

AA History Through the Lens of the General Service Conference Advisory Actions

August 9 thru December 13 – #13 November 8, 2024

facilitated by Francine W., Palm Desert, CA and Merri M., Des Moines, IA

This week we reviewed items from:

Advisory Actions Relevant to the Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities (1978 – 2024)
page 61

Advisory Actions Relevant to the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities/Accessibilities
(1978 – 1983) page 67

Workshop references and materials referenced with focus on this week's links:

- General Service Advisory Actions (1951-2024):
https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/M-39_0824_2.pdf
- *The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service:*
https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/en_bm-31_3.pdf

Workshop references and materials referenced:

CORRECTIONS.

Guidelines for Corrections Committees

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-6_0824.pdf

Corrections Workbook

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/m-45i_0224.pdf

Corrections Committee Kit

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/F-68_1123.pdf

Contact the Corrections Desk

<https://www.aa.org/contact-corrections>

A Message to Corrections Professional

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/p-20_en_0322.pdf

Carrying the Message into Correctional Facilities

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/f-5_CarryingtheMessagCF.pdf

AA in Correctional Facilities

<https://www.aa.org/A.A-in-Correctional-Facilities-video>

Bridging the Gap

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/P-49_0824.pdf

2024 7th Annual AA National Corrections Conference

<https://www.nationalcorrectionsconference.org/events/2024-7th-annual-aa-national-corrections-conference>

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TREATMENT.

Guidelines for Treatment Committees

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-14_0724.pdf

Treatment Workbook

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/m-40i_0424.pdf

Treatment Committee Kit

<https://www.aa.org/contents-treatment-committee-kit-list>

Contact the Treatment Desk

<https://www.aa.org/contact-treatment>

Guidelines for Treatment Committees

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-14_0724.pdf

What are AA Guidelines:

The A.A. Guidelines represent the shared experience of A.A. members and groups throughout the United States and Canada. They also reflect guidance given through the Twelve Traditions and the General Service Conference (U.S. and Canada). In keeping with our tradition of autonomy except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole, most decisions are made by the group conscience of the members involved. The purpose of the A.A. Guidelines is to assist members in reaching an 'informed group conscience.'

What are A.A. Guidelines? and Literature Library: <https://www.aa.org/faq/what-are-aa-guidelines>

MG-15 Guidelines on Finance: https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-15_0424.pdf

MG-6 Guidelines on Corrections: https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-6_0824.pdf

MG-14 Guidelines on Treatment: https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-14_0724.pdf

MG-02 A.A. Guidelines on Central or Intergroup Offices: <https://www.aa.org/aa-guidelines-central-or-intergroup-offices>

Corrections Workbook: https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/m-45i_0224.pdf

Treatment Workbook: <https://www.aa.org/treatment-committee-workbook>

Sharing from Behind the Walls: <https://www.aa.org/sharing-from-behind-the-walls>

History of the Pink Can: A Summary Based On Pink Cans: Small Change Brings Big Results (p. 8). Box 4-5-9: News and Notes from the General Service Office of A. A. Vol. 52, No. 5 / October November 2006. The Pink Can idea seemed to have originated in the Northern California Area in 1957. The purpose was to provide sufficient funds to purchase literature for expanding work in prisons. Individual contributions, although quite helpful, were not enough to keep up with the expanding responsibilities of the local Hospitals & Institutions Committees. Someone came up with the idea of

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passing a can during meetings and requesting spare change. It was explained that all monies collected would be used to buy literature for alcoholics in hospitals and prisons. In order to make the can “stand out,” a decision was made to paint the can pink. In short time, pink cans started appearing on literature tables and were being passed around at various meetings.

GSO Quarterly Report: [https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/F-14 Quarterly Report 2024 Third Quarter.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/F-14%20Quarterly%20Report%202024%20Third%20Quarter.pdf)

General Service Conference Final Report 2023 <https://www.aa.org/2023-general-service-conference-final-report>

General Service Conference Final Report 2024: <https://www.aa.org/2024-general-service-conference-final-report>

Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA) 2025: <https://praasa.org/>

Workshop references and materials previously referenced:

1. **A.A. At A Glance:** https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/F-1_0624.pdf
2. **A.A. Guidelines - Conferences, Conventions and Roundups:**
https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-4_0324.pdf
3. **A.A.® Guidelines Internet:** https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-18_0623.pdf
4. **A.A. Guidelines on Public Information:**
https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/mg-7_0424.pdf
5. **A.A. Legacy of Service:** https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/P-44_0924.pdf
6. **A.A. Newsletters:** <https://www.aa.org/newsletters>
7. **A.A.'s public service announcements are on the aa.org website:** <https://www.aa.org/audio-public-service-announcement-downloads>
8. **AAWS Highlights:**
https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/AAWS_2024_July_Highlights.pdf
9. **About AA Newsletter:** <https://www.aa.org/about-aa>
10. **Anonymity Letter to the Press (2/2024):** <https://www.aa.org/anonymity-letter-to-media>
11. **ANONYMITY ONLINE AND DIGITAL MEDIA:**
https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/smf-197_en.pdf and
<https://www.aa.org/anonymity-online-and-digital-media>
12. **Anonymity Placard:**
https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/en_anonymityplacard.pdf
13. **Anonymity Resources on AA.org:** <https://www.aa.org/search?search=anonymity>
14. **Anonymity Statement Card:** <https://www.aa.org/anonymity-statement-card>

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15. Area Service Sharing Session on Inventory:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_Rtsn5x6376P86EKuubRObr8oOnp9OPS/view?usp=sharing

16. ASL A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs: <https://onlineliterature.aa.org/ASL-AA-Alco-with-Special-Needs-DVD>

17. Behind the Walls Newsletter:

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/f-97_spring2024.pdf

18. Box 4-5-9

<https://www.aa.org/box-459>

19. Concept's Checklist https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/smf-91_en.pdf

20. CPC Workbook: <https://www.aa.org/cooperation-professional-community-cpc-workbook>

21. F-20 Anonymity Statement Card: <https://www.aa.org/anonymity-statement-card>

22. Fact File: <https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/SM%20F-94%20AA%20Fact%20Sheet%20EN%200921.pdf>

23. General Service Conference Structure https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/smf-116_GeneralServiceConferenceStructure_EN_1121.pdf

24. Members Employed in the Field of Alcoholism

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/MG-10_0924.pdf

25. Newsletter for Professionals:

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/f-13_winter2023.pdf

26. P-16 The AA Group. . . Where It All Begins: https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/P-16_0624.pdf

27. P-35 Problems Other Than Alcohol

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/p-35_0624.pdf

28. P-48 Alcoholics Anonymous 2022 Membership Survey:

<https://www.aa.org/alcoholics-anonymous-2022-membership-survey>

29. PI Workbook:

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/M-27i_PubInfWorkbk.pdf

30. Preamble Background: https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/smf-127_en.pdf

31. Press Releases

<https://www.aa.org/press-media>

32. Public Information (PI) Service Pieces: <https://www.aa.org/pi-service-cards>

33. Public Service Announcements (PSA) are on the aa.org website: <https://www.aa.org/audio-public-service-announcement-downloads>

34. Regional Forum Video - <https://www.aa.org/regional-forum-video>

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35. SMF-176 Services Provided by G.S.O./A.A.W.S.

<https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/SMF-176%20ServicesProvidedByGSO%20EN%201221.pdf>

36. Seventh Tradition Fact Sheet:

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/F-203_7th_Tradition_Fact_Sheet_2024.pdf

37. Speaking at Non-A.A. meetings: <https://www.aa.org/speaking-meetings-outside-aa>

38. Understanding Anonymity:

https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/P-47_0924.pdf

39. Unity and Service/Three Legacies Conference: <https://www.3legacyconference.org/>

40. What's New button on the GSO website (near the bottom of the home page)

<https://www.aa.org/news-and-announcements>

41. There is also an archived newsletter *Markings* (published between 1981-2016):

<https://www.aa.org/markings-newsletter>

Other Books:

- **AA Comes of Age (AACOA)** <https://onlineliterature.aa.org/A.A.-Comes-of-Age>
- **Our Great Responsibility** - This is a compilation of Bill W's General Service Conference talks 1951 - 1970 <https://onlineliterature.aa.org/Our-Great-Responsibility>
- **Pass It On** may be found at this link - <https://onlineliterature.aa.org/Pass-It-On>

Grapevine Links

1. AA Grapevine's Podcast, a new podcast drops every Monday:

<https://www.aagrapevine.org/podcast>

2. AA Grapevine Store Books and Magazines (current and past issues):

<https://www.aagrapevine.org/store>

3. Grapevine archive - <https://www.aagrapevine.org/archive/>

4. Grapevine article on Podcasts: <https://www.aagrapevine.org/announcing-gv-new-podcast>

5. Grapevine Workbook for reps.: https://www.aagrapevine.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/GV_Workbook_Dec_2023.pdf

6. History of AA Grapevine on the podcast - thanks for a great meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QFcGTDYIT8>

7. La Vina archive: <https://www.aalavina.org/archivo>

8. Other Grapevine Rep Recourses are available at this link. Lots of good info! - <https://www.aagrapevine.org/gvr-resources>

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9. Subscriptions for the Grapevine in the US - <https://www.aagrapevine.org/store/us-subscriptions>
10. *The Language of the Heart: Bill W.'s Grapevine Writings* (LOTH): January 1966, The Guidance of AA's World Affairs page 334: <https://www.aagrapevine.org/store/language-heart-softcover>
11. Grapevine Carry The Message Project: <https://www.aagrapevine.org/2023-carry-message-project>

Recordings from past Threads of Recovery workshops at RecoveryTapers.org:

- The recordings and reference links referenced from this series are going to be all under this link. They are available for free to listen/download. Enjoy and pass it on! - <https://www.recoverytapers.org/product-category/alcoholics-anonymous/advisory-actions/>
- Michael B. and Penny P. – Modem To Modem A History of Online AA audio: <https://www.recoverytapers.org/product/michael-b-and-penny-p-mode-to-modem-a-history-of-online-aa/>
- Service Manual Workshop series with Francine and Merri is at this link : <https://www.recoverytapers.org/product-category/alcoholics-anonymous/service-manual/>
- Service Manual – www.AA.org – Francine W., Palm Desert, CA & Merri M., Des Moines, IA #12 : <https://www.recoverytapers.org/product/service-manual-www-aa-org-francine-w-palm-desert-ca-merri-m-des-moines-ia-12/>
- Previous Concept Workshop audios - <https://www.recoverytapers.org/product-category/alcoholics-anonymous/concept-workshops/>