

Group Conscience Items

1. Consider a request to create a pamphlet for mental health professionals.

This request came from the Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee in Area 11, Connecticut, who received a vote of confidence at an Area assembly to put it forward. They noted that in our existing literature, medical professionals are addressed but nothing speaks directly and specifically to the mental health professional. The group feels if a specific pamphlet existed it might increase the chances of mental health professionals reading it and being better able to help a person with a desire to stop drinking. Ideas suggested for possible content in such a pamphlet included: AA is not the same as psychotherapy; AA is spiritual, not religious; prescribed medications do not interfere with the principles of AA; there is no cost and no affiliation with other entities; information about the website and smartphone app; suggestions to attend an open meeting and be in contact with the local CPC committee.

Does your group or committee feel there is a need for a new pamphlet directed at mental health professionals? Why, or why not?

2. Consider request for a review of all correction related literature to replace terms such as “inmate” and “offender” with less stigmatizing language.

Beginning as a motion from Area 79 (British Columbia/Yukon), background materials note that terms such as “inmate” and “offender” are used by corrections facility administration, not by incarcerated AA members. These words may be taken as derogatory and do not create a sense of belonging. Literature containing these words may not feel inclusive and can go unused. In order to lower the barriers, offer respect, and to aid in recovery, this proposal suggests alternate words should be chosen for the literature, such as “member on the inside” or “incarcerated member.”

Does your group feel that terms like “inmate” and “offender” should be replaced in corrections literature? Why, or why not?

3. Consider requests to revise the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*: **To remove the phrase “opposite sex” from paragraph two on page 117 in the chapter “Step Twelve.”**

This proposal comes from a group in St. Petersburg, Florida, having failed to achieve substantial consensus at the district level. The current text on page 117 of the *Twelve and Twelve* states: “Nearly every sound human being experiences, at some time in life, a compelling desire to find a mate of the opposite sex with whom the fullest possible union can be made—spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical. This mighty urge is the root of great human accomplishments, a creative energy that deeply influences our lives. God fashioned us that way.”

The proposer states that the removal of the words would be more inclusive, the words are religious in nature and in conflict with Tradition 10, and that some members were personally offended by the text as written as it implied a condition of membership. He also states that those against the change were concerned that if we start changing anything, where would we stop and that, as written, the *Twelve and Twelve* was good enough to get them sober, so it's good enough for everyone.

What does your group think about this section of the 12x12? Is the removal of the phrase “of the opposite sex” necessary? Why, or why not?
