

Please direct all
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Now in Its Final Weeks!

Five-Month Reduced Shipping Test Pilot through October 18

Dear A.A. Friends,

As part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that A.A. literature is equally accessible throughout the Fellowship and to remove barriers that may hinder getting our life-saving literature into the hands of all who need it, we implemented:

A Five-Month Test Pilot on Reduced Shipping Charges

Effective May 17 – October 18, 2021

Orders	Shipping charge
under \$25	\$5
\$25 - \$50	\$7
\$50 - \$250	12% of total
\$250 - \$500	10% of total
over \$500	Free Shipping

Note: Dollar totals are in U.S. currency. Shipping charges are based on totals before applicable sales tax.

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We are now in the final weeks of this test pilot. We invite all who wish to participate in this pilot program to please do so by October 18, 2021.

We continue to encourage members to purchase literature from their home groups and local distribution sources (Intergroups and Central Offices). This pilot period for the adjusted shipping fee structure has allowed us to chart the effects of reduced shipping charges for a limited-time, five-month period.

Why are we doing this five-month experiment?

We receive a high volume of comments daily stating that shipping charges for A.A. literature are too high. We hear this from the many groups and individual members who comprise the Fellowship that the General Service Office was created to serve.

A.A.W.S. has worked diligently in recent years to help make our literature more accessible. Standard price increases have not been considered for almost six years. Indeed, as of last April 15, 2020, we reduced and “normalized” prices for several items across languages (English, French and Spanish) and formats (such as large print and audiobooks, for example). Handling charges have been eliminated.

We recognize that individual members and groups are not the only entities that purchase our literature. Intergroups and Central Offices are vitally important service partners for us. They are incredibly important to the Fellowship as a whole, performing services locally that cannot be provided by the General Service Office in New York. Although we feel that this change to our shipping cost structure will be beneficial to all who purchase literature directly from us in the long term, we want to confirm this supposition before we make such a change permanent. Therefore, once the pilot is complete, we will:

- examine the data;
- listen to input from all those who buy from us; and
- carefully consider any positive or negative impacts.

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We take our fiduciary responsibility seriously, which includes our oversight and decision-making on pricing, discounts and shipping charges. We are ever mindful that “money and spirituality mix” in each of these transactions.

Just like every member of the Fellowship, our goal is to carry the message of recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic. Your office and your A.A.W.S. board want to ensure that our literature is accessible to all. Hopefully, this will help to get our books into the hands of those who need them.

For questions, comments and sharing on this topic, please email us at publishingnews@aa.org.

Warmly,



Jimmy D.

Chair, A.A.W.S. Board



Deborah K.

Chair, A.A.W.S. Finance Committee

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