

CONCEPTS

NORTHERN ILLINOIS AREA LTD AREA 20 SERVICE LETTER

FALL 2024 VOL. XLVIII NO.3

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From the Chair...

Hello NIA,

It's just about Fall, and time has flown this year. We've been busy with so many things, but a big job this year has been the Area Inventory. I'd like to thank the Inventory Committee, Lorrie F, Chris E, Larry S, Jim T, and Allen J.

They have been a great committee and have put together an inventory aimed at finding out where we, as an area, can do better in helping our district servants to understand their jobs better. We can't do a job if no one ever tells us what that job actually is, and I'm hoping that this inventory will shed light on where we can better serve you. As we move into the ninth month of the year, I'm reflecting on Concept IX and the ninth Tradition, and how they relate to our current NIA 20 inventory work.

Concept IX: Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety.

How true this is. Every time we elect a GSR, we are electing a possible future Delegate to the General Service Conference or a Trustee of the General Service Board. In that, we are responsible for being very clear as to what district and Area 20 jobs are BEFORE we elect someone that may not actually be able/may not want to fulfill the duties of the position. I'm hoping to make inroads into that before this rotation ends.

Tradition IX: A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

For me, the words DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THOSE THEY SERVE is key. This again ties back to our Area Inventory. We, as trusted servants, are responsible to do the jobs we are elected to do. If we are not doing our jobs, those who we serve are well within their rights to ask us why we are not.

We have been out on the road doing service workshops to help the GSRs, DCMs and District Service Chairs fully understand what their jobs entail. We will continue to do that throughout this rotation. If you would like to have us do this for your district, email me at chair@aa-nia.org. WE are responsible to YOU to assist you in what you need to do your job.

In Service,

Dawn B.

NIA 20 Panel 74 Chair



Bridging the Gap 2.0 & *More*

Greetings NIA 20. I was asked to contribute a few things for this issue of Concepts, so I'm here to report a bit of what's going on at my end. Unfortunately, I was unable to make it to the Committee Meeting on August 3rd due to a prior commitment. However, I have been handing out and talking up our QR coded business cards and stickers. I anticipate us working on ways to better this QR code with more links and options. I am excited we have a working Technology Committee now! I've been brainstorming some ideas on putting together an easily accessible Area database of temporary contacts.

Working with the Treatment and Answering Service Committees will be key to making progress on this as well. I foresee a Workshop in our near future. Summer is a busy time for everyone of course, so I will be looking at some possible dates soon.

DCM's, please reach out to me if you would like me to come visit your Districts. If anyone is interested in the stickers or cards also reach out to me, please. I would also love to connect with District Treatment and BTG chairs. Any and all feedback is needed and welcomed!

I will be flying out to Missoula, MT on September 6th to attend the BTGWW (Bridging the Gap Weekend Workshop). I'm very much looking forward to attending and meeting with fellow BTG chairs and volunteers from across the country. I will be obtaining and absorbing as much information as possible, in hopes of bringing forth some new ideas and helpful information to bring back to NIA 20. This event does fall on the weekend of our next Assembly, so I will not be in attendance. Looking forward to reporting back and seeing everyone in the Winter!

In Fellowship,
Joey B
Alt-BTG Chair

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

2024 BRIDGING

*Workshop
Weekend*

THE
GAP

TEMPORARY CONTACTS

September 6th - 8th 2024

*Fairbridge Inn and Suites
& Big Sky Conference Center
3803 Brooks St, Missoula, MT 59804*

Missoula



Hosted by Area 40—Montana

For hotel reservations call Reservations at 1-406-251-2665
Refer to Group **BTGWW** for workshop rate of **\$139 plus tax**

The Annual Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend consists of presentations, discussions, shared experiences, and breakout sessions on BTG topics.

Go to btgww.org for online registration

☐ **\$35 Early Bird Registration only**

☐ **\$40 Registration only after July 31st**

☐ **\$85 Registration & Banquet** Banquet Registrations must be received by August 16th

Total Submitted: \$ _____

☐ I am interested in purchasing recordings

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Area #: _____

Email: _____

☐ I am willing to give a presentation on the following topic:

Accommodations-Special Needs? _____

Return registration form and check to: BTGWW, 2107 Watson Ave St. Paul MN 55116

Any questions contact Laura S. at (612) 309-8385 or email coordinator@btgww.org



**TENTH ANNIVERSARY
NATIONAL A.A. TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP
NAATW in St. Louis, Mo
Sept. 13 - 15, 2024
REGISTRATION OPEN**

Help Us Make Our Tenth Birthday in St. Louis MO a Hybrid One!
The National A.A. Technology Workshop celebrates its 10th Anniversary in the city where it all began - St. Louis, MO

- ✦ We've got a rockin' hotel
- ✦ We've got a super-skilled bunch of technologists
- ✦ We've got enthusiastic (and extremely intelligent and witty!) Members, Groups, Districts, Areas, and General Service Office staff eager to learn and share about technology in A.A. today
- ✦ We've got members from all over the globe wanting to learn how technology can best effectively spread the A.A. message to the still-suffering alcoholic
- ✦ And, we've got high overhead

✦ To create a hybrid NAATW 2024, we need a LOT of participation.

✦ 130 folks ONLINE, to be exact.

✦ And we need 130 ONLINE Registrants by July 12, 2024.

✦ (Because, you know, *good* tech costs money)

[This is where self-sufficiency and prudence meet, folks]

✦ If we can't hit the 130 Online registrant number by July 12, we'll only meet In-Person and all Online registrations will be refunded

Your strong Online presence will make a Happy Hybrid 10th

So, please, "Meet Us In St. Louis" In-Person & Online

\$100 Registration Fee for Everyone

REGISTER AT NAATW.ORG

Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel

St. Louis, MO 63146

Hotel Block \$149 Prices End Aug. 15, 2024

Phone: 314-878-1500

[Link to Sheraton Westport Reservations](#)



SAT. SEPT. 14, 2024

11AM TO 3PM

DISTRICT 41 PICNIC

Please save the date and come be part of the 2nd Annual District-wide Picnic! Come early or stay late, the park is ours for the day!

What can you expect?

- **Free to all**
- **Great food!**
- **A history lesson in how we became District 41**
- **Literature to share with your group**
- **An introduction to General Service**
- **Memories, friends and grateful hearts!**

From southbound York Road, take Frontage Road west to Harger. Access to Frontage Road from northbound York Road is not allowed. Take York north to Roosevelt Road and follow Roosevelt interchange to southbound York Road.

Join us at York Woods Preserve Oak Brook, IL

The 69-acre York Woods Forest Preserve in Oak Brook — the county's first forest preserve — where birders enjoy spotting northern orioles, cedar waxwings, warbling vireos, mallards, red-bellied woodpeckers and owls, among others.

This preserve is linked to in the 30-mile Salt Creek Greenway Trail

**Come rain or shine
and Bring a lounge
chair!**

QUESTIONS?

Contact us by email:

Dupage41aa@gmail.com

District 41 is Part of Northern Illinois Area 20 serving Lombard, Elmhurst, Villa Park, Bensenville, Addison, Wooddale and Oakbrook Terrace

Announcing: a new book from AAWS on sale November 1, 2024

PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK

A Tool for Reading
Alcoholics Anonymous

This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature

The *Plain Language Big Book* is a tool to help readers understand the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, which was first published in 1939. This new book is designed so that the A.A. Twelve Step program of recovery from alcoholism may be easily understood and accessible by all people who have a desire to stop drinking.

Members of A.A. fondly call the original book *Alcoholics Anonymous* “the Big Book.” It is the basic text of the A.A. program. The *Plain Language Big Book* has been written to present the original ideas and same spiritual message of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

This new text is not intended to replace the much beloved Big Book. Rather, the *Plain Language Big Book* is a book crafted over several years by A.A. members and publishing professionals to support alcoholics on the path to recovery. The book is intended to help people who have a problem with alcohol gain access to A.A.’s lifesaving message.

For years, A.A. members have expressed a need for a *Plain Language Big Book*. Based on the shared experience of A.A. members, some people may not have regular contact with other A.A. members to help them understand the A.A. program of recovery and the specific vocabulary as it is used throughout the original book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. Other people have a hard time reading, especially books that were written long ago. This *Plain Language Big Book* is written in simpler language to support readers in their recovery.

This book is published in accordance with Advisory Actions passed by substantial unanimity of the General Service Conference (GSC) of Alcoholics Anonymous. In 2021, the 71st GSC advised that this book be developed. Progress reports, then sample chapters were reviewed at the 72nd and 73rd GSCs. The final draft of the *Plain Language Big Book* was reviewed and approved by substantial unanimity at the 74th GSC, in April 2024. This process and outcome adopts this text as Conference Approved Literature.

The *Plain Language Big Book* covers the core content of what is the “abridged version” (the edition without personal stories) of the original Big Book.

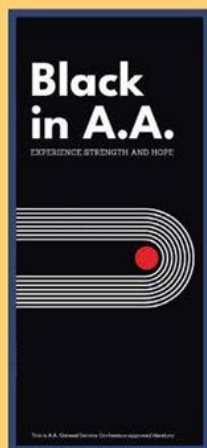
Readers are also encouraged to seek out the current edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* and meet with A.A. members to support their own individual paths of recovery from alcoholism.

The *Plain Language Big Book* is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.

PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK: A Tool for Reading *Alcoholics Anonymous*

- **Publication (on-sale) date: November 1, 2024**
- **List Price \$11.**
- **Item B-90**
- **192 pages; 8 ½' x 11"**
- **Softcover format with flaps**

Announcing: NEW items from AAWS!

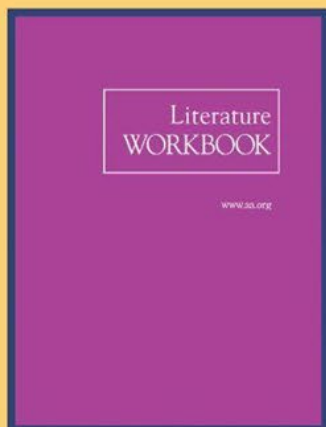


"Black in AA – Experience Strength and Hope"
(P-51) List price \$.75

New completely revised pamphlet

Now available in a completely updated and rewritten pamphlet — “Black in A.A. – Experience, Strength and Hope” replaces the pamphlet titled “A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic.” With an illuminating new Introduction and contemporary sharing by 12 A.A. members from the United States and Canada, the new pamphlet will be published in English, with French and Spanish translations to follow.

ON SALE: MID SEPTEMBER



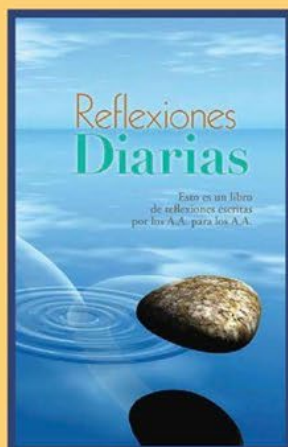
Literature Workbook
(M-52i) List price \$6.00

New Literature service tool

Several years in the making, this brand-new Workbook was compiled from practical shared experience of A.A. members in the Literature service area.

Literature committees at the District and Area levels help educate the Fellowship about General Service Conference-approved literature and related service material. All of their efforts work to insure we protect and maintain the integrity of the A.A. message. Helpful sections of the workbook include: “Samples of Planned Service Activities,” and “Growing Literature Committees in Districts.”

ON SALE: MID SEPTEMBER



Reflexiones Diarias
(SB-19) List Price \$12.50

in a new Large Print edition

A.A.’s popular book of daily meditations that features quotations from A.A. literature paired with members’ responses to them for every day of the year is now being made available in Spanish in a Large Print edition, for the first time. This edition will help make this inspirational text more accessible to our Spanish-speaking members, and it is published as a direct result of responding to the expressed need of the Fellowship.

ON SALE: END OF SEPTEMBER

Tenemos el agrado de anunciar un nuevo libro de AAWS, que saldrá a la venta el 1.º de noviembre de 2024

PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK

A Tool for Reading
Alcoholics Anonymous

This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature

El Libro Grande en lenguaje sencillo (Disponible únicamente en inglés) es una herramienta para ayudar a los lectores a entender el libro *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, que fue publicado por primera vez en 1939. El nuevo libro ha sido diseñado para que el programa de doce pasos de AA de recuperación del alcoholismo pueda ser entendido fácilmente y sea accesible para todas las personas que quieren dejar de beber.

Los miembros de AA se refieren afectuosamente al libro original, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, —el texto básico del programa de AA— como el «Libro Grande». El Libro Grande en lenguaje sencillo se escribió con la finalidad de presentar las ideas originales y el mismo mensaje espiritual del Libro Grande, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*.

Este nuevo texto no tiene la intención de sustituir nuestro querido Libro Grande. En vez de eso, El Libro Grande en lenguaje sencillo es un libro creado por miembros de AA y profesionales del mundo editorial —un proceso que duró varios años— para apoyar a los alcohólicos en el camino de la recuperación. La intención del libro con el alcohol a acceder al mensaje salvador de vidas de AA.º es ayudar a las personas que tienen problemas

Desde hace años, los miembros de AA han expresado la necesidad de contar con un Libro Grande en lenguaje sencillo. En base a la experiencia compartida, sabemos que algunas personas pueden no tener un contacto asiduo con otros compañeros que les ayuden a entender el programa de recuperación de AA y el vocabulario específico utilizado en el libro original, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*. A otras personas les puede resultar difícil leer libros, —que como este— fueron escritos hace mucho tiempo. El Libro Grande en lenguaje sencillo está escrito en un lenguaje más simple para ayudar a los lectores en su recuperación.

La publicación del libro se hizo de acuerdo con las acciones recomendables que fueron aprobadas por unanimidad sustancial por la Conferencia de Servicios Generales (CSG) de Alcohólicos Anónimos. En 2021, la 71.ª CSG recomendó que este libro fuera elaborado. En la 72.ª y 73.ª CSG se evaluaron informes de avance y capítulos de muestra. El borrador final de El Libro Grande en lenguaje sencillo fue evaluado y aprobado por unanimidad sustancial en la 74.ª CSG en abril de 2024. Este proceso resultó en la adopción de este texto como literatura aprobada por la Conferencia.

El *Libro Grande en lenguaje sencillo* abarca el contenido básico de la «versión abreviada» —la edición sin las historias personales— del Libro Grande original.

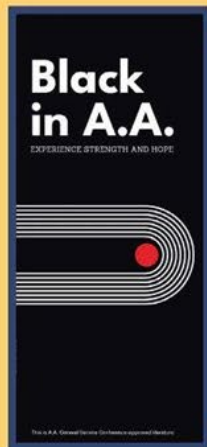
También se anima a los lectores a explorar la edición actual del libro *Alcohólicos Anónimos* y a reunirse con miembros de AA que los ayuden en sus diversos caminos de recuperación del alcoholismo.

El Libro Grande en lenguaje sencillo es literatura aprobada por la Conferencia.

EL LIBRO GRANDE EN LENGUAJE SENCILLO: *una herramienta para leer Alcohólicos Anónimos*

- Fecha de publicación (venta): 1.º de noviembre de 2024
- Precio de lista: \$11
- 192 páginas; 8 ½' x 11''
- Tapa blanda con solapas

Anuncio importante: NUEVOS artículos de AAWS

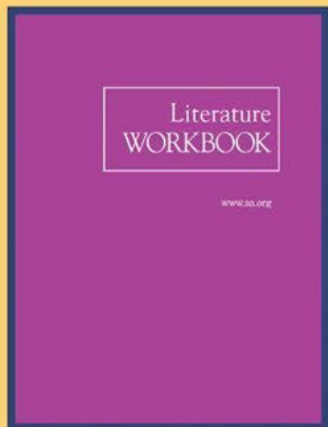


Ser negro en AA: experiencia, fortaleza y esperanza
(P-51) Precio de lista: \$0.75

Un folleto nuevo y completamente revisado.

Ser negro en AA: experiencia, fortaleza y esperanza, un folleto completamente actualizado y reelaborado, reemplaza al folleto AA para el alcohólico negro y afroamericano. Con una nueva introducción esclarecedora y compartimiento actual de doce miembros de AA de los Estados Unidos y Canadá, el nuevo folleto será publicado en inglés, seguido de traducciones al francés y español.

A LA VENTA A MEDIADOS DE SEPTIEMBRE. Disponible únicamente en inglés.



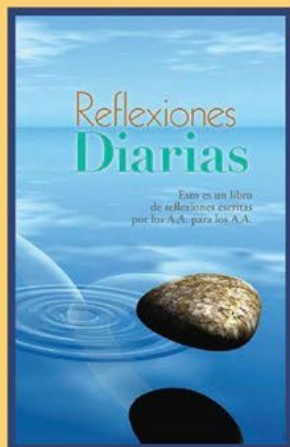
Libro de trabajo de Literatura
(M-52i) Precio de lista: \$6.00

Nueva herramienta de servicio de Literatura

Luego de una preparación de varios años, este nuevo libro de trabajo fue recopilado a partir de la experiencia práctica compartida por miembros de AA que hacen la labor de servicio de Literatura.

Los comités de literatura en los distritos y áreas existen hoy en día para educar a la Comunidad sobre la literatura aprobada por la Conferencia y los materiales de servicio relacionados. Todos sus esfuerzos están orientados a garantizar la protección y el mantenimiento de la integridad del mensaje de AA. Entre las secciones útiles del libro de trabajo se incluyen «Ejemplos de actividades de servicio planificadas» y «Cómo hacer crecer los comités de Literatura en los distritos».

A LA VENTA A MEDIADOS DE SEPTIEMBRE. Disponible únicamente en inglés.



Reflexiones diarias
(SB-19) Precio de lista: \$12.50

en una nueva edición de letra grande

El popular libro de meditaciones diarias de AA, con citas de la literatura acompañadas de respuestas de diversos miembros a las mismas, para cada día del año, está disponible por primera vez en un formato de letra grande en español. Esta edición hará que este texto inspirador sea más accesible para nuestros compañeros de habla hispana, y su publicación responde directamente a una necesidad expresada de la Comunidad.

A LA VENTA A FINES DE SEPTIEMBRE.

GRAPEVINE News *Pass it on!*

What's New For September 2024



The Grapevine and La Viña Apps

Help us spread the word about the apps.

Members can download the apps and subscribe directly on the Apple Store or Google Play.

SCAN BARCODE



For iPhone



For Android



The Grapevine YPAA World Tour: Kickoff at the 64th ICYPAA in...

AA Grapevine

10 videos 31 views Updated 6 days ago



Play all



Shuffle

NEW in the Audio Project!

YPAA World Tour: Kickoff at the 64th ICYPAA in Austin, Texas.

Look for new stories each month!

Learn more [here](#).

2024 CARRY THE MESSAGE PROJECT

Want to help another alcoholic?

aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message



OUR TWELVE STEPS

Members share experience, strength and hope as they work the AA program

Don't miss our latest bestseller

All-new, up-to-date stories about the joys and challenges of working the program's Twelve Steps of Recovery. Learn more [here](#).



AAGRAPEVINE Books

Flip through the pages. Add these new soft cover editions to your library!

Other Available

- Grapevine Titles:
- Free On the Inside (Print)
- The Best of Bill
- Spiritual Awakenings I and II
- One on One (Sponsorship)
- No Matter What (University)
- Take Me to Your Sponsor (Interview)
- Voices of Long-Term Sobriety
- Beginners' Book
- Forming True Partnerships
- The Home Group
- Sober & Out (Sobriety)
- Step by Step (our Twelve Steps)
- One Big Tent (pathways/updates)

Order online aagrapevine.org/store

Or by phone: 800-631-6025

\$13.99/\$12.50 for 5 or more copies

AA Grapevine books are also available at Central Offices and Intergroups.

1302



AA Grapevine's Podcast

The podcast is available on your favorite podcast platforms, on the Grapevine app, and via the player on the website below.

www.aagrapevine.org/podcast



Ask me about the Apps

Get answers to frequently asked questions

www.aagrapevine.org/app

What's New in Print and Online



Grapevine: Current Issue Spotlight:

This month's featured section is **"Young & Sober."** Members share about the joys and challenges of getting sober and active in AA in their teens, 20s, and 30s.

Submit Your Story! Upcoming Topics...

Making Amends — Did you have an interesting Ninth Step experience to share? How did it go? Were there any surprises? Share your experience. (Stories due September 15, 2024)

Living Sober Turns 50! — Share a story about how this remarkable AA book helped you. (Stories due September 15, 2024)

Young & Sober — Did you come into AA at an early age? What was that like? What were the challenges? Do you go to Young People's AA (YPAA) meetings, dances, or conferences? (Stories due October 15, 2024)

Annual Prison Issue — Did you find AA in prison? What is sobriety like inside? Are you involved in correspondence service or prison sponsorship? We're especially looking for stories by sober incarcerated women serving long sentences. (Stories due November 15, 2024)

More upcoming topics: Atheists/Agnostics in AA, What AA Is Like in Other Countries, Technology in AA, and Gratitude.

Important: We're looking for your experience with **each Step** and **each Tradition!** (Pick a particular Step or Tradition and share your experience!) We run one every month! We also need your jokes!



La Viña: Current Issue Spotlight:

This month's Special Section is **Making Amends** (Reparaciones)

Submit Your Story for Upcoming Issues:

November/December — Parties in Sobriety (Las fiestas en sobriedad) Check out the **La Viña editorial calendar 2025** and get inspired to write your recovery story. [Click here](#) to learn more

Visit the La Viña store and get your favorite Spanish book!

Explore our wonderful and extensive collection of books in Spanish with stories from AA members about the joys and challenges of working the program's Twelve Steps of Recovery.

La Viña Workshop

Join us for our next Workshop on August 22, 3:00 pm EST to learn more about Grapevine and La Viña. We invite you to be a part of our La Viña community! Meeting ID: 815 9593 1777

Do you need any help with your subscription?

Call La Viña Customer Service (Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. EST.)
USA (800) 640-8781 | International: +1 (570) 567-0437



AA Grapevine.org

Make your plans and add your events to our online calendar at www.aagrapevine.org/share.

Grapevine is always looking for stories, photographs, and illustrations. Please visit www.aagrapevine.org/share to learn more about how you can participate with Grapevine. To listen to La Viña audio story (in Spanish), visit www.aalavina.org.

Area Chair / GVR Corner

Please let us know at EA@aagrapevine.org and jdillon@aagrapevine.org if your Area is planning any virtual or face-to-face events. [Click here](#) for more resources.

To request Grapevine complimentary materials, please [download the request form here](#), fill it out, and return it to EA@aagrapevine.org. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. For large events, please allow 4 weeks. Items are subject to availability.



Grapevine Travel/Remote Events

Aug. 30 – Sept. 1
Sept. 6
Sept. 13 – 15

2024 National Hispanic Convention
District 9/Area 9 Grapevine Workshop
National AA Technology Workshop

San Francisco, CA
Virtual
St. Louis, MO/Virtual



If you attend area events we'd like to know!

Also, if you take anonymity-protected photos at events, we'd love to post them on the [GV Display Gallery](#).

Please send the information and photos to EA@aagrapevine.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1955, the Conference Committee on Grapevine recommended that "Areas be encouraged to invite the Grapevine staff to visit state and provincial conferences."

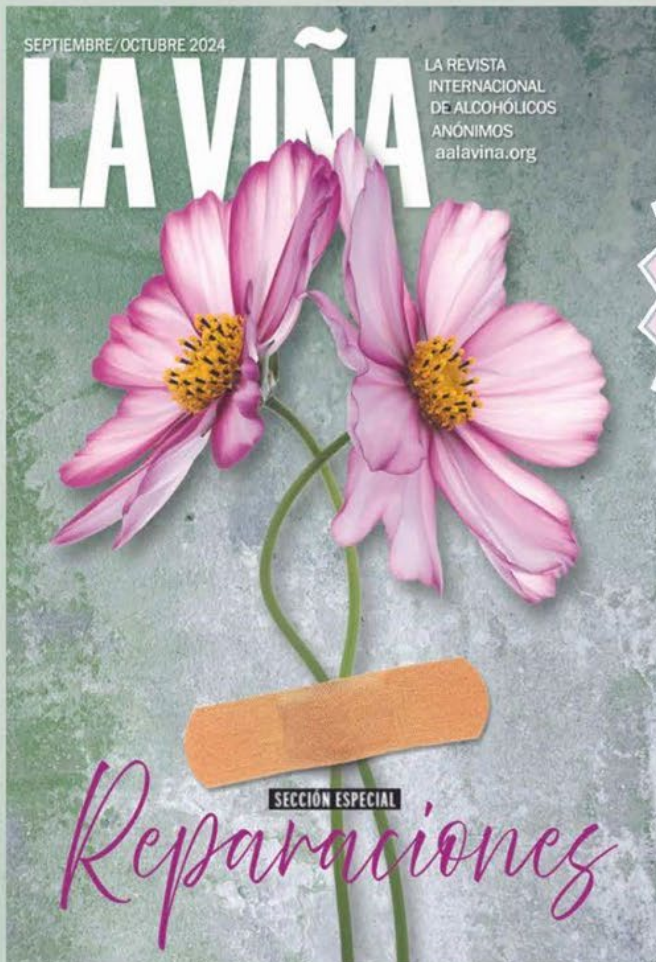
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If you or someone you know is experiencing delivery issues, please email or call 1.800.631.6025 or 1.800.640.8781 (Spanish).
Email CustomerService@aagrapevine.org for English or Preguntas@aagrapevine.org for Spanish.

We are happy to help!

NOTICIAS DESDE

LA VIÑA



¡COMPARTE TU EXPERIENCIA CON LA VIÑA!

Necesitamos historias de **Pasos y Tradiciones**, fotos de tus salas de reuniones de AA y tus chistes favoritos.

Puedes enviarlos por correo electrónico, página web, correo postal o por el servicio de grabación de audio.

LVeditorial@aagrapevine.org



¡PRÓXIMOS TEMAS DE LA REVISTA!

Noviembre/diciembre

Fiestas en sobriedad

Enero/febrero

Despertar espiritual



“

Escuché en una reunión que “reparar” significa asumir responsabilidades y que, además, requiere de un cambio. En esta edición especial de “Reparaciones”, miembros relatan como se van liberando al hacer enmiendas y el gran impacto que ocurre en su recuperación al dejar de negar, ignorar, culpar, y comenzar a enfrentar, admitir y aceptar. El mostrarles a otros que sufren cómo se nos ayudó, es precisamente lo que hace ahora que la vida nos parezca de tanto valor.

(extracto completo en la carta de bienvenida)

”



¡Agenda de bolsillo 2025 ya disponible!
Con reflexiones espirituales en español, inglés y francés.



LA VIÑA

¡NUEVA PLAYLIST! LA FAMILIA Y AA

"La familia del alcohólico ansía el retorno de la felicidad y la seguridad[...] En las familias de Alcohólicos Anónimos son pocos los secretos del pasado que escondemos.
(Libro Grande, pp. 123-125) .

Escúchala **aquí**



¡COMPARTE TU HISTORIA EN AUDIO!

Llama al número (559) 670-1601 y sigue las instrucciones. O graba tu historia con tu propia grabadora digital, teléfono inteligente u otros dispositivos móviles. Manda el audio a veditorial@aa Grapevine.org.



Más consejos **aquí**



¡REPRESENTA A LA VIÑA Y LLEVA EL MENSAJE!

Los representantes de La Viña son el vínculo entre AA, La Viña y los grupos.



- Anuncia el último número de la revista en reuniones.
- Habla sobre el contenido de la revista: las historias son excelentes temas para discusión.
- Anima a su grupo a participar enviando historias, fotografías o chistes.
- Corre la voz sobre los nuevos servicios y productos de La Viña.

Regístrate **aquí** y recibe tu kit de bienvenida



PAQUETE DE 30 EDICIONES ANTERIORES DE LA VIÑA

Sirve para llevar el mensaje a hospitales, instituciones y fuerzas armadas, o para colocar la revista en las salas de lectura de las cárceles y centros de tratamiento.

Encuétralo **aquí**



¡COMPARTE TU EVENTO EN EL SITIO DE LA VIÑA!

Revisa y contribuye a nuestro calendario de eventos dentro y fuera de los Estados Unidos: aalavina.org/calendario-de-eventos

¡Comienza tu día con el lenguaje del corazón!



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¡REGALA UNA SUSCRIPCIÓN!

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SÍGUENOS



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Traditions Checklist

AA GRAPEVINE

www.aagrapevine.org

*These questions * were originally published in Grapevine in conjunction with a series of articles on the Twelve Traditions that ran from November 1969 to September 1971. While they were originally intended as suggestions for individual use, many AA groups have since adopted them and use them as a basis for wider discussion.*

Tradition One:

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity.

1. Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person? Am I sometimes divisive? Do I ever gossip or take another member's inventory?
2. Am I a peacemaker? Or do I foster arguments with statements such as "just for the sake of discussion"?
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I sometimes abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA in another?
5. Do I ever put down some AA activities for not participating in this or that aspect of AA?
6. Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support AA as a whole in every way I can, or just the parts that I understand and approve of?
7. Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
8. Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?

Tradition Two:

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibilities?
3. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs, praise for my AA ideas?
4. Do I often feel the need to "save face" in group discussions, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work along with it?
5. Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn with AA chores?
6. Do I complain about the decisions that my group makes, even though I do not attend the business meetings where these decisions are made?

Tradition Three:

The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as those who likely will not make it?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately or publicly do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or not?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, sexual identity or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I overimpressed by a celebrity, a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what they do for a living? Where they live? What their domestic arrangements are? Whether they have been to AA before? What their other problems are?

(* revised July 2018)

TraditionsChecklist

Tradition Four:

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.

1. Do I insist that there are only a few right ways of doing things in AA?
2. Does my group consider the welfare of nearby groups in its actions and decisions? Of AA "as a whole"?
3. Do I judge or criticize other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?
4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths—their lengths, not mine—to stay sober?
6. Do I ever criticize certain groups because I think they don't do things how I believe AA should be done?

Tradition Five:

Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

1. Am I willing to firmly explain to newcomers the limitations of AA help, even though they may get mad at me for not giving them a loan? Or dating advice? Or help with a job?
2. Have I ever imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
3. Am I willing to Twelfth-Step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
4. Do I help my group in every way to fulfill our primary purpose?
5. Do I remember that AA long-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?
6. Does our group ever use money from the basket for dinners or events or for memorials for members who have passed on?

Tradition Six:

An AA group ought never endorse, finance or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

1. Why is it important that we not get involved in outside enterprises?
2. Is it ever wise for a group to lease a small building or endorse an outside event?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local clubhouse familiar with "Guidelines on Clubs," which is available free from GSO?
4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor's advisory committee on alcoholism?
5. Our group's landlord is raising money to pay for a new roof on the building. Should the group make a contribution? What if the landlord specifically asks the group to make a contribution?

Tradition Seven:

Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

1. Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new person who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when drunk in a barroom?
2. How do I (or my group) support our International Journals of Alcoholics Anonymous, Grapevine and La Viña?
3. If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be OK to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?
4. Is it more important for a group to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?
5. Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?
6. Does my group have a "prudent reserve"? If yes, do I know what that amount is?
7. If a family member, work colleague or close friend who is not an AA member wants to make a financial contribution to my group, should the group accept it? What if my group is short on funds?

TraditionsChecklist

Tradition Eight:

Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

1. Does my own behavior accurately mirror the Traditions? If not, what needs changing?
2. When I chafe about any particular Tradition, do I realize how it affects others?
3. Do I sometimes try to get some reward—even if not money—for my personal AA efforts?
4. Do I try to sound in AA like an expert on alcoholism? On recovery? On medicine? On sociology? On AA itself? On psychology? On spiritual matters? Or, heaven help me, even on humility?
5. Do I make an effort to understand what AA employees do? What workers in other alcoholism agencies do? Can I distinguish clearly among them?
6. Do I know where my local meeting directory comes from?
7. In my own AA life, have I had any experiences which illustrate the wisdom of this Tradition?
8. Have I read the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*? How about the pamphlet "A.A. Tradition—How It Developed".
9. Can my group rely on me to fulfill my service responsibilities without someone checking on me?

Tradition Nine:

AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

1. Do I try to "boss" things in AA?
2. Do I ever resist formal aspects of AA because I see them as authoritative?
3. Do I try to understand and use all elements of the AA program—even if no one makes me do so—with a sense of personal responsibility?
4. Do I exercise patience and humility in any AA job I take?
5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any AA job?
6. Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and bylaws?
7. Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully—and profit thereby—when the time comes?
8. What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?

Tradition Ten:

Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

1. Do I ever give the impression that there really is an "AA opinion" on doctors? Psychiatrists? Churches? Hospitals? Jails? Alcohol? Prescribed medications? Other drugs? Other 12-Step programs? Vitamins? Al-Anon? The federal or state government?
2. Can I honestly share my own personal experience concerning any of those without giving the impression that I'm stating the "AA opinion"?
3. What in AA history gave rise to our Tenth Tradition?
4. What would AA be without this Tradition? Where would I be?
5. Do I breach this or any of its supporting Traditions in subtle, perhaps unconscious, ways?
6. How can I manifest the spirit of this Tradition in my personal life outside AA? Inside AA?
7. Should the meeting secretary intervene to remind AA members about this Tradition if a member starts criticizing one political party compared to others or favoring a religion over others?

TraditionsChecklist

Tradition Eleven:

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.

1. Do I sometimes promote AA so fanatically that I might make it seem unattractive?
2. Am I always careful to keep the confidences shared with me as an AA member?
3. Am I careful about throwing AA members' names around—even within the Fellowship?
4. Am I ashamed of being a recovered, or recovering alcoholic?
5. What would AA be like if we were not guided by the ideas in Tradition Eleven? Where would I be?
6. Am I careful not to identify myself or others as members of AA when I post certain things on social media, such as Facebook, Twitter or Instagram?
7. Is my AA sobriety attractive enough that a sick drunk would want such a quality for himself?
8. If my group has its own website, have we considered this Tradition when we designed it, how accessible it is, and the type of content that it offers?

Tradition Twelve:

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

1. Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to me if AA as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust or agree with AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, do I imply that membership requirements go beyond the desire to stay sober?
4. Have I a personal responsibility to help an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is my part?
5. Do I do all I can do to support AA financially?
6. Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of AA attractive so that other drunks might want it?
7. What does anonymity mean to me?
8. In light of increased awareness of alcoholism and AA's program of recovery among the general public, why is the principle of anonymity still important?
9. Am I mindful to respect the anonymity of other AA members who may work in my place of employment or my industry? How about AA members who live in my area or neighborhood?
10. What does "principles before personalities" mean to me?

AA Grapevine, 475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10115 / www.aagrapevine.org

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CONCEPTS CHECKLIST

A service piece for home groups, districts, areas

Some of these discussion points were originally developed by an A.A. group and further developed by the trustees' Literature Committee to be distributed by the General Service Office. While this checklist is intended as a starting point for discussion by groups, districts or areas, individual A.A. members may find it useful along with our co-founder Bill W.'s writings, a service sponsor if you have one and reflection on your own service experience. Additional information about the Concepts can be found in The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service and "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" - pamphlet. (The Concepts stated here are in the short form.)

Concept I: Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

- Does our group have a general service representative (G.S.R.)? Do we feel that our home group is part of A.A. as a whole and do our group's decisions and actions reflect that?
- Do we hold regular group conscience meetings encouraging everyone to participate? Do we pass that conscience on to the district, area, or the local intergroup meetings?
- Is the "collective conscience" of Alcoholics Anonymous at work in my home group? In my area?
- Where do we fit in the upside-down triangle of A.A.?
- Are we willing to do what it takes to insure that our democracy of world service will work under all conditions?

Concept II: The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.

- Do we have an understanding of the history of the General Service Conference (the "Conference")?
- What is a Conference Advisory Action? Does our home group's G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate report back to the group on the highlights of the Conference and Conference Advisory Actions?
- Is our group meeting its wider Seventh Tradition responsibilities?

Concept III: To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

- Do we understand what is meant by the “Right of Decision”? Do we grant it at all levels of service or do we “instruct”?
- Do we trust our trusted servants — G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate, the Conference itself?

Concept IV: At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional “Right of Participation,” allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

- Do we understand the spiritual principles underlying the “Right of Participation”?
- What does “in reasonable proportion” mean? Do we understand when it is appropriate for A.A. paid staff to have a vote at the General Service Conference or in our local service structure?
- Do we expect that, because we are A.A. members, we should be allowed to vote at any group, even if we are not active members of that group?

Concept V: Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

- Do we encourage the minority opinion, the “Right of Appeal,” to be heard at our home group, district committee meetings, area assemblies and the Conference?
- What does our group accept as “substantial unanimity”?
- Has our group experienced the “tyranny of the majority” or the “tyranny of the minority”?
- Does our group understand the importance of all points of view being heard before a vote is taken?

Concept VI: The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

- Are we familiar with how our General Service Board (G.S.B.) Class A and Class B trustees serve A.A.? Are we familiar with how our other trusted servants serve A.A.?
- Are we clear about the terms, “chief initiative” and “active responsibility”? Can we see a direct link to our home group?

Concept VII: The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.

- Do we act responsibly regarding the “power of the purse”?
- Do we realize that the practical and spiritual power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the G.S.B.?

Concept VIII: The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

- Do we understand the relationship between the two corporate service entities (A.A. World Services, Inc., the A.A. Grapevine) and the General Service Board?
- How can the business term “custodial oversight” apply to the trustees’ relationship to the two corporate service entities?
- Does my home group subscribe to G.S.O.’s bimonthly newsletter *Box 4-5-9*? A.A. Grapevine? Do I?

Concept IX: Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

- Do we discuss how we can best strengthen the composition and leadership of our future trusted servants?
- Do we recognize the need for group officers? What is our criteria for election? Do we sometimes give a position to someone “because it would be good for them”?
- Do I set a positive leadership example?

Concept X: Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

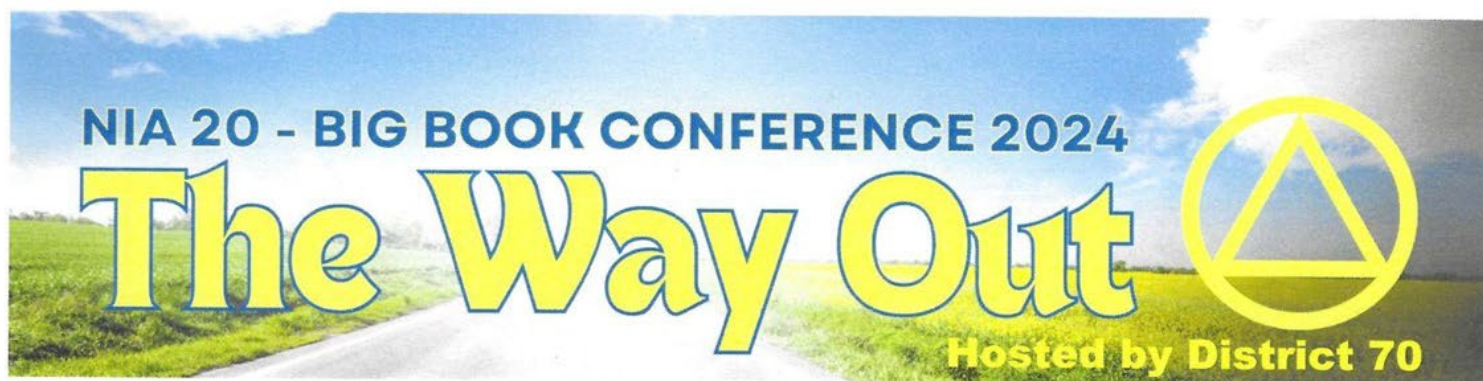
- Do we understand “authority” and “responsibility” as they relate to group conscience decisions by G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s and our area delegates?
- Why is delegation of “authority” so important to the overall effectiveness of A.A.? Do we use this concept to define the scope of “authority”?

Concept XI: The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

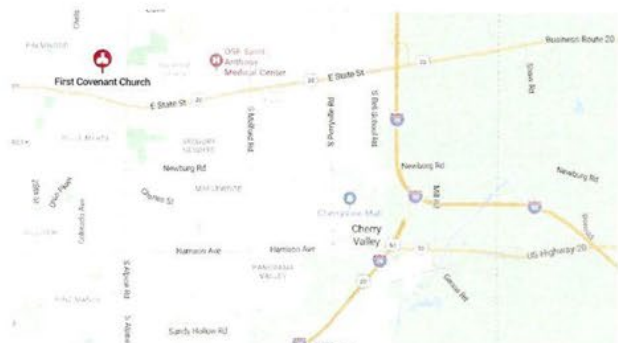
- Do we understand how the roles of nontrustee directors and nontrustee appointed committee members help serve and strengthen the committee system?
- How do we encourage our special paid workers to exercise their traditional "Right of Participation"?
- Do we practice rotation in all our service positions?

Concept XII: The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

- How do we guard against becoming a "seat of perilous wealth or power"?
- How do we practice prudent use of our Seventh Tradition contributions and literature revenue?
- Do we insure the spiritual liberties of all A.A. members by not placing any member in the position of absolute authority over others?
- Do we try to reach important decisions by thorough discussion, vote and, where possible, substantial unanimity?
- As guardians of A.A.'s traditions, are we ever justified in being personally punitive?
- Are we careful to avoid public controversy?
- Do we always try to treat each other with mutual respect and love?



NOVEMBER 9, 2024



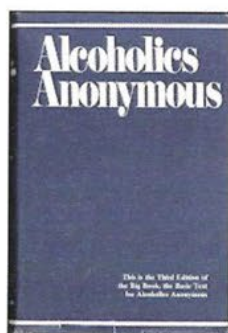
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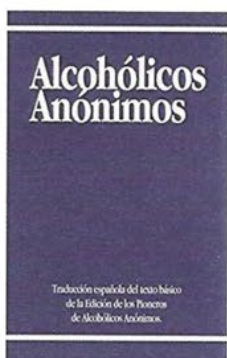
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