

**March 2024**



# The Pikes Peak Pint



Calvary United Methodist Church is looking for a few good meetings!

Derf Bergman, Pastor of the United Methodist Church on 4210 Austin Bluffs Pkw has rooms available for 12 step meetings. Please contact the Service office for more information.

[dbergman@calvary-umc.org](mailto:dbergman@calvary-umc.org)



District 7  
CPC & PI  
Combined  
Workshop



Anonymity and Social Media  
Presentation followed by a  
CPC Mock Panel

Saturday, April 6  
10 am - 12pm

Potluck at 9:30 am

Please bring a breakfast dish  
to share

Located at Central Groups  
309 S Hancock Ave  
Colorado Springs, CO  
80903





DISTRICT 7 COLORADO SPRINGS  
DELEGATE REPORT

JUNE 22, 2024



9AM-11AM

FREEDOM HALL

3026 N EL PASO ST

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80907

SARAH M PANEL 73 AREA DELEGATE



# MARCH BIRTHDAYS

## High Noon Group

Janet T. 44 years

Carl B. 51 years

## Walk the Talk

Janet 3-7-20

Anthony A. 3-21-83

Glenn G. 3-24-20

Tiffany 3-30-18

Daniel 3-20-22

Gerry H. 3-15-23

Debbie R. 3-12-89

Newell 3-8-88

Diane G. 3-3-80

Renata 3-02-23

Kathy 3-3-21

Michael M. 3-3-22

Gary K. 3-3-03

Aaron M. 3-31-23

## Friday Women's

April A. 8 years

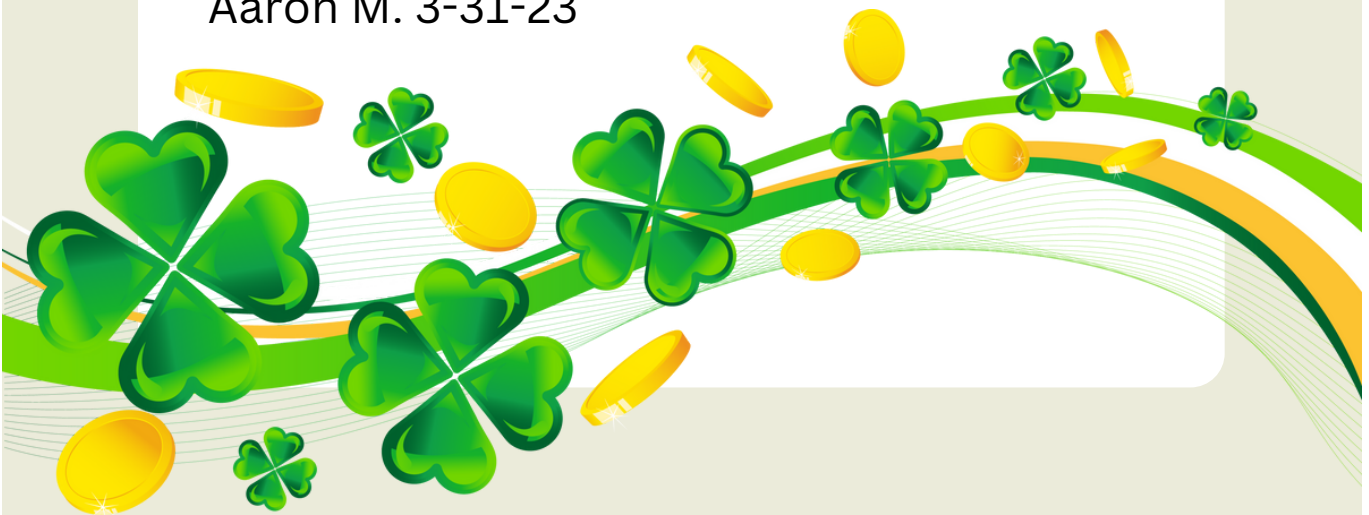
Mary V. 33 years

## New Woman Group

Noell W. 32 years

Barbara S. 37 years

Jennie C. 38 years



# PERSONAL STORY FOR PINT

## Mireille D., local member.

It's my 40th year in celebration of my new life as a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous September 3rd 2023 . I have merged into one! Whole that is, one with God and neighbor. My Spiritual awakening is the "educational variety" stated on (page 569 )from the third edition of Alcoholics Anonymous.

This is my story, how it was, what happened , and what's it like today.

I'm number seven in our family of ten children and two parents that were struggling with the family disease of alcoholism. My father a working drunk, and a war hero, came home and brought the war with him. There was no peace, much chaos , and uncertainty. The Doctors Opinion page xxvi (3rd ed), describes it like a war "the firing line, see the tragedies, the despairing wives, the little children..."

All my boyfriends were addicts or alcoholics. I did have one that I took as a hostage, because he had all the booze and other substances, and I could stay there on weekends. Most of my time in high school to graduation was an escape. At 16 my mother passed away and we all took turns helping to watch my three younger siblings. Our father abandoned us because he was on the run. He died a year later, on my 18th birthday,

At eighteen I was a full-blown alcoholic and had no direction. The only employment in town was a factory. After discovering that my boyfriend was unfaithful, I took it upon myself to let that relationship go. After which I decided that driving intoxicated was a good idea which basically got me into the courts. That incident introduced me to the legal system that introduced me to professionals with therapy for my alcoholism.

At that time, I was staying in a hallway that my brothers granted me. I was working at the factory and going to one weekly AA and one court counseling meeting, Brainwashing was needed, and it was happening, slowly but surely.

The resentment of going to meetings was large. I couldn't accept the concept of me being an alcoholic because I knew I could quit, but I just didn't want to! Or so I thought! Besides I was young just 21, and legal all over the world! That was my big resentment! So, for a whole year I stayed sober, I read the Bible, (I didn't understand one bit of it), but I was scared to death to drink again. After going to meetings for a year, I got an apartment, and a car. Someone from the past called to pick me up in his new Dodge and off we were to the outdoor party, and it happened, I got drunk again! When I got home, I put the 1/2 gallon of wine on the table and looked in the mirror and I admitted I was an alcoholic to myself for the first time. By going to those meetings, I learned that normal drinkers don't drink a 1/2 gallon at a time!

That Labor Day weekend I put the bottle down. I went to work, and my disturbed mind was not focusing on how my hand was being pulled into the machine! I had four fingers cut and had to have major reconstruction with two surgeries. I did have my AA high school friend bring me to meetings when I couldn't get there. Because I did stay sober for the year previously, I did have enough money to pay my rent! That is when I got serious about doing the AA steps and moving on with living life.

After a year, I moved to a nearby city and started school. This was possible with the help of professionals guiding me in how to achieve my future career in art. After several years of attending

there, and meeting some beautiful people, I was able to attend a prominent college and stay in a dorm and got to travel to Europe, all on scholarship! My return to the states I was dating a gentleman, and he turned out to be the man that I married. We have been together for, 38 years. Today I love my life! I have a husband, that I'm still attracted to, three children and their partners, and besides God gave me two beautiful granddaughters ! It's a full life of Joy! The greatest joy is I still go to meetings and help others, which God has put in my life to do his will! And how do I stay sober you may ask? (Pages 83-88 in Alcoholics Anonymous) I pray in the mornings, do my devotions, say my prayers at night and have gratitude for a second life that God gave me by trying to do his will. It works! It really does! All I do is stay sober One day at a time and let God do the rest!

Mireille D., From COS: Area 10, District 7

# STEP THREE

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him. Reprinted from *Alcoholics Anonymous*, page 58, with the permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

## Tradition 3

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

### Tradition 3 Checklist:

- • In my mind, do I pre-judge some new AA members as those who likely will not make it?
- • Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately or publicly do not want in my AA group?
- • Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or not?
- • Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, sexual identity or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
- • Am I overly impressed by a celebrity, a doctor, a clergyman, and ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
- • 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? Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc., April 2011, [The Traditions Checklist](#)

### 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, sta1s, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their e1ective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision".

Reprinted from *A.A. Service Manual, 2018-2020 Edition*, page 11, with the permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

# IT HAPPENED THIS MONTH IN AA HISTORY!

March 1:

1939: Readers Digest failed to write promised article on AA.

1941: Saturday Evening Post article by Jack Alexander created national sensation. AA membership quadrupled in one year from 2000 to 8000.

March 3:

1947: Nell Wing, Bill's secretary and first archivist of AA, began her career at Alcoholic Foundation Office.

March 4:

1891: Lois Wilson was born.

March 5:

1945: Time Magazine reported Detroit radio broadcasts of AA members.

March 9:

1941: Wichita Beacon reported AA member from NY who wanted to form a group in Wichita, Kansas.

March 11:

1947: A Priest in St. Paul, Minnesota, founded Calix International. Alcoholics in his parish met after Saturday morning Mass to discuss the readings for the upcoming Sunday and how their faith melded with the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

March 12:

1940: Ebby Thatcher, Bill Wilson's boyhood friend and sponsor, was reported sober again.

March 14:

1941: South Orange, NJ, AA held an anniversary dinner at the Hotel Suburban with Bill Wilson as the guest speaker.

March 15:

1941: 1st AA group was formed in New Haven, Connecticut.

March 16:

1940: Bill moved the Alcoholic Foundation office to 30 Vesey St., NY. (30 Vesey St., NY, was almost destroyed on September 11, 2001.)

March 18:

1951: Cliff W. was elected 1st delegate from Southern California.

March 21:

1881: Anne Ripley, Dr. Bob's wife, was born.

1966: Ebby Thatcher, Bill Wilson's sponsor, died sober.

March 22:

1951: Dr. William Duncan Silkworth died at Towns Hospital.

1984: Clarence Snyder, founder of Cleveland AA and author of "Home Brewmeister," died at 81, 46 years sober.

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March 23:

1936: Bill & Lois Wilson visited Fitz Mayo, "Our Southern Friend," in Maryland.



1941: Sybil C.'s sobriety date. She was the first woman to enter AA west of the Mississippi.

March 25:

1965: Richmond Walker, author of "Twenty-Four Hours a Day" book, died at age 72, almost 23 years sober.

March 29:

1943: The Charleston Mail, WV, reported that Bill Wilson had given a talk at St. John's Parish House.

March 31:

1947: 1st AA group was formed in London, England.

Other events in March, for which I have no exact date:

1942: 1st Prison AA Group formed at San Quentin.

1945: March of Time film was produced and supervised by E.M. Jellinek.

1946: The Jefferson Barracks AA Group in Missouri was formed. It is thought to be the first ever in a military installation.

April 1:

1939 - Alcoholics Anonymous AA's Big Book was published.

1940 - Larry J. of Houston, wrote The Texas Preamble used to open AA meetings in Texas.

1966 - Sister Ignatia died at the age of 77. She worked with Dr. Bob in treating many early AA members at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron.

1984 - 12 Coconuts Group, Kapiolani Park, Waikiki, Hawaii, was founded.

## SOURCES FOR AA HISTORY EVENTS

<https://www.aa.org/aa-timeline>

<https://toledoameetings.com/important-dates-in-alcoholics-anonymous/>

<https://www.bluidkiti.com/forums/showthread.php?t=229>

[\*Compiled by Josh B., local member.\*](#)

# We Need You

Service Office Round Table -  
Traditions – Concepts Discussion

**3rd Saturdays in 2024**

**12:00 Noon**

**Starting February 17th until December 21st**

Please come join Niels H. and Glen G. to discuss what the CS Area Service Office can do for your group. Short presentations will be given on the 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts, and the history of the CS ASO.

Tradition 9

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

**Refreshments Provided**



**Colorado Springs**  
**Here to Serve**  
**Area Service Office**

1353 S. 8th Street, Suite 209  
Colorado Springs, CO 80905  
**719-573-5020**

# **INTERGROUP BOARD ANNUAL ELECTIONS IMMINENT!**

## **NOTES FROM INTERGROUP MEETING, 2-13-24**

The ASO is conducting a workshop focusing on ASO services and meeting group needs. The first such meeting is scheduled for Saturday February 17, noon to 1pm, and the Area Service Office, 1353 South 8<sup>th</sup> street, unit 209.

ASO office manager Jeanette reported the office saw the average number of walk-ins, primarily for Big Books and medallions. Floater volunteers, those persons who might be available for a fill-in shift on short notice are being sought to volunteer in the Service Office.

Nightwatch fielded 49 phone calls during January.

All board positions for up for new terms, to be voted in in the March 12 Intergroup meeting. Positions are Chairperson, vice-chair person, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-treasurer, registrar, Member-at-large, and Third Legacy Chair, The descriptions and requirements for these positions are listed on the [coloradospringsaa.org](http://coloradospringsaa.org) website, under the charter tab.

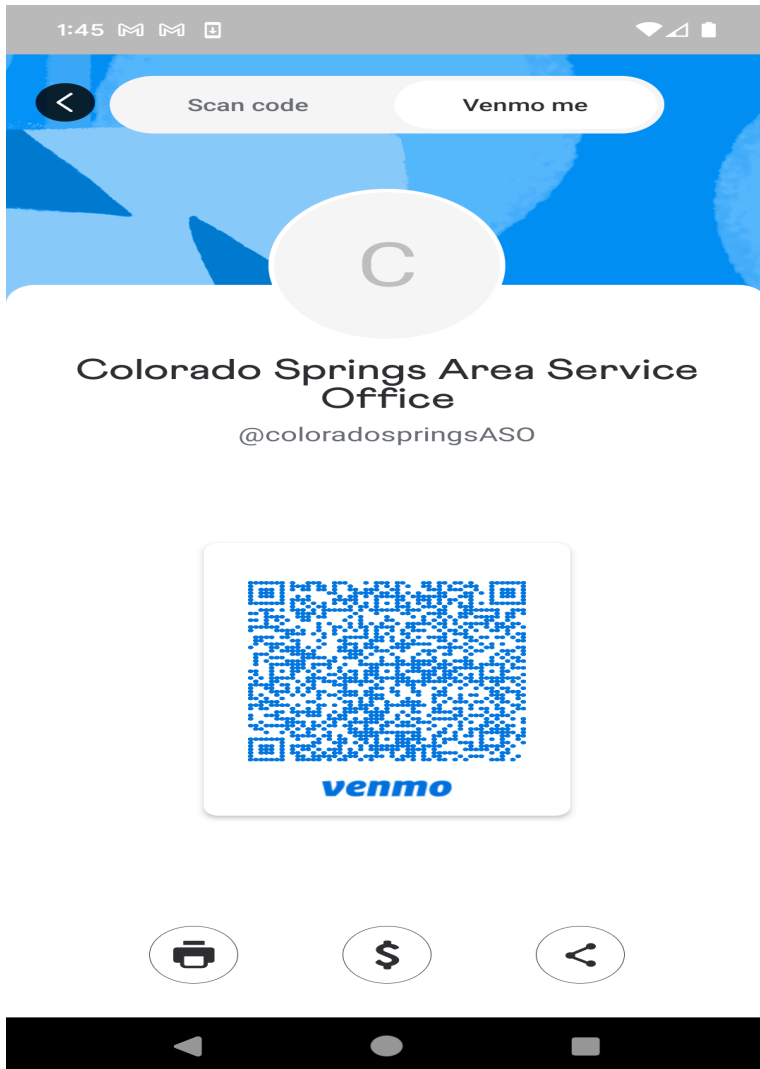
## AREA SERVICE OFFICE (ASO)

- Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 2pm
- Area Service Office Manager: Jeanette
- Open service office volunteer positions:
- We would like to expand our hours to include one late day and Saturdays.
  - If you are interested in one of these times please call.
  - A minimum of 6 months of sobriety is suggested.
  - For more information contact (719) 573-5020 or email:  
[serviceoffice@coloradospringsaa.org](mailto:serviceoffice@coloradospringsaa.org)

**What is the Area Service Office (ASO)?** There are approximately 300 individual AA meeting groups in the El Paso County, Teller County area, also known as District 7. The ASO strives to make AA books, literature, medallions, and other materials available for purchase by local groups. The ASO also operates *Night Watch*, which fields phone calls around the clock during non ASO operating hours. The ASO maintains the online website, meeting schedule, as well as facilitating Zoom meetings.

The “Programs” subcommittee of ASO puts on several area events each year, including the Long-timers Luncheon, Founders’ Day picnic, the annual Gratitude Dinner, and every New Year’s Eve the “Alcathon,” to provide an alcohol-free News Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day celebration involving meetings each hour of the event, as well as food and speaker sessions.

# Easy way to donate to the Area Service Office:





## **AA GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS:!**

**Red Cloud:**

### **RED CLOUD SERENITY CLUB-GREEN MOUNTAIN FALLS:**

#### **SPACE AVAILABLE \***

**We Have space available for 12 Step Recovery Groups needing space.**

**New groups encouraged to inquire.**

#### **ANNUAL YARD SALE**

**The Red Cloud Serenity Club annual yard sale will be held June 21,22,23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Donations will be accepted beginning May 1<sup>st</sup> at our Noon and Six PM.**

#### **SPEAKERS NIGHTS & COVERED DISH DINNERS**

**Our ongoing Speakers Series and covered dish suppers ( Dinner at 6pm, Speaker at 7pm) will be held on April 6th, May 4th and June 1<sup>st</sup> . All are welcome.**

**\*For information: Call Karen (719-510-5000) or Jeanni (719-205-0624)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Methodist Church** is looking to host an A.A. meeting and provide free childcare. Contact Pastor Amy Strader (719) 471-8522 ext. 102

**The Downtown Group @ 210 North Corona Street** has space if a meeting or a group is looking to gather somewhere. Contact John O. 719-291-3240 for further information.

- **Apex Group @ 2021 W. Pikes Peak Avenue** needs support! Apex Group meets Fridays at 6pm, at the Sacred Heart Church in room 10.

- **Calvary United Methodist Church** We have a meeting space available for any 12 step group that needs it or is starting up. Contact Derf Bergman, Pastor, Calvary United Methodist Church  
4210 Austin Bluffs Parkway Colorado Springs, CO 80918 (church mailing address).

**Does your group have important announcements?**

- Send announcements, flyers, and information to: [pint@coloradospringsaa.org](mailto:pint@coloradospringsaa.org)
- To subscribe, visit <https://www.coloradospringsaa.org/news-events/news/>
- The Pint is published monthly, with release dates approximately the first of each month.. Send your information within four days of the end of each month, to ensure inclusion in the following Pint edition.

## Interested in Being of Service with Intergroup or District Committees?

- **Archives**
  - Chair: Doug L.
  - For info on Archives workdays at ASO, please email: [archives@coloradospringsaa.org](mailto:archives@coloradospringsaa.org)
- **Nightwatch**
  - Chair: Stephanie
  - Contact Area Service Office for more info 719-573-5020 or [nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org](mailto:nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org)
- **Pint**
  - Mike H.
  - Collect local AA stories and announcements and send to [pint@coloradospringsaa.org](mailto:pint@coloradospringsaa.org)
- **Programs**
  - Chair: Kimberly H.
  - Contact Area Service Office for more info 719-573-5020 District
- **CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community)**
  - Chair: Derek G. Meets
  - 4th Sunday of the month, 3:30pm, at Walk the Talk (2334 Vickers Drive)
- **Corrections**
  - Chair: David P.
  - Meets 4th Saturday of every month at 10am, @ Area Service Office (1353 S 8th St)
- **PI (Public Information)**
  - Chair: Jacque I.
  - Meets 3rd Saturday of the month, 2:30pm, @ Area Service Office (1353 S 8th St)
- **Treatment & Bridging the Gap**
  - Chair: Clint
  - Meets monthly, 2nd Wednesday @ 5:30 PM online. Contact [treatment@coloradospringsaa.org](mailto:treatment@coloradospringsaa.org) for questions or Zoom meeting details.

## Supporting A.A.'s services

While contributions cover each group's rent and other expenses, the Seventh Tradition is essential to all areas of A.A. service. It is both a privilege and a responsibility for groups and members to ensure that not only their group, but also their intergroup/central office, local services, district, area, and the General Service Office remain self-supporting. The General Service Conference suggests that individual groups, through an informed group conscience, adopt a specific contribution plan tailored to meet the group's

financial situation. Once the group's expenses have been taken care of the group may decide to further carry the message by sending money to the following A.A. service entities:

- The local district, which communicates directly with the groups, providing the district group conscience for the area assemblies, and serving as a link between the area delegates and the G.S.R.s.
- The area committee, which coordinates vital A.A. activities over a broad geographic area; sends a delegate to the annual General Service Conference; holds area assemblies to determine the needs of the Fellowship; and provides information at all levels of service.
- The local intergroup or central office, which may provide phone service for Twelfth Step calls and other inquiries; coordinates group activities; and facilitates A.A. literature sales, institutions work, public information, and cooperation with the professional community activities.
- A.A.'s General Service Office, which functions as a storehouse of A.A. information, communicating with members and groups around the world; publishes A.A.'s literature; and supplies information and experience to professionals and others interested.

Where to Send Contributions:

\*\* Please include Group Name and Group Number on check, money order, or app transaction\*\*

Area Service Office

Payable to: Colorado Springs Area Service Office  
1353 S. 8th Street, STE 209  
Colorado Springs, CO 80905

District 7

Payable to: District 7  
PO Box 26252  
Colorado Springs, CO 80936

Area 10

Payable to: Area 10 Treasurer  
12081 W. Alameda Parkway, #418  
Lakewood, CO 80228

General Service Office (UPDATE)

Payable to: GSO  
Post Office Box 2407  
James A Farley Station  
New York, NY 10116-2407

## Have a Smartphone?

Download the free Meeting Guide! Google Play or Apple App Store Meeting Guide syncs with area, district, intergroup/central offices and international general service office websites, relaying meeting information from more than 400 A.A. service entities directly to the app. Over 100,000 weekly meetings are currently listed, and the information is refreshed twice daily.



<https://www.aa.org/meeting-guide-app>



# PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK (PLBB) FAQs

## 1. How did the PLBB come about?

The development of a plain language Big Book can be traced back to an agenda topic in 2016, at which time the General Service Conference began the assessment of the need for plain language literature. Following lots of in-depth research and reports, in 2021 the Conference as a whole requested:

*“That a draft version of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, be translated into **plain** and **simple** language and be developed in a way that is **accessible** and **reliable** to as wide of an audience as possible and that a progress report or draft be brought back to the 2022 Conference Literature Committee.”*

## 2. Will the PLBB replace the Big Book?

No. The intent was and remains for the PLBB to be a tool to access original text and be a companion piece. The original Big Book is not going away and will remain in publication.

## 3. Is this the first time A.A. has developed plain language literature?

No. Most of our pamphlets are in plain language. Also, at the time the Big Book was first published, Dr. Bob was concerned that the language was beyond the capability of blue-collar members to grasp and, as a result, 5 pamphlets (still available and known as *The Akron Pamphlets*) were written by Evan W. at the request of Dr. Bob during the 1940s.

## 4. What is Plain Language?

Plain language is a style of writing designed for word choice, sentence structure, and layout to improve readability and increase understanding.

## 5. Is it a word-for-word translation?

No. It is a rewrite into plain language that also reflects the scope of the task assigned to ensure that the draft *“be developed in a way that is **accessible** and **reliable** to as wide of an audience as possible.”*

## 6. Will it be available in Spanish and French?

We will address this question if and when the PLBB is published. However, we understand that English Plain Language is an approach not a language and so

any simplified French or Spanish versions will need to spring from the original translations into French and Spanish.

**7. What reading level will the PLBB be at?**

5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**8. Why is the draft confidential to Conference Members only and why can't I see a draft?**

Historically, whenever the Conference reviews new or significantly revised books or pamphlets, only the Conference Literature Committee (or whichever Committee is reviewing the item) is provided with copies of the new or revised literature before Conference begins. In the case of pamphlets, all other Conference members have been required to sign out copies of the new or revised pamphlet(s) sometime during Conference and have been given a limited time to review the literature. In the case of books, Conference members, other than those on the reviewing committees, have not been given any opportunity to review the manuscripts and have, therefore, had to base their votes entirely on the recommendation of the committee. The reasons for operating in this way are as follows:

- 1) In order to retain the copyright of A.A.'s literature assets, we have to be able to assert that they were not "at large," shared widely in whole or in part within the Fellowship or shared on social media, prior to being published.
- 2) It usually takes several years to complete a piece of A.A. literature. During that time, multiple versions of the piece are shared with the reviewing Conference Committee. If shared widely, it would be possible for the Fellowship and the public to become confused about what is in revision, what is the current revision and what is "Conference Approved."

When circumstances such as these require that we trust the Conference process explicitly, it may be helpful to remember that Tradition 2 asserts that God's will is expressed through the group conscience and that Concept 2 states that the Conference has become "the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs."

**9. What is being translated?**

Five things:

- i) The Doctor's Opinion
- ii) The first 164 pages of the original

- iii) Dr. Bob's Nightmare
- iv) The Appendices
- v) Forewords from the first 4 editions (which, together, are now a new Appendix VIII in the translation)

There will also be a new Preface, a new Foreword, and a Glossary.

The stories (other than *Chapter 1 – Bill's Story* and *Dr. Bob's Nightmare*) are not being translated.

#### **10. Does that mean the Steps, Traditions, and Warranties are being changed?**

No. As laid out in the Conference Charter, only a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of all the groups in the world responding to a proposal has the authority to do that.

The Steps and Traditions will be printed in their current form. However, alongside those items, an explanation in plain language will be included.

#### **11. What will be the title of the PLBB?**

Subject to the draft being approved for publication and the views of the General Service Conference, the working title is: Plain Language Big Book: A Tool for Reading *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

#### **12. How much has this cost?**

The hard costs are \$100,000 for the writer and approximately \$40,000 in publishing-related expenses. \$140,000 to date.

#### **13. What printing options will be available if this book gets published?**

As with other A.A. Conference approved literature, hardcover softcover and large print are options that will be decided if the Conference approves publication.

#### **14. How was the writer chosen and are they an A.A. member?**

Alcoholic Committee Members chose the best writer for the task through a Request For Proposal (RFI) process. Proposals were received from A.A. members and non-A.A. members. The writer who was eventually chosen is not an A.A. member. Alcoholics have been reviewing the work of the writer at all stages and making changes to ensure that the intent (as expressed in the RFI) that it "**must capture the welcoming and inclusive spirit** of Alcoholics Anonymous and **inspire a sense of belonging and hope** in the alcoholic seeking help" is followed.

**15. Was AI (ChatGPT or similar) used in the plain language big book development?**

No AI or text generator was used in the plain language draft.

**16. Were any Non-Alcoholics on the Tools to Access the Big Book (TABB) or Plain Language Big Book (PLBB) subcommittees?**

No. All members were alcoholics.

**17. How will the PLBB address gender and God?**

The gender of named individuals will not be changed, but where the example given is of an archetype, e.g. the Jaywalker, we will switch up things so that there is a broader representation of both men and women. The original Big Book contains about 250 he/him/his to about 50 she/her/hers. The plain language big book will be more balanced.

Where God is mentioned, and will continue to be mentioned, this is sometimes paired with 'Higher Power.'

**18. When the 2023 General Service Conference got to review the work in progress, i.e., the draft of the first 6 chapters, what did the Conference think?**

The response was overwhelmingly positive. Even those who initially expressed concerns liked the plain language BB after reviewing it.

**19. If published, who will own the copyright?**

Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

**20. What happens next?**

The 74<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference will review the complete draft at the Conference. Possible outcomes include:

- i) Approving the draft for publication as presented
- ii) Approving the draft with minor changes as may be suggested by the Conference Committee on Literature or the Conference floor
- iii) Sending the draft back for more work, indicating the issues to be addressed
- iv) Halting the project