

Proposal: **Permanently discontinue the production of the Area 48 meeting schedule books and continue to produce the tri-fold pamphlet**

Background:

In the past, the Area has designed and produced meeting schedule books, with all the meetings happening in Area 48 included. The books are produced once a year. During the pandemic, due to rapidly changing meeting information, a tri-fold pamphlet was designed and used instead of the books. The tri-fold pamphlet directs people to our meeting finder where they have nearly real-time, accurate meeting information.

The books will be outdated within weeks of distribution. There are an average 10 – 15 group changes each week, meaning that within one month there could be 40 – 60 changes. If a newcomer using the Area 48 meeting book were to come to a meeting that wasn't there because of a change, that could have a negative, potentially fatal impact on them.

Newcomers are using technology to find meetings. Very few are going to choose an obsolete book over our website or the app.

People looking for a meeting can find one based on information that is up to date within the week by using either our Area 48 meeting finder or the Meeting Guide app (a service of A.A. World Services, Inc. which uses the information from our Area meeting finder).

Many districts produce their own meeting schedules, specific to their district or local area. These are more accurate than the book (due to fewer changes) and can be re-printed as often as necessary. They are more helpful because they filter down to just the local meetings.

In addition to being distributed by the DCMs and the Committee Chairs, the area's tri-fold pamphlet is also available for download and printing directly from the area website.

Printing the tri-fold pamphlet instead of the books will save groups and facilities money. Our Area must re-bid the book production this year. The books are expected to cost about \$0.56 each and the tri-fold pamphlets \$0.08 each, not including shipping. The printer who we used in the past estimated 19,000 books will be \$10,656.00 while 20,000 pamphlets will be \$1,648.00 (not including shipping). Shipping costs will also increase and shipping the pamphlets will cost less, because they weigh much less than the books.

I believe that this proposal follows Concept XII Warranty 2, which is a counsel of "prudence in money matters" and Concept IX, in the essay on Leadership in A.A., where Bill W. talks about the "all-important attribute of *vision*." He says, "Vision is, I think, the ability to make good estimates, both for the immediate and for the more distant future." "We must think about our service needs as they relate to general economic conditions, group capability, and willingness to contribute." Are groups going to want to spend their contributions on a book that will be outdated so quickly? Will they even purchase the books? Would a newcomer prefer an outdated book over a pamphlet that directs them to a website with up-to-date information? Have the treatment centers which purchase the books budgeted for the increased shipping costs? Would the books even benefit their clients after a few weeks, or would they possibly be sending them to meetings that aren't there?

The Service Manual will be edited to reflect this change as follows:

15 references to "meeting schedule" to be changed to "tri-fold pamphlet" (pluralized if the original reference is plural).

Section 3.6 Alternate Treasurer (in addition to the above)

Accepts delivery, stores, and distributes extra budgeted pamphlets.

Reports to Finance Committee on checking account, returns extra pamphlet seed money, and any monies over the \$500 prudent reserve for pamphlets.

Section 10.0 Tri-Fold Pamphlet Publication and Format

Any major changes to the format of the Area tri-fold pamphlet will be determined by a consensus of the District Committee Members and District Records Keepers and will not require approval of the Area Assembly.

The Registrar/Alternate Secretary will produce a draft version for each District to review in September of each year. All updates and corrections will be finalized in October and the copy for the printer will be available for printing by the end of November each year with the goal of having the pamphlet printed and shipped by the end of December.

The Alternate Treasurer will create and distribute an order form and have it available to accept orders beginning in September each year.

The specifications for the printing of the pamphlets will be the responsibility of the Alternate Treasurer in collaboration with Registrar/Alternate Secretary. The specifications will be sent to printing companies for competitive bidding on a three-year performance-based contract. The bids will be tabulated by the Alternate Treasurer and a printing company chosen based on the lowest responsible bidder. Should there be two or more apparently equal bids, the Finance Committee shall be responsible for choosing the printing company.

Respectfully submitted by: Sue W., Area Registrar records@ahmbny.org

With help from Kate O., Alternate Treasurer, Bill W., Past Delegate Panel 66, Cathy P., DCM District 17, Dolores K., Alternate Area Chair, Gretchen E., Alternate Area Registrar, Guy K., Area Chair, Tammie E., Area Delegate Panel 72