

Consider request for the development of a new pamphlet for Spanish speaking women alcoholics.

The Spanish speaking female alcoholic has been identified as an underrepresented group in our fellowship.

Should there be a new Spanish language pamphlet that addresses issues, cultural or otherwise not covered in the pamphlet AA for the Woman?

Background notes:

Area 05 Southern California asked the Conference to consider a new pamphlet.

(Area 05 is covered by overlapping English Language -Spanish Language Districts Part of Los Angeles which includes Downtown LA, Beverly Hills, Santa Monica, Malibu, Glendale, Pasadena and Pomona)

The proposal came after the first Spanish speaking Women's Workshop SSWW was conducted in San Diego Area 08 in August 2016 with 60 in attendance and more than doubling with 150 at the second SSWW conducted on December 3rd, 2017 in Pasadena Area 05, the third annual SSWW will be hosted again in Area 08 sometime this year. Other Areas such as 06 California Northern Coastal including the San Francisco Bay Area, 08 San Diego Imperial, 09 Southern part of LA County, Orange County, Riverside County including Long Beach, Irvine, Anaheim, Santa Ana, east to west it goes from the coast to Nevada state line and 93 is north of LA to the middle of CA from coast to the Nevada state lines including San Fernando Valley, ARE part of this movement that geographically includes a much wider community of Hispanic Woman. I'm proud to add Area 49 to this movement as we are supporting Manhattan County who will be hosting a SSWW on Saturday May 5th, 2018 and the following day Sunday May 6th, 2018 Orange County will do a Part II on one of the panels at The Joy of Service Workshop.

As a result of these workshops new Spanish speaking groups have started in California and for the first time in 50 years in 2017 Hispanic Woman had a roundtable at PRAASA, so there is much discussion regarding the need for AA literature dedicated to the Spanish speaking woman.

The trustees Literature Committee reviewed and agreed on January 27, 2018 to forward this request to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature.

While the pamphlet AA for the Woman addresses women alcoholics there are issues specific to Spanish speaking women the pamphlet does not address.

A few of the Issues these women are facing:

There is often a deep rooted cultural shame the family members of the Spanish Community report when the female admits her alcoholism, so it is often hidden.

Many Spanish speaking women are first generation immigrants with little or no family here in the US and Canada and may not have the same resources available to others. As a result they may not have anyone outside of the fellowship to help them realize the gravity of their disease.

There are many Spanish speaking groups without alcoholic women members for the newcomers to identify with resulting in a lack of sponsorship for these women

Because there are so few women in the Spanish speaking AA groups , these women often at times find themselves alone in the rooms and feel unsafe.

The few female members at meetings (sometimes referred to as “Queen Bees” are not so welcoming to the woman, they remain sober but refuse to help other women achieve sobriety)

(Queen Bee Syndrome describes woman in a position of authority in a male dominated environment who treat subordinates harsher or more critical if they are female. First defined by feminist researchers GL Staines, TE Jayaratne, and C Tavis in 1973.)

At some male dominated meetings women are not allowed to chair or do service below the group level.

(The idea of the Spanish speaking woman being an underrepresented group in Alcoholics Anonymous was first brought to my attention after attending the Safety In AA Workshop hosted by District 602 Manhattan County. A Spanish speaking woman in tears confirmed that her group does not allow women to chair meetings or serve below the group level. Another item is the article in box 459 titled “One Voice, Many Voices” that confirmed these issues are obstacles the Spanish speaking women alcoholic faces.)

This pamphlet would be in line with other pamphlets referred to as “Third Tradition literature” (for my purpose only will not read AA for the Black & African American

Native North American
Gay/Lesbian
Armed Forces
Alcoholics with Special Needs
Older Alcoholic-Never too Late
Too Young
Young People and AA

From the 2017 General Service Conference Final Report 58,978 pamphlets AA for the Woman were distributed and 5,544 AA Para La Mujer)

The pamphlets purpose would be to extend the hand of AA to the Spanish speaking woman alcoholic letting her know she is not alone, she belongs, and that we do not have to be exactly alike to share in our common problem and common solution. The creation of this pamphlet would help greatly in our 12th Step Work ,carrying the message to the Spanish speaking woman because anything that compromises the attraction to come into AA as well as come back to AA is a safety issue.

Resources: Background info from John W Delegate Panel 67 Area 49
Jane G Past Delegate Panel 66 San Diego Imperial Area 08
Article titled “One Voice, Many Voices” from box 459 Volume 63 No.4 /Winter 2017
My Service Sponsor
Registrars from Area 05 Brian P and Area 49 Fred M
General Service Office : Patrick Claymore, Sandra Wilson
My fellow DCMC’s Scott M and TomB and Karina C

