the idea of a substantial overall / upgrade to this vital book, living sober, and agreed to forward the 2025 conference committee on to the 2025 conference committee on literature the PAI's for living sober revisions combined into a single item with the request to consider the scope of an of revision and update to the book living sober. The five or six PAI's are all combined into one agenda item. The first one says to update and modernize basically by rewriting it completely, and they hoped that they will retain the gentle humor, but they basically wanted the whole book to be rewritten and added to include writings about the Internet and social media. Then the other PAIs were less about rewriting, but more just about adding to it and one PAI asked for information for neurodivergent members. Another PAI wanted more about online meetings and it's just the digital reality that wasn't there in 1975 when the book was first published. Carol says it seems to her that the question they're asking is or that their delegates will be considering at the conference is, should we rewrite the whole thing or should we just add to it? It seems like there's going to be a revision done. Several of the PAI's discussed that the language is outdated and that a lot of the references are outdated. Carol believes it is one of the most useful pieces of literature we have for newcomers to really relate to, because it does give practical tips on actually getting sober, which you can't really find in the big book. Jim asks if anyone has been through Living Sober recently? Dallas says that she takes her sponsees through it. The best advice I got from my sponsor initially coming in was to read Living Sober first because I still had so much alcohol in me. I don't think I could have absorbed much of the big book at that moment and it was really good advice. It took me a couple of weeks to kind of just start getting some simple language in me before diving into the big book. Dallas believes that it is outdated because it does not include anything about the Internet and I think there could be more added to it. Dallas said she would probably vote to add more to it instead of rewriting the whole book. Shea says that her group uses it for topic meetings. She believes that it does need to be updated instead of being rewrote. Jim's experience with Living Sober was with a sponsee that had long-term sobriety, he wanted to use it to carry the message. Jim discusses AAWS editing policies. Jim thinks the challenges that we have with online anonymity and online meetings is something we might really want to talk about.. Paul says he read through that I glanced through the background information and saw that it was very diverse groups that sent in the PAI's from different areas in the

United States with different input. Most of them were in favor of changes from redoing the whole thing or just editing it. Paul says that he would probably go to the conference and recommend requesting some additional information about the cost. They believe they can recoup it if they did a whole new book. When you're making a decision, that's the one thing you probably need to look at. Asking questions like what's the overall cost of adding it, just upgrading it, or printing a new one so you can make an informed decision. And it's that way with any literature that comes to a literature committee, what's it going to cost us so we can make an informed decision whether it's gonna be worth it or not. Paul says he didn't notice that in there, but maybe they are trying to wrap their heads around which way to do what, and then the committee would ask for some input on costs and those kinds of things. Jim asks do we feel confident in discussing what we would like to do? He would like to forward our remarks on to our Delegate. Jim reads the agenda item. It is wanting us to consider the request to update Living Sober. Carol reads her paraphrase of the agenda item for the literature committee to consider the request to explore the idea of a substantial overall / upgrade to the vital book Living Sober and agree to forward to the committee on literature, the PAIs for living sober revisions, combined into a single item with the request to consider the scope of revision and update. Carol asks, do we want it to be revised and expanded or a substantial overhaul? Carol says that she would like to see an expansion of the book with light editing. Dallas tells the committee that she doesn't think the tips and tricks need to be changed, but some details about social media and online meetings need to be added. No rewrite due to costs. Stephanie says she would agree with add-ons addendums like we do in the forwards to the new editions of the big book. Jim asks what I'm hearing is that we would like to make a recommendation that the book, Living Sober, be updated to include social media and online meetings information instead of a major overhaul? **Everyone in the committee is in agreement that our recommendation is that the book Living Sober should be updated to include social media and online meetings instead of a major overhaul.**

- Jim reads the next three agenda items: Consider the request to include the concepts in the 12 & 12, consider a request to expand article III in the conference charter, which protects the original writings by asking for 75% of the groups to approve it, and consider including the version of AA Comes of Age Lasker award into the book of Alcoholics Anonymous. Jim says that he feels that we should spend what little time we had left in the meeting to discuss the founder's writings, it was something that we spent a lot of time on and put a lot of time into last year. He believes that it would be a good thing for us to give some input for Christina (Delegate) on that.
- **Founders Writings** Jim explains that Christina had sat in on his District's meeting last month and she made a point to say that a super majority of the conference and making a super majority of the groups, which is what article three talks about, is something completely different. 75% of the registered groups need to vote to approve a change in the original founder's writings if we make it part of article three. So, basically we would be saying no changes to the founder's writings because getting that vote would be

impossible. It's hard enough to get 75% vote from the delegates, but getting 75% of the registered groups would be really difficult. Jim says that we're looking at Article III, that we wouldn't change our founder's original writings. He says that we can make a recommendation that's a little bit different if we like. Carol says that she feels very strongly about the right of decision and that we should let the GSC make the decision with a 75% super majority vote. She says she feels that the 75% super majority of the registered groups are too rigid. Paul says the super majority 75% would consist of the conference members, which include the non-alcoholic trustees, and some office staff or the people who work on the desk because they serve as secretaries to all the committees. He says he's keeping his opinion to himself, he's an oldtimer that does not want to see anything change. Write a new book if you want, but we have to have some flexibility. Paul says that Bill W. always thought that we could be too rigid and that's not a good thing. Jim tells the committee if you're part of this committee, you have the right and almost the obligation to talk about how you feel about it. Jim discusses the changes to the 12 & 12 in 2021 and his experience. He says we are talking about things that are still controversial in the fellowship, but some people thought the changes were made for good reason. Carol says it seems like if you change to 75% supermajority the groups, the vote will never happen ever. Shea tells the committee that her opinion is that those writings are Bill W. and Bob's, and that we have no right to change their thoughts and ideas. If we want new writings or new versions, just write a new book. Dallas tells everyone that she feels like we should not change the founder's writings, but that she has no opinion on the decision making, because she can see both sides. Jim said he feels like after our discussion he feels like that we should tell Christina that we would want additional consideration, even after we've talked about this for a year and a half. Stephanie asks if we have to quantify that decision. Jim asks Paul for some input to clarify. Paul tells the committee that changing the steps or the traditions, it's written clearly in the conference charter that it does say 75% of the responding groups in the world would have to approve. Now, we've got into this debate when that was written, the world was the United States and Canada, but that's not the case now. AA is world wide. He said looking at that reference, not necessarily changing the big book or the writing, but the 12 steps and 12 traditions, the way they're written takes 75% of the groups of responding groups in the world is how it's stated. So that means that could never be changed, because you can't even get three quarters of people in this committee to agree. Paul says if you look at the background information in this item you're discussing, there's somebody that emphasizes, this goes in direct conflict with how it's written. The 12 steps are only steps like they're written in How it Works. Jim asks the committee if we have a recommendation for Christina? Carol asks if we are asking for a recommendation on both of these agenda items? Jim says we can make a recommendation, we can take no action, or we can say that it needs additional consideration. Those are our three choices. John says he thinks that we need to be careful of what we thought was being done vs what happened. Stephanie says that the decision on the founders' writings aren't quite sure according to John's statements. She thinks there's been a lot of confusion about exactly what we're trying to address, because this is essentially like the fourth iteration of the same stage. If you really think about everything we've read in the

last couple of years, it's a little bit more fine tuned and there's no doubt, but are we there yet? Jim says we really need clarification on the definition in Article III before we can make a good decision. Jim asks the committee if 75% of the GSC was used to approve a change to the founder's writings? Would we agree? Carol says Yes, Dallas is still processing, Jim says he feels like we have substantial unanimity recommendation to allow the GSC to use the 75% super majority to make any changes to the founder's writings, but he does not feel comfortable saying that because there are still so many questions. Stephanie asks can we give our recommendation with questions? Carol states that she feels like the agenda item question is very confusing.

Next Meeting: April 15, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm with the responsibility statement.