

District 47 Agenda Items Workshop Meeting Notes

Grapevine La-Vina Item C: Discuss the cost effectiveness and sustainability of continuing to print La Viña (3 in favor) (6 against)

- **Brandon-** AAWS is trying to raise awareness of the shortfall of funds and want to get AA fellowships if the La Vina should be funding by AA 7th tradition contributions.
- **Dirk-**La Vina should be self-supporting, and we should have more people buying subscriptions such as Grapevine.
- **James-** He appreciates having the literature so that newcomers can read to better help them understand A.A. and the fellowship. There are lots of great personal stories and this is helpful for the newcomers.

Literature Item F: Review draft manuscript of the translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language. (4 in favor) (6 against)

- **Brandon**—The purpose of the big book plain language is to reach more alcoholics with lower reading levels
- **Kieth**—There is already literature translated on Amazon, why does GSO need to print more?
- **James**—Majority of members at Bridge Street are against having changes to the big book. They would like to see a glossary at the back of the big book. Members are against the Plain Language Big Book and stated if a newcomer does not have reading comprehension they should listen to podcast or recordings.
- **Pam**—Stated don't make anything more stupid for stupid people! People need to read and use a dictionary so they can get smarter.
- **Dirk**—GSO needs to have footnotes in the big book where people can read the definition of the words. He stated that he will boycott purchasing the new book.
- **James**—The big book states we should not look for an easier softer way, so why are we developing a plain language book?
- **Fred**—Is against the publication of the book it is a waste of AA members money.

Public Information — Item K: Consider revised proposal to develop an AAWS Instagram account. (15 people against)

- **Brandon**—Using an account on social media would prevent anonymity. When users like a or comment on a posting the users name is tracked on the post. Sometimes users use personal names on social media accounts.
- **James**—People should share about A.A. through word of mouth to share about their personal experiences strength and hope to others in the community. He

stated there is a website called recovery out loud where people post a bunch of stuff online and disclose personal issues and break anonymity. AAWS should look at the 11th Tradition and ask themselves are we following this as a rule?

- **Mike C**—Adding more cost for keeping up the social media site is not affordable since AAWS is starting to fall in the red.

Cooperation with the Professional Community — Item D: Discuss effectiveness and relevance of CPC videos currently on aa.org.

- **James**—Updating the pamphlets is a good idea he has seen pre-med students in meetings listening and taking meeting notes.
- **Sean**—Thinks that this is all extra work and extra costs. How many times are they being used and watched. Is there any data to back up the need to update the videos and spend extra money?

2 in favor, 5 abstain, 4 not in favor.

Int'l Conventions/Regional Forums — Item D: Discuss options for closing the Big Meeting at the International Convention. (9 in favor) (1 Abstain)

- **Jim**—Stated that all A.A. members have been saved by God's grace and we should leave the Lord's Prayer
- **Jane**—The Lords Prayer is not religious to many members of other countries.
- **Kieth**—wants to keep the Lord's Prayer.
- **Pam**—Wants AAWS to keep the Lord's Prayer in all closing ceremonies.

Report & Charter — Item C: Discuss the reporting of Simple Majority Items

James—It should be brought up at the next GSO that it should not be in any sections of the Final Conference Report titled "Recommendations Passed by Simple Majority." This is confusing and many think that they are providing a double standard. The item was not passed and should not be listed as such.

Brandon—The Final Conference report should have a separate section that states was not passed rather than "Recommendations Passed by Simple Majority." They should create a section called tabled items!

Our District is not in favor of continuing the practice and should not include this as recommendations passed by Simple Majority