What is CPA “Conference Approved Literature?”

World Service Conference (WSC) approval ensures a piece of literature represents CPA members’ experience, strength and hope. These items go through a rigorous review process, with input from the fellowship and professionals. Conference Approved materials, whether written or audiovisual, go through the outlined literature process (see below). CAL was created to ensure that CPA literature expresses the CPA perspective. It is written and approved by CPA members, for the CPA fellowship, from the CPA point of view.

What is the process to approve CPA literature?

The process of conference approval indicates that CPA literature committee members, fellowship readers, and editors thoroughly review the material before publication so that it will be an expression of CPA’s principles supported by the group conscience of the fellowship.

Proposals for the creation of new literature or the broad revision of existing material are brought to the CPA Board of Trustees for approval. The material is then developed by members of the Literature Committee. The first draft is shared with the fellowship and a period of time is set for feedback. Feedback is reviewed by the Literature Committee, who creates the final draft. This draft is presented to the Board of Trustees. If the Board of Trustees recommends approval, the final draft is sent to all members of CPA so it can be voted on at the next WSC to be identified as Conference Approved Literature.

What constitutes CAL?


Any books published by CPA are copyrighted with the Copyright Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., USA. To ensure the continued integrity of CPA literature
and to make sure the program is not distorted or diluted, permission to replicate the books must be obtained from the Board of Trustees.

All CAL can be purchased through the CPA website at chronicpainanonymous.org. Not all materials provided by CPA are Conference Approved. Service materials, guidelines, Intergroup materials, and materials created by individual groups do not need to receive Conference Approval.

Other literature can be helpful in our program of recovery and CPA does not try to tell any individual member what they may or may not read.

**What literature can be used in meetings?**

**Tradition One:** *Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon CPA unity.*

- One of the guiding principles of CPA is that groups and members practice “obedience to the unenforceable,” that trust is the engine that drives CPA groups. CAL is suggested because it is written and reviewed by CPA members, and reflects their experience, strength and hope. It carries the CPA message of recovery. It supports the CPA fellowship as shared literature creates unity.

**Tradition Four:** *Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or CPA as a whole.*

- Each group can decide for itself what literature to use. CPA has no authority to guide groups in their affairs. It is important to be aware of how a choice affects CPA as a whole. A group’s choice of literature is expressed through the group’s conscience as guided by a Higher Power.

**Tradition Five:** *Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to people living with chronic pain and chronic illness.*

- The purpose of CAL is to ensure a common message to support our primary purpose.

No one has the authority to tell us what to do, however, if we fail to honor the Traditions, we risk conflict and disintegration. We each make the choice to apply the Traditions as we understand them. We have seen that if we don’t adhere to the Traditions it is possible our groups may no longer function or continue to carry the message effectively.