

list of aa conference approved literature

list of aa conference approved literature plays a crucial role in the recovery journey of individuals participating in Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). This carefully curated collection of books, pamphlets, and other materials is officially approved by the General Service Conference of AA, ensuring that the content aligns with the principles and traditions of the organization. AA conference approved literature serves as a reliable source of guidance, inspiration, and education for newcomers and long-term members alike. It encompasses a broad range of topics including personal stories, the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, and practical advice for maintaining sobriety. This article provides a comprehensive overview of the official AA conference approved literature, highlighting key publications, their purpose, and how they contribute to the recovery process. The following sections will cover foundational texts, supplementary readings, and other approved materials commonly used within AA groups.

- Overview of AA Conference Approved Literature
- Foundational Texts of AA
- Supplementary and Specialized Literature
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Overview of AA Conference Approved Literature

The list of AA conference approved literature is a collection of writings and resources that have been officially sanctioned by the AA General Service Conference. This approval ensures that the materials accurately reflect AA's spiritual principles, methods, and the collective experience of its members. The literature is designed to support the recovery process by providing clear guidance based on the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. It also aims to foster unity and consistency across AA groups worldwide. The approved literature includes a variety of formats such as books, pamphlets, and booklets that cover different aspects of alcoholism and recovery.

Each piece of literature undergoes a rigorous review process by the AA Conference Literature Committee, ensuring it meets the standards of helpfulness, clarity, and appropriateness for AA members. The availability of official literature is essential for both newcomers seeking direction and experienced members looking to deepen their understanding of the program. This ensures that the recovery message remains consistent and accessible, regardless of geographic location or cultural background.

Foundational Texts of AA

The core of the list of AA conference approved literature consists of several foundational texts that

form the backbone of the AA program. These works provide the essential framework for understanding alcoholism, the process of recovery, and the principles that guide AA meetings and individual sobriety.

Alcoholics Anonymous (The Big Book)

Often referred to simply as "The Big Book," Alcoholics Anonymous is the primary text of the AA fellowship. First published in 1939, it contains the original Twelve Steps, personal recovery stories, and detailed explanations of the AA program. The Big Book is considered the cornerstone of AA literature and has been instrumental in helping millions achieve sobriety worldwide.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

This book elaborates on the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of AA, providing members with a deeper understanding of each step and tradition. It offers practical guidance for applying these principles in daily life and group settings, reinforcing the spiritual foundation of the program.

Daily Reflections

Daily Reflections is a collection of 365 meditations, offering insight and encouragement for every day of the year. Each reflection is based on AA principles and is designed to inspire members to maintain their sobriety and personal growth.

Supplementary and Specialized Literature

In addition to the foundational texts, the list of AA conference approved literature includes supplementary and specialized publications that address specific needs and demographics within the AA community. These materials help members explore different aspects of recovery and provide additional support for diverse groups.

Living Sober

Living Sober is a practical guide for staying sober without relying heavily on spiritual or religious language. It offers straightforward advice and strategies that are accessible to a broad audience, focusing on everyday situations that challenge sobriety.

Experience, Strength and Hope

This book is a compilation of personal stories from AA members around the world. It highlights the variety of experiences within the fellowship and reinforces the message that recovery is possible for anyone willing to work the program.

AA for the Woman

Specifically addressing women in AA, this pamphlet and related literature explore the unique challenges women face in recovery and how the AA program can support their journey to sobriety.

Pamphlets and Booklets

The list of AA conference approved literature also includes a wide selection of pamphlets and booklets that provide focused information on particular topics related to alcoholism and recovery. These shorter publications are frequently used in meetings and for newcomer orientation.

- “Is AA for You?” – An introduction to what AA is and who it is for.
- “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” – Visual explanations of AA’s guiding principles.
- “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” – Guidance on the sponsorship relationship within AA.
- “Young People and AA” – Addressing the concerns of younger members.
- “The AA Member—Medications and Other Drugs” – Information on the intersection of medication and recovery.

These pamphlets serve as accessible entry points for newcomers and provide clarity on various aspects of the AA program. They are often distributed during meetings and made available in treatment centers and recovery facilities.

How to Access and Use Conference Approved Literature

Conference approved literature is widely available through official AA channels, including local AA offices, intergroup committees, and the AA World Services website. Members and groups are encouraged to use these materials to maintain consistency and fidelity to AA principles. Purchasing literature through official sources also supports AA’s mission and helps fund the distribution of recovery resources worldwide.

Using approved literature in meetings and personal study ensures that members receive accurate and time-tested guidance. Many AA groups incorporate readings from the Big Book or Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions into their meeting formats. Newcomers benefit from pamphlets that explain the program’s basics in clear terms. Additionally, literature study groups are a common practice within AA to deepen understanding and strengthen sobriety.

Access to conference approved literature is a vital component of the AA recovery ecosystem, providing members with the tools needed to navigate the challenges of alcoholism and maintain long-term sobriety.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the AA Conference Approved Literature list?

The AA Conference Approved Literature list is a collection of books, pamphlets, and other materials that have been reviewed and approved by the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous for use in AA meetings and by members.

Where can I find the official list of AA Conference Approved Literature?

The official list of AA Conference Approved Literature can be found on the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (AAWS) website or in the AA Service Manual.

Why is it important to use Conference Approved Literature in AA meetings?

Using Conference Approved Literature ensures that the materials align with AA's principles and traditions, maintaining unity and consistency within the fellowship.

Are all AA books considered Conference Approved Literature?

No, only books and pamphlets that have been reviewed and approved by the General Service Conference are considered Conference Approved Literature. Some books written by members may not have official approval.

Can new literature be added to the AA Conference Approved list?

Yes, new literature can be added after being submitted, reviewed, and approved by the General Service Conference, usually after a period of review and input from the fellowship.

What are some examples of AA Conference Approved Literature?

Examples include 'Alcoholics Anonymous' (the Big Book), 'Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions', 'Daily Reflections', and various pamphlets like 'This Is AA' and 'The AA Group'.

Is the AA Conference Approved Literature list updated regularly?

Yes, the list is periodically reviewed and updated during the General Service Conference sessions to reflect new approved publications and revisions.

Additional Resources

1. *Alcoholics Anonymous: The Big Book*

This foundational text of Alcoholics Anonymous outlines the program's philosophy and methods for achieving sobriety. It includes personal stories of recovery and offers practical guidance for individuals struggling with alcoholism. The book emphasizes the importance of fellowship, spiritual growth, and taking personal responsibility in the recovery journey.

2. *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*

Often referred to as the "12 & 12," this book provides detailed explanations of AA's Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. It offers insights into the spiritual principles behind each step and tradition, helping members understand their application in daily life and group settings. This literature is widely used in AA meetings for study and discussion.

3. *Daily Reflections*

A collection of 365 meditations, one for each day of the year, this book offers inspirational thoughts related to recovery and sobriety. Each reflection is rooted in AA principles and is designed to provide encouragement, hope, and guidance as members navigate challenges. It serves as a daily companion for those committed to maintaining sobriety.

4. *As Bill Sees It*

This book compiles writings and reflections by Bill Wilson, co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous. It presents Bill's perspectives on recovery, spirituality, and the AA program, offering wisdom and practical advice. Readers gain a deeper understanding of AA's founding principles and the mindset needed for lasting sobriety.

5. *Experience, Strength & Hope*

A collection of personal stories from AA members around the world, this book illustrates diverse paths to recovery. The narratives highlight the common struggles and successes experienced in sobriety, providing inspiration and solidarity. It serves as a reminder that recovery is possible for everyone, regardless of background.

6. *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*

This historical account details the early days of Alcoholics Anonymous and the role of Dr. Bob Smith, co-founder of AA. It includes stories of the first members and the development of the fellowship's principles and traditions. The book offers valuable context and appreciation for AA's origins.

7. *Young People and AA*

Focused on younger members, this book addresses the unique challenges faced by young people in recovery. It features stories and advice from young AA members, helping to foster a sense of community and understanding. The literature encourages youth to engage with the program and build lasting sobriety.

8. *AA in Prison: Inmate to Inmate*

This book presents stories and insights from incarcerated individuals who have found recovery through AA while in prison. It highlights the transformative power of the program in a challenging environment. The literature aims to support inmates in their journey toward sobriety and personal growth.

9. *Language of the Heart*

A compilation of Bill Wilson's letters and writings, this book offers intimate reflections on recovery

and the spiritual life. It provides readers with a deeper connection to the principles underlying AA and the personal experiences of one of its founders. The writings encourage reflection, hope, and commitment to the AA path.

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