

## BOOK TIMELINE

January of 2004 - May of 2008: Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center (BCMDC) purchased at least 13,450 A.A. books for their Addictions Treatment Program. GSO was able to provide copies of 6 original invoices.

Pre-2019: Sometime prior to 2019, nearly half of these books, along with other recovery materials (including NA and commercial treatment books), were moved from the Westside MDC location to the basement of the old Bernalillo County Detention Center (BCDC) in downtown Albuquerque. We do not know when or why the books were moved.

2/27/2019: County employees were assigned to remove all recovery materials (including AA, NA and other treatment books) from the basement of the old BCDC and take them to the county dump. One of the county employees assigned to this job happened to be a member of A.A. and thought someone in A.A. might like to have the books. So, this employee/A.A. member called another A.A. member (to be referred to as R.2.) who then got in contact with the Area 46 Alt. Chairperson.

The Alternate Area Chair made three calls. First to the Area Chair, who could not be reached as he was working in Los Alamos and did not have cell phone service. Next to the Area Literature Committee Chair, who was working in Santa Fe and was not sure he could get a crew together in time. Finally, to the Area Corrections Committee Chair (Corrections Chair), who took responsibility for collecting the books.

The Corrections Chair was told that the county employees would drop off the books in the parking lot at MATS (Metropolitan Assessment and Treatment Services) in Southeast Albuquerque and that he should be there to pick them up at 3 PM. When he and his 3 A.A. volunteers arrived, they found that there were more books than expected. They loaded what they could into their trucks and got permission from the MATS employee in charge to pick up the remaining books on the following day.

Due to the unexpectedly large quantity of books he found, the Corrections Chair also determined that he would need to rent a storage unit to house the books. The Corrections Chair rented a storage unit near his home and paid for it using funds from the Corrections bank account. Later, the Corrections Chair consulted with his service sponsor, who also happens to be the Area Chair. The Area Chair advised the Corrections Chair that it had been alright to use Corrections funds to pay for storage, reasoning that it was used for Corrections literature.

2/28/19: The Corrections Chair and his volunteers moved the rest of the books into the storage unit on the following day. The Corrections Chair contacted a friend of his in N.A. and gave him the N.A. books that had been moved from MATS to the storage unit.

3/30/19: At the Trusted Servants Meeting during the Area Assembly, the Alt. Area Chair informed those present that the Area had received a number of books and sent around a sign-up sheet asking Area Committee Chairs to tell her how many books they wanted. The Corrections Chair reported about how he retrieved the books and reported that he paid for storage rental using "Pink Can" funds. The balance of the Trusted Servants meeting was engulfed in discussions around the books and did not result in any consensus decision. The subject was left undecided due to time restraint.

4/2/19: An inventory of the books in the storage unit was taken. Those present were the Area Chair, Alt. Area Chair, Area Delegate, and Area Corrections Chair. The current inventory of books in storage is

6,044 books. The books include Big Books, 12 x 12s, and various other publications both in English and Spanish.

4/20/19: To stop continuing rental costs, the books were moved to a Past Delegate's storage unit. Ongoing storage costs = \$0. Total cost of storage to date was \$176.93. (Note: All "Pink Can" funds initially used to pay for storage were repaid by separate donations to the Corrections Committee.)

7/23/19: The Area Chair called the first meeting of an ad hoc committee to determine how to help the members make an *informed* decision about the books at the upcoming Area Assembly. This committee has met weekly ever since. The committee has included the Area Chair, Delegate, Alt. Delegate, Area Treasurer, Area Corrections Chair, DCM of District 3, Area Secretary, and Alt. Chair.

## Area 46 Storage Inventory

Inventory taken 4/2/19

### English Books

Inv. #	Language	Description	Full Cases <sup>1</sup>	Loose Books	Total
B-2	English	12 & 12, hard cover	85	8	1,708
B-6	English	<i>Came to Believe</i>		19	19
B-7	English	<i>Living Sober</i> (case = 50 books)		1	1
B-15	English	12 & 12, soft cover	34	257	937
B-17	English	12 & 12, pocket edition, soft cover		12	12
B-20	English	<i>Experience, Strength &amp; Hope</i> , hard cover	2	36	76
B-30	English	Big Book, soft cover, 4th ed.	39	15	795
<b>Total English Books</b>			<b>160</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>3,548</b>

### Spanish Books

Inv. #	Language	Description	Full Cases <sup>1</sup>	Loose Books	Total
SB-7	Spanish	<i>Living Sober</i> (case = 50 books)	1	38	88
SB-13	Spanish	<i>A.A. In Prison: Inmate to Inmate</i>	24		480
SB-15	Spanish	12 & 12, soft cover	22		440
SB-17	Spanish	12 & 12, pocket edition, soft cover		18	18
SB-18	Spanish	<i>As Bill Sees It</i>	4		80
SB-21	Spanish	"De las tinieblas hacia la luz", hard cover <sup>2</sup>	8		160
SB-30	Spanish	Big Book, soft cover, 2nd ed.	22	50	490
SB-30	Spanish	Big Book, soft cover, 3rd ed.	37		740
<b>Total Spanish Books</b>			<b>118</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>2,496</b>

### Total Books

	Language	Description	Full Cases	Loose Books	Total
	English	Total English Books	160	348	3,548
	Spanish	Total Spanish Books	118	106	2,496
<b>Total Books</b>			<b>278</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>6,044</b>

<sup>1</sup>Full cases contain 20 books each unless otherwise noted.

<sup>2</sup>"De las tinieblas hacia la luz" translates to "From the darkness to the light."  
This book is the equivalent to *Experience Strength & Hope*.

## GOING FORWARD:

Deciding what to do with the book inventory is not a matter of light concern. While the books are of great value in that they are tools to carry the message, they have also created some controversy and disunity in our Area. As we go forward, let us all remember that Unity is our most cherished quality. And let's treat each other with love and tolerance as we work toward a solution.

Thanks to the committee that prepared the background information and to the others who contributed information here today. Hopefully, we all now have a pretty good understanding of how many and which books are included in the inventory, how those books came into the possession of Area 46, and other considerations that we might want to keep in mind as we move forward. Our next step will be for the Assembly to decide whether to "Keep the Books" or "Not Keep the Books."

While either "Keeping the Books" or "Not Keeping the Books" sounds like a simple black-or-white decision, whichever way the Assembly decides to go, the Assembly will then have to figure out how to carry out that decision. The committee came up with a few options for how the books might be distributed or disposed of. The following chart describes some of these options:

<b>"Keep the Books"</b>	<b>"Not Keep the Books"</b>
<i>Area 46 would accept ownership of the inventory and would take responsibility for its distribution.</i>	<i>Area 46 would not accept ownership of the inventory but would try to find an entity to take ownership of the inventory before taking the inventory to recycle or the dump.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Divide the books between the Area Corrections and Area Treatment Committees for distribution to correctional, treatment, and sober living facilities in Area 46.</li><li>• Distribute books equally amongst Districts.</li><li>• Distribute books only in Districts that are not supported by a Central Office so as not to financially disadvantage the Central Offices.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Give the books to Central Offices in New Mexico if they would accept them.</li><li>• Return the books to Bernalillo County if they would accept them.</li><li>• Take books to recycle or the dump as they were destined for by the original owner.</li></ul>

Unfortunately, the committee did not have time to fully develop these options for Area 46 to make a fully informed decision at the September Assembly. Therefore, we are suggesting that the GSRs take all of this information back to their groups and that a decision on whether to "Keep the Books" or "Not Keep the Books" be made at the December Assembly.

In the meantime, the committee that worked on this background information will be expanded to include the entire Trusted Servants Committee (which includes the Delegate and Alt. Delegate, Area Officers, Area Standing Committee Chairs, and DCMs). The Trusted Servants Committee will explore additional options for what the Area might do with the books whether the Assembly decides to "Keep the Books" or "Not Keep the Books." Of course, the Assembly will make the final decision as to how to distribute or dispose of the books after it has decided whether or not to keep them.

If you or your group have any suggestions for the use, distribution, or disposal of the inventory, please submit your ideas to the Area Chair at [Chair@nm-aa.org](mailto:Chair@nm-aa.org) to have them included in committee discussions.

We realize that this is a lot of information to review. But we sincerely request your patience and your participation in resolving this significant matter.