

Spanish Literature Committee Report
December 29, 2016

Our Spanish Literature Committee has completed its second major project which is the translation of the GA Guidance Code. The first major project (Spanish Combo Book) was completed earlier this year in April of 2016 and is now printed and sold on the ISO Website. The Spanish Guidance Code was translated from the English version which is posted on the Trustee Website with a revision date of August 2016. It was released on Tuesday (12/6/16) to Keren H. for printing and to Dave M so that he can post it on the Trustee Website. Dave informed me that he will not post it to the trustee website until Karen H approves it for printing. However, Karen H told me that the printing is on hold until the BOT approves it since the Spanish version of the Guidance Code has never been printed before by the ISO. Karen tells me that Article V111, Board of Trustees, Section 11b, item #1, makes it a requirement for the BOT to approve the printing by ISO of any newly translated GA approved material. It is my humble opinion that if the ISO has previously printed the Spanish Combo Book and several other pieces of Spanish GA literature currently listed for sale on the ISO website store, it does not make sense that the newly translated Guidance Code should now require approval of the BOT for the ISO to print it. I think that in this case, the Board of Regents should be the only approval now required to determine how many copies should be printed. As far as I am concerned the BOT has already approved the Spain Regional Service Office to translate and print GA approved literature. Our Spanish Literature Committee is using as a starting point for translation, the Guidance Code which has already been translated and printed by the Spain RSO (the current English version is the gold reference for updates). All that the Spanish Literature Committee did was to make the Spain version of the translated Guidance Code free of regionalisms as much as possible (so other Spanish speaking areas around the world can use it) and updated it with BOT approved changes. Per the Guidance Code, the Spain RSO is an arm of the ISO. I need guidance on this issue from Andre G (2nd BOT Co-Chair) and Andy R (BOT Chair). If need be, I will submit an Agenda item for the Cherry Hill BOT meeting to resolve this issue; but I would hope this will not be necessary. I think that Andre and/or Andy will let me know soon. We are wrapping up a third, smaller project which is the pamphlet with information about "Suggestions for New Member Retention". We expect to be done with this in the first week of 2017.

We have also compiled a spreadsheet with all the committee members' first name, last name initial, and gather information about each committee member such as number of years of abstinence, Area, and check if a member attends at least 39 meetings per year (per their own admission) and determine if any members are current trustees. This spreadsheet has been sent to Dave M to post on the trustee website. We have 20 members worldwide including the Chair and Co-Chair (Andres G from Spain). Our members are from 12 different GA Areas around the world. Our Committee is currently closed to new members unless it is from a new GA Area that has active Spanish GA meetings needing Spanish GA approved literature.

Our strategy is to use the English literature available from ISO and build a spreadsheet listing the latest available version of each piece of literature sold by ISO since this will be our gold reference for updating and translation of other pieces of GA approved literature.

We are using the existing GA approved literature that the RSO in Spain has already translated as our starting point and then moving forward from that baseline to produce a new Spanish GA literature version that is free of regionalisms (as much as possible). Thus far, this strategy has worked for the translation of the Combo Book and the Guidance Code. Our Committee expects to be increasing its pace next year and translate many more GA approved English literature pieces.

The removal of the “Abuse and Harassment” pamphlet from the list of GA approved literature caught many of our Spanish speaking members in Spain and Argentina by surprise. They had found this piece of literature very useful. However, this committee is helping the Spanish speaking Areas understand and comply with the directive from the BOT to get rid of any of the “Abuse and Harassment” pamphlets that they may have in their possession.

Julian F.
Area 3F Trustee
Committee Chair